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Greetings from the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association!

Here is a summary of the 5th 2023 Yukon River Salmon In-Season Management Teleconference held Tuesday, July 4, 2023. Call lasted 82 minutes. 38 callers participated.

Background: Yukon River salmon management teleconferences are held annually every Tuesday in June, July, and August for managers and fishers throughout the Yukon River drainage to discuss fishing conditions and management strategies in real time as the salmon run is occurring. Funded by the Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel.

Media present:
Max Graham, Grist

Political Representatives participating:
Mike wood, Board of Fish

Communities participating:
Alakanuk
Kotlik
Mt. Village
St. Mary's
Marshall
Russian Mission
Anvik
Huslia
Ruby
Tanana/Rapids
Fort Yukon
Old Crow
Whitehorse
Dawson City

Management Reports:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Deena Jallen, Emmonak, ADFG Summer Season Manager of Yukon River-

The 2023 Chinook salmon run continues to enter the river slightly below forecast and similar to the very poor run observed in 2022. The run remains well below average and is unlikely to meet any escapement goals; therefore, Chinook salmon fishing remains closed. The first batch of genetic samples from Chinook salmon at Pilot Station sonar has been analyzed and 44% of the sample was of Canadian-origin. The summer chum salmon run is entering the river as forecasted and stronger than recent years. While the run is below average, projections indicate the run will be above the lower end of the 500,000 to 1.2 million fish drainage wide escapement goal range. Therefore, a harvestable surplus of summer chum salmon for subsistence fishing is available. Consistent with the preseason management strategy, openings with selective gear types to harvest summer chum salmon have been announced based on regulatory schedules. During selective gear openings, all Chinook salmon must be released alive. Fishermen are reminded to practice respectful and safe fish handling techniques and ensure any Chinook salmon caught in selective or non salmon gear types are released alive so they may continue upriver to their spawning grounds. If it appears that Chinook salmon are being targeted with this gear, fishing will be further restricted.

Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF)/ADF&G and YDFDA

LYTF drift gillnet operations for Chinook and summer chum salmon began on June 5 at Big Eddy and Middle Mouth sites. Multiple drift sessions have been canceled due to poor fishing conditions and rough weather but the indices are still providing valuable information on passage rates. Indices for both species have increased in the last couple of days indicating groups of fish have entered and are passing through the lower river. The Big Eddy cumulative Chinook salmon CPUE in the 8.25-inch drift gillnet is 42.09, which is below the historic average of 356.17. The Middle Mouth cumulative Chinook salmon CPUE for the 8.25-inch drift gillnet is 53.38. The combined Chinook drift CPUE is 47.58, which is slightly above the 2021–2022 average of 46.81. The cumulative CPUE for summer chum salmon in the 5.5-inch drift gillnets is 924.51, which is below the historical median (2002–2022) of 2,424.0. To reduce Chinook salmon mortality, set net sites will not be used this year at Big Eddy or Middle Mouth locations. All salmon will be released alive from the test nets if possible. Injured salmon and mortalities will be distributed to communities. Data collected from Chinook and summer chum salmon will include ASL (Age, Sex, and Length). A few salmon of all species caught in LYTF will be sampled this year for other fish health research. Pilot Station Sonar (ADF&G) Water levels are reported to be high but dropping with some debris. Cumulative Chinook salmon passage is estimated to be $32,504 \pm 8,750$ fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical cumulative average of 139,910 for this date, based on normal run timing years, and 110,553 fish based on late run timing years. Summer chum salmon passage is estimated to be $360,373 \pm 16,873$ fish (90% Confidence Interval), which is below the historical cumulative median of 1,140,795 fish for this date based on normal timing years, and 691,002 fish based on late run timing years. All Chinook salmon captured in the Pilot Station Sonar test fishery (PSSTF) will be sampled for age, sex, length and genetics, and most fish will be released alive. Additional biological sampling will be conducted for all Chinook salmon test fish mortalities as part of a broad collaborative effort to better understand salmon health and potential drivers of en route mortality and low productivity. Additional samples will include otoliths, heart, kidney, liver, intestine, eggs, blood, muscle biopsy, and fat content. The PSSTF heart samples will be used by ADF&G and USFWS, along with samples from other locations, to investigate the potential for Ichthyophonus associated

mortality. Kidney samples from PSSTF are being tested for proliferative kidney disease. Fish health results will be available post season.

- East Fork Andreafsky Weir (USFWS) - Crew is on site, but high water is delaying weir installation.
- Anvik River Sonar Project (ADF&G) - Counts began on June 15. Cumulative passage is 14,000 summer chum salmon, which is below the cumulative median of 75,713 fish.
- Gisasa River Weir (USFWS) - Crew is in camp and experiencing high water in the Gisasa River which may delay weir installation.
- Henshaw Creek Weir (TCC) - Crew is in camp and experiencing high water in the Henshaw Creek which may delay weir installation.
- Chena River Sonar/Tower (ADF&G) - Tower counts began on June 29. No salmon have been counted so far.
- Salcha River Sonar/Tower (ADF&G) - The Salcha Tower was up on June 30, however as of July 2 panels have not been installed.
- Eagle Sonar Project (ADF&G/DFO) - The sonar was installed on June 30 and full operations (sonar and test fishery) began on July 1. No salmon have been counted so far.
- Chinook Radio Telemetry (ADF&G)

2023 is the first year of a three-year effort to capture and tag up to 500 Chinook salmon near Emmonak and track upriver migration to evaluate concerns for en route mortality. The Chinook salmon radio telemetry tagging project experienced a delayed start and began tagging on June 19. Chinook salmon catches have been low due, in part, to high water conditions combined with poor run abundance. Each fish was tagged with both an internal radio telemetry tag and an external spaghetti tag. **If you encounter a tagged fish this season and are successful at documenting the tag number, please call 1-877-467-2104 to report information about when and where the fish was observed.** As a thank you for voluntarily reporting the tag number and associated information, you will be automatically entered into the ADF&G salmon tag lottery. More information about the project can be found on posters in communities along the river or at the ADF&G offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Emmonak. Please contact Josh Clark at 907-267-2217 or Fred West at 907-267-2237 with any questions.

Age, Sex, and Length Composition

The age composition of 133 Chinook salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the Pilot Station Sonar test fishery through June 25 was 4% age-4, 68% age-5, 25% age-6 and 4% age-7 fish. The percentage of age-5 and age-7 fish were above average while age-6 fish and the percentage of females (41%) were below average. Chinook salmon within each age class with the exception of age-4 fish were smaller than the recent 10-year average and the average length of 720 mm across all age classes is smaller than the recent 10-year average length of 736 mm. The age composition of 318 summer chum salmon sampled from the drift gillnets in the LYTF project through June 22 was 54% age-4, which compares to a historical average of 36% for this date. The age-5 component made up 44% of the samples, which compares to a historical average of 61% for this date. Of the samples, 2% were age-6 fish, which compares to the historical average of 3% for this date. The age-4 fish average length of 554 mm is similar compared to average (2013–2022) and the age-5 average length of 560mm was below average but larger than what was observed last year. Female summer chum salmon are slightly lower at 53% compared to a historical average (2013–2022) of 58%.

Stock Identification

Genetic mixed stock analysis (MSA) on the early group and first pulse of Chinook salmon (Stratum 1, sampled from the Pilot Station sonar test fishery June 7 to June 25) indicated that $44\% \pm 8\%$ (90% Confidence Interval) of this group of fish were of Canadian-origin. Currently the projections for the Canadian-origin run indicate a run size well below the lower end of the preseason outlook of 26,000 to 43,000 fish.

Current Subsistence Management Actions

Subsistence fishing for salmon with gillnets is closed to protect migrating Chinook salmon. During summer chum salmon fishing openings with selective gear types, fishermen may use dip nets, beach seines, hook and line gear and manned fish wheels. All Chinook salmon must be released alive. Fish wheels must be manned at all times during operation; Chinook salmon may not enter a live box and must be immediately returned to the water using a chute, slide, tote or other fish friendly means.

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Four-inch or smaller mesh gillnets must be 60 feet or less in length and operated as a set net. Fishermen are reminded to set this gear near shore and in areas where nonsalmon species are abundant to avoid incidentally harvesting salmon. While any salmon caught in this gear may be kept, if it appears salmon are being targeted with this gear, it could be further restricted. Other subsistence gear types for nonsalmon species include hook and line, dip net, beach seine, hand line, longline, fyke net, lead, and spear. The area where hook and line gear may be used for subsistence has been extended above the Nulato River, except for District 6 and some closed waters (Figure 3 ADFG Report#5).

In Districts 3-6, submerged gillnets may be used for subsistence and personal use during ice-free months, however submerged nets must have a visible buoy or cluster of floats attached to both ends of the net, plus a third float in the middle if the net is over 60 feet in length. Gillnets must be marked with a buoy, float, or keg that has the fisherman's first initial, last name, and address.

Coastal District (from the Naskonat Peninsula north to one mile south of the mouth of the Black River which includes the communities of Chevak, Hooper Bay, and Scammon Bay):

Fishing for summer chum salmon is open with dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line gear 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon may be kept. All Chinook salmon must be released alive.

District 1 (from one mile south of the mouth of the Black River along the coast to Point Romanof and including the Black River and the communities of Emmonak, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, and Kotlik):

Fishing for summer chum salmon is open with selective gear types for two 36-hour periods per week from:

8 p.m. Mondays to 8 a.m. Wednesdays

8 p.m. Thursdays to 8 a.m. Saturdays

During selective gear openings, dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line gear may be used for summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. All Chinook salmon must be released alive.

District 2, District 3, and the Innoko River (including Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall, Russian Mission, Holy Cross, and Shageluk):

Fishing for summer chum salmon is open with selective gear types for two 36-hour periods per week from:

8 p.m. Wednesdays to 8 a.m. Fridays

8 p.m. Sundays to 8 a.m. Tuesdays

During selective gear openings, dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line gear may be used for summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. All Chinook salmon must be released alive.

Subdistrict 4-A, the Anvik River, and the Koyukuk River (from 3/4 of a mile downstream from Old Paradise Village upstream to the tip of Cone Point, including Grayling, Anvik, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket, Alatna, and Bettles):

Fishing for summer chum salmon is open with selective gear types for two 48-hour periods per week from:

6 p.m. Sundays to 6 p.m. Tuesdays

6 p.m. Wednesdays to 6 p.m. Fridays

During selective gear openings, dip nets, beach seines, hook and line, and manned fish wheels may be used for summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. Fish wheels must be manned at all times during operation; Chinook salmon may not enter a live box and must be immediately returned to the water using a chute, slide, tote or other fish friendly means. All Chinook salmon must be released alive.

A subsistence fishing permit is required for all species in the South and Middle forks of the Koyukuk River above Bettles including the community of Wiseman. Gillnet gear in the permit area may only be used from August 20 to June 30 and must be 3 1/2 inches or smaller mesh size. If you are outside the permit area, contact the Fairbanks office at 907-459-7274 for a subsistence harvest calendar.

Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C (including Galena and Ruby):

Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed.

Effective 6 p.m. Wednesday July 5, fishing for summer chum salmon is open with selective gear types for two 48-hour periods per week from:

6 p.m. Wednesdays to 6 p.m. Fridays

6 p.m. Sundays to 6 p.m. Tuesdays

During selective gear openings, dip nets, beach seines, hook and line, and manned fish wheels may be used for summer chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. Fish wheels must be manned at all times during operation; Chinook salmon may not enter a live box and must be immediately returned to the water using a chute, slide, tote or other fish friendly means. All Chinook salmon must be released alive.

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C (including Tanana and Rampart):

Salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch are not allowed.

Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net. Nets should be set near shore.

Dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line gear may be used for nonsalmon species, pink and sockeye salmon; however, Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.

Subdistrict 5-D Lower and Middle (from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to 22 Mile Slough and all other adjacent tributaries, including the communities of Stevens Village, Beaver, Venetie, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek and Fort Yukon):

Salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net. Nets should be set near shore. Dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line gear may be used for nonsalmon species. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species in the portion of Subdistrict 5-D Lower from an ADF&G regulatory marker two miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the mouth of Dall River.

Subdistrict 5-D Upper (from 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border, including all adjacent tributaries and the communities of Circle and Eagle):

Effective 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 4, salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net. Nets should be set near shore. Dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line gear may be used for nonsalmon species. Chinook salmon must be released alive.

A subsistence permit is required to fish for all species from the upstream mouth of 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border.

Subdistrict 6-A, 6-B, the Old Minto Area, Kantishna River and the Upper Tanana Area (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the eastern edge of the mouth of the Kantishna River, including the Kantishna River drainage, Lake Minchumina, and Manley; and from the eastern edge of the Kantishna River upstream to the Wood River, including Minto and Nenana, and from the confluence with the mouth of Volkmar River on the north bank and the mouth of the Johnson River on the south bank upstream to the Tanana River headwaters including Delta Junction area, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Tetlin, Tok, Northway, and Nabesna):

Salmon fishing is closed. Fish wheels and gillnets larger than 4-inch are not allowed. Gillnets of 4-inch or smaller mesh may be used to target nonsalmon and are restricted to 60-feet or less in length and must be operated as a set net. Nets should be set near shore.

Dip nets and beach seines may be used for nonsalmon species. Chinook and summer chum salmon must be released alive.

Subsistence fishing for nonsalmon is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in Lake Minchumina, and in the Tolovana River drainage, including Minto Flats. Note, a subsistence pike permit is required (see details below).

A reminder to fishermen that a subsistence permit is required to fish for salmon in the Tanana River drainage up to the Wood River (Subdistrict 6-A, 6-B, and Kantishna River drainage),

northern pike in the Tolovana River drainage (including Minto Flats), and all species in the Upper Tanana Area. A subsistence salmon permit is not required in Lake Minchumina.

Personal Use Management Actions

Subdistrict 6-C (Personal use fishery from the regulatory marker at the mouth of the Wood River upstream to the downstream mouth of the Salcha River, which includes the communities of Fairbanks, North Pole, and Salcha):

Personal Use salmon fishing is closed and periods are canceled until further notice.

Personal Use Whitefish and Sucker Fishing

Fairbanks Non Subsistence Area (a portion of the Tanana River drainage from the Wood River upstream to the mouth of the Volkmar River on the north bank and the mouth of the Johnson River on the south bank, which includes Fairbanks, North Pole, Salcha, and Delta Junction):

Personal Use whitefish and sucker fishing with gillnets and fish wheels is closed until further notice. Fishing with other gear for whitefish and suckers in this area remains open 7 days per week, 24 hours per day, subject to permit stipulations.

A reminder to personal use fishermen that a personal use salmon permit is required to fish for salmon in Subdistrict 6-C and a personal use whitefish and sucker permit is required to fish for these species in the Fairbanks Non Subsistence Area. Both permits require a valid sport fishing license.

Subsistence harvest calendars and subsistence fishing permits are available from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Fairbanks office 907-459-7274 or online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/store/.

Jaclyn Kendall, Fishery Manager, Yukon River - Stock Assessment:

DFO technicians are on site in Eagle, Alaska and are working with ADF&G on the sonars. Our staff have been in Old Crow for a couple of weeks and both sonars are operational. Technical issues delayed setup a couple of days, but counting has begun and as of July 2 two (2) Chinook have been observed. One Telemetry Tower has been installed at the sonar site to detect passage of radio tagged Chinook that return to the Canadian Porcupine River. Two others will be installed this week, one at Dawson City Yukon and the other at Yukon crossing – both will be on the Mainstem Yukon River. Sonar installation is complete on the Klondike River at Dawson City, Yukon by Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in fisheries staff. No Chinook observed as of June 28th.

Environmental Conditions:

Water conditions in the Yukon River and tributaries are generally near average for this time of year. Rain has occurred sporadically across the territory and conditions are relatively dry and warm. We will watch water temperatures as levels are near normal for this time of year, but a continuation of mild air temperatures and low precipitation can lead to increased stream temperatures as the season progresses.

Canadian Management:

- In light of the low 2023 Chinook outlook, and current passage estimates from Pilot Station

Sonar, at this time there is no change to the current Canadian Management strategy.

- The priority will remain focused on ensuring as many Canadian-origin Chinook salmon reach their spawning grounds as possible in order to sustain future returns and DFO will proceed cautiously and conservatively.
- Harvest opportunities in the First Nation Subsistence Fishery are not expected and DFO will maintain closures in the Chinook public angling (recreational), commercial, and domestic (non-indigenous food fishery) fisheries throughout the 2023 season.
- We will continue to monitor information collected by assessment programs at the Lower Yukon Test Fishery and Pilot Station Sonar to assist in providing updates at upcoming in-season Domestic meetings with Yukon First Nations and Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee members.

Community level reports:

District Y1:

Alakanuk: Max Agayar - Surveyed some fishermen; a couple are done after this dip net opener. Some are using 4" gear. Humpys are trickling in. I was on the south side of the river; no fish. Quite a bit of dip netters out there. Have not contacted any of them yet.

Kotlik: Marvin Okitkun - Just got back from boating. Water temp 61 degrees. On and off precipitation. Went dipnetting last week and got 3 chum. Saw fish in the river. Main water level is two feet above normal. Lots of debris coming down the river due to water. Other Kotlik fishermen got a handful of fish using dipnets, others caught none. My son got 40+ chum, 4-5 kings. The average amount of gas for people going up north is 6-8 gallons of gas each way. Some stay all day & all night. Even though it's time consuming and puts a dent in the pocketbook, people are getting subsistence needs in the Norton Sound area. North mouth and middle mouth is where we are able to go.

District Y2:

Mt. Village: Nita Stevens - Talked to fishermen. Barely caught any with subsistence nets. Approximately (1) per house is the average. Folks are getting ready for subsistence fishing. Water is still high; finally seeing sandbars. Water slowly is dropping.

St. Mary's: Bill Alstrom - I am not actively fishing. Not much to report. Happy 4th everyone!

David 'Matty' Beans - 60.3 water temp. Still high on Andreafsky. People still dip netting. Some successful, some not. Some chum in the river now.

Marshall: Diane Fitka - People are happy to go dipnetting. Someone caught a sucker fish dipnetting and let it go. Water level is slowly dropping.

District Y3:

Russian Mission: Basil Larsen - Happy 4th. Water is dropping steadily. Due to high water, the mud is really sticky. I'm at my fish camp now. I finally flipped my cabin up-right. Seeing last dip net openers and seeing people catching chums motivated me and others to get our fish camps operational. People are catching between 5-15 chums. (2) fishers have camps operational and are cutting their whitefish/sheefish/chums each day. Everybody was happy to taste salmon. From the flood, the mud is pretty bad, foul smelling, sticky. The dip netting: one went on the North side, all his chums were local, already turning color. He was trying to target those. Everyone is happy for a taste, it is motivating everyone. (2) reporters went up to Old Crow and I stopped and talked

to them. I also talked to another person traveling who had motor trouble. Not sure if there will be an annual canoe race this year due to lots of winds. Everyone is happy to catch fish and motivated to get camps running.

District Y4a,b,c:

Anvik: Ken Chase - Few fishers yesterday and today. Caught a few chum with a seine and some whitefish. Talked to Shageluk, no salmon, just pike. Water is high, and no one is trying to fish yet. I'm going to try to get chums. Anvik river is still high.

Robert Walker - Alberta went to get her papers. Much like Ken says, we have a few chum. Nice to have some fresh fish yesterday, not as good as a king, but good to have salmon. TCC is going to be here and have another fish meeting. Ken is having the state here too; we're hoping to have dinner.

Alberta Walker - This week I contacted a couple households. (6) interviewed, (4) households participated. (2) were not interested in the interview. (1) household fished the Anvik river with a rod & reel and caught a whitefish. Water level is slowly dropping. No one is dipnetting. No one is fishing. I heard a few people did.

Ken Chase - The people coming in are USFW. They are coming on July 12th & 13th to observe fishing and fishcamps to get an idea. TCC will also be in the area at the same time so we are looking to get them together while they are here.

Ruby: Rachael Kangas - The water rose a little bit (an inch or so). No drift. No one fishing. Area not open. Talking to fishermen. No one has ever dipnetted in our area, no one uses fishwheels. Fishermen are trying to figure out what to do. I am planning on trying dipnetting tomorrow. No one fishing in Ruby currently. The gear is not something people have used in our area.

Huslia: Charlene Vent - I contacted (5) fishers. (4) agreed to be interviewed. (3) interviewees fished, (1) declined to be interviewed. Fishers are using 4". Water is high, catching more drift. Water is starting to drop.

District Y5abc&d:

Rapids: Stan Zuray

- Water levels are slightly high and dropping at the moment
- Have 4 regular survey fishers I normally interview that say they don't plan to fish this year.- all due to no open salmon fishing.
- Have 3 regular survey people that want to fish but are not sure or haven't started.
- Have 4 fishers that are running small mesh nets for whitefish for dogs and people but the average fishing days is under 3 days all due to the decreasing need for dog food because of less dogs in the village each year.
- Visible Ichthyophonus disease has been seen in the majority of king salmon I have seen. Sample size is too small to say any more about that but one more week should be able to say more.

Fort Yukon: Kara'lisa Tremblay - I have (5) families that interviewed but just a few are fishing. Haven't caught anything yet. If anyone is fishing in Fort Yukon, please call me. The weather has been good (sunny, hot) but today is rainy.

CANADA

Elizabeth McDonald, Council of Yukon First Nations - Happy Independence Day. Last week we did a water temperature trip. We lost a couple day loggers because we weren't able to retrieve them for a while. Fireweed is starting to bloom, meaning summer is half over. I worked at a booth (a get together usually in May but postponed this year due to a death). (1) day was dedicated to salmon. We shared knowledge, discussed bycatch, restoration and hatchery. The salmon fishery is closed but we did hear lots of concerns about traditional foods for elders. For lunch they served gopher and ground squirrel for the elders. We have been dealing with lots of flooding the last few years so it's nice to have a break this year.

Dennis Zimmermen, Yukon First Nations Sub-Committee Member - Report further, we had meetings in Carcross, near headwaters. Long discussion around harvest. No salmon in water, not for harvest. First Nations did something with caribou before; no harvest. We want to do the same for salmon.

Stanley, Old Crow - Happy Independence Day from Old Crow to our Alaska friends. Water is not too high, not too low. No one is fishing. Getting thunder and lightning in the evening. Hot.

Open Discussion / Questions:

Sebastian Jones, Dawson City - Is there anybody from your management team to answer these questions? I received the salmon fishery update this morning, part of it confuses me. It shows up on the bottom of page 4, "Where subsistence fishing with gillnets is closed to protect migrating chinook salmon" then the last paragraph says "gear with smaller mesh may be used".

Deena Jallen, Emmonak, Summer Season Manager of Yukon River - We considered 4" gear as nonsalmon gear to fish in areas where they can get non salmon; not encounter salmon. It is not gear to target salmon. People want 6" or larger to target salmon.

Sebastian Jones, Dawson City - How many salmon get caught in those 4" nets?

Deena Jallen, Emmonak, Summer Season Manager of Yukon River - 1200 (under 1500 chinook), 6k - in comparison to nonsalmon. Those harvest numbers were from the early, late, and included test fish. Had a harvest of under 200 chinook last year.

Sebastian Jones, Dawson City - No fish means no fish.

Deena Jallen, Emmonak, Summer Season Manager of Yukon River - There are lots of non salmon opportunities for non salmon species.

Sebastian Jones, Dawson City - My other question relates to the run forecast. The summer chum fishery was open because the forecast was over 500. When I look at Pilot Station sonar - it looks like the number of chum from Pilot Sonar, they drop considerably. If this continues, fish aren't going to get counted.

Deena Jallen, Emmonak, Summer Season Manager of Yukon River - No data in front of me. I believe the run is late. Midpoint hasn't been until July 3rd. I believe we'll have summer chum come in to meet those goals.

Basil Larsen, Russian Mission- We use 4" nets. We rely on whitefish and sheefish all year round to subsidize non salmon. We are concerned about catching salmon too. Fishers caught between about 5-15 summer chum. There is no fishcamp action; we are only fishing for tables. I'm between the mouth and headwaters. The more fish that come in, the more will make it up the river. We hear you Canada. No one wants this fish back more than us.

William, Old Crow - What were chinook numbers that went by Pilot Station sonar and what is the goal for this year? Sorry to hear about Roger's passing.

Deena Jallen, Emmonak, Summer Season Manager of Yukon River - as of July 2nd, Pilot Station sonar estimate 32,504 +/- 8,750 chinook, below historical average 139,910 for this date. No estimate for Canadian origin. Will get more samples sent in and analyzed. Similar to the year 2022. Escapement goals were not met.

Robert Walker, Anvik - I missed the conversion the guy had with chinook salmon passing Pilot Station Sonar.

Deena Jallen, Emmonak, Summer Season Manager of Yukon River - As of 7/2/23, 32,504 +/- 8,750 chinook, below historical average for 140,000. It is quite late.

Robert Walker, Anvik - Numbers are dwindling down, will we declare a disaster? We need to have a discussion. We can't have this every year. Not acceptable. For Yukon/AYK residents, this is our food source and the salmon are not reaching spawning grounds. Tribal people are holding their end of bargain. Future generations are not understanding why they cannot partake. Someone will have to step up a meeting with the Federal/State/Alaska Governor. Not acceptable, can't be. This is our way of life and it's dwindling away. Look at Anvik River, only 14k as of a couple days ago. We have to take a look at closing Area M and look at bycatch. Put a stop for 6-12 years. Some people don't want to interview. They are disgusted by the way the Federal Government and State of Alaska are handling this. Area M money takes priority over tribal people? Unacceptable! TCC should be here, ADF&G should be here. Put a resolution - AYK has to be declared emergency closure for high seas fishing or declare AYK/Yukon extinct. Talking about stocks everywhere we look. The whole system is not really answering questions about what is really going on.

Serena Fitka, Executive Director YRDEFA - Every Wednesday at 9am meeting. Trying to save our salmon. Can forward information on to Alberta in the office and you can join in on those calls.

Robert Walker, Anvik - People in Holy Cross don't want to do interviews anymore. Lots of people don't want to get on. The State has treated brown skinned people differently. How do we say we are equal? How will we function and vote?

Gale Vick, BBAYK Coalition - Listening to the last conversation. All questions are the same questions we addressed in the AYK group. All legitimate questions. Be proactive to get salmon to spawning grounds. Last caller talked about the racial component. There has been some of that but it is much more economic. Subsistence does not bring in money into the department or community. It certainly was a discussion at the Board of Fish meeting. Subsistence gets ignored because no revenue but subsistence is a priority. There is a legal team that will report. Working

the team from several angles that are all important. NOAA Salmon Task Force - work group nominations for AYK working group are happening. Look at salmon issues with Gravel to gravel. Look at the issue holistically.

Marvin Okitkin, Kotlik - Looking at escapement numbers from FG 360,000 chum passed Pilot Station sonar (looking back to 10 years ago) 2.1 mil chum passed Pilot Station sonar, yet we had fishing closures that affected commercial closures which would have brought money into the communities. ADF&G is always on conservative side. (2) cycles of chum have passed. Look at the numbers 10 years ago. Numbers have dwindled to $\frac{1}{3}$ what they were. We have to be very conservative. What has caused the snowball effect of over escapement. The locals knew our numbers would crash. What was said before, they used to sub fisheries out in the high seas; all the wanton waste is allowed but the fish used for human consumption takes a back seat.

Elizabeth McDonald, Council of Yukon First Nations - Canadian restoration work. Currently focusing on Porcupine chum and chinook. Will end at the border now but it would be great to do a whole restoration plan on the whole drainage. We haven't seen any over escapements on our side. Our goal is to get more salmon on spawning grounds. Had a workshop recently; hoping to do more around that. It'd be great; I hate that there is a border in the middle.

Gale Vick BBAYK Coalition - Serena, can you connect Elizabeth MacDonald and I? I'd like to invite her to the AYK meeting for a bigger discussion on this.

THANK YOU!

Call ended 2:22pm