



YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

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Greetings from the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association!

Here is a summary of the 6th, 2020 Yukon River Salmon In-Season Management Teleconference held Tuesday, June 23, 2020. Call lasted 177 minutes. 134 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: None

Political Representatives participating: None

Communities participating: 28

Nunam Iqua
Kotlik
Alakanuk
Emmonak
Mt. Village
St. Marys
Pilot Station
Marshall
Russian Mission
Anvik
Kaltag
Nulato
Koyukuk
Huslia
Galena
Ruby
Tanana
Rampart
Rapids
Stevens Village
Beaver
Fort Yukon

**Nenana
Fairbanks
Old Crow
Dawson
Teslin
Whitehorse**

Community level reports:

Coastal District 1-Lower Yukon

Nunam Iqua:

Stanley Pete- Northerly winds and we've had these for the last week or so. I believe this is holding the fish back, keeping them to the South of us. Last night there were whale hunters who saw a big group of fish moving in. They could even see fins in the water. There is concern that ADF&G is putting restrictions in too early. We are starting to see a pulse moving in. Comment, it seems the Dept. is adhering to treaty obligations and meeting escapement goals before considering the health and wellbeing of the people who survive off the food. Those treaty obligations with Canada and escapement goals are not more important than that of feeding the people of the area. We are put below the obligations of the escapement goals. Racks here in Numan, a lot of them are empty. There is cause for concern but I believe that a large pulse of fish is moving in.

Alakanuk:

Allen Hanson- Here in Munson Island camp. Unusually high water and debris. June 10-17 we got a total of 49 kings and 34 chums. The chums are pretty slow this year. There's been a lot of jacks, and about 3-4 whitenosed king salmon. On June 19 I was surprised to catch a humpy female. I saw salmon alongside Munson Island, there are fish out there. Haven't heard anything about fish net fisheries. We do not know what is going on in the river. We have NW winds gusting to 30-35mpg.

Ted Hamilton-I talked with 4 fishers and no one fished due to the closure. The water level is higher and there is debris. There's foam on top of the water indicating that there must be fish in there. No one fished so we do not know if there are fish in the water. Most fishers are concerned about the water temp. Last year we saw dead fish floating down the river with no marks indicating how they died.

Emmonak:

Paul Andrews - First time joining, I'm a subsistence and commercial fisherman. Like Ted said, we've been on a closure but as of yet, ADF&G caught a big load of fish passing. There have been some winds, a lot of high water and debris which is not normal for this time of year.

Paul - Like the 2 folks from Kotlik, the fish racks are empty, so is Numan. At the beginning of the year, we take 3 weeks of June to take care of our salmon and we are done until August when fall chum come. This is only a 3 week period that we take care of the salmon we need for the winter. Also we only take what we need, not what we WANT. Our elders are crying. They are the ones who taught us everything and we are the ones who have to pass it on. Regulation after regulation without Native input. I'm getting frustrated, you guys are messing with our food and we don't mess with your food and tell you what to buy. Our food is on our lands. We don't need someone else telling us what to do. We will pass it on orally as we have for 1000's of years.

Paul Andrews - There are a lot of Beluga whales out in the coast and they will keep salmon away. The salmon are scared of whales. Once they go away, the salmon will come in.

Nick Tucker- I am an interim board member of YRDFA, still going strong since 1990. I'm concerned about your test nets. Just down here by Emmonak. they are about 12.5 fathoms long compared to 25. With a number of kings and chums coming in. I think you should prepare to get less restrictions. There are no test nets in the middle mouth at all. There has been high water and COVID-19 experts are predicting that we will have more hunger pandemics that hit our region and it's going to hit bad. Back in 2009, we had called out in the wintertime, the villages decided between food and heating fuel, it was a very cold winter. I would listen to these people up and down the river. And we have COVID-19 and now fishing restrictions, I hear them cry out, the Elders cry out. Paul's father at 80 years old, said at a meeting "I feel like a sea gull waiting for my food." With Treaty negotiations we worked hard to change the word from will to shall. Sounds like it is back to "will" Treaty folks are disregarding what we negotiated. The U.S. first and then we shall endeavor. If we want healthy military people, we feed them and get them strong before they enter. ADF&G should put test sites in middle mouth. The fish are coming in now, we should ease the restrictions from the mouth of the Yukon up to Eagle. We are one people crying for one fish. And we have an association to talk. It is a 3 way proposition here. It is no longer the users ,fed gov, ... we listen to each other and we make the adjustments.

Kotlik:

Eileen - I am voicing my concerns about the subsistence schedule. There are lots of Kotlik people who haven't been able to get their fish for their winter supply yet. We are following what ADF&G says - when to go ,where to go, how to fish. It's making me worried with COVID-19, while we wait to get our fish, it will be time to do other things. We usually have fish hanging by now. Kotlik people, I see lots of empty nets. Yesterday we were up at Romanoff and I saw lots of people trying to get their fish. And they were Emmo people. We are all going so far. We only take what we need for our winter, we know our limits. It is scaring me that we have to wait till the end of June. By the time we put away our fish, it will be time to be berry picking. If the schedule can be when the fish run it would be good, all these years they open after the fish run. These guys around here always know when the fish are passing like in Numan and Emo. My husband always asks ADF&G if they can open because they know, they know the tides and winds. If we could communicate better, it would be better. We know these things. We live here.

John - My concerns are the same. Everyone has been trying but due to the winds, we have been having the wrong kind of winds for the fish to come up. It is getting scarce, people need their fish. Then they will need to berry pick. The dip netting is really hard. Everyone is hurting. Everyone depends on this for the winter. Paul Andrews is right, really right. We are just trying to take care of our families.

District 2-Coastal/Lower Yukon

Mt. Village:

Nita - I spoke with subsistence fishermen and a number of people who fished were 4 and 3 did not fish. 2 fishermen caught 5 chums. They were mostly jacks. One fisherman wanted to see more openings with king salmon because there are mostly jacks. There is debris in the river, water is slowly going down. A little bit of sandbar across the river.

St. Marys:

Bill Alstrom - Water levels are still high and there is debris in the river. The last opener was pretty slow for subsistence, both for chums and kings. Still waiting for another opener for subsistence. There are a lot of subsistence fishers on the river who haven't missed their subsistence calls. There is unusually high waters this year. For some reason the runs are really low coming in. Good to hear the chief from Nunam Iqua mention that most likely there is a big pulse of fish coming in. Hopefully that will continue later this summer.

Sven Paukan - Just wanted to echo what folks are saying, very little fish hanging on the racks down here. A lot of people are pretty saddened that subsistence is further restricted down here.

Pilot Station:

Abraham Kelly - I want to comment on the river water. It seems our river water hasn't dropped down for breakup. It dropped down a foot and then came back up. Over the last couple of years it usually drops down to the islands but it hasn't done that this year. I know a lot of people are still trying to get their subsistence needs. I don't understand why, there will always be fish on the river, sometimes they are early, sometimes they are late. Sometimes they count them good and sometimes they don't, it depends on the water level. I don't see why they want us to dipnet the fish. ADF&G sonar people usually set up camp at the end of May but they never do that. They were slow this year. I know, living here and knowing that with the water being this high, they don't count all the salmon. I know later on there will be better counts up the Yukon. Leave subsistence open. When commercial fishing is open there is fish out there. ADF&G will extend the hours because people are catching a lot of fish. They think they are helping us. I don't think they should restrict us on our subsistence needs because there will be fish. The Yukon will always have fish.

Marshall:

Norma Evan- this week I spoke with 10 families and 5 fished. One family fished in Y3 and it was slow also most families are under 50% done. I went fishing and in about 6 hours we got about 20 kings. There were more sheefish than chum. A lot of fish had some coloring. 3 year olds were only caught on the nose. I know they fight in the net and harm themselves. One fisher reported that the sheefish he caught had a belly full of fry or smolts. I am not seeing any drift or at least not as much. The water went down and the temp cooled down to 59 degrees. There has been more rain than sun. I haven't started cutting fish yet. I spoke with my first cousin from Kotlik, they haven't gotten fish yet either.

Mildred Fitka- I'm a former ADF&G board member and lifetime subsistence user. With the numbers that we have been seeing on the upper end of Y2, there are a lot of people struggling for fish. I understand that your numbers are not very low. What are your numbers as far as the sonar passage?

Question - The Kuskokwim and Yukon, they close at the same time but when they reopen the Yukon we can only use dip nets? Kuskokwim is getting to use nets.

Serena - We will keep this question and answer it at the question period.

District 3-Coastal/Lower Yukon

Russian Mission:

Basil Larson - Morning! I spoke with 10 fishers and they fished for about 2-3 fish camps each. Fishing was slow. The water is dropping and it is cold. Everyone that fished, drifted. They were getting under 20 fish, those that went 36 hours got about 25 fish. There are concerns about food security, we do not have flights to Bethel and everything goes through Bethel. One guy said that out of the 6 kings he got, he had to throw 2 away because they were full of puss. Everyone is concerned about dip nets because not everyone has a dip net or a beach seine.

Shelia Minok- Our airlines, since the incident with Ravn, we have very limited supply. A lot of people in our community rely on subsistence and harvesting. A lot of people don't have dip nets or gear. We try to gather everything before the bugs come out. It is putting a lot of burden on people to gather their food. Just regulating everybody. I wonder how accurate the sonar is reading with the high water? Like everyone else, we really rely on our subsistence gathering to provide for us for the winter. It would be nice if that could be taken into consideration.

Anastasia Larson- Just like everyone else. It is good to hear that the fish are coming in. We have high waters. With this COVID-19 and cases still rising we do not have any airlines coming in, other than freight, through Aniak. With COVID-19 we need to gather as much subsistence foods as we can so we can survive through the winter. I still have not heard of any westerly winds, once it hits, as in the past, those fish are going to come into the Yukon. NW winds have not hit us yet. With our high water stage, I'd like to hear how many fish are going through the sonar?

District 4a-Upper Yukon

Anvik:

Ken Chase - Everybody is reporting high water, it is high here, not much action on salmon yet. I heard the last opening was about 18 hours, I heard one boat got about 10 fish and the other one (...) I work for the Fish and Wildlife Services here in Anvik. I work with subsistence to gather information from the lower river. What I hear about the winds at the mouth sounds about right. I caution ADF&G to not jump the gun. It's hard to say, take a wait and see attitude to not miss the fish when they come in

Renee Richardson - Since the regulation for 6" mesh, my husband and I tried setting and drifting. We haven't caught one fish yet. The water is super high and where we set net is swift. People who have caught fish have only caught a few. I was wondering when the opening is? What the fishing count is and whether it is counting well?

Bill Alstrom: *Stated that we are on community reports and we need to save the comments and discussion for the end of the reports.

Ted Kruger - May 30th I caught a king up here in Anvik. One the 6ht I caught a couple more and had to pull it due to high water. Then I switched to a 6". Think I got 7 or 8 fish this year. We are struggling to get a few fish. I don't know why Holy Cross and Anvik got shut down. After Grayling there are no towns for miles.

Kaltag:

Jackie Nicolas - The water level is pretty high, but the winds are not as strong as on the coast. It's been choppy. We've had rain storms for the last couple of days. We normally have more families fishing. But there are only 5 that went out in the first or second opening. We are frustrated and worried just trying to get our subsistence needs. Plus I have family that lives in Fairbanks and they normally come down to get their subsistence needs but because of COVID they are not coming down.

Unknown - Were there any fish reported?

Jackie - yes, one family caught 7 and one caught 10-15. Some of them may have had deeper nets.

Nulato:

Doug Patsy- The water is high here. I think it is only going to get higher which means there is probably drift coming down. It's early for us, we have caught some fish. A few of us did better than others, we had almost 30. I'm thinking that the fish were there but with the water being high, I don't think the sonar is working very well. The South bank caving. I'm thinking the channels are changing, which is causing more than usual debris and probably messing with the sonars. I think the fish went by early, probably 2 weeks early. Like Ted said in Anvik, he caught a fish at the end of May.

Tom Kristka - The water level is high, Fish and Game are jumping the gun on subsistence by closing it, we need other solutions with COVID-19 coming on. What do they think we are going to do, sit back and starve? Some of us have big families. ADF&G has their bread and butter paid for by the government. Our food is dependent on their decisions. Meet us halfway. Don't do 24 hour openings, do 12 hour openings. Fish were caught a couple weeks ago and there was no indication that they should move that sonar. For 30 years, we have always been shut down by the sonar. It seems like it doesn't work and we are paying for it. Who runs it? I'm upset because we are the ones who will pay for it when it is 60 below this winter. we should regulate this fishing, catch what we need until you fix your sonar. We can't be living like this.

Robin - Tommy question about where the sonar is?

Koyukuk:

Benedict Jones- The water has been stable for the last week. No one has any fish yet, we tried but nothing. We would like openings. 6" mesh dont work for kings.

Koyukuk River

Huslia: Zoe - The water is still high. We haven't gotten salmon catches yet.

Districts 4b & c-Upper Yukon

Galena:

Fred Huntington - I've been hearing about the Bering Sea and Pollock fishery. We are sacrificing our subsistence and this is going to create a lot of hardship in the winter. I'd rather see that the managers testify strongly on our fishing subsistence needs. They are not going to be met if it stays closed much longer. As the folks down river are saying, they only have a little more time to get their fish in the good weather. It is the same for us. Most folks who don't have good places to set net haven't had a chance to get their fish yet. 5 or 6 mostly. I strongly urge ADF&G to give notice to Bering Sea fisheries. They should do better on the bycatch. They say

they are doing better and every little bit helps. I would like Fish and Game to strongly urge and let them know that we are suffering. Our 6" nets, I had a partner who had two 6" nets and we did get some but they were barely hanging on in the net. We saw a couple of king salmon that were caught in the nets and were just barely hanging on by their teeth. I declare that there may have been more king salmon that got caught and then dropped off and didn't survive. I see it plainly that most of the fish were barely hanging on by their teeth, not able to fight to save themselves. I represent Y4 on YRDFA and I know most of the fishermen in Kaltag, Galena, and Ruby have not been drifting. Most have been set netting in Eddies.

Howard- On the 21st, when the last opening ended, 5 fishermen brought in about 20 fish, about 20 pounders. The water went up 2 degrees since last week and is now 50 degrees. It's really hard to not be able to fish for kings after 6 years. We don't get more than we need. A lot of people are talking about going outlaw.

Ruby:

Rachel Kangas- The river conditions are not changing and it's staying really high. As of today it has even risen more due to the rain storms that we have been having. There is more noticeable debris and it is heavier than the last few days. 4 local families were out at the last opening. A lot of families thought it was too early, they like to fish second pulse in early July. We have been fishing since it opened and we got a lot of jack kings swimming right through our nets. We got a few big kings at the beginning of June by luck, tangling in our net. All 7 kings were male. No issues with the quality of fish, they were delicious. A lot of people within our village have not gone out fishing yet because kings usually hit in early July. I see an issue with the high water. Really hard to drift net in our areas that we usually hit good. Sometimes it is different, it's just about the size of these kings. We are at our first load into our smokehouse. We have not been able to share with family. We've passed out the Kings to the elders.

Districts 5a, b, c & d

Tanana:

Katheen Zuray- We just started catching salmon at the family fish camp and we are nowhere near our needs. The priority needs to be subsistence fishing. We're hoping for more than 30,000 kings coming through the Pilot Sonar. Usually start king fishing around July 4th.

Rampart:

Janet - The water has come up more, and there's not much drift. There hasn't been anyone who met subsistence needs but it's probably too early. I agreed with the person who talked about the Pollock fishery in the Bering Sea, they are catching more salmon than we know. With COVID the meat prices have gone up. Us Native people need our fish and moose and we are being denied our subsistence rights if this goes on. The fish run either the North or South bank like my dad says. To be regulated by the sonar is not correct. If it continues there will be a lot more people fishing illegally and they'll be treated like criminals for just trying to meet subsistence needs. We rely and respect this river, fish and game is jumping the gun, it could be smaller than before but by closing they are going to jeopardize numbers passing through Canada.

Charlie Wright - We're experiencing extremely high water, and the water is going up. A lot of people do not know where to put their nets. Big trees are floating. Hoping and praying that fall fish come in.

Rapids:

Stan Zuray- The water level remains high and right up into the willows along the banks. Slight drift at times. Most camps are open and just starting to fish this week. The catches are low which is normal for start. There's been one king with ICK, that classic ICK smell. The sample size is small so it's probably a coincidence, but now we will sample all the fish. There's about a dozen families in camps at Rapids now, some are waiting till the 4th of July date. With COVID, you still need Council permission to fly and masks are required.

Stevens Village:

Peter John- The water is really high, and the catch level is really small.

Beaver:

Rhonda Pitka - The wind is high and so is the water.

Fort Yukon:

Andrew Firmin- I started interviews this week. I've contacted 9 households, and interviewed 5. One jack king caught. People are prepping gear. Water is pretty high with lots of drift in the water.

Shannon Hardy - On the Yukon Flats, after 5D there are several channels that the fish can take. It is not one channel, there are 100s of ways that the salmon can go. It is very tough to fish. It usually takes a few days to find a place, and if we do find a fish we get cut off. We take our family and set up a fish camp, taking a freezer, etc. It is very expensive to fish. We have a lot of struggles just to find the fish. I believe that in 5D, one person caught a fish, and they already cut us off. The price of gas is \$6.50 a gallon.

Districts 6a, b & c**Nenana:**

Victor Lord - There has been high water. It's been coming up the last few days, and it's close to coming over the banks. There are a couple fishers that I haven't been able to talk to. The water is going 10 miles an hour. There is drift and it's dangerous. On a side note, I've been hearing frustrations, especially at the mouth. Hopefully Holly is taking in all this info and can digest it. Getting an earful, good luck to Holly and hopefully we can figure something out. We have to adjust. I'm glad we have this conference so we can share and get out our frustrations and hopefully work something out.

Fairbanks:

Virgil Umphenour - The water is high and we are under flood warning so it will get worse I think.

Dorothy Shockley - I'm listening in and hearing the frustration of a lot of people. Manley frustrations. We just have to keep in mind that we have to work together to conserve salmon and to meet subsistence needs. We need to really be conscious of where the fish are and what they are doing. As far as out in the Ocean and not reaching the mouth. Concerns are important and people need to not take the frustrations out on each other or management. Be mindful of what nature is doing.

Canada

Old Crow:

Sam - I hear the frustration on the other side. We don't know what is coming up the river yet. We had a cold winter and that may have an effect. Want to say hi to my friends on the Alaska side. It's been raining and the river came up 3' in one night, it's keeping the water cool which is good for the fish. We understand subsistence like the Alaska side but we do have the habitat.

Dawson:

Sebastian Jones - No fishing here. Water is extremely high. Exceptional rain. River is high and trubs are high at flood level and rising fast.

Teslin:

Carl Sidney - Water is still rising, up at the headwater but very slowly, it is starting to slow down a bit. a lot of people are fishing trout. No one is traveling and they are all staying here and coming out on weekends to fish trout, probably going to have a huge impact on the trout. Weather is totally different, a lot more wind and rain than normal. Still no salmon.

Whitehorse:

Dennis Zimmerman - Canadian Yukon River Panel member. I'm here listening, obviously Alaska is really hurting and I want to say that we hear that. We got to work together. One river, one people. We have this treaty, and Canadians will probably harvest a small amount of fish. I want to acknowledge ADF&G'S management and DFO's sacrifices along the river.

Management Reports Agenda:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Contact info for ADFG YR Summer Season Manager; call 907/267-2324

(Jeff Estensen with ADFG will give a fall report as the fall season will begin on July 15 /16 in the Y-1 lower river district)

Fred West - ADF&G Fisheries Biologist- First pulse of chinook is late, we haven't seen it at Pilot yet. *Maybe no harvestable surplus.* Those numbers of fish wont make up for the patches lost. The run is tracking like 2012/13. First large groups of chums are arriving in the test fishery in the lower river, a couple days later than last year. LYTF test numbers have increased the last couple of days which is good news, should be a pretty decent size push of fish and chums in the next couple days. The water levels are still really high at sonar and there is debris. 2019 was the latest summer chum on record. We haven't missed anything compared to normal run timing.

Holly Carroll - Yukon River Summer Season Manager - I'd like to restate some of what Fred West said. I don't think we are painting a bleak enough picture. I hear people and the concerns for food. But this run looks like a crash, it's looking like 2012 and 2013. We don't take this lightly, the biological sustaining of the run. I've heard that people are worried about food for this winter. But I want us to remember that what we do with this run will affect us for the next 5-7 years. I hope we are wrong. If we find out that they come in later than we think and are strong, we will have changes later. I heard a lot about "why is it closed when the fish have first arrived? " We've been closing the first pulse. That's what we are doing, and it's barely arrived. A few people have been lucky. Those that have gotten them, may be the only ones that get the

Kings. I feel like we haven't been clear enough on this. No matter how bad the summer chum is, the size of the run will be large enough for everyone to get their subsistence needs. 60,000 or more chums harvested would be okay. Dip nets are selective gear. We are confident that if we put the selective openings in now, fishing will pick up with selective gear. We can still make goals and harvest conservatively and have a decent run. We don't want to close this entirely. Dip nets aren't ideal or easy, but at least people can get their fish. Fall chum is another option, because Kings will be out of the river, so we can go to larger nets and get our fish then. I hear you, and I understand that it is hard, and people are frustrated because you've traveled home, or you have fish camp set up, and now you can't fish. And I am sorry for that. But hopefully we can give you some other options. We need to see a lot of fish come in this river, and we need to let them GO.

Thank you for being on this call for 2 hours, for being engaged and for calling. Your comments help us make these decisions.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Gerald Maschmann - Acting Yukon River Federal In-season Manager - Thank you for the report Holly. This run is looking similar to 2012 and 13, and those weren't good runs. I want to thank the fisherman reports and people in the lower Yukon for your traditional knowledge.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Jesse Trerice - Fisheries Manager - We are currently working on the 2020 Canadian Management Strategy and it is expected to be finalized in late June. The Canadian Minister has received the recommendations from the Salmon SubCommittee, and things will be based on YRP 2020 recommendations. A conservative approach will be required in 2020 to ensure sufficient numbers of salmon for future returns. There will be a selective harvest of smaller and younger Chinook Salmon. A conservative approach will be required to only First Nations and the management will be informed by the information in Pilot.

Questions and discussion:

Victor Lord - Hope there are ears out there to the Commissioner and to Holly and to the governor, this is concerning. Gerald, not sure who your higher ups are. Please echo that message to the feds. I have seen this before and according to Holly the later runs wont get any better but it is not looking very good.

Andrew Firmin- I got a lot of calls from people that by the time the fish get up there, the run doesn't come into the river in the same way. The males are all the front running fish, and don't breed if there are no females. Dip nets don't work up, and there are no beach seins. Chums are called dog salmon because that is all they are good for once they get up here. That is not going to cut it for a lot of people up here, and you are going to hear a lot more from us if it stays this way. We don't get any other fish like that until the end of the year. There aren't any other fish in the river for us to eat other than dog salmon and whitefish.

Holly Carroll (ADF&G)- We will consider that for your district, you can't utilize summer chum.

Paul in Emmonak - There are frustrations all the way up to Eagle. Ever since sonar has been put in place trying to count fish, we have been shut down and it has not accurately counted fish ever. You guys think it is so accurate that you keep us shut down. Before that sonar, we were all happy with the fish we caught. Since that thing showed up, we are regulated and shut

down. And Bycatch - they are catching large king salmon the males and females are getting killed before they even get into the river.

Fred Huntington - I would like the fish managers to take into consideration that Dunleavy and the Commissioner, because of low returns of king salmon and COVID-19, are spiking up the cost of food. I want a disaster declaration drafted up by managers. We will need something to rely on for this winter.

Benedict in Koyukuk- Are you going to open for 6" mesh for Y4 cause we gotta feed our dogs?
Holly Carroll (ADF&G)- We need to see how big the first pulse is. We need to keep it closed on the first pulse because 6" gear will still catch kings.

Benedict - What are people with a lot of dogs going to feed them if we don't use 6" mesh?

Rex in Pilot station - COVID-19 stuff and all these people in Anchorage/Fairbanks are worried about it. It's hard for people to get in and out without testing and regulations, there are times when these smaller villages run out of supplies at the stores. These people who do a lot of fishing, it would be good to open it up a bit, because people don't really have work. Also Pilot station opened their arms for ADF&G to come out here, we want ADF&G and Kwikpak to know that we allowed ADF&G to come here, to help everyone up and down the Yukon and hopefully Y2 commercial. That was one of the main reasons that Pilot station allowed Fish and Game to come out here. All these people who are struggling with money and food, this is their chance to get their subsistence needs.

Jeff at Kotlik - One of the reasons why king salmon are getting smaller is because they started regulating mesh size. I used to have a fish camp with unrestricted mesh, I had 8". I would talk to Elders and they said 6" mesh is really cutting off the big king salmon. Then they restricted the king salmon gear to 6" meshes. I would see the water on the low tide, I would walk along the beach, we would count 20-30 salmon that were washed up on the beach. the big king salmon would all die off. I don't know why you guys are doing that to the fish. The Elders know about this. The guy from Emmonak and his comments about sonar at Pilot station. Feds said they would listen to the Elders when the state took over management, and I haven't seen that happen. You guys come out here with all your book knowledge and we have all this knowledge from living here in Bush Alaska. You guys say you want to help us, but you don't eat food from the Elders and Bush Alaska. You come out from outside and have ABC behind my name. Who is going to regulate?

Nick(?) - I am 75 years old and I am tired of begging ever since I was young just to get what we need for the winter. Seeing this on and on. When will it end? Things like this are simple, please get those restrictions off, and the test fishing and no test nets in middle mouth. Not to be offensive to Canada, but we are two sovereign countries. What we begged for and got in the final negotiations. We come first. You know, not take all the fish but not make it a constitution. I hope JTC is there and our Canadian counterparts. We do our darndest to get it to Canada.

Holly Carroll (ADF&G)- follow up - Test nets in the lower Yukon, they sometimes perform better than other times. Our drift net has been doing very well. Our nets are short because the run is so small, we don't need to take a lot of king salmon. We are managing based on what we see at Pilot. All of you that fish know that all of these pulses come in quicker together than this.

Nick - In the final analysis, we expect you to have ___ at pilot. If we let them go, we miss them. They come once a year. Watch that sonar, get extra funding. One year ADF&G was the laughing stock of the Yukon River. The sonar was placed facing down at the bottom of the river.

Jack - Kotlik - With the dip net, when you catch a king, you release it, right? Can you put a tracker on it to see if it goes all the way up the Yukon. When you get a smaller net size, the king salmon struggle for a while and then they die.

Holly Carroll (ADF&G)- Yes, great question. Are we going to do any research to see if these fish will survive? We can look into this.

Stanley in Nunam Iqua - Comment for Gerald and Holly - For lower river people, king gear is pretty much non existent. King salmon is an incidental catch. It's not that the lower river wants to harvest king salmon, it's that the lower river wants to harvest chum salmon because they are fit for humans.

Sven Paukan - Question for Holly- I appreciate all the work that management is doing. Now that tomorrow there is an 18 hr opening. Is the department considering extending the hours of the opening with dip nets? To satisfy subsistence needs for the chums, extending the hours with the use of dip nets.

Holly Carroll (ADF&G) - We are considering that but we are going to wait until there are more chum in the river. Now we see equal numbers of kings and chums.

Elizabeth McDonald - Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee Canada- Thank you for hosting the calls. I've heard about the frustrations. I am Canadian. Canadian's haven't met their needs for a long time. If we put Canadians first then we wouldn't be having salmon because there weren't fish in the spawning grounds. I thank everyone along the river for making sacrifices so that we have salmon for our grandbabies.

Carl Sidney- 20-25 years now that our caches have been empty. I admire your work and I do not envy having your job. You are doing the best job that you can, it is a tough job. Especially with these conditions and high waters. I thought we addressed the bycatch issues years ago? We are so fortunate down in the lower river that you do have other species that you can target. If we keep going there will be no salmon in the future.

Janet - Pollock fishing is a multi million dollar industry, we can't compete with that, yet they are taking our salmon. Also, the further you get up the Yukon River, the less species we have so we do rely on the salmon. Another concern I have is the number of king salmon that Fish and Game are catching. Why are you doing that when there are so few king salmon? And what are you doing with them?

Holly Carroll (ADF&G)- We aren't wasting these kings but we do have to catch and count them.

Tiffany- A lot of empty fish racks here. We're all waiting and looking forward to fishing. When do you think there will be a longer time for subsistence?

Holly Carroll (ADF&G)- I'd prefer there to be more chum in the river.

Victor Lord- Ben Stevens is on the Bering Sea Fisheries Management Council. Maybe YRDFA should participate.

Virgil Umphenour- Not a question but a request, our next Tuesday meeting, it would be nice to have an update on what the fisheries have caught the last couple years.

Jessica Black- I hear the comments up and down the river, I appreciate us taking the time to talk it out. As far as fishing it's not just about the food in the freezer, it's about the engagement with the land. Everyone is preparing and seeing a lot more people in the fish camps, and it's beautiful to see. The brief openers are really tough, we moved the nets for 12 hours and didn't catch one fish. I'm committed to restoring the kings and I'm gonna go out on a limb and say tap into your spirituality to call them back into the river.

Bill Alstrom- We hear about more high water coming down the river. We can't fight nature, whatever happens happens. I heard there's a bunch of fish heading down the coast hopefully they'll be up the river soon. Pilot Station Sonar is a good tool. It's a good place for it, close to the mouth of the river. It's good to keep track of the fish because we don't know how much is coming up the river. we need to have consistency.

Holly Carroll (ADF&G)-The Pollock fishery is monitored by the feds. Are you asking about who looks for illegal fishing?

Unknown-Who monitors the fishing?

Holly Carroll (ADF&G)-Fish and game monitors 3 miles out off the coast, past that is the feds.

Cary Stevens- I want to thank everyone. There's no doubt that Alaskan Natives and Canadian First Nations are one of the main fisheries and they keep in mind conservation. I encourage everyone up and down the river to get in contact with your tribal council and knowledge. No one on the Yukon caused this crash. I appreciate the managers but I hope we can lift up Tribal Governments. This sonar issue is good dialogue for equity.

Daryl - I have questions about sonar at Pilot Station. How sure are you that it is not affecting the salmon going up the river?

Holly Carroll (ADF&G)- We are pretty sure that the sonar does not hurt the fish. It sends a small pulse out and it bounces off the bladder of the fish. I know someone else said that ever since we put that sonar in we haven't had good salmon runs. Remember that we used to have runs that were twice as big as they are now. There used to be runs on this river that support commercial fishing.

Daryl - I don't always commercial fish but when I do go with people who have a sonar on their boat, it just goes crazy when it passes over a group of fish. People who don't have sonar, it doesn't affect them. Other than that, the early season fish, the test fisheries, where - at Emmo, didn't catch fish but people with sonars said that they had fish on their sonars.

Paul Williams- Beaver - Hello everyone. Lots of people up and down the river. I hear a lot of comments, especially like that woman from Fairbanks (Carrie Stevens) you know they make sense about (joking about Carrie and Ben). I remember fishing in 1947, there used to be twice as many fish and a lot bigger then. My father knew where the fish were going too. I don't know how they know this but... I learned a lot from him. Dancing and drumming, and celebration. Our songs and celebration saying thank you and that we wanted the fish and the other animals like the Moose and Caribou. If we get together and learn from each other, when

we say we have a creator who made Heaven and Earth, and the fish too. Some are missing the point about working together. A lot of people don't know about Indigenous people's ways.

Daryl Numuniq- Nunam Iqua- Reasonable low water here as compared to the Yukon. Nunam Iqua water levels are usually low. I've noticed over the years that water levels rise when the pulse comes through. I've already noticed one big pulse that passed through in early June.

Victor -Over and out.