



YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

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Greetings from the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association!

Here is a summary of the #6 2024 Yukon River Salmon In-Season Management Teleconference held Tuesday, July 9, 2024. Call lasted 90 minutes. 94 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 a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife.

Communities participating: 24

Management Reports:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Fred West, Summer Season Research Biologist, Bethel, AK

All this assessment information will be in the weekly update, if there's more specific information you need, it'll all be in there. The Chinook salmon run is well below average and unlikely to meet objectives or provide for any kind of harvest. The 2024 run appears to be late with the midpoint similar to last year of July 1st. With this push of fish that we saw over the weekend, the run is getting to be pushing later and later. It's tracking slightly better than the last couple of years, but still well below average. Projections indicate we'll be near the upper end or above the preseason forecast, so that's encouraging. We are getting more genetics, we got the first batch analyzed, this was 54% Canadian, but we have this big group of fish that had passed in the last week and those samples should be in the lab in the next couple of days. We should get some of those results hopefully before next week's call. The Summer Chum run, we are coming in at 648,000 Summer Chum right now. That is within the preseason forecast and also the projection is for a run size around 810,000, which is similar to the run size last year. It's encouraging, the run size is still below average, but it's similar to last year. Assessment projects, still have that Lower River Test Fishery. We had some poor weather end of last week and in the weekend. So we missed a few drifts, but we missed this pulse of Chum that we saw the last couple of days out of Pilot. They're still tracking what to expect. The overall CPUE (Catch Per Unit of Effort) is well below average, they are still catching a few fish, but catches are reduced, they are still tracking some fish. There should be some more passage at Pilot over the next few days. Pilot Station Sonar, currently the passage is 58,725 Chinook salmon $\pm 13,000$, which is below average for this date but better than last couple of years. Summer Chum, we are at 648,318 $\pm 36,000$, which is below the long-term median of 1.4 million, similar to late timing which is 735,000. Below average but better than recent years at this time. The Chinook Radio Telemetry Project is still ongoing. They're going to be continuing to tag fish for another, roughly about a week or so. They've been able to continue to tag fish. Similar to what happened at LYTF with Chum, they had some issues with being able to tag fish because of poor weather. They're back on track and they're tagging a number of fish each day. Information about the project, if you want to call about any questions, there's information in the update about that. For Andreafski Weir, they haven't really caught or saw many fish to date, though it seems to be tracking super late there. They've only seen like 18 Summer Chum and no Chinook as of yet. The Anvik Sonar, the cumulative passage is 35,917 which is below average. The Chena Tower/Sonar, they had issues with high rising water levels over the weekend and so they haven't been able to count for the last several days. They also had to pull their sonar, so prior to them suspending counts, they were at 14 Chinook salmon and 12 Summer Chum

salmon. Salcha River, they're also dealing with high water over the weekend, they're not able to see visually from the towers but they still are able to run the sonar, their cumulative passage is 26 Chinook salmon and 18 Summer Chum salmon. Eagle Sonar, they are at 52 daily today, but their cumulative passage to date is 361 Chinook salmon, which is well below average. We've updated the age comp data for both Chinook at Pilot and Summer Chum at LYTF, so that information is in there. The genetic stock information is in there and that will hopefully be updated prior to next week's update.

Deena Jallen, Summer Season Manager of Yukon River, Emmonak, AK

Just to remind folks that you can always call our Emmonak office. We're open Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and then Saturdays 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM and then you can also reach us. Our number here in Emmonak is (907) 949-1320. You can also call the toll-free hotline for fishing counts and information, that number is 866-479-7387. All of our news releases and most folks should have gotten that as a magnet at the start of this season. We're just walking our Preseason Management Strategies Upriver as of now, all districts have gone off of unrestricted prior to the season closure of fishing. The last closures to go into place, we're in the Upper Tanana River and Sub District 5D Upper. So those have now closed, you can no longer use 7 1/2 inch or larger mesh. The next set of closures that went into place was the two-week closures of all gillnets, so 4-inch or smaller mesh. Those closures have already taken place and completed in Districts 1, 2 and 3 in the Coastal Area. In Districts 4 and 5, those closures are in place or will be going into place. For selective gear, we've announced openings with selective gear through District 4. So folks can go out with selective gear for non-salmon species. I do acknowledge that this is confusing. I'm actually looking at my whiteboard in which I have about like 90 things written on it. So if anyone is confused about the fishing in their District, please give us a call, please look at the news releases for your area or call the toll-free hotline. You call one of the offices either in Emmonak or Fairbanks, we're always happy to help and talk to you about what's happening in your specific District and on the day that you are interested in knowing more. We've heard from folks down here in the Lower Yukon that they've seen some pretty good Summer Chum. There's been some good fishing. We had a bit of stormy weather around the 4th of July, but the weather is now just cloudy and kind of nice and overcast. We have seen a few Pink salmon come in, both through subsistence harvest and in the test fishery, and we're looking forward to Fall Chum coming in. We've also had another 4 or 5 people ask about fall Chum when they get here.

Christy Gleason, Yukon Area Fall Season Manager, Fairbanks, Alaska

We're getting close to transitioning from Summer to Fall Season on the Yukon River. The Fall Season begins in the Coastal District and District 1 on Tuesday, July 6th. Management actions early in the season will be based on the 2024 Summer Chum run size, which predicts the Fall Chum run size. We're watching the Summer Chum run pretty closely this week to form our management strategy. The Fall Chum projection looks similar to last year and I'll have more information on next week's call. For this week, the Coastal District and Lower Yukon Districts can expect to see an advisory announcement coming out later this week and that will have our Fall Chum Preseason projections on there and our initial management actions for the Fall Season. Middle and Upper River Districts will transition to Fall Season Management once the front end of the Fall Chum salmon migration reaches their District.

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Holly Carroll, Yukon River Area Manager, Fairbanks, Alaska

I've heard some really great feedback from a couple of folks on the river. Some villages are receiving really high-quality Red salmon and they're really happy with those donations and they're able to put them up and dry them. They were really impressed with the quality. I'm not sure what all villages received those, but it was great to hear that. I did hear that there was some confusion from Enforcement in District 5 ABC that they may be were telling folks the wrong dates of closures and gosh, we really hate when that happens. That's super confusing. I know there's also radio ads, there's news releases, and I don't know if those get hung up, but they can quickly become out of date. I just want to remind folks whether you think the fishing schedule or someone told you something. It doesn't sound right. It's always just good to call the fishing hotline number 1-866-479-7387. Whether you're working in a business and someone asks you or whether

you're a fisherman and you think it's open or whether you're a trooper and your patrolling, it's great to just call that number and plug in the District you're in because as Deena said, there's been a lot of complicated actions and we don't want to give people the wrong information. So just a reminder to call 1-866-479-7387. Put it in your phone, save it as a contact, share it with your friends. If they ask you if fishing is open just so that they know how to check for themselves so that you don't take the blame if you give them the wrong information.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Adam O'Dell, Fishery Biologist

One component we have running here, our Porcupine River camp, which is near Old Crow. We've experienced quite a number of technical and environmental issues since last week's update. The water levels have increased about 3 meters since Friday, and they're just cresting about now. So the influx of water has caused a number of issues with our sonars. We're still presently trying to attempt to resolve these, so we're hoping to have another update, probably not till the weekend. Honestly, the estimates at this juncture remains the same as last week. We had two Chinooks pass and that's still where we're at. We still get caught up on that side of things and as with last season, just a reminder, our crews at the Porcupine River camp, we are not conducting test netting for Chinook at that camp. At the Eagle Sonar, Fred already provided a pretty in-depth update on this. Now this is a joint venture. We do provide technicians, we do have some vehicled staff who are at Eagle currently, assisting with the operation of the sonars in the camp. Just a reminder, this is a pretty critical estimation point for both Chinook and for Chum salmon as they are nearly in Canada and we love to manage for Canadian stocks. So that's one of the critical ones for ourselves. In support of the 2024 Chinook radius telemetry program, so we have a DFO crew who have been installing these radio telemetry towers throughout the Yukon for the past few weeks. Currently, the remaining towers are being deployed today and they should be all up and running as of today. So again a reminder, these towers, we don't have the satellite uplinks equipped on these towers. So we aren't able to provide real time data, but we will be pulling the receivers and the data within them. End of the season and providing summaries on that. Now quickly moving on to environmental conditions, so the weather conditions in Northern Yukon around Old currently been quite cool recently. As I was suggesting earlier, our rain has bumped upstream levels quite dramatically water temperatures. Have also cooled. Though the Porcupine River is about 11 degrees this morning, 11°C. Yes. The Middle and Southern sections of the territory need more experienced a bit of a mix in temperatures the last couple of days being a bit warmer as Yukon River itself, water levels at Dawson City, they're slightly below what we had this time last year and also below the past four years and a quick touch on wildfire activity. As a whole, it has slowed recently with these less extreme weather conditions. The central portion of the territory still does contain a number of wildfires of note, but it does appear that all of these are under control or currently held at the moment at least. And so that wraps up to you wraps up to the assessments and environmental conditions.

Jaelyn Kendall, Fishery Manager

I'll just be following up with a bit of a brief Canadian Management update. The 2024 Canadian Management Strategy has now been finalized and it incorporates conservation, as a key priority as well as aspects from the newly signed Seven-Year Agreement. There are no changes to Canadian Management to report, in line with the newly signed agreement and with the preliminary very low Canadian-origin outlook, DFO has closed the recreational fishery for 2024 and will continue to close through to 2030 and the current long-term closures in the commercial and domestic fisheries will be extended through to 2030 as well.

Organizational Reports:

Elizabeth McDonald, Council of Yukon First Nations (Report read by Catherine Moncrieff)

Several Yukon First Nation projects are up and running now. Pelly Sonar (Selkirk First Nation) is already counting Chinook. I believe Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's Klondike Sonar (near Dawson) is up and running or about to be. Next week we will be putting up one of our telemetry towers on the Nordenskoild River (near Carmacks) in partnership with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nations. First Nations also are completing many other projects that I am not involved in, so I can't provide updates on all this additional work.

In addition to the regular field work, a lot of effort is also going into the mining disaster within the First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun's traditional territory. FNNND is extremely busy. This week several of their staff are out sampling water plus working with DFO and Yukon Government to mitigate the situation. There is a risk of a 2nd slide. As the mining camp is located in the potential slide path, they only have minimal staff on site. Good news is that the fire evacuation alert has ended which is making it easier to access the site. In response to the disaster, the Chief of FNNND is asking that all mining in their Traditional Territory be suspended. Unfortunately there aren't many more details at this time but Yukoners are extremely concerned. I have a friend and her family who live downstream of this and they depend upon the water for drinking and they eat grayling out of the creek regularly.

Natalie Sattler, Alaska Longliners Fishermen's Association

I'm Natalie Sattler with the Alaska Longliners Fisherman's Association. We are located in Sitka SE, Alaska. So quite a ways from most of you folks. We are helping with a number of partners throughout the state with seafood donations since 2020. We have created a seafood distribution network. For the past 3 or 4 summers have helped with multiple seafood donations in the Yukon, Chignik and Anchorage area and other regions around the state. For the past 2 summers, we have pilot programs out of Dillingham itself with the Sockeye salmon runs and have donated, last summer. We did a subsistence donation effort out of Dillingham and donated to about 5 different communities in the region. In the summer before, I believe it was 11 or 12 different communities on the Lower Yukon and Chignik region and a few other communities and villages as well. We're continuing those efforts this year. To date, we've donated about 650,000 meals and this summer, we are hoping to be working with some of the Northland Seafood fishermen and donating Sockeye again. Probably only being able to do about 5000 lbs. So 4 or 5, 6 communities, but really trying to put the word out there about the seafood distribution network. Also looking to hear from anyone, all of you or whoever. That if communities that might be seeking donations. I know that the Chief Conference does a big donation effort basically from Holy Cross up every year. We've been sort of targeting some of those other areas that maybe haven't received donations in the past and some of the coastal communities. Just trying to put the word out there, connect with more partners. Trying to just build the network and thinking about the future, we're hoping eventually, depending on funding, that we'll be able to develop and perhaps build some remote processing hub in certain regions. It would be easier to distribute regionally. We've worked with a number of partners specifically in the Dillingham area. We've worked with Grant Aviation, they've donated a bunch of their transport to us, Northline Seafoods, BBNA and BBNC and several others. I just wanted to introduce myself, our program, and what we've been up to. If anyone wants to get in touch with me, you can reach me at program.director@alfafish.org. I'd love to hear from you and see if there's any way we can help out.

Community level reports:

District Y5abc&d:

CANADA

Dawson City:

David Curtis - Not much to report, that was covered really well by folks from DFO. What I know from the news, I've not been there on the ground or haven't talked to anybody doing the translating. That mine is in Mayo, it's in the Nacho Nyäk Dun's traditional territory as a catastrophic failure of the heap leach pile. There's real big concern that if conditions don't change, there could be more slopping of that pile and arsenic is the concern leaching out, and they have arsenic downstream just in the major creek. I guess that comes out from around the mine, but that leaks into the McQuesten River, which feeds into the Stewart River, which feeds into the Yukon. There are some concerns there, but so far words leaked through the news has all been that nothing's gotten into the main part of the river yet, but Elizabeth might have something a little more conclusive or more update if she joins in.

Sebastian Jones – Sebastian Jones, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee. I can report that the Klondike Sonar is in. I can't report if they've counted any fish though. The Tr'ondek Hwech'in put the sonar in last Friday and it's operating by now.

ALASKA

District Y6abc:

Fairbanks:

Virgil Umphenour - Not much to report here, the water is getting high because we've been having rain. First, we were cooking up here, it went from 89° about a week and a half ago. It's been in the high 40s in the morning and constant rain. I know the Chena and the Salcha have come up, whether it's affecting the counting yet or not, I don't know but that's about all there is to report here, except that they are counting both species in the Chena and I think on the Salcha. I don't know if the department said that in their report or not, but I think they, according to what they put out each day, I think that. I know there's been a King, I think a King and a Chum both on the Salcha River too. Distributing fish for Tanana Chiefs Conference. These fish are Coho that were from Sitka and they are in pretty good shape. We're supposed to get fish, we're hoping to find out something today from Northline that has a big barge called 'Hannah' to distribute to the villages, but I know they had a fire in that thing. Electrical fire and it hurt their production. The gal I deal with at Tanana Chiefs Now, Sonya, she sent an e-mail to them this morning to find out what the status is because we thought we would be getting Sockeye from Bristol Bay by now but so far we haven't got it.

George Yaska – Question for the department on cultural permits, particularly for memorial potlatch for King salmon. There were permits issued, I believe for Chum. I think all told, perhaps 12 Chum. For the two memorial potlatch permits, both parties for this weekend and then for next weekend. Koyukuk and Ruby respectively is seeking for Chinook also having roughly 60,000 Chinook in the water and I think that 3 Chinook per potlatch. They see some real value in perhaps 6 Chinook allowed for memorial potlatch. You guys have a response to that Holly Carroll or otherwise?

Deena Jallen, ADFG Summer Season Manager of Yukon River

If you want to reach out to me or have the folks in those communities contacting me in the Emmonak office, that would be great (907) 949-1320.

District 5abcd:

Eagle:

Andy Bassich - So like everyone else, we had a lot of rain last week. River came up, but it's actually dropping again right now. Dropped probably over a foot in the past 24 hours. Water temperature during the high water was around 60 to 61°. The high that I've seen this year for the Yukon River around Eagle was about 69°. If the water is dropping, I'm expecting that to come back up if the weather clears. I think that's about all I really had to report at this point in time. Appreciate the all the input from everyone. Thank you.

The only other question I had for Deena or Fred in regards to the Eagle sonar count. Do they have any numbers on how many fish have been caught in the test net fisheries? I'm just kind of curious about what they're actually catching as opposed to what they're seeing going by. Is there any confirmation or numbers on that, Fred or Deena?

Deena Jallen, ADFG Summer Season Manager of Yukon River

So far in their test, they have caught 1 Chinook salmon, so those counts are counts on the Sonar and the test fishery has only gotten 1 King.

Ruby Becker (Report read by Catherine Moncrieff) - It's a very hot and dry summer in Eagle. So far, water levels on the Yukon have been low. Last week was the first real measurable rain for at least a month. The river level has been coming up. There's a lot of drift and debris in the river, mostly coming out of the smaller creeks and rivers. The only household that had a whitefish net in the water had to pull it due to debris and they planned to resume fishing when the water clears up. There are only a few boats in the water and the boat landing is very quiet. One household that usually fishes said that they are turning to their garden this year to feed neighbors and loved ones.

Fort Yukon:

Kara'lissa Tremblay - I don't got much to report. Just that we've just been having a lot of rain here and water is coming up, not much people fishing.

Tanana:

Stan Zuray - Water is low and there's been no fishing in this area. I do have a complaint here. It's about everybody here has not been fishing since the 23rd of June because multiple people were sure they heard a radio message on June 23rd. So everyone stopped fishing, including myself and family members. However, on June 27th a Trooper came by multiple camps at Rapids and said the 23rd closure was not true. The 4-inch was closing on the 27th of June that day at 8:00 PM. Basically, while people can be faulted for not double checking a radio message, I don't see how a troopers message in person to residents can be expected to be thought confusing and therefore needing a double check. People here will almost be closed for a month now instead of the two-week closure and I'm not very happy. That's about all I got. That's what's happening in this area here.

Rampart:

Janet Woods: I just also wanted to kind of iterate what Stan had said. You know, I was thinking and I didn't call, but when we had a meeting in May. It was a Seven-Year Moratorium and I just thought no fishing, period. Then realized that after the fact that yes, people could fish with a 4-inch mesh where the King salmon etcetera, don't travel. So likewise, I'm in the same boat as everybody else thinking that and telling people here because you know now that I have that number. Well, I knew the number, but, you know, I just have to remember that they have to call and find out the information for themselves. Absolutely no fishing for me at all because you know when they say Seven-Year Moratorium. You think, it's either you're going to do it or you're not. Seven years, I thought, just absolutely no fishing for seven years, but apparently, I'm wrong. I think that's with a lot of people here in Rampart area. Maybe some did call and did set a 4-inch mesh. I think very few people did. The water is raising, we have a lot of water. Had to pull in our raft a couple of times. A lot of drifters, a lot of debris in the river right now starting to go down. Stan, you'll probably see some rising water going your way. The other question I have. By time, and probably was a question that somebody from Ruby had asked. But you know, my concern is when the Chinook reach the Canadian border. Is the mining situation up there going to be resolved, so the fish are not affected. The Chinook salmon that reach the border, are they going to be affected or not? If they don't get that resolved before the fish do make it up there. Thank you.

I got a couple of donated. Well, my daughter got one. I got one from the test wheel from Rapids and they were small. Almost like Jack, but really small. But the thing that I noticed was the eggs were so tiny and there wasn't a lot of them. Is it because the fish are so small or what? Maybe you can answer that question, but just noticed that they were so small, tiny eggs. I've never seen, all the years that I've been fishing, I've never seen such small fish eggs before. Maybe in tiny fish like whitefish, but for the Chinook. It was kind of strange to see that. So thank you.

Discussions and answers for Janet Woods questions:**Deena Jallen, ADFG Summer Season Manager of Yukon River**

Chinook salmon travel time, I believe their average swim speed is 40 miles per day. So a Chinook salmon takes about 30 days to travel from the mouth of the river to the US Canada border. it takes about 28 days to swim from Pilot Station to the border.

That Seven-Year Moratorium that is part of the US, Canada Treaty for Canadian Origination of Chinook salmon. So that moratorium applies to Canadian-origin Chinook salmon. It doesn't necessarily affect Chinook salmon stocks that are in Alaska, like that may be going up the Tanana River or the Koyukuk River and it doesn't affect other salmon and non-salmon species. So we've been trying to get harvest opportunity on other salmon and non-salmon while protecting King salmon as much as possible. That's been the management strategy that we've tried to implement this season.

Fred West, ADFG Summer Season Research Biologist

We are collecting eggs from the Pilot Station Test Fishery. So those are being analyzed for fecundity but yeah, any kind of pictures or any date of that would definitely be helpful. If you see anything unusual for your area, if you normally see, you know large eggs and now you're seeing something unusual would be good to get a track of that.

Andy Bassich, Eagle – Real briefly just to interject to build on this discussion. Last year, I caught an incidental Chinook salmon and the eggs were actually clear, with only an eye in them here at Eagle, which was absolutely shocking to me. I really regret not taking pictures of them but I had informed the department about that at the Yukon River Panel meeting. It seems to be that maybe it's going to be a trend we're going to start to see and it's probably something that all fishermen along the river would be really helpful if they see these abnormalities to report those, and maybe even try and collect samples to get to the department. Thank you.

David Walker, Holy Cross - I just want to report a little bit on that. All the fish I caught, the silver ones. There's no color to them there. They had smaller eggs and I assumed they were going further up the river to spawn. The ones that were turning color, you know, pale meat and stuff. Like I said earlier, those were probably going to spawn in local tributaries maybe Anvik or somewhere Upriver. Anyway, those had really big mature eggs in all of them. All the dark colored fish, I didn't see any small eggs down here that concerned me so, thank you.

District Y4a&c:

Huslia:

Charlene Vent : We haven't really had any fishing because of closures, so a lot of people aren't putting an effort in. We have a lot of people out on travel right now. So a couple of people went out with Rod and reel and they got 1 sheefish, but they're really hasn't been fishing and our water is low. They're supposed to come up because there is a storm in the Brooks Range, so our water should be coming up pretty soon. That's how I have to report.

Anvik:

Robert Walker - We have a lady here that works for YR DFA also, she will give a report on the fishery. The water so low right now. It was just like fall time, the water dropped is completely out of sight here. We have no drift, no nothing on the river. And our temperature for the last 10 days been like 48, 49, 50 degrees every day, rain and it's windy. So this is something unusual that I have never seen before in my lifetime. Is this something to do with global warming or just a weather change for the system for Alaska? My other question is. We haven't had any reports from YR DFA, who we're supposed to, I believe we've talked in the past about what was reported to come out of False Pass or Area M. If there has been any kind of a changing in their fisheries like windows, or has there been enforcement been going to look at some of these issues? Because when you look at the account that was given to us this morning, 627,000 Chums, that would be just the Anvik River one year, counted at the weir here. The amount of Kings, that is so low that this seem like we're going backwards some places here. We're not moving forward even though this is the start of the Moratorium. I'm just thinking, how do we get to be back to at least half of the production of what we used to have, let's say 10 years ago or even 5 years ago? So that is my question. Thank you much.

Answer to Robert Walker's question on weather changes:

George Yaska, Fairbanks - Yeah, we had a really good report from weather folks up at the University of Alaska and from NOAA at our Carbon Workshop in Fairbanks this Spring. They described the Gyre of the Polar Ice cap jetstream, which is normally and was in the past, tightly held in a clockwise gyre. Near the polarized gap above the coast, above the Arctic Ocean. As that polar ice cap melted and shrunk. There were less ice and more ocean area, more water area. The gyre of that polar ice cap just loosened and last year we saw that jetstream over the coast of the North Slope above the Brooks Range and heading into the Brooks Range near Atigun Pass. This year, the same gyre appears to be coming down earlier than usual. Coming over the Kamchatka Mountains picking up moisture, perhaps already having moisture from the Arctic

Ocean and swinging down by the Aluetian Islands and then coming up. Up the Yukon, so to speak. At least that's what it appears to be from the satellite imagery and from the discussions that the meteorologists had held earlier. Thank you.

Sherry Kruger - I did the survey for last week. There was only like one or two people out fishing and but where they've been fishing is they've been standing up the Anvik River for like 6 days. They fished and they caught a total of like around 290 salmon. And they said they caught like 4 red. I helped cut some of those up. Like Janet was saying, I noticed the salmon eggs were really small in a lot of the fish that I cut. So I don't know if they're traveling way up the river or what's going on with that. I also noticed the salmon are smaller, they seem smaller to me. We've like Robert said, the water has been really low here and we've been having some pretty cold temperatures and it's been raining, so hopefully the water will come up a little bit here. There just hasn't been anybody out fishing, a lot of people said they don't have dipnets or seining nets, what's the other one fish wheel to fish with. These two guys that are fishing up the Anvik River, they've been passing out fish in the village so people get to eat some fish. Other than that, that's pretty much all I have.

District Y3:

Holy Cross:

David Walker - There's been only me and another person dipping for chums. The last time I went out was night before. There's a lot of fish out there I see in the big eddy up there in Victor's, they're really jumping. Majority of them are colored, looks like they're spawners from local tributaries. I think of what I caught was like only about 1/3 was really good silver fish the rest were getting black. The water been steady the last couple days. I know that temperature been cooler, but the water is warmer right now. I stuck my hand in the water a couple times to warm up my 64 year old hands. It's not hot water, but it's warm. I didn't really take the temperature of it. I don't see no heat stroke fish going by or drifting down the river this year. That's about all I could report, I don't know who's supposed to be officially reporting, but I just thought I'd share what I see here. Like I said, there would be two other guys and one boat fishing with me and I think they caught what they wanted. Thank you for listening.

District Y2:

Mountain Village:

Nita Stevens – I spoke with 7 fishermen, they caught some Chum and some Humpies. The water level dropped lots down here. There's been no drift in the river. Not too much to report other than people waiting for berries. Hopefully we'll get to fish for Fall Chum.

Stanislaus Shepard - The waters been dropping pretty fast, I think it's between the low watermark and high watermark, it's below the halfway mark. I've seen people in the past week and they're reporting, at least at Lower part down here toward the end in Y2 and they're getting Humpies, the Pinks, they're really thick. Majority of the salmon that I caught dip netting down here at the Lower end of Y2. They're starting to get colored, water colored. That means they're probably from here up to the Koyukuk, further down drainage. My question to Deena, I keep forgetting to bring up when I called down there to check in. Was that the test fishery for Big Eddy and Middle Mouth? I haven't heard them report any Kings caught and with the amount of Kings that pass Pilot station Sonar. There got to be some kind of mortality or bycatch of Kings during the test fishery down the Middle Mouth and Big Eddy. We just hear about them drifting for Kings to tag them but there's no report of how many Kings actually caught in the 6-inch test fishery net. Thank you very much.

Deena Jallen, ADFG Summer Season Manager of Yukon River

The test fishery does collect data on the fish that are caught and released. I don't have the data readily available for all of the non-target species. So things like Pink salmon, King salmon and Sheefish. The Lower Yukon Test Fishery nets have caught a few of those this season. They are fishing with 5 ½ inch mesh for summer Chum salmon and I would estimate just from the data sheets I've seen that they have maybe encountered about 25 Kings and they've let most of those go and there's maybe been about 10 Kings from the Lower Yukon Fishery that have been distributed. That's just looking just off hand recollection, I'd have

to sort through every data sheet to get a full tally, but they haven't been encountering very many kings. When they do, they're able to let them go. A lot of the ones that have been mortalities and been retained have been Jacks.

St. Mary's:

Matty Beans - Just giving your water temperature report up here in the Andraefski River, the water temperature is 56° right now up at the forks there. The water is dropping down here. No one's really fishing that I noticed out here. Yukon is dropping and Andraefski is dropping. It's been cool, windy, a lot of South and West winds. Which entailed looked like a lot of Chums passed the Sonar. Thank you.

It's kind of concerning hearing about the Andraefski Weir is low on numbers. Did they say no Kings counted up there at all? Was that what I was hearing?

Fred West, ADFG Summer Season Research Biologist

We were talking about that this morning, actually with other staff, it is kind of unusual not to see Kings. Well, I guess it's just because of the late run. It's been years where we haven't seen many at all at this time and they'll come in later. So with the late run, it's not totally unexpected. The thing with the chum being late, they come in late. So it's still with the late run. Hopefully we'll start seeing them soon, but it's not unprecedented. I guess we have seen this that late in that system.

Bill Alstrom - Like Matty said, you know it's really not too much going on here, just listening and the waters dropping and that's it. Thank you.

Sven Paukan – I just wanted to report. A lot of folks that I've seen pretty much caught what little fish they can get depending Summer Chums. There's other folks waiting for Fall Chums, hopefully it'll open up this year. But just like Matty and Williams says, weather changed, this water is dropping. So we'd like to hear more on potential Fall Chum openings if we can.

Christy Gleason, ADFG Yukon Area Fall Season Manager

So we're switching from Summer Season to Fall Season starting Tuesday, July 16th in the Lower Yukon and the Coastal District. We're going to come out with an announcement later on this week for those two areas. We're working on coming up with our Preseason Projection, which is based on the Summer Chum run that's coming in right now. I can tell you that it's looking similar to last year, our Preseason Projection. We'll likely have management that's similar to last year. What we did last year is, kept the selective gear open for the 1st 10 days of the Fall Season and we just continued the summer schedule. We'll have more confirmation here later this week. The fall chum tend to come into the river at the end of July based on genetics. We'll be looking at the run pretty closely because we want to make sure and meet escapement goals for Fall Chum. So we know it's important to a lot of folks, but that's what we're planning on right now.

District Y1:

Alakanuk:

Max Agayar - The few fishermen that I've talked to said that there was a lot of Humpies out there and most everyone is done drying their fish. We've been having a lot of rain and winds from the South. So a lot of fish coming in, a lot of Humpies.

Open Discussion / Questions:

Fred Beans, Mountain Village – I just got a comment here on that mine up there. I think you need to be rectified as soon as possible because you know the thing should be there by now and it needs to be addressed and soon, sooner than later. I think mining industries and the tower industries is the cause of these low numbers in fish decline. Thank you.

Call ended 2:30 PM