

Greetings from the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association!

Here is a summary of the 7th Yukon River Salmon In-Season Management Teleconference held Tuesday, August 7, 2018. Call lasted 53 minutes.

Background: Yukon River salmon management teleconferences are held annually on 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 US Department of the Interior, Office of Subsistence Management.

Media participating: KZPA radio-Fort Yukon

Communities participating this week:

Alaska Communities:Anvik, Grayling, Koyukuk, Allakaket, Rapids, Eagle, Manley Hot Springs

Yukon Territory Canada Communities: Mayo, Carmacks, Whitehorse

Subsistence Reports:

Alaska

Anvik: really quiet, all waiting for fall chum.

Grayling: no fishing. Where are the fall chum? Water steady.

Koyukuk: water dropped 3", rainy and windy. Fished for 2 days and got one chum for dogs. No fish here yet.

Allakaket: raining most of last week. Water high. Fishing for chum now. Most folks got enough for subsistence use. Wet, so fishing not too good.

Rapids:

Water levels still low and steady.

6 camps open in the area, as many close up this time of year.

Weather has been too rainy to fish up till recently and better weather last two days doesn't do us any good when fishing is closed. Fishermen will be turning on at 6 pm tonight for opening.

Some good fall type chum for people food but most still poor summer chum quality and being cut for dogs and numbers are still low. Expect quality and numbers to change soon.

Fall fishermen as normal have none of their needs met yet, as it's only beginning.

Eagle: not much, only one fished and finishing up. Done on kings. Waiting on fall chum to feed dogs. River coming up with rain.

Manley Hot Springs: nasty weather, improving. I fished 6 hrs, 49 decent summer chum. Water still high. I'm the only one fishing.

Canada-

Mayo: rain last few days and heavy. Low numbers of salmon-more effort than catch, so not worth it.

Carmacks: went there a week and a half ago, salmon catch really low, 6 salmon.

Whitehorse: overview-catch rates really low, visit to Pelly & Carmacks. Very low water in mainstem and tributaries. Temps; record highs in many locations. In Carmacks catching bottom

of net-fish staying deep and in middle of the river. Sometimes fish caught upside of nets.
Raining now and cooling.

Questions and discussion:

Q) John Lamont-Fred West, monitoring counts at Eagle-my assumption is they take expected runs and put into the daily counts. Are those counts consistent over the years? Fred-some days-last year they were in the 3K range. Run size coming in kinda normal, started slow, peaked and now tapering off. John-I'll give you a call.

Q) Paul @ Fort Yukon, last week asked a question about fishwheels and nets. People using fishwheels are catching big 30lb kings, but not in nets. Deena-wheels on edge usually catch smaller fish. P-unfair that the fishwheel guys catching all the big fish. P-says folks do not man the wheels. Hard to fish with a net around Fort Yukon. Stan?- not our experience, sampled the Kings on the Tanana and camps at the Rapids, large sample size. Avg 11.2 lbs average for entire season. Last report we had half the season and only 30 fish caught. Fishwheel data is reflective of size of fish in the river. Depts own data has always been very similar to fishwheel data. Wondering where these large fish are? P-?.....S-large size king wheels, largest on Yukon. Do not know what they could do to catch bigger fish. Were bigger when we protect the run.

YRDFA Announcement

Danielle Stickman; YRDFA Communications & Outreach Director:

-The YRDFA board has shared over the years the importance of integrating the upcoming generation to fisheries meetings and the board. Young fisher workshops are one of the building capacity methods YRDFA is using to reach more young people.

-We've set the date for the 3rd Young Fisher's Workshop.

-It will be October 5-8, 2018 so please mark your calendars. This is over the weekend to accommodate those who may not be able to get 4 days off of work. The 5th and the 8th will be travel days.

-The location will be in a rural community and the decision will be made by August 15th.

-The Vision of the workshop is to inspire young adult fishers to engage in fisheries management activities as well as lead the way to a sustainable fishery on the Yukon River.

-The Goal is to engage with Yukon River young adult fishers and build their capacity to participate in the management of their fishery.

-We plan to have 20 young fishers attend which will include 10 upriver and 10 downriver representatives.

Further Yukon River Fishery Information:

For further information, please contact the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association at

907-272-3131 or look for us on the web at www.yukonsalmon.org.

For Alaskan management information, please visit:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingCommercialByArea.interior>

or call toll-free 1-866-479-7387 for recorded fishing schedules and assessment information

For Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada updates, please visit:

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/yukon/fmcountingfac.htm>

Please join us on the next teleconference, Tuesday at 1 p.m. Alaska time (2 p.m. Yukon time). As a reminder, the toll free number is 1-800-315-6338 and the code is YUKON# (98566#).