**Greetings from the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association!**

This is a summary of the Yukon River Salmon In-Season Management Teleconference held on Tuesday, August 18, 2015.

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

**Communities and or community members were participating this week:** Kotlik,Saint Mary’s, Pilot Station, Marshall, Russian Mission, Grayling, Anvik, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Allakaket, Galena, Ruby, Ruby, Rapids, Old Crow, Dawson, Whitehorse

**Subsistence Reports:** (reports may be from one individual or a few depending on who participated in the call this week and reflect the participant on the call at the time)

Kotlik said tidal surges are bringing in the fish. People are subsistence fishing for fall chum and letting the Coho’s go. Heard the middle mouth is not catching.

Pilot Station said there is very little subsistence activity now. There is rain and it is windy.

Marshall said people are moose hunting and berry picking. Beluga whales passed by.

Russian Mission said Coho salmon are 70% of what they catch. Bears are showing up in sloughs. People are focused on berries. The weather is cold and rainy. A lot of people are focusing on commercial fishing.

Anvik reported catching 17 chum and 2 Coho.

Nulato said the fish just hit. They just got started 3-4 days ago. Last night in 6 hours they got 40 fall chum, 3 Sheefish, 2 whitefish and 2 king salmon. Water is dropping, been windy and rainy all week. There are still quite a few fishing.

Koyukuk said yesterday they had a good first run. Galena reported seeing Beluga whales.

**Management comments, public comments, questions, and answers:**

The management strategy is going well according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. There is a liberal subsistence harvest schedule but there will be subsistence closures in the Porcupine River around Fort Yukon due to the need to meet Canadian Fishing Branch escapement goals. This was discussed with the community of Fort Yukon and they are aware of this.

People in Y-1 thought that Y-2 fishers were getting a lot of hours and wanted two periods a week. Management expressed that this comes up annually and they try to be fair in both districts Y-1 and Y-2 to give them equal (commercial )fishing opportunity.

People also inquired about having separate and equal times for the drift netters and set netters in the lower river. People asked why the (commercial) opening did not take place yesterday and management said they wanted to look at the Coho escapement and harvest numbers first. The last couple of (commercial) openers were decent and people should see another good (commercial) opener.

It was noted that upriver communities rely on the late fall chum run for subsistence opportunity.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans said fisheries are open and they will be making a decision about commercial fishing. The Porcupine projection is bad.

**Salmon Fisheries Research and Management:**

* For Alaskan research and management information, please visit:

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

* *OR* the subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at [1-866-479-7387](tel:1-866-479-7387" \t "_blank) (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call[(907) 459-7387](tel:%28907%29%20459-7387" \t "_blank)
* For Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada updates, please visit:

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

* For Rapids Research Center information visit: <http://www.rapidsresearch.com/>
* 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.

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#).

The last conference call of the season will take place on August 25th, 2015.