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 4, 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:** Nunam Iqua,Saint Mary’s, Pilot Station, Marshall, Grayling, Anvik, Koyukuk, Galena, Tanana, Ruby, Rapids, Old Crow, Dawson

**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)

Nunam Iqua said some people have been fishing and got large chum salmon; the tide was swift and high and is now back to normal.

Pilot Station said there is very little subsistence activity now. Most families are picking blueberries. A report of oil on the Yukon River was noticed during a flight and wanted to know about an oil spill.

Marshall said two households fished, there is little to no drift, the water went down; one coho reported caught and was healthy. Most families are raspberry and blueberry picking. Some went moose hunting.

Grayling said the water is dropping and people are not fishing.

Anvik also reported no fishing activity and waiting for the run to come up next week.

Koyukuk said some people tried seining but no fish.

Galena said one person went out and got two fish, pretty slow.

Tanana reported that they went fishing in their one 12 hour opening and harvest fish for the Elders and some others.

Ruby reported that some sheefish and a couple of fall chum were harvested. Waiting for silvers to move up the river.

Old Crow / The Vuntut Gwitchin Govn’t reported fish caught, whitefish nets were in and they told not allowed to get Chinook there have been some Chinook caught as bycatch, harvest data will be taken but not yet. The sonar has counted about 4,000 – 4,500 Chinook. There has been a small fishery. Started seeing a few fall chum, but it is closed for us because the porcupine stock is not healthy.

Dawson / Trondek Hewich’in reported that they still have the resolution in effect to voluntary withdraw from Chinook salmon harvests and a few people did come in and said they would exercise their aboriginal rights and go fishing. A couple dozen fish were caught and all the females were released and the small males were retained

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

Most of the Yukon River in Alaska is now under fall season management. The projection is 700-800,000 fall chum based on the sibling relationship with summer chum.

The Chinook salmon run is coming to an end. The run was better than ADF&G anticipated. The upper end of the escapement range of 55,000 was exceeded and there is a good amount available for the total available catch (TAC). All US escapement goals were also met. Gillnet restrictions in Y-5 were relaxed. Gear restrictions were also removed in Y-6 because escapement goals were met in the Tanana River.

ADF&G and USFWS thanked the Alaskan fishers for helping to meet US escapement goals for Chinook salmon.

The Porcupine River was discussed in that it is counted differently than the main stem Yukon River. They have a sonar project up there to count fish returns. More work will be done on this in the future, but due to budget cuts the upriver US counts will not take place on the Chandalar and Sheenjek.

Anvik inquired about the escapement goal on Innoko River and that there has not been a chum roe fishery in years and could the goal get lowered if there are no commercial fisheries? Management said that would have to go through a Board of Fisheries (BOF) process. A drainage wide escapement goal is being proposed for summer chum at the upcoming BOF.

People in Marshall saw Whales that went up to Russian and came back down.

**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 (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call(907) 459-7387
* 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.