

# Yukon Fisheries News



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

**FALL 2021**

## Inside this issue

- |   |   |    |  |    |   |
|---|---|----|--|----|---|
| 2 | ADF&G Summer Season 2021 Wrap-up; Looking Ahead to 2022                                 | 10 | Looking to the Ocean to Understand Recent Declines in Chum Salmon Runs in Western Alaska | 18 | Local and Traditional Knowledge of Anadromous Fish in the Yukon Flats with an Emphasis on the Draanjik Drainage |
| 4 | 2021 Fall Season Fisheries Management   | 12 | Yukon River Advocacy Series  | 19 | Tribal Leaders Directory  |
| 6 | From the Director   | 13 | Nenana, Manley Hot Springs, and Tanana Fishers Share Their Knowledge of Fish Locations   | 20 | Directory   |
| 7 | E-Board Gathers for a Fall Meeting  | 14 | A Focus on Non-Salmon Fishing  | 20 | Honoring Bill Derendoff   |
| 8 | Conserving Fish, Preserving Tradition on the Yukon River: A Catalog of Elders' Warnings | 15 | YRDFA's In-season Subsistence Salmon Survey  | 21 | Yukon River Region Calendar   |
| 9 | A Sense of Resignation is Not the Answer Now  |    |  |    |   |



# ADF&G Summer Season 2021 Wrap-up; Looking Ahead to 2022

BY DEENA JALLEN, SUMMER SEASON YUKON AREA MANAGER;  
FRED WEST, SUMMER SEASON YUKON AREA RESEARCH BIOLOGIST, AND  
ZACH LILLER, AYK RESEARCH COORDINATOR

The summer season management and research team would like to acknowledge the hardships experienced along the river by fishermen and all the people who rely on salmon. While we anticipated a low run of Chinook salmon in 2021, we were not expecting a record low run of summer chum salmon (Figures 1 and 2). The loss of traditional subsistence food and cultural fishing activities was felt far and wide. Through the impactful and heartfelt testimonies of people along the Yukon River, the entire world had the opportunity to learn of this disaster and its impacts. Local, national, and international media, elected representatives, tribal and agency leadership all were made aware of what people throughout the Yukon area experienced this year.

As inseason managers and researchers, our main goal is to work with stakeholders to manage fisheries responsibly by doing everything we can to provide harvest opportunities when possible while simultaneously ensuring adequate numbers of salmon make it to their spawning grounds to sustain future harvests. This task is made more complicated in years with low salmon abundance, and we hope you will continue to share your knowledge and guidance as we work together to navigate these difficult times. There are numerous opportunities to provide management feedback and ideas for regulation changes through local Advisory Committees (State), Regional Advisory Councils (Federal), the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, YRDFA, at the various public meetings (U.S./Canada Panel Meetings, YRDFA pre-

season meetings) that will be held throughout the winter and spring, and by directly contacting the fishery managers. If you would like to make a change to State fishing regulations proposals are due to the Board of Fisheries (BOF) by April 11, 2022. Proposals will be taken up by the board at the Yukon River BOF meeting in January 2023.

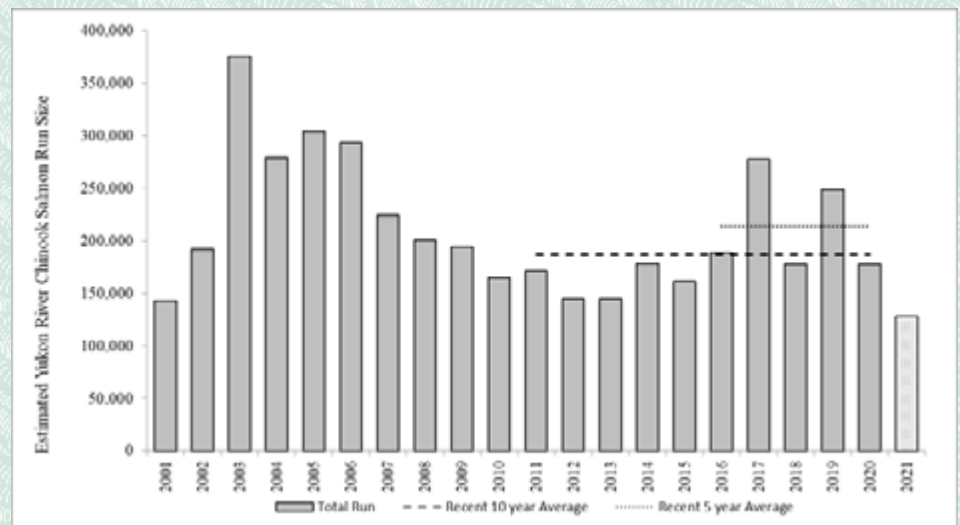


Figure 1. Estimated Yukon River Chinook salmon run size. Run size from 2021 incorporates the escapement estimates into the Andreafsky River and a preliminary estimate of harvest based on years with fishing closures.

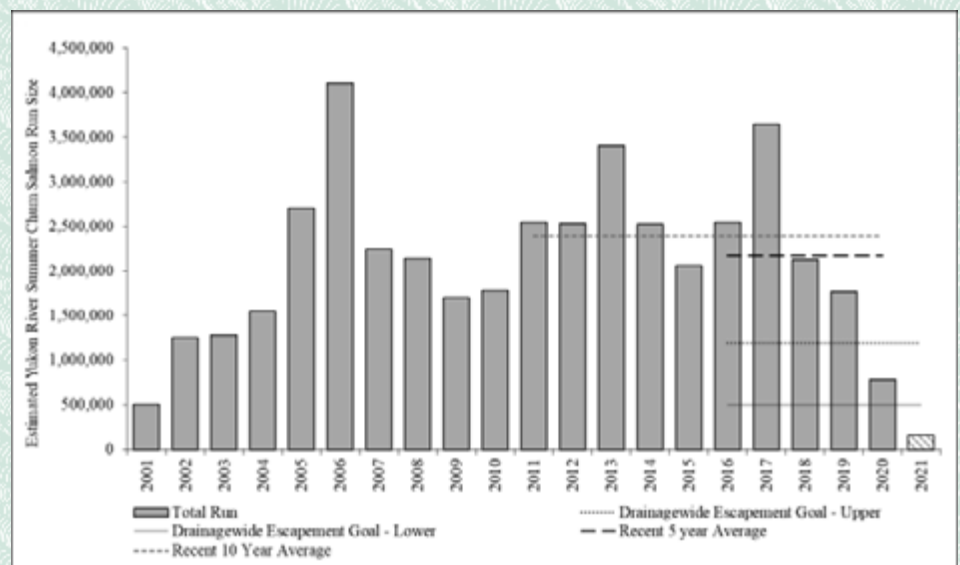


Figure 2. Estimated Yukon River summer chum salmon run size. Run size from 2021 incorporates the escapement estimates into the Andreafsky River and a preliminary estimate of harvest based on years with fishing closures.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



## Looking Ahead to 2022... CONTINUED

As we move into the winter and spring seasons, we will be wrapping up documentation of the 2021 season, preparing forecasts and management strategies for next summer, and discussing new opportunities for the future. The 2021 summer season summary was published through the ADF&G Advisory Announcement system and is available online and as a link on our Facebook page: Yukon River Fishing-ADFG.

ADF&G heard the concerns expressed by stakeholders about low chum salmon runs and questions about harvest of Yukon River chum salmon in other fisheries. ADF&G is preparing a public document to address these questions and will make it available as soon as possible. The cause of low salmon runs in 2021 are not known with certainty, and there may be many factors affecting the survival of salmon at each life stage. Several research projects are underway to help understand these issues. For more information, please read Sabrina Garcia's article about recent declines in chum salmon runs in Western Alaska. Additional research is being conducted by multiple agencies in Alaska and Canada to help understand salmon health and learn more about the condition of salmon returning to spawn. ADF&G will continue to engage with our partners at USFWS and other collaborators in ongoing research and assessment projects to help monitor and understand the runs that come back to the Yukon River. ADF&G has committed resources to develop new collaborative research projects that may help inform sustainable management of Yukon River salmon.

One such project is research addressing *Ichthyophonus* in Chinook salmon. Fishery researchers and managers share the concerns expressed by Yukon River stakeholders about *Ichthyophonus* disease and its potential impacts on Yukon River Chinook salmon. *Ichthyophonus* is a parasite

that infects Yukon River Chinook salmon through their ocean diet, and the disease progresses as adult Chinook salmon migrate towards their spawning grounds. While consumption of *Ichthyophonus* infected fish is not harmful to humans or dogs, the severity of the disease may reach levels that cause the infected fish to die before they spawn, and severely diseased fish are of poor quality for consumption.

In 2020 and 2021, subsistence fishers reported concerning levels of *Ichthyophonus* infections in Yukon River Chinook salmon, and those concerns were further supported by ADF&G through limited sampling and laboratory analysis. A large-scale *Ichthyophonus* mortality event has not been confirmed, but it has been implicated as one possible explanation for the low run abundance of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon observed at the U.S./Canada border and for the unexplained differences between Pilot Station and Eagle sonar abundance estimates.

In response, ADF&G plans to collaborate with the USFWS to invest substantial staff and funding resources to develop a

new *Ichthyophonus* monitoring program. By working together, we can maximize our results and minimize mortality by reducing the number of samples that need to be collected. The goal of this new program is to provide researchers and managers with timely annual estimates of *Ichthyophonus*-associated mortality. If successful, the benefits will include a more complete accounting of what happens to Canadian-origin Chinook salmon as they migrate upriver and the necessary information to implement precautionary management when disease levels are high.

Gaining this knowledge will require several years of focused research, community outreach, and collaborations to harvest fish and collect samples from throughout the drainage. The anticipated short-term sacrifice of Chinook salmon to collect samples is a focused attempt to address a public concern, improve in-season assessment information, and better inform precautionary management for years to come. ADF&G and USFWS may begin this work as early as 2022 and will provide further updates well in advance of beginning field studies. 🐟

---

For more information about *Ichthyophonus* research contact [fred.west@alaska.gov](mailto:fred.west@alaska.gov) (ADF&G Yukon Area Research Biologist) or [jayde.ferguson@alaska.gov](mailto:jayde.ferguson@alaska.gov) (ADF&G Pathologist)

For more information about Chinook and summer chum salmon management contact [Deena.jallen@alaska.gov](mailto:Deena.jallen@alaska.gov) (ADF&G Summer Season Area Management Biologist; 907-459-7309); [Sam.decker@alaska.gov](mailto:Sam.decker@alaska.gov) (ADF&G Summer Season Assistant Area Management Biologist; 907-459-7295) or Holly Carroll, USFWS, Yukon River Subsistence Fishery Manager, [holly\\_carroll@fws.gov](mailto:holly_carroll@fws.gov) 907-351-3029

2021 Summer Season Summary (published 10/26/21):

[www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/dcfnewsrelease/1344517999.pdf](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/dcfnewsrelease/1344517999.pdf)

Toll free fishing schedules: 1-866-479-7387 (in Fairbanks 907-459-7387)

ADF&G Board of Fisheries: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.main](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.main)

Advisory Committees: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.advisory](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.advisory)



# 2021 Fall Season Fisheries Management

BY CHRISTY GLEASON, FALL SEASON YUKON AREA MANAGER AND

BONNIE BORBA, FALL SEASON YUKON AREA RESEARCH BIOLOGIST, ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

*(Author's note: fall season assessment and management were ongoing at the time of this writing, and the information provided in this summary is preliminary and subject to change)*

This year's low fall chum and coho salmon runs, on top of poor summer season salmon returns, led to extreme hardships for subsistence fishermen relying on these critical resources along the Yukon River. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff want to extend our gratitude for the commitment of fishermen to conserve salmon runs for future generations during low abundance years. We recognize the extreme hardship these salmon fishing closures place on food security, especially during the pandemic. While we understand non-salmon are not a replacement for salmon, we tried to provide other fishing opportunities during this difficult year while implementing necessary restrictions and closures to conserve salmon for future years. We also want to thank everyone for their participation in the preseason and inseason teleconferences. The input and information managers receive during the teleconferences is invaluable.

The 2021 fall chum salmon preliminary estimated run size of 102,000 fish was the lowest on record for the second consecutive year. With last year's unexpected poor fall chum salmon run size of 194,000 fish, the 2021 run strength was uncertain. Entering the season, the forecast was for a run size between 542,000-762,000 fall chum salmon. However, after observing the record low summer chum salmon run this year, it became apparent the fall chum salmon run was going to be worse than last year. This

was based on the strong relationship between summer and fall chum salmon run abundance trends, a tool that allows refinement of the fall chum salmon projection prior to the season.

The fall season began with a revised fall chum salmon projection of less than 300,000 fish. In accordance with the Yukon River Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan, all fishing (subsistence, personal use, sport, and commercial) was closed at the beginning of the fall season. As the season progressed, the fall chum salmon run projection dropped to 102,000 fish compared to an average run size of 1 million fish. Coho salmon also returned at a record low abundance with an estimated run size of 45,000 fish compared to an average of 240,000 fish.

Managers coordinated with fishermen and YRDFA in-season teleconference callers to find ways to provide some opportunity for other salmon species. Subsistence fishing opportunity was provided with selective gears (dip nets and hook and line) for pink, sockeye, and coho salmon that are present in the Lower Yukon Area. While using selective gear, all chum salmon were required to be released alive. Fishing for important non-salmon species, such as northern pike, whitefishes, and burbot, remained open throughout the Yukon River drainage with various gears.

As the season progressed, it became apparent that the body size of fall chum and coho salmon was the smallest observed in the historical datasets and the percentage of female fall chum salmon was trailing about 10% below average in Lower Yukon assessment projects. Due

to the higher probability of encountering smaller bodied salmon and females, 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets that are used to target non-salmon species were placed on a reduced schedule to allow more salmon to reach their spawning grounds. To provide more fishing opportunity during this time, subsistence fishing opened with fish wheels (manned) for non-salmon, while fall chum salmon were required to be released alive immediately, and coho salmon were strongly recommended to be released as well.

Once the tail end of the salmon runs had passed subsistence fishing restrictions were relaxed. However, to protect spawning salmon, important spawning areas for fall chum and coho salmon in Yukon River drainage tributaries will remain closed to subsistence salmon fishing through the end of December.

Fall chum and coho salmon run and escapement assessment is ongoing in Alaska and Canada. Assessment projects operating this year included the Lower Yukon Test Fishery, Mountain Village Test Fishery, mainstem Yukon River sonars near Pilot Station and Eagle, Teedriinjik (Chandalar River) sonar, upper Porcupine River sonar, and the Fishing Branch River weir. Foot surveys will be conducted weekly from October through November in the Delta River, a tributary of the Tanana River. Aerial surveys of Nenana, Toklat, and upper Tanana River drainages occur in late October to mid-November. Boat surveys for coho salmon were conducted in the Delta Clearwater River. Based on the record low run sizes observed, it is highly unlikely any escapement goals will be achieved for fall chum and coho salmon in 2021.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# Fall Season Fisheries Management... *CONTINUED*

Despite parent years meeting escape-ment goals, fall chum and coho salmon runs did not return to the Yukon River drainage as expected. The dominant parent years contributing to the 2021 fall chum salmon run were from 2016 and 2017, both of which were above the upper ends of the drainagewide escapement goal range of 300,000-600,000 fish. Additionally, the dominant year class of coho salmon from 2017 had an estimated escapement of 167,000 fish, which was near average. The Delta Clearwater escapement goal for coho salmon was also achieved in 2017.

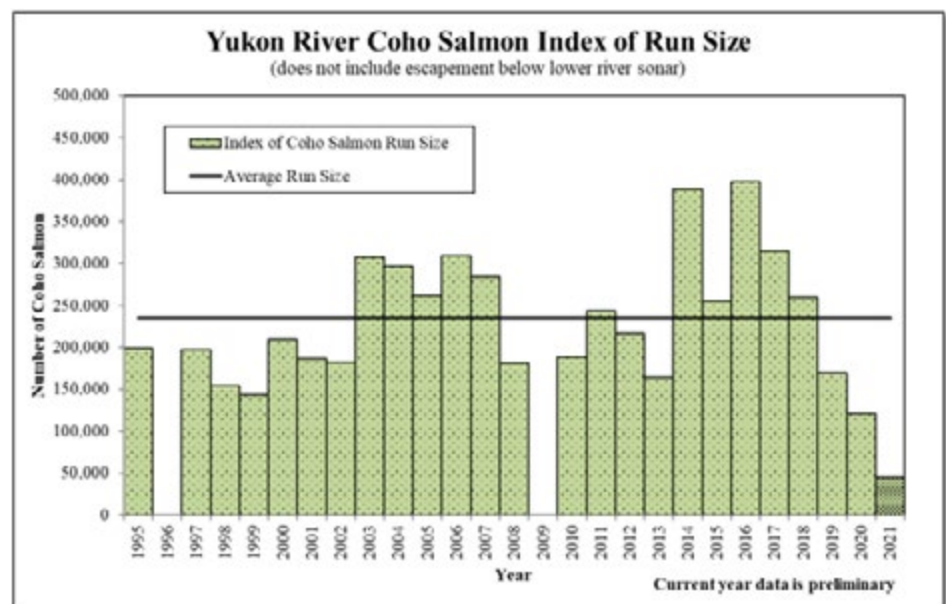
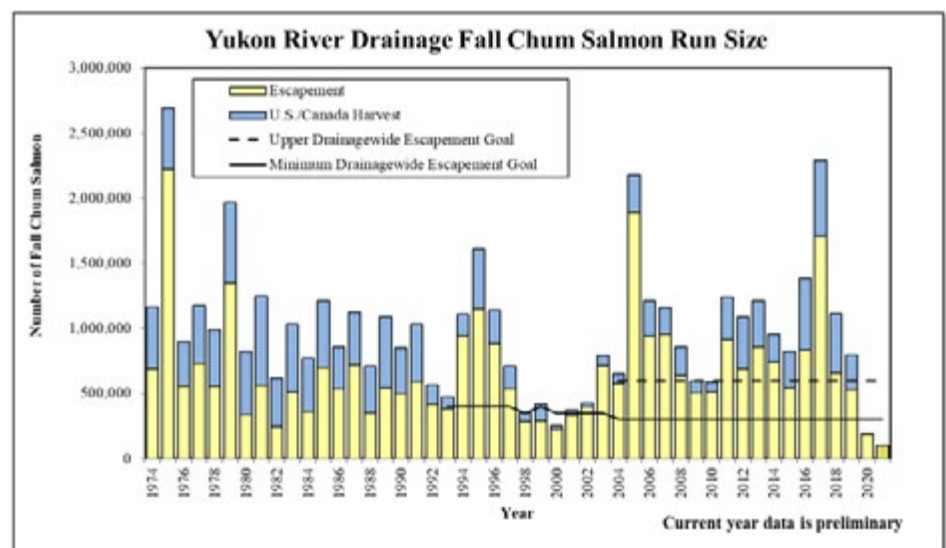
It is unclear what is driving the record low fall chum and coho salmon returns in the Yukon River drainage. Stocks of both species within the entire drainage and across dominant age classes (ages 4 and 5) are being impacted. Even species that experience different life histories, such as chum salmon that migrate to the ocean shortly after hatching to spend 2 to 5 years in the ocean, and coho salmon that may spend about 2 years in freshwater before migrating to the ocean for one year, both experienced dramatic declines.

This year's poor chum salmon runs were not unique to the Yukon River. Chum salmon runs throughout Western Alaska, including the Kuskokwim River and rivers in Norton Sound, also came in well below preseason forecasts in 2020 and 2021. It is likely that the factors and conditions impacting Yukon River fall chum and coho runs this year also impacted other eastern Bering Sea salmon stocks. For more info, please read Sabrina Garcia's article about recent declines in chum salmon runs in Western Alaska.

It is premature to speculate on next year's run except that the return may be weaker than average if this downward trend continues for fall chum and

coho salmon. The parent year for the five-year old fall chum salmon returning next year, 2017, had the third largest escapement on record (1,700,000 fish). The parent year for the four-year old component, 2018, was near 650,000 fall chum salmon. Initial management of fall chum salmon next season will again rely on the relationship with the returns of summer chum salmon to determine surpluses available for harvest.

For more information about fall chum and coho salmon management contact Christy Gleason, ADF&G, Fall Season Yukon Area Manager, [christine.gleason@alaska.gov](mailto:christine.gleason@alaska.gov) 907-459-7240 or Holly Carroll, USFWS, Yukon River Subsistence Fishery Manager, [holly\\_carroll@fws.gov](mailto:holly_carroll@fws.gov) 907-351-3029. For research questions, contact Bonnie Borba, ADF&G, Fall Season Yukon Area Research Biologist, [bonnie.borba@alaska.gov](mailto:bonnie.borba@alaska.gov) 907-459-7260. 🐟





# From the Director

The overwhelming pressure built up in my chest as the echoing of voices, our smokehouses were empty, played through my mind as I drove past each fish camp along the Yukon River from St. Mary's to Emmonak. The weight of the world was placed on my shoulders and caused this crushing anxiety of not providing a solution to the many people who will go without smoked salmon. The pain is real. The loss is significant. But, we cannot stop, and we must move forward.

When we look at a problem, we first need to ask, *what is the cause?* For example, why is the return of our salmon to the Yukon River low in numbers? A few contributing factors, off the top of my head, are: climate change, ocean conditions, river conditions, warming waters, heat stress, disease, ocean acidification, bycatch, interception, and people. Then, by the process of elimination, I look at the list I created and deem which areas I can take action on to change the outcome. Again, *bycatch*, *interception*, and *people* are the only areas to impact or apply the change.



WRITTEN BY SERENA FITKA

*...collaborating,  
supporting,  
and providing  
constructive input  
will lead us to  
better outcomes.*

So what are we going to do about the things we can change? YRDFA will be supporting any proposals submitted to the Board of Fisheries regarding genetic analysis of salmon stocks in areas where there is an interception. We will continue to be the voice of the Yukon River fishers at essential platforms and continue to seek funding to provide more services.

With the overwhelming stress of not knowing or pinpointing the leading causes of our declines comes the necessary action of everyone working together. Pointing fingers, blaming one another—whether it be upriver, downriver, organization, or agency—will not find us any answers we are seeking. Fighting amongst one another will only cause barriers. Instead, collaborating, supporting, and providing constructive input will lead us to better outcomes.

I wish everyone a wonderful and joyous holiday season.  
*Alussistuaqegcikici*  
(Merry Christmas)! 🍷



# E-Board Gathers for a Fall Meeting

WRITTEN BY HANNAH HEIMBUCH

The YRDFA Executive Board meeting was held in Anchorage, October 26-27, 2021 at the Embassy Suites Hotel. The executive board members include one representative from each fishing district.

1. Coastal District - Richard Tuluk - present
2. District 1 - Allen Hansen - present
3. District 2 - Bill Alstrom - present
4. District 2 - Mike Peters - absent excused
5. District 3 - Alfred Demientieff - present
6. District 4 - Fred Huntington, Sr. - present
7. Koyukuk - Pollock Simon, Sr. - present (telephonically)
8. District 5 - Stan Zuray - present
9. District 6 - Victor Lord - present
10. Yukon Flats - Jan Woodruff - present
11. Canada - James MacDonald - present (telephonically)

The executive board met to discuss the upcoming Board of Fish proposals that will be due April, 9, 2022 for the Arctic/ Yukon/Kuskokwim cycle. They determined they will focus their support in the areas of increased genetic sampling for chinook, chum, coho, and pink salmon in Area M fishing district, bycatch, and in the northern Bering Sea.

The Board discussed several ways that YRDFA will continue to identify and problem-solve issues causing a decline in Yukon River salmon runs in both state waters fisheries and federal fisheries in the North Bering Sea – including targeted research, Board of Fisheries proposals, and advocacy at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

For the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries process in particular, the Board set several important priorities for the upcoming board of fisheries cycle:

- 1) Support for proposals and related funding efforts to increase genetic sampling for chinook, chum, coho and pink salmon in the Area M fishing district.
- 2) Develop and advocate for a proposal that establishes minimal harvest strategies for times of particularly low abundance.
- 3) Support for efforts to investigate and minimize the impact of North Pacific hatchery production on Yukon-bound salmon stocks.

YRDFA will work with its community partners in the region, stakeholders, management agencies and decision makers to find solutions to the diverse challenges salmon communities on the Yukon are facing. While the details of our positions will develop over time, these clear priorities will inform the next 6-12 months of YRDFA's work on complex salmon issues. 🍣



*Hannah Heimbuch is working with the YRDFA team this winter to develop positions and proposals for the Board of Fisheries. Hannah was born and raised in Homer, and now lives and fishes on Kodiak Island. Hannah is a lifelong commercial and subsistence fisherman, who grew up fishing salmon with her family in a variety of fisheries around the state. She now setnets for salmon on the southend of Kodiak. When she's not fishing, she works as a fisheries-focused policy and communications consultant for a variety of community-based fishing groups. Hannah has Bachelor's degrees in Journalism and Russian Language, and a Masters in Creative Writing. She worked previously for the Alaska Marine Conservation Council, and a variety of news publications around Alaska.*



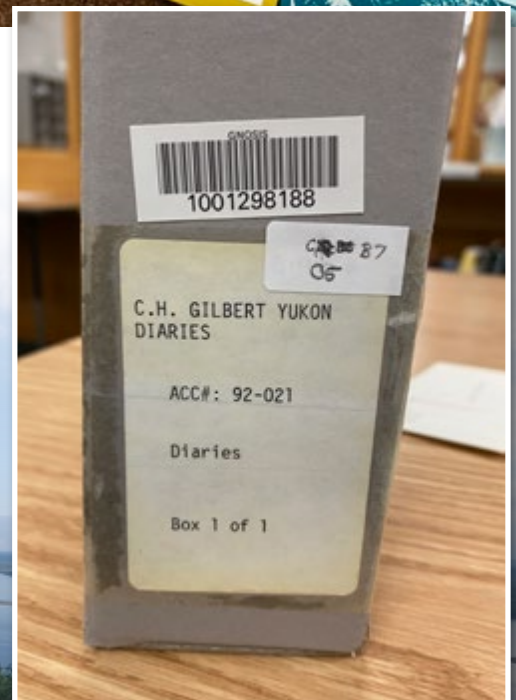
# THEY TOLD US THERE'D COME A TIME...

## Conserving Fish, Preserving Tradition on the Yukon River: A Catalog of Elders' Warnings

This project, funded by the North Pacific Research Board, has YRDFA partnering with the Tanana Chiefs Conference young adult Emerging Leaders to research documented Local and Traditional Knowledge of salmon and search for advice or warnings from the Elders. The goal of the project in year one is to review Local and Traditional Knowledge archives for warnings from Elders about salmon shortages or threats. Early in the new year we had a virtual training workshop to learn how to access the archives. In June, YRDFA staff member, Catherine Moncrieff, attended the Denakkanaanga gathering in Fairbanks to provide an update on the project. Additionally, the Emerging Leaders and Ms. Moncrieff have met twice in Fairbanks at the UAF Rasmuson Library Alaska and Polar Regions Collections and Archives to spend time looking through the archives and began our work digging through the already documented interviews and recordings of Yukon River Elders. We will continue this archival work through the rest of this year and into next year. In 2022, we will do some analysis and begin interviewing contemporary Elders with questions that arise from our work in year one to try to learn more from them about their knowledge and observations of salmon. We thank our partners, TCC Emerging Leaders Program, the archivist at the Rasmuson Library, and the North Pacific Research Board for their support. 🍷



*Yukon-Koyukuk School District Biographies. The YKSD has done a great job of recording the life of so many Elders. Our project is reviewing their library as well as materials at the UAF Rasmuson Library.*





# A Sense of Resignation is Not the Answer Now

BY CHARLIE CAMPBELL · OCTOBER 13, 2021

We Yukon River fishers are all in a state of shock after the 2021 season, many of us reeling at the way our lives have been turned upside down by the failure of the salmon runs on the Yukon.

We are trying to make sense of this disaster, trying to figure out what happened.

In fact, we are at a real turning point now. We have a choice of:

- a) Lamenting our hard lot and flailing about trying to quickly fix the blame on one cause, or
- b) Using our grief and anger and channeling it into fixing the problem.

In other words, we should focus on the fish-- because if we don't focus on them now, there won't be any. It's that simple. We are not powerless. We can roll up our sleeves and start looking honestly and objectively at why this is happening, and if we can't do that by ourselves, then we can lobby for science-based help in figuring it out. If the answer is unknown, then how do we find it out? What is the real—not the wished for—carrying capacity of our salmon run? What is our responsibility for what is happening? If we cannot be brutally honest with ourselves and our own mistakes, then we stand no chance of correcting them.

If the causes are several and are both in-river and ocean-wide, we enlist science to find out how to weight them and what the solutions might be, then we organize and make the changes to fix the problem.

ADF&G and the Board of Fisheries won't fix the problem for us by lowering escapement goals or ignoring what scientists elsewhere say: that it is not just numbers of fish, but size, fecundity (number of eggs) and the health of the fish as they negotiate the final stretch in their life cycle.

The media won't fix the problem with a sympathetic article about our loss.

The Governor won't fix the problem by shipping a few boxes of fish to tide us over for the winter.

The only people who can fix this is US—and the time is now, while it has everybody's attention, while there is sympathy for our plight, while it is a centerpiece for how salmon runs are suffering in general, and before the world's attention wanders off to the next crisis.

This is the time to establish momentum, to demand honest and unbiased research and the funding to continue it—not magical thinking about lowering escapement goals to buy a few years fishing as we fish the run to extinction, or listening to people who tell us soothing things they think we want to hear because it is easier for them politically.

**A SENSE OF RESIGNATION IS NOT THE ANSWER NOW!!**

We need to stop being just the people who catch the fish and become the people who also conserve the fish so there is some for later, some for our grandchildren.

We need to organize and enlist the help of fisheries researchers—but not “hired guns,” bought and paid for by people whose only goal is to fish the run into the ground and get their share while the getting's good, or ADF&G's in-house science which is always limited by funds available and the political pressure from various user groups or the powers-that-be in Juneau. What we need is real detective work: honest peer-reviewed science and the funding to keep it up until we have the answers in hand, be they in the deep ocean, in the river, on some foreign shore or a shore closer to where we live and fish. What factors are making this run failure?!!

WE need to be actively involved in this process, because we need to ask the researchers, “Really? Are you sure? Yes? No? If no, what do we have to do to get answers to those questions? Is next week too soon?” Then, call the Governor, call ADF&G, call the BOF, call the media, call the President, and make it happen.

One final word. Honest scientists who are trained to be objective have a sharp nose for hypocrisy or self-serving behavior. They want to find the truth, if they're any good.

If after due consideration, peer reviewed, honest research, science tells us, “Well in fact, we are pretty sure that “X” amount of responsibility lies with the Yukon River fishermen,” we had better consider that pretty carefully. We have already had the fuzzy science that makes us feel good, and we see where it has gotten us.

We have to focus on the fish now. 🐟



# Looking to the Ocean to Understand Recent Declines in Chum Salmon Runs in Western Alaska

BY SABRINA GARCIA – MARINE RESEARCH BIOLOGIST, ADF&G DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Chum salmon runs to the Yukon River declined drastically in 2020 and 2021, and understanding the cause of these declines is of utmost importance to Yukon River peoples. Chum salmon spend most of their life in the ocean, so it is no surprise that existing and new research efforts are focused on the marine environment to learn what may affect chum salmon productivity and what we can expect in the future.

We've learned so much about Yukon River Chinook salmon from studying their marine juvenile life stage using the Northern Bering Sea (NBS) survey. Efforts are currently underway to use this platform to further our knowledge of chum salmon. For almost 20 years, state and federal researchers aboard the NBS survey have used surface trawl gear to sample juvenile salmon from the Yukon River and Norton Sound. The NBS survey typically occurs in September, about three months after salmon have migrated from their natal rivers to the ocean. Data collected during the NBS survey provide the opportunity to learn about juvenile chum salmon abundance, diet, and health during a critical time in their life. Although our focus on chum salmon is relatively new, we have already learned some interesting things:

- Starting with the 2016 juvenile year (2015 brood year) we saw evidence of higher later marine mortality than we had previously seen for Yukon River fall chum over the past ~20 years.
- This coincided with a change in the zooplankton – tiny animals that are food for juvenile chum salmon in

the Bering Sea – this food went from being large and fatty to small and skinny.

- During these years of small and skinny zooplankton, juvenile chum seemed to switch to a lower quality food and

there is some evidence that these chum salmon were less healthy.

- This shift to lower quality food is associated with warming in the Bering Sea and loss of sea ice, and is very different from warmer years in the past.

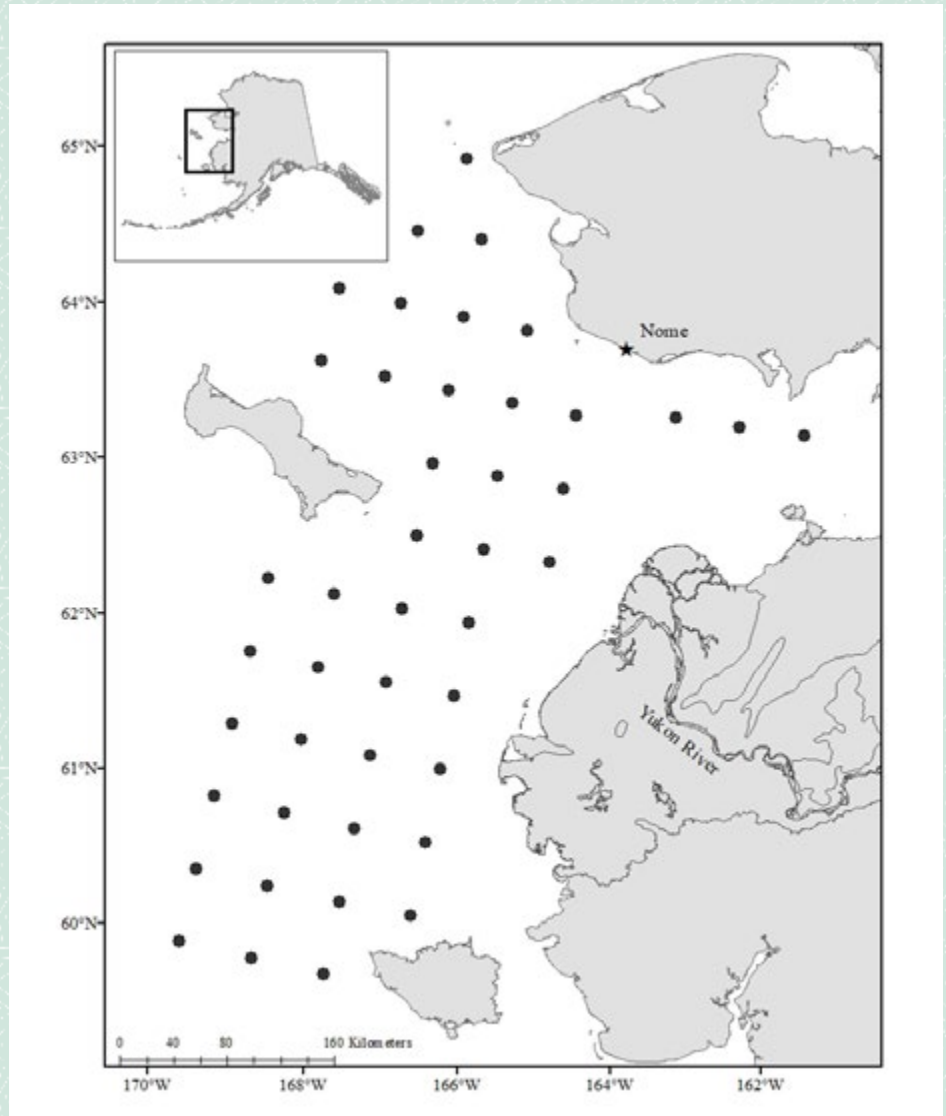


Figure 1. Map of the Northern Bering Sea survey grid. Each dot represents a station that is sampled for juvenile salmon using a surface trawl net.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



## Looking to the Ocean... CONTINUED

➤ We don't know for certain, but we think that this Bering Sea food shift along with the marine heatwaves in the North Pacific Ocean (which also shifted food available to salmon) may have played a role in the sudden drop in chum salmon productivity across western Alaska and throughout the Pacific.

➤ Seabird die offs, unusual mortality events in ice seals, and rapid declines of crab stocks also point to ecosystem problems in the Bering Sea that may also have affected salmon.

➤ Poor chum runs were seen across the North Pacific in 2020 (and likely also in 2021), but the problems in the Bering Sea ecosystem may explain why western Alaskan chum salmon runs were particularly poor.

➤ Because of the urgent need, new research has been initiated to understand AYK chum abundance declines.

While the NBS survey catches juvenile chum salmon, western Alaska chum salmon spend the rest of their marine



Figure 2. A juvenile chum salmon caught during the Northern Bering Sea surface trawl survey.

life as immature fish migrating between the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea. Because of this, it is important to expand marine research into these areas to understand the conditions chum salmon experience throughout their life. A multi-national effort to study Pacific salmon in the ocean during the winter is taking place in February 2022 as part of the International Year of the Salmon initiative ([www.yearofthesalmon.org/high-seas-expeditions](http://www.yearofthesalmon.org/high-seas-expeditions)). This survey effort aims to answer questions about where salmon and specific stocks of salmon go in the winter, what they are eating, how healthy they are, what species may be competing with one another, and where their prey and predators are. Additionally, these surveys may give

us some insight into how chum salmon may be affected by a changing climate.

Chum salmon spend most of their life in the ocean, so it is important to focus research efforts on this life stage. While these research surveys may not give us the single answer for why chum salmon runs to the Yukon River have been so poor in the last two years, they may help pinpoint the life stage where chum salmon may be most vulnerable. Once this life stage is identified, we can provide that information to stakeholders and managers so they can develop innovative solutions to build resiliency for the fisheries and communities that depend on them. 🐟

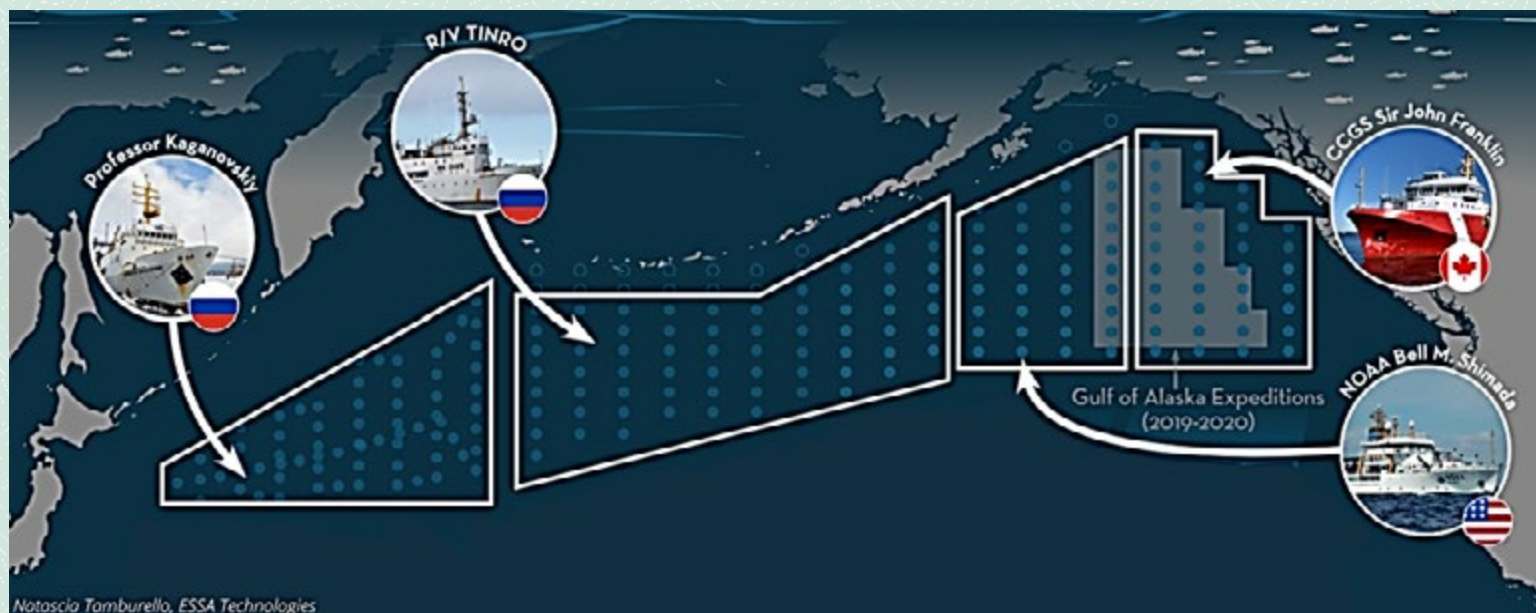


Figure 3. Survey sampling grid for the 2022 International Year of the Salmon high seas expedition. Each dot represents a station that will be sampled for salmon using surface trawl gear.



# Yukon River Advocacy Series

Our Yukon River Advocacy series in partnership with Tanana Chiefs Conference- focused on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (the council) & Alaska Department of Fish and Game Board of Fisheries. We held a very successful series and prepared for testimony to the Council on the 6th of October. We had between 25-35 participants during each session. We had legislative staff for Senators Sullivan and Murkowski's offices participating, along with other organization representatives from Alaska Federation of Natives, First Alaskans Institute, and Doyon Limited.

We held 5 sessions during the month of September, leading up to the NPFMC virtual meeting. The First session we invited former Advisory Panel committee members, Ben Stevens and Natasha Hayden to give their perspective and knowledge of experiences serving on the committee. We had chosen former members who are indigenous and gave perspective to those who they served. We also had Brooke Woods provide her experiences as she has been involved in providing public testimony to NPFMC for many years. We held the first session via teleconference due to the limited con-

nectivity many rural communities have. We wanted to make sure we captured Yukon Fishers who actively participate during the YRDFA In-season teleconferences and Tribal Leaders. We had 36 participants from coastal communities to the headwaters. During this session the participants also highlighted areas of concern in regards to NPFMC. Transcript is provided.

The 2nd session had guest speakers from NPFMC and NOAA. Diana Stramm-Senior Scientist for NPFMC, Kate Haapala-Fishery Analyst, Obren Davis-Fisheries Resource Management Specialist Alaska NOAA Regional Office, and Glenn Merrill-Assistant Regional Administrator NOAA Alaska Regional Office. An overview of the NPFMC and their jurisdiction in ocean fisheries management were presented, along with a recent report on bycatch. The NOAA Alaska Regional Office gave an overview of Tribal Consultation and provided any feedback to the participants.

The last two sessions consisted of advisors from the UAF Tribal Governance, Carrie Stevens, and Courtney Carothers with UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean

to break down the presentations and answer any questions participants had. We also had Becca Cisclair with Ocean Conservancy, provide guidance for the upcoming meeting and the technical logistics on how and when to sign up to testify.

We received a lot of positive feedback on the series. YRDFA and other organizations did submit letters to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council requesting the following:

- zero bycatch in the Bering Sea
- provided a letter to the National Marine Fishery Service supporting funding for disaster declarations
- And ensure Alaska Native Tribes have a meaningful voice in management.

Some gave testimony to the NPFMC on October 6th to the Council and Friday, October 15th during Staff Tasking. We have submitted a proposal for funding to make this advocacy series active throughout the year. Please keep an eye out on our website and facebook page for any announcements. 🐻

YRDFA is excited to be selected for funding by Kahtoola through their Kahtoola for the People program. They will be supporting our 2022 Annual Board Meeting. We thank them for their support.

Kahtoola created the Kahtoola Traction System Crampon and their mission is to make the outdoors more accessible and rewarding by building exceptional products.



YRDFA is also excited to have been invited to join **1% for the Planet**. This program is a global movement inspiring businesses and individuals to support environmental solutions through annual membership and everyday actions. This program connects businesses, consumers, and nonprofits, empowering us to drive big, positive change. With this program, businesses and individual members can donate directly to YRDFA or other nonprofits. We thank them for developing this program and inviting us to join.



If you or your business would like to join **1% for the Planet**, follow this link for more information [www.onepercentfortheplanet.org/join](https://www.onepercentfortheplanet.org/join)



# Nenana, Manley Hot Springs, and Tanana Fishers Share Their Knowledge of Fish Locations

This summer, YRDLA and ADFG staff worked together in the Tanana and Yukon river communities of Nenana, Manley Hot Springs, and Tanana to reach out to their knowledge fishers about fish locations in their nearby streams and lakes. We are working with the communities to identify important areas with anadromous fish and other fish for investigations to nominate areas for the anadromous waters catalog and the fish inventory. Catherine Moncrieff, YRDLA staff anthropologist, safely traveled with Duncan Green, ADFG Alaska Freshwater Fish Inventory, during the lull in the pandemic to all three study communities to conduct ethnographic interviews and

mapping. We were able to conduct a total of 20 interviews; five in Manley Hot Springs, five in Tanana, and ten in Nenana. These knowledgeable subsistence providers shared important information about fish locations. Next summer ADF&G staff will attempt to document fish presence, rearing, and spawning in these locations through river boat and helicopter surveys and include them in the fish inventories and anadromous waters catalog.

We appreciate the welcome we received in each community and their assistance in collecting this important information. This project, Integrating Local and

Traditional Ecological Knowledge into Anadromous Waters Cataloging and Fish Inventories of select drainages of the Tanana and Yukon rivers 2021-2023, is funded by the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund. 🐟



*Boat in slough in Manley Hot Springs*



*Duncan Green, ADFG, and Victor Lord, Nenana pour over maps in Nenana showing fish locations.*



*Tanana Community meeting to discuss goals of project. Pat Moore, Duncan Green, Lois Huntington, Mary Moses-Edwin, John Huntington.*



*Catherine at Tanana River in Manley Hot Springs.*



# A Focus on Non-Salmon Fishing

YUKON RIVER SUMMER/FALL 2021

*YRDFA staffer, Catherine Moncrieff, recently spoke with some fishers about their experiences this summer fishing for nonsalmon species. These fishers came together for a YRDFA Executive Board meeting in Anchorage. YRDFA took the opportunity to learn from these fishers who have different experiences in different parts of the Yukon River. She asked each of them what they caught, how they caught it, and how they prepared their nonsalmon catches.*

## **Jan Woodruff, Eagle:**

**What they caught** – We caught lots of suckers this summer. We also got whitefish, sheefish, Bering cisco and lots of jacks (small king salmon). The jacks we ate some, gave most away to Elders and families, and we put some away in our freezer. We didn't catch any pike or burbot!

**How they caught it** – Her husband set a 3½" set gillnet. They have a spot in an eddy that they use. She thinks they were the only people in town who fished this year. She reports that a few people in Eagle tried to buy a 4" net but they were unavailable.

**How they prepared it** – The Woodruffs smoke a lot of their nonsalmon harvest. They also freeze them.

## **Stan Zuray, Tanana/Rapids:**

**What they caught** – We caught Bering cisco, humpback whitefish and lots of pike, maybe 60% pike in my catches. We caught almost NO broad whitefish, just a few. No one in the area caught sheefish, even while they were running in early September. We caught a few suckers and maybe 15 really small kings (Chinook salmon) that were 50-60 cm long. There

were no migrating sheefish, humpies or broads. Just catching resident whitefish. Some days people fishing in our area were not catching enough fish to feed their dogs. Then when fishing switched to 2 days on/2 days closed, I had to reduce the number of dogs I had.

**How they caught it** – I fished every day, all summer, using a 4" mesh gill net.

**How they prepared it** – I used everything I caught each day. Mostly cooking for dog food but any sheefish, broad whitefish or king were, of course, eaten by people. We did never eat the Bering cisco because it's too mushy in our area. We bake, grill, or fry the fish for people food.

**Other comments** – There were hardly any bears around this summer. I hardly ever saw a decent chum salmon. They were almost non-existent. I never saw a single summer chum, which is very unusual. Normally, when the fall chum arrive you fill your 4" net right away. This year I only caught one fall chum that was edible. They were all spawning too early and in terrible condition.

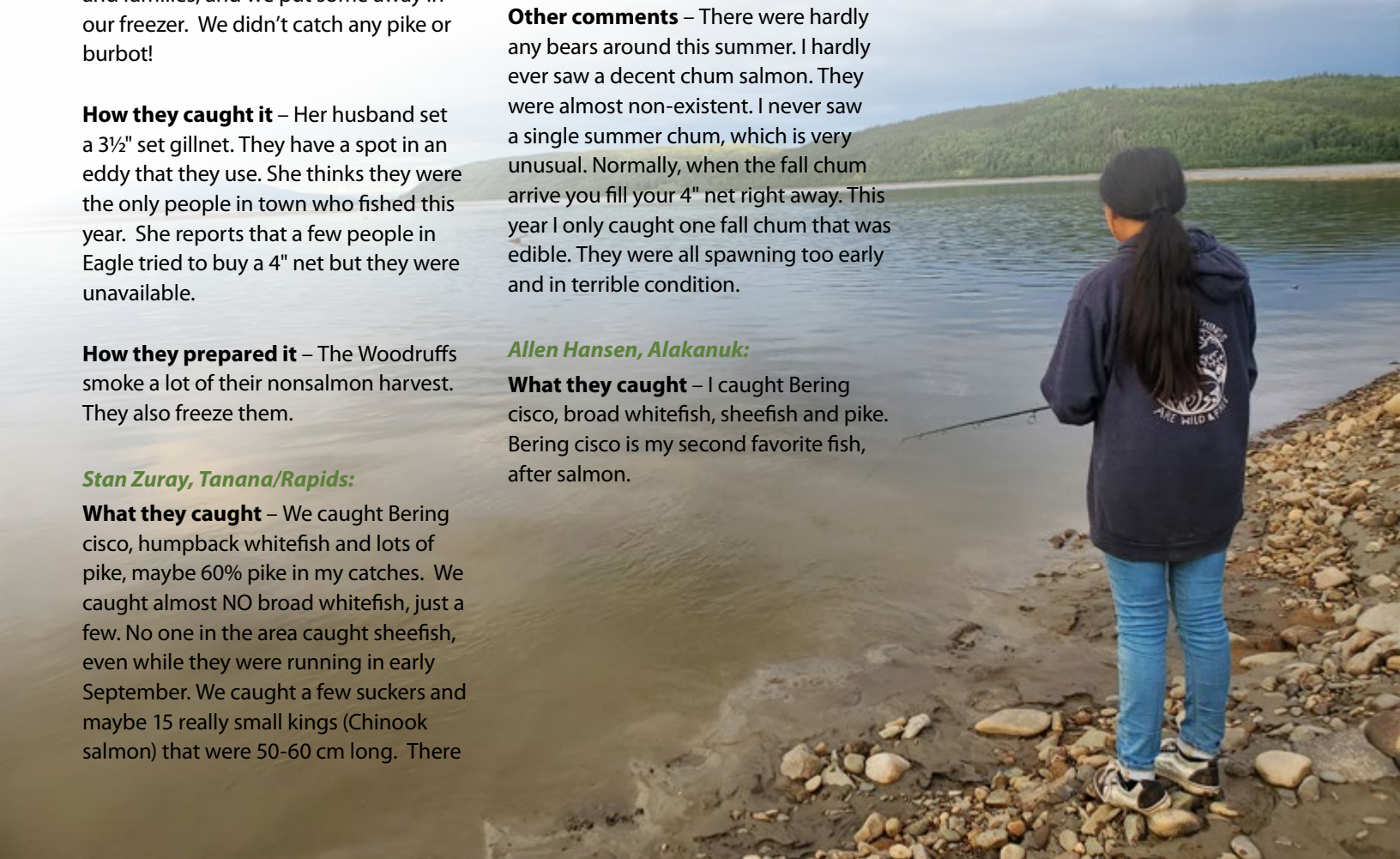
## **Allen Hansen, Alakanuk:**

**What they caught** – I caught Bering cisco, broad whitefish, sheefish and pike. Bering cisco is my second favorite fish, after salmon.

**How they caught it** – I used a 4" net twice a week.

**How they prepared it** – I was fishing for both my 3 dogs and people. For the people we dry the fish and smoke it. The Bering cisco, we bake it without smoking it. I aged it and then freeze also. For the dogs, we just cook the fish.

**Other comments** – This year was different from other years in that the Bering cisco was very slow to arrive. It finally started showing up and hitting around October 25th. People were very happy because Bering cisco is very tasty with lots of fat in our area. The other thing that was different was using 4" nets. We normally only use those in the winter for our under-the-ice fishing. 🐟





# YRDFA's In-season Subsistence Salmon Survey

The In-season Subsistence Salmon Survey Program is an important communication tool that helps managers ensure that both Yukon River escapement is met and, in a normal year, as many subsistence fishers are meeting their goals as possible. YRDFA hires a local person in 10 communities along the Yukon River stretching from Alakanuk to Eagle to survey fishers during the Chinook salmon season in their community. The observations fishers share with YRDFA surveyors are summarized by community to protect anonymity and then shared with Yukon River In-season Managers and the Yukon River community through the In-season Salmon Management Teleconferences. This project is funded by the Office of Subsistence Management Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

For the summer 2021 season, we were able to safely hold an in-person training for our surveyors, as opposed to the virtual one required in 2020, and we were able to fully hire for all 10 positions with

all 10 local hires being re-hires or 100 % retention. Challenges this year included surveyors reporting greater than usual difficulty surveying fishers, which was understandable with our current conditions and restricted fishing. Eight of the 10 surveyors were able to conduct their Final Interview survey which included a series of questions aimed at summarizing the season. Through these final interviews we learned that none of the fishers in the participating communities reported meeting their needs and most reported that fishing was worse in 2021 than 2020. Some fishers were very appreciative of the managers efforts to protect the salmon runs and some fishers reported they did not have the allowable gear - a 4" net - for fishing this year. Concerns included food security for people, dog food for this winter, and a general concern for the fishery. Finally, an evaluation was conducted with both the surveyors and managers which helped us see what we do well and areas we can work to improve.

Below is a chart showing participation in 2021, a summary of the Final Interviews in each community and a summary of the Post Season evaluation with the surveyors.

This was a difficult season, not only for fishing, but for surveying fishers. Surveyors reported increased difficulty trying to talk to fishers about their fishing success this year. Although we were able to hire and train a surveyor for each community, some found it very difficult to survey frustrated fishers who were not fishing. The YRDFA surveyors did their best to gather information from fishers in their communities this year but most reported mixed success along the river due to frustrations from the mostly-closed fishery.

## Final Interviews with fishers

To wrap up the season, the In-season Subsistence Salmon Surveyors asked

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

### YRDFA IN-SEASON SUBSISTENCE SALMON SURVEY 2021 SEASON SUMMARY

	Hired Surveyor	Trained Surveyor	# of participating households	# of interviews	# of Teleconferences	# of final interviews	Post Season evaluation
Alakanuk	yes	yes	0	0	0	0	0
Mountain	yes	yes	10	43	7	6	yes
Marshall	yes	no	19	73	9	12	yes
Russian	yes	yes	29	63	13	13	yes
Anvik	yes	yes	18	28	4	5	yes
Ruby	yes	yes	6	10	3	10	yes
Huslia	yes	yes	4	15	4	0	0
Tanana	yes	yes	8	47	9	8	yes
Fort Yukon	yes	yes	11	45	3	10	yes
Eagle	yes	yes	5	21	7	3	yes

## *In-Season Subsistence Salmon Survey... CONTINUED*

the fishers in their community a series of questions aimed at summarizing the season. Eight of 10 surveyors were able to conduct the Final Interview Questions.

### Overall summary

- In all communities reporting, none reported meeting their needs. Most communities reported that fishing in 2021 was worse than 2020 because there was some fishing allowed in 2020.
- In two communities, fishers thanked management for protecting the run, allowing 4" nets to be used for non-salmon.
- Challenges included some fishers not having the allowable gear - 4" nets - and thus could not participate.

**Concerns included:** food security, no dog food for winter, general concern over fishery.

### Eagle

Three Final Interviews were completed and no one reported meeting their needs this year. In comparing to last year, some expressed frustration that this was the second consecutive year with zero salmon. And some reported voluntarily not harvesting salmon this year. In terms of opportunity provided, Eagle fishers thanked managers for leaving the 4" net opportunity open drainage-wide and for repeating that information with every announcement. Although they appreciated the opportunity and were able to provide some people food, they were not able to catch enough fish to feed their dogs. When asked what could have been improved, they responded more research particularly on: rebuilding salmon, the 40-mile drainage, mining, and pesticides.

### Fort Yukon

Ten Final Interviews were completed in Fort Yukon and no one reported meet-

ing their needs this year. In comparing to last year, eight fishers reported that this year was "bad," "worse than ever," "no fish," while some reported they had no 4" net and two fishers reported the same conditions as last year. In terms of opportunity provided, nine said that they did NOT have an opportunity to meet their subsistence needs. When asked what could have been improved, seven said "more openings," "longer openings," and "openings when the pulse is running," "stop other fishing such as commercial fishing," and "everything/new management." Five reported that they did not have enough notice for openings and five said they did have enough notice but there was no fishing.

### Tanana

Eight Final Interviews were completed in Tanana/Rapids area and no one reported meeting their needs. Their comments included: "none at all," "real bad," "fed some dogs but no dog food for winter." Three fishing families did not fish this year and left fish camp. In comparing to last year, five reported that they got a few fish last year and none this year, two consider this year much worse, the worst year ever catching not even one king or chum. In terms of opportunity provided, some reported that under the circumstances that was impossible. Some were thankful they could feed their dogs and four supported the closures. Others reported that the run was a failure and there was no opportunity or "we got no fish." When asked what could have been improved, two said, "Don't cover up the problem/stop hiding from studies," three said, "find out problem and do something," and three said, "shut down commercial for good and hatcheries/act on hatchery issues," and one said "everything." When asked if they received enough notice, all eight reported "no openings."

### Huslia

We did not receive Final Interviews from Huslia this year due to issues surrounding Covid-19.

### Ruby

Ten Final Interviews were completed for Ruby and no one reported meeting their need this year. In comparing to last year, two reported they caught nothing this year while last year they were able to fish and others commented, "poorly," "nothing at all," "zero fish this year," "0% of needs met," "zero fish in the freezer," and "very disappointing!" In terms of opportunity provided, all ten reported that there were no openings that provide any King or chum salmon and no opportunity. When asked what could have been improved, four said, "open up fishing for kings and silver [edible chum salmon], let us fish," two said, "close commercial fishing/fisheries" and others said, "an opening during 1st pulse with limits on catch," "at least a 6-hr opener," "opportunity to fish at the end," and "better management." When asked if they received enough notice of openings, four replied "yes, if there were openings" and six merely said, "no openings."

### Anvik

Five final interviews were completed for Anvik and no one reporting meeting their needs this year. In comparing to last year, four reported "nothing" or "nothing to compare to no fishing" and "did not fish." In terms of opportunity provided, comments included "no," "nothing," and "poor management." When asked what could have been improved, two said, "more fishing" and others said, "we need our fishing rights back." When asked about whether they received enough notice, four said no and there were no openings.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



## In-Season Subsistence Salmon Survey... CONTINUED

### Russian Mission

Thirteen Final Interviews were completed in Russian Mission and 100% reporting they did not meet their needs. In comparing to last year, comments included "bad," "only whitefish, no salmon," "worst," "sent to help daughters on Kuskokwim," and "finally have 4" net for whitefish." In terms of opportunity provided, they replied that there were no salmon openings. When asked what could have been improved, eleven said "restrictions on the high season fishery" and two said "at least a couple openings just to taste salmon." When asked about whether they received enough notice, 4 said no and there were no openings.

### Marshall

Twelve Final Interview were completed in Marshall and 100% reported they did not meet their needs. In comparing to last year, all twelve commented "bad," Other comments included: "very little bit of fish or whitefish and sheefish only," "bad year for subsistence users on the Yukon!" "worse fishing year ever," "very bad," "last year was better," and "nothing in the freezer." In terms of opportunity provided, nine replied "no," "Nope not every Elders got salmon," and "start or try to shut down oceans fisheries." When asked what could have been improved they replied, "Change of fisheries management," "shut down all fishing in oceans," "ocean and river management needs to work together," and "dipnet to catch fish." When asked whether they received enough notice, six said yes, and eight said no openings yet.

### Mountain Village

Six Final Interviews were completed in Mountain Village and 100% reported they did not meet their needs. In comparing to last year, three said it was "really poor," two said, "disaster" and

other comments included "poorest season he has seen," "worse than last year," and "didn't get to fish yet." In terms of opportunity provided, five said "no" or "nope not even close," some said "only with 4" net, but not too many have them," and "nope not even close." When asked what could have been improved three commented, "let us fish some kings and chums" and others said "open more subsistence." When asked whether they received enough notice, three said yes, and two said no.

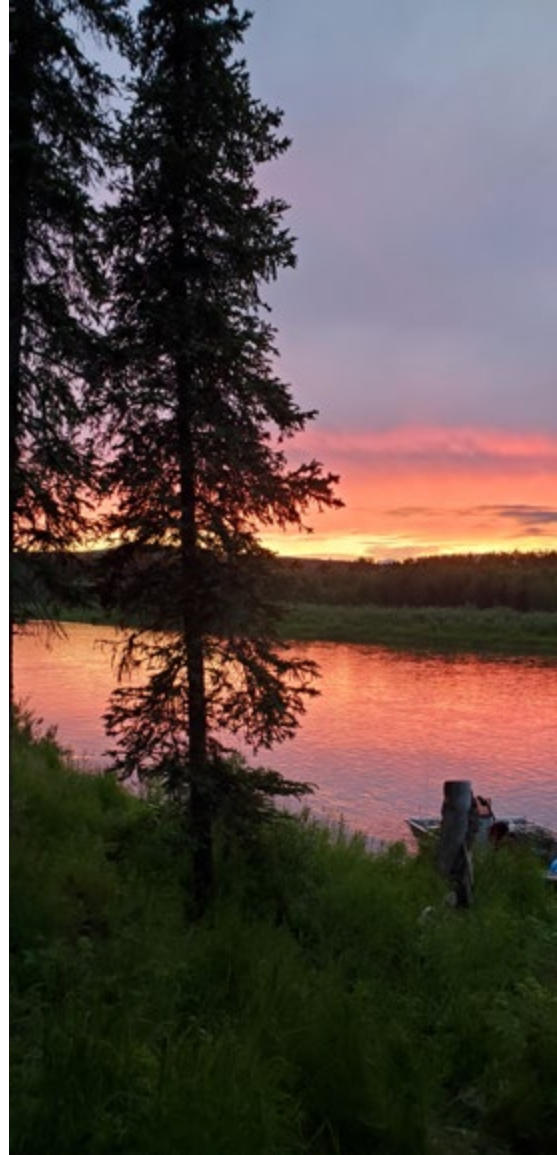
### Alakanuk

We did not receive any Final Interviews from Alakanuk.

### Post Season Evaluation

Eight of ten surveyors completed the end of season evaluation. They all stated that they felt well trained and prepared for their position and enjoyed the work. This year they were all extremely challenged in their ability to do their jobs by the lack of fishing opportunity this year. Some surveyors found that more fishers declined participation due to the long closures. The surveyors feel that this program does inform and represent the fishers and gives them an opportunity to voice their opinions. They value and enjoy their opportunity to participate in and report on the weekly teleconferences. The managers also participated in our twice yearly evaluation and feedback opportunities on this program. We thank them for finding creative ways to help us continually improve this program.

*Thank you to the surveyors, fishers, communities, managers, and the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program for your participation and support of this program. 🍷*





# Local and Traditional Knowledge of Anadromous Fish in the Yukon Flats with an Emphasis on the Draanjik Drainage

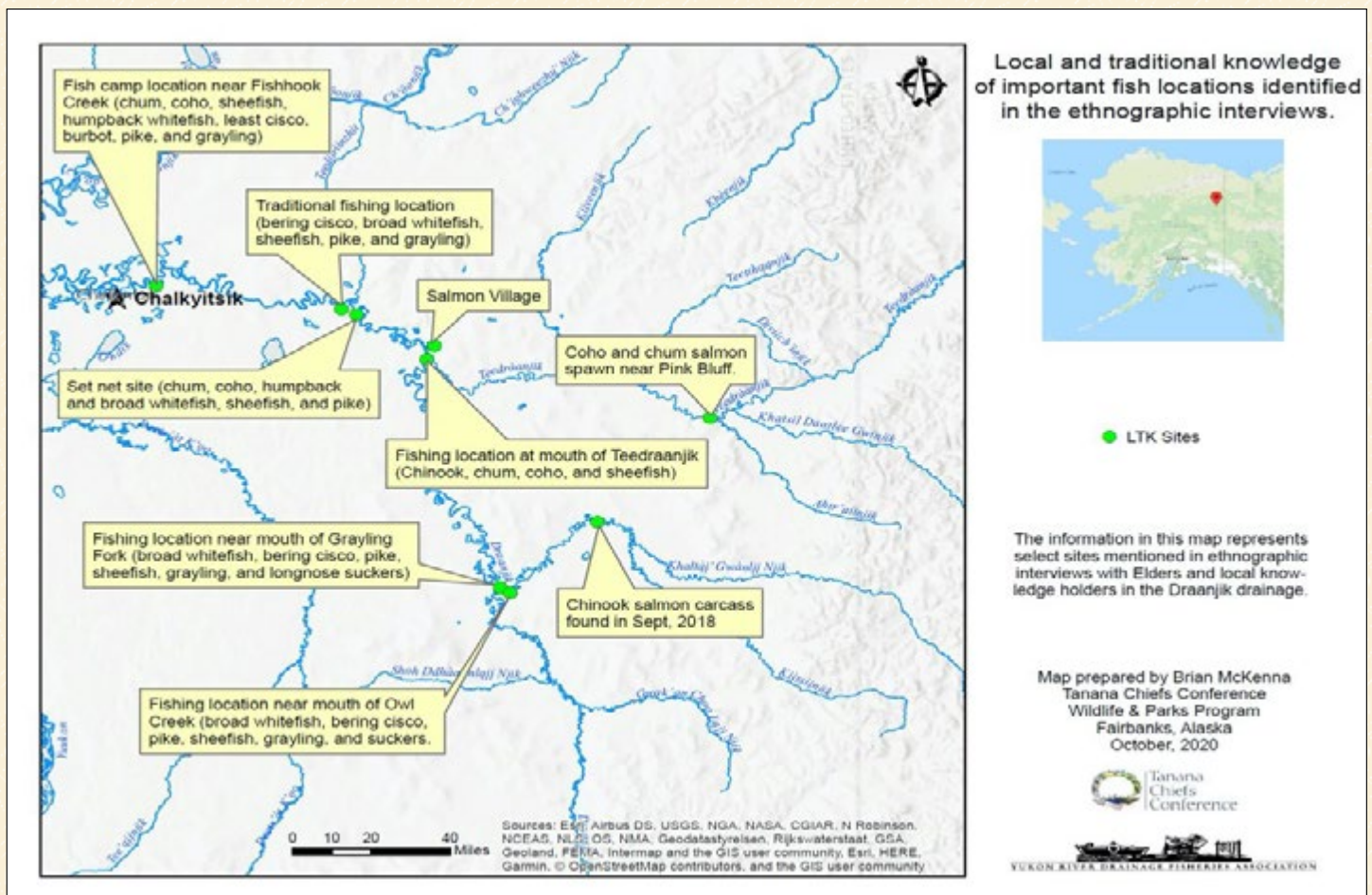
YRDLFA has been partnering with the communities of Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon, and Venetie and the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) to update the Anadromous Waters Catalog and Freshwater Fish Inventory, both maintained by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, through a combination of Traditional Knowledge, environmental DNA (eDNA), minnow trapping, and on the ground observations. We began this project in 2018 and it will be wrapping up early in 2022. During the life of the project, YRDLFA staffer, Catherine Moncrieff traveled to Chalkyitsik, Venetie, and Fort Yukon with TCC staffers, when available, to interview and do mapping activities with knowledgeable people about the Draanjik drainage. In total, we interviewed 13 participants and hired a local assistant in

each community. Due to limitations from the pandemic, we developed and sent a Community Review document to each participant and tribal council in the study area for their feedback.

Following the ethnographic field work, TCC biologist, Brian McKenna led the biological field work beginning with eDNA work during the first summer. Most recently, with support from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), they conducted biological field work this past summer in four tributaries of the Draanjik drainage seeking information about spawning adult and rearing juvenile Chinook and Coho salmon. They conducted an aerial survey of the Kevinjik Creek in the Teedraanjik drainage to identify and locate a Coho salmon spawning

area (Nèhdlii Ni'inlii) that has not yet been added to the Anadromous Waters Catalog. This location has been identified by traditional knowledge and with positive eDNA analysis. Juvenile Chinook were found in two locations and Coho were found in one. They have some additional Coho field work planned later this fall/winter. Once completed, we will be finalizing our results, sharing them with the communities, and making nominations to the Anadromous Waters Catalog.

This project, funded by the Office of Subsistence Management Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, was extended until March of 2022 due to the pandemic. We thank the communities, participants, the Regional Advisory Councils and the FRMP for their support and participation.



Map showing fish locations within the Draanjik basin identified in ethnographic interviews with Elders and local knowledge holders.



## *Please Help Your Voice Be Heard!*

YRDFA has struggled financially in the past and we keep afloat by the generosity of your support. For 30 plus years YRDFA has been your voice and we strive to continue to serve the people of the Yukon River.

The donations you make provide us with the flexibility to tackle the issues that may arise that grant funding cannot. In 2020 and 2021 the unprecedented collapse of our salmon fishing increased our advocacy and your donations assisted YRDFA to take lead in the fishery disaster requests. Unfortunately, our efforts are still not done. We must continue to make our presence known and our issues visible. Your support will make a difference.

In 2021, the YRDFA delegation voted to establish an internship program honoring Andrew Firmin from Ft. Yukon. YRDFA is pleased to announce that we will hire our first intern for the 2022 Andrew Firmin Young Fisher Internship Program in May. We will be doing a fundraising campaign in February and March to reach \$5,000.00.

YRDFA serves the whole watershed and with a staff of 3, we can only do so much. With your support and donations we will be able to further our organization's work.

Please visit our website at [www.yukonsalmon.org](http://www.yukonsalmon.org) and make a contribution, whether it may be \$10 or \$500!

*All contributions help us better serve the Yukon River communities.*

## TRIBAL LEADERS DIRECTORY

### **Keep your Tribal Contact Information Up to Date!**

Dear Tribal Leaders,

To ensure timely and proper Government-to-Government Consultation we're requesting your help. Please check and update your Tribe's contact information, including email, on the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Tribal Leaders Directory.

At this time, the BIA Alaska Region sends quarterly requests to all tribes to update their directory information; however, these requests are not always received by, nor updated, by the Tribes.

To view the Tribal Leaders Directory, go to the following webpage: [www.bia.gov/bia/ois/tribal-leaders-directory](http://www.bia.gov/bia/ois/tribal-leaders-directory)

To update your Tribal information please contact Sarah Walker, BIA Alaska Region, at [sarah.walker@bia.gov](mailto:sarah.walker@bia.gov) or call (907) 271-4506.

The BIA first developed the Tribal Leaders Directory as an internal reference document for its employees. It quickly became one of Indian Affairs' most requested documents, and is now used by federal, state and local governments, news media, businesses, researchers, and the general public as a resource to help them connect with Indian Country. The BIA's commitment to enhanced communication led to transforming this publication into the electronic interactive app. As tribal elections and other changes in tribal leadership occur at various times throughout the year, the Directory's information is the most currently available at the time of its update and approval. Because the BIA cannot track all tribal leadership changes in real time, it does not guarantee the accuracy of the Directory's tribal contact information.





## HONORING *Bill Derendoff*

William Derendoff, who was a devoted and passionate YRDFA Board Alternate, passed away on December 2, 2021, with family by his side. William served YRDFA for a long-standing 18 years and represented Huslia and his region with great respect and immense knowledge of fisheries. His presence will be missed by all the lives he has touched along the Yukon River. Rest in peace Bill.



# Directory

### TEAM DIRECTORY

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Serena Alstrom Fitka**

Cell: 907-799-4336

Email: [serena@yukonsalmon.org](mailto:serena@yukonsalmon.org)

#### ANTHROPOLOGIST

**Catherine Moncrieff**

Cell: 907-382-8990

Email: [catherine@yukonsalmon.org](mailto:catherine@yukonsalmon.org)

#### FINANCE MANAGER

**Richell Carmichael**

Cell: 907-982-7120

Email: [richell@yukonsalmon.org](mailto:richell@yukonsalmon.org)

### YOUNG FISHERS

Kerri Kelly Pilot Station

Katlyn Zuray Tanana

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT	NAME	CITY
Coastal, Seat 1	Lester Wilde	Hooper Bay
Y-1, Seat 1	Stanley Pete	Numan Iqua
Y-1, Seat 2	Allen Hansen	Alakanuk
Y-1, Seat 3	Camille Augline	Alakanuk
Y-2, Seat 1	Bill Alstrom	St. Marys
Y-2, Seat 2	Mike Peters	Marshall
Y-2, Seat 3	Michelle Peterson	Mtn Village
Y-3, Seat 1	Alfred Demientieff Jr.	Holy Cross
Y-4, Seat 1	Fred Huntington, Sr.	Galena
Y-4, Seat 2	Richard Burnham	Kaltag
Y-5, Seat 1	Charlie Wright	Rampart
Y-5, Seat 2	Stan Zuray	Tanana
Y-6, Seat 1	Tim McManus	Nenana
Y-6, Seat 2	Victor Lord	Nenana
Koyukuk River	Pollock Simon, Sr.	Allakaket
Flats, Seat 1	Jan Woodruff	Eagle
Canadian	James MacDonald	Whitehorse

### ALTERNATES

DISTR./SEAT #	REPRESENTATIVE	COMMUNITY
Coastal, Alt. 1	Richard Tuluk	Chevak
Coastal, Alt. 2	Clifford Kaganak Sr.	Scammon Bay
Y-1, Alt 1	Paul Andrews	Emmonak
Y-1, Alt. 2	Marvin Okitkun	Kotlik
Y-2, Alt. 1	VACANT	
Y-2, Alt. 2	VACANT	
Y-3, Alt. 1	Basil Larson	Russian Mission
Y-4, Alt. 1	Dick Evans	Galena
Y-4, Alt. 2	Robert Walker	Anvik
Y5, Alt. 1	James Robert	Tanana
Y-6, Alt. 1	VACANT	
Y-6, Alt. 2	Dorothy Shockley	Manley Hot Springs
Koyukuk River	VACANT	
Flats, Alt. 1	Rochelle Adams	Beaver
Canadian	Carl Sidney	Telin, YT

# Yukon River Region Calendar

## YUKON RIVER PRE-SEASON PLANNING MEETING

March 24, 2021  
Anchorage, Alaska

## NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING

December 2-16, 2021  
[www.npfmc.org/upcoming-council-meetings](http://www.npfmc.org/upcoming-council-meetings)

## ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES ANNUAL CONVENTION

December 13-15  
[www.nativefederation.org/convention](http://www.nativefederation.org/convention)

## SALMON ROUNDTABLE WITH ALASKA DELEGATION

December 8-9, 2021  
12:30 AKST each day  
RSVP: [murkowski\\_events@murkowski.senate.gov](mailto:murkowski_events@murkowski.senate.gov)

## MID-LOWER YUKON ADVISORY COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE

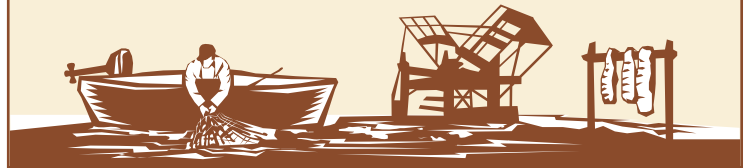
December 9, 2021  
9:00am-5:00pm  
Toll-free 1-800-504-8071  
Access code: 5432709

## FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD MEETING

Week of January 30, 2022  
[www.doi.gov/subsistence/board](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/board)

## YRDFA MISSION:

Protecting  
and promoting  
all healthy  
wild fisheries  
and cultures  
along the  
Yukon River  
drainage.



## HOW DO I BECOME A YRDFA MEMBER?

Call: 1-877-999-8566, Ext. 5

Visit our website: [yukonsalmon.org](http://yukonsalmon.org)

Visit YRDFA's Facebook Page

**Yukon Fisheries News** is published by the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association  
PO Box 2898 • Palmer, AK 99645  
Phone: (907) 272-3141 • Fax: (907) 272-3142 • TOLL-FREE 1-877-99-YUKON (98566)  
[www.yukonsalmon.org](http://www.yukonsalmon.org)

Funding for this publication provided by the USFWS through the Restoration & Management Fund

All photos ©YRDFA unless otherwise credited.

