



Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

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YUKON
Delta Fisheries
Development Association

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State of Alaska
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
*sent via email

Dear Honorable Governor Mike Dunleavy,

First, thank you and the many state agency and department leaders and staff for the donations of fish for the people of the Yukon River. The people are grateful for any amount of salmon; for some it was their first taste of the season.

We write to urge you to use your leadership and to take swift action to declare a fishery disaster for the 2021 Yukon River salmon season in accordance with Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act.

There has been no commercial or subsistence fishing for Chinook, summer and fall chum salmon for the 2021 fishing season. This has and will greatly impact the people of the Yukon River drainage both economically, traditionally, and psychologically. Subsistence harvest is non-existent; where the 5 year average (2015-2019) for the entirety of the Yukon River Area should be around 77,000.¹

Although the donations helped, we cannot emphasize enough the cultural well-being of the people who have fished the river for generations. People were left with nothing to occupy their time that is usually spent on the river, at fish camp, with family.

In addition, the loss of employment and income to the commercial fishermen and to the local salmon processing employees, which serves one of the highest unemployment rate on the Yukon River Drainage.

Resolutions and letters of support will be forwarded to your office from Tribal Governments, Municipal Councils and Village Corporations requesting for a fishery disaster declaration of the State of Alaska.

¹ https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareayukon.subsistence_salmon_harvest

Again, we ask for swift action in this request. We appreciate your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,



Serena Fitka
Executive Director
Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association



Ragnar Alstrom
Executive Director
Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association

CC:

Secretary Deb Haaland, US Department of the Interior
Senator Dan Sullivan
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Congressman Don Young
Senator Donny Olson
Representative Neal Foster
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative Tiffany Zulkosky
Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang
Acting Commissioner Amanda Holland
Commissioner Julie Anderson
Randy Fisher, PSMFC Director
Jim Balsinger, NOAA Alaska Region Administrator
Mr. Rex Rock, Jr., Policy Advisor
Randy Ruaro, Chief of Staff