

YUKON FISHERIES NEWS

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PRESS RELEASE

THE GOOD NEWS: MORE EVIDENCE THAT ALASKA FISH ARE GOOD TO EAT

FISH MONITORING PROGRAM
DEC, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
STATE VETERINARIAN

Latest results from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Fish Monitoring Program show low levels of persistent organic pollutants (PCBs, dioxins, organochlorine pesticides) in Alaska fish. The results reinforce earlier findings that Alaska's fish are among the safest in the nation for consumption.

"People are concerned that food sources are being contaminated by persistent organic pollutants, which have been found in foods around the globe. We do not know what levels are in other types of food, but we do know what's in our fish. The importance of these results cannot be overstated," said DEC Commissioner Ernesta Ballard. "Alaska's natural resources provide a rich bounty of healthy foods for residents and the rest of the world. Levels in Alaska fish are below those measured in fish from other parts of the world. People have good reason to continue to enjoy a diet rich in Alaska seafood."

DEC's Fish Monitoring Program is a collaborative effort with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the International Pacific Halibut Commission, and Alaska subsistence users

and commercial fishermen to collect and test fish for certain environmental contaminants. During the first two years of the project, DEC analyzed 520 samples of a variety of fish for heavy metals, primarily from marine waters.

The program, initiated in 2001 is ongoing. DEC along with other research partners continued sampling in 2004 to collect more information regarding the health of Alaska's fish. DEC continues to evaluate fish for heavy metals including mercury, the persistent organic pollutants mentioned, and other chemicals recently recognized as being persistent and bioaccumulative, such as fire retardants.

"We recognize that fish are an important and essential part of the Alaskan diet. Alaskans, especially those living in rural areas, eat much more wild food than people in other parts of the United States. For Native Alaskans, harvesting local food is an integral part of their culture and economy," said Ballard. "We want to give Alaskans as much information as possible to help them make wise and healthy dietary choices."

For more information visit the Fish Monitoring Program website at HYPERLINK <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/eh/vet/fish.htm>

"ALASKA FISH..." CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



YUKON RIVER
DRAINAGE
FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

*A United Voice for
Downriver and Upriver
Fishermen.*



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**** sponsored by Pilot Station Inc.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY JILL KLEIN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, YRDFA

The summer fishing season has wrapped up for 2004 and we are on our way to reviewing the season and planning for next year. YRDFA was busy with carrying out many projects this summer up and down the river. Some specific projects we carried out include assisting communities in their subsistence harvest studies, interviewing local people about customary trade in Alakanuk and Holy Cross, conducting a fisheries technicians training program on the Andreafsky River, supplying local technicians to fish monitoring projects up and down the river and facilitating an educational exchange among Canadians and Alaskans living along the Yukon River.



A specific issue we track in-season is how well we met the various needs of the various fisheries, which includes subsistence and commercial. In addition, we track escapement goals and border passage as set by the Yukon River Panel, sets them in the spring in conjunction with support from the Joint Technical Committee. This year, the goals were set lower than agreed upon in the Yukon River Salmon Agreement to account for lower returns these past few years.

But, due to stronger runs and conservative management actions, more fish made it to the border and thus to the Canadian spawning grounds.

Here are the preliminary season results:

CANADIAN-ORIGIN SALMON	Pre-season Escapement Goal: 2004	Projected Final Goal: 2004	Escapement Goal: Yukon River Salmon Agreement
YR mainstem Chinook	28,000	48,500	33,000-43,000
YR mainstem fall chum	65,000	109,300-117,100	80,000
Fishing Branch fall chum	13,000	18,796	50,000-120,000

Please note these numbers may change post-season. From this initial look at the numbers, it appears that the Chinook and fall chum exceeded the agreed upon border passage, while the Fishing Branch fall chum were still below. Please see the related articles on the season summary and the voluntary fish closures at Old Crow. The amount of fish needed for the spawning grounds is a hotly debated issue, but these results this season look good and are a promising sign of increasing salmon returns. ☺

EDUCATION GRANT AVAILABLE

**INDIAN EDUCATION TEACHER TRAINING GRANT
RURAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS (REP)
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, FAIRBANKS**

The Rural Education Partnerships (REP) is seeking applicants to complete teaching degrees in the next two years. Indian Education Grant funds will provide up to \$19,800 USD each year to pay for living costs, tuition, and books to eligible students who can complete a teacher certification program by 2006 and be hired within six months of graduation.

To be eligible for this program, applicants must be Alaska Native students who demonstrate a desire to become a teacher. Also, applicants must have at least junior standing in college and a good academic background to successfully complete the degree in two years.

While participating in the program,

students will meet with school district and university mentors, attend study sessions, successfully complete required course work, and pass Praxis I tests in order to advance to student teaching internship in their senior year.

Students must sign a payback agreement to ensure that they complete the teacher training program and must be hired as a teacher.

Students will be selected on a first come basis.

Further information and applications can be requested from:

John Weise
E-mail: fnjw@uaf.edu
Phone: 907-786-6325

MEETING DATES

NOVEMBER 22-24

Fall JTC Meeting
Hotel Captain Cook
Anchorage, AK

*General public is invited to attend
November 22*

DECEMBER 6-9

YR Panel Meeting
Whitehorse, Y.T., Canada

JANUARY 11-13

Federal Subsistence Board Meeting
Egan Civic & Convention Center,
Anchorage, AK



OSM MAKES MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO YR RESEARCH

BY POLLY WHEELER AND CLIFF SCHLEUSNER, USFWS, OSM

The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (Monitoring Program) was initiated in 2000 in response to federal assumption of management for subsistence fisheries on federal lands. Housed within the Office of Subsistence Management, the Monitoring Program is a unique, multidisciplinary, multi-million dollar fisheries research program authorized by Section 812 of ANILCA (Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act). The Monitoring Program funds projects that provide information for federal subsistence fisheries management. Funding is awarded through a competitive process and projects generally address two broad categories: 1) Harvest Monitoring and Traditional Ecological Knowledge and 2) Stock Status and Trends. The Monitoring Program provides an opportunity for federal, state, tribal and private entities to participate in fisheries research.

Between 2000 and 2004, the Monitoring Program has funded 167 projects totaling \$30 million; 62 projects have been funded in the Yukon River region. Most of the research in the Yukon River region has been directed at salmon, although projects addressing resident fish species such as whitefish and pike have also been funded. These projects represent a sizable contribution to research in the Yukon River region of Alaska. Of the 55 Monitoring Program studies in the Yukon River region, 35 are complete or close to completion. The 2004 Fisheries Resources Monitoring Plan (FRMP) for the Yukon River region consists of 20 projects (listed at right), which are a mix of ongoing and new efforts.

In addition to providing valuable stock status and harvest assessment information for effective fisheries management, the Yukon River Monitoring Program projects provide information used to address regulatory actions and critical issues identified by local users. Further, through the collection and analysis of traditional knowledge, the Monitoring Program aims to incorporate traditional knowledge into management, thus bridging the gap with western science.

Finally, the FRMP encourages local-tribal-state-federal partnerships and increasing capabilities of local and tribal organizations to implement monitoring projects.

Together, all of these projects represent a major contribution to salmon and non-salmon research and management in the Yukon River region. Final reports for all projects are available both electronically and

through ARLIS. Also, the Office of Subsistence Management has plans for making all reports accessible on the web by mid-2005. To attain copies of any FIS project reports, or for further information, contact Polly Wheeler at 907-786-3380, polly_wheeler@fws.gov, or Cliff Schleusner at 907-786-3626, or cliff_schleusner@fws.gov. ☺

2004 FISHERIES RESOURCES MONITORING PLAN YUKON RIVER REGION PROJECTS

- Humpback Whitefish in the Upper Tanana
- Sex-Ratios of Juvenile and Adult Chinook Salmon in the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers
- Run Timing, Migratory Timing, and Harvest Information of Chinook Salmon Stocks within the Yukon River
- Abundance and Run Timing of Adult Salmon in the Tozitna River
- Abundance and Run Timing of Adult Salmon in the Gisasa River
- Abundance and Run Timing of Adult Salmon, East Fork Andreafsky River
- Phenotypic Characterization of Chinook Salmon in the Subsistence Harvest
- Hooper Bay Subsistence Salmon Monitoring Project
- Rampart Rapids Fall Chum Salmon Abundance Estimate
- Genetic Stock ID for Fall Chum Salmon, Yukon River
- Lower Yukon Cooperative Salmon Drift Fishing Program
- Chinook Radio Telemetry, Abundance and Distribution
- Kaltag Scale Sampling Project
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge Camp in Ft. Yukon
- Upper Tanana Subsistence Fish Traditional Ecological Knowledge Study
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Upper Yukon River Salmon Fishery
- Tanana Conservation Outreach
- YRDFA Weekly In-Season Teleconferences
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Customary Trade of Subsistence Fish on the Yukon River
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge/Radio telemetry Study of Whitefish, Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge

THIRD YEAR FOR ED EXCHANGE

DARCY KING,
EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH COORDINATOR, YRDFA

*Transforming perceptions
to foster an increased appreciation
for others' needs.*

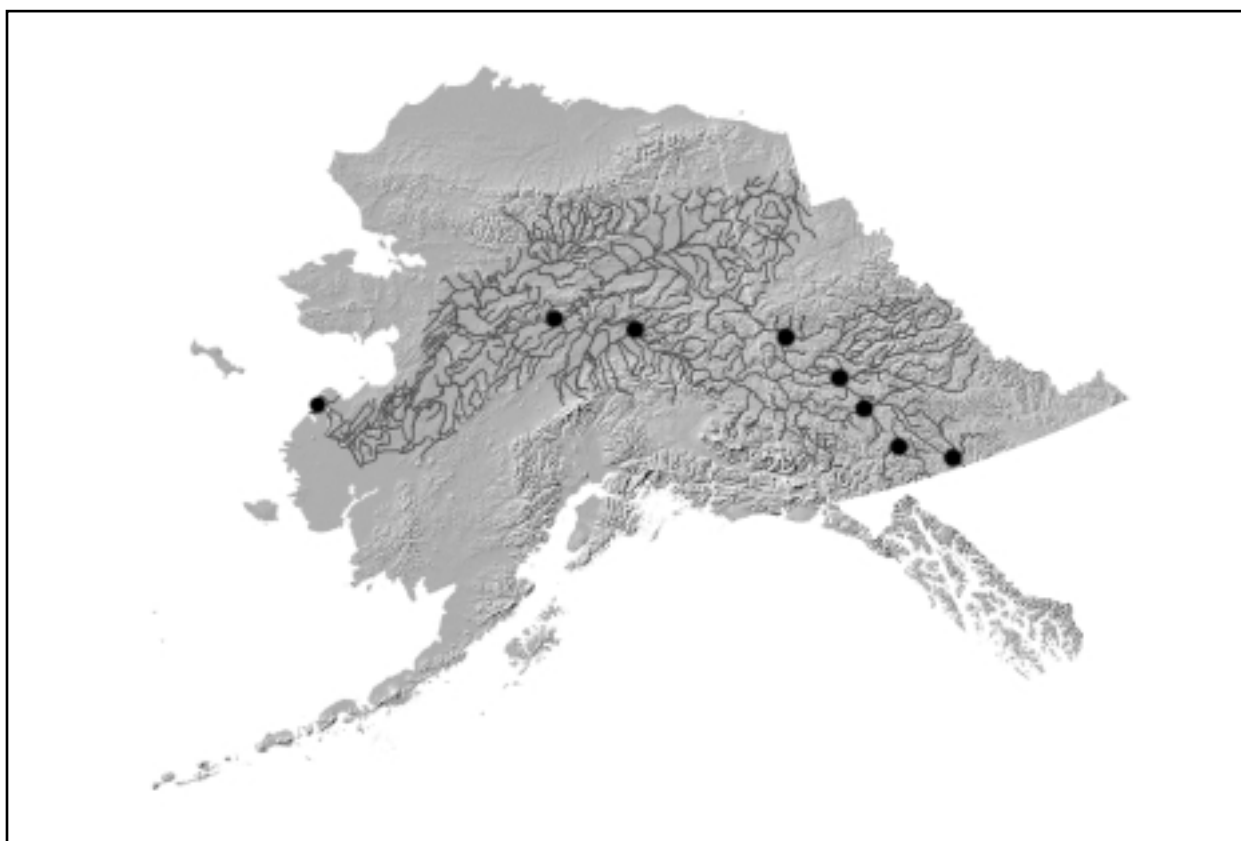
Sharing one resource connected by one river, people from various regions within the YR drainage came together to learn they have more in common than just salmon. For the third year in a row, YRDFA organized and facilitated the Yukon River Educational Exchange Program.

The program, designed to bring together communities along the river (both in Alaska and the Yukon Territory) to experience regional and cultural differences, ultimately strengthens the ability of communities to think and act on a cooperative, drainage-wide basis to improve conservation and restoration of the salmon resource. A key priority for the Program was to enhance contact between upriver and downriver fishers - as one becomes the exchange participant and the other the host.

Two, 8-day trips, conducted during the 2004 summer fishing season brought 5 Yukoners to Alaska and 4 Alaskans to the Yukon Territory in Canada. Participants for the exchange were nominated either by city offices, renewable resource councils, tribal councils, schools, YRDFA board or YR Panel members, and selected from an applicant pool based on experience, community involvement, and enthusiasm. Traveling to the lower- and mid-river communities of Emmonak, Tanana and Fairbanks (see map 1), Yukoners had the opportunity to interact with local fishers, witness test fisheries, observe commercial fishing openings, spend time at fish camps, talk to agency personnel from USFWS and ADFG and meet with tribal council representatives & Elders. Likewise, Alaskans had the same type of opportunity in the upper reaches and headwaters of the Yukon River while visiting Teslin, Whitehorse, Carmacks, Fort Selkirk, Pelly and Dawson City. While in Canada, Alaskan exchange participants were also joined by Dan Bergstrom, YR Regional Management Supervisor for ADFG for the first leg of their journey.

The exchange program took advantage of participants', local guides' and host community members', differences in age, motivation, cultural background, and past fisheries experience. Together they were able to share knowledge regarding different types of fisheries, the Yukon River Salmon Agreement and YR Panel, management issues, salmon biology, and status & health of salmon stocks. Participants on the exchange were challenged to learn by pursuing issues of interest and concern, to research through observation and personal experience and to document their experience for further sharing of knowledge with their home communities. They discovered their differences weren't so different. To help the salmon, participants realized that building relationships and sharing information are important.

You've heard of the US/Canada treaty, properly termed the *Yukon River Salmon Agreement*, which represents an international commitment to restore, share, conserve and manage Canadian-origin chinook and chum salmon. But do you know how that's done? One way is through treaty implementation funds. The Agreement requires money be set aside for funding programs in the U.S. and Canada which focus on the restoration, conservation and enhancement of Canadian-origin salmon stocks. Criteria, set by the YR Panel, helps prioritize projects/programs and distribute funds. Six categories (including conservation, restoration, enhancement, stewardship, viable fishery and communication), have been identified as areas requiring funding. As a communications project, the **Yukon River Educational Exchange Program** is one such project funded through the YR Panel.



Map 1. Yukon River Drainage: black circles indicate communities visited during the 2004 YR Educational Exchange Program (left to right: Emmonak, Tanana, Fairbanks, Dawson, Pelly, Carmacks, Whitehorse & Teslin). Map courtesy of NOAA, Auke Bay Laboratory.

"3RD YEAR FOR ED EXCHANGE..." CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Clockwise, top left: Local guide, Herman Hootch (right) teaches educational exchange participants in Emmonak how to throw a spear; Martin Kelly hangs out at fish camp in Carmacks, Y.T.; Jerry Kruse (seated) settles in for a boat ride to the Rapids from Tanana; James Macdonald (left) and Esau Schafer participate in an Eskimo dance welcoming participants to Emmonak; Jack Ambrose with drying king salmon at May Roberts' camp in Carmacks, Y.T.; (top) Art Christiansen, Esau Schafer and Joe Jackson (left to right) get acquainted during a tour of Kwiguk Slough, Emmonak; (bottom) Joe Jackson looks on as ADFG checks the test net in Emmonak; Martin Kelly, Jack Nanuk, Edward Andrews and Dan Bergstrom (left to right) pose outside of the George Johnson Heritage Center in Teslin after a welcoming potluck.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the *Yukon River Panel*, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service* and *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration* for providing funds to make the educational exchange program a reality. A special thanks to the various host communities for generously welcoming in a group of strangers - who left feeling like old acquaintances. Opening your doors to reveal your lifestyle, culture and passionate beliefs regarding Yukon River salmon was greatly appreciated. Thank you to all the individuals, organizations and agencies that assisted with the planning and carrying out of both exchange trips. There were many of you and it could not have happened without you. Lastly, we appreciate the willingness of the participants for the long days they put in during the trip and for their patience and enthusiasm.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Dinner with the Elders and Eskimo dancing in Emmonak made for a very warm reception.

*2004 Ed Exchange Participant,
Canada to Alaska*

It was the best trip I have ever been on. I especially liked Teslin Lake as I hadn't seen that before. I liked meeting all the people in Teslin and I enjoyed their company. They live the same way we [as Alaskans] do, just in a different area. I really liked Pelly Farm with the chickens and cows. Farmers are just like subsistence people – living off the land – but they grow things instead.

*2004 Ed Exchange Participant,
Alaska to Canada*

What worked well was touring the people around, sharing meals together, sitting and talking with other community people, visiting fishery and actually participating in work at fish camps.

*Host Community Member,
Alaska to Canada*

To me we are all users of fish and this program [Ed Exchange] is very important to us all...It is really good to see that just one step is needed to make connections. I thank you for the program.

*2004 Ed Exchange Participant,
Canada to Alaska*

...

2004 EXCHANGE PARTICIPANTS

ALASKA

Jack Ambrose, *Hughes*
Martin Kelly, *Pilot Station*
Jack Nanuk, *Scammon Bay*
Edward Andrews, *Emmonak*
Dan Bergstrom, *ADFG, Anchorage*

YUKON TERRITORY

Joe Jackson, *Teslin*
Esau Schafer, *Old Crow*
Jerry Kruse, *McCabe Creek*
Art Christiansen, *Dawson City*
James MacDonald, *Dawson/Whitehorse*

FALL CHUM SUBSTITUTION FISHERY

Old Crow Community Proactively Rebuilds

Interview with William Josie, Director Natural Resources, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Old Crow, Yukon

Submitted by Beverley Brown, Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board's North Yukon Community Stewardship Coordinator

The Chum salmon stocks in the Porcupine River have declined drastically in recent years causing the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation to place a volunteer closure of the fishery on all local residents of Old Crow.

WHAT IS A VOLUNTEER CLOSURE?

"We are a self-governing nation so we have a big say on the management of our resources. We take this very seriously. The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN) in conjunction with the Dept of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada (DFO) and our community makes the decisions on salmon management. The community met twice to discuss this (the chum population crash) and felt we should try to rebuild the chum stocks. This wasn't a federal order. We want other communities to know that our VGFN government is taking a very proactive lead on this issue. We are developing partnerships with DFO and the Yukon River Panel and these are good working relationships. We are all beginning to learn more about our salmon resource with DFO's technical expertise, the Panel's money (funding of local projects) and our community's knowledge. We also took the lead in protecting a large part of the salmon spawning habitat in Ni iinlii Njik (Fishing Branch) Wilderness Preserve so that 6,000km² of the headwaters is protected."

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE A VOLUNTEER CLOSURE?

"In our Final Agreement, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has three reasons to close a fishery: public health, public safety and conservation. Our escapement goal for chum in the Fishing Branch River is between 50,000 and 120,000. We haven't reached this goal since the mid-90's. (In the year 2000 only 5,100 were counted at the Fishing Branch weir). So if we didn't have the voluntary closure, the minister would

close the chum fishery down for conservation reasons."

In 2003 and 2004, the Yukon River Panel approved funding for a fisheries substitution project in Old Crow. Commercial dog food has been distributed to all dog mushers who have historically fished for chum salmon in the Porcupine River.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SUBSTITUTION PROJECT?

"I would rather have our fishermen out fishing. We're grateful to the Panel to give our dog mushers some help. With this substitution project we are able to get more chum onto the spawning grounds and that's our goal."

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES TO THE SUBSTITUTION PROJECT?

"You can't help everybody in the community who has dogs. Most people have already scaled down their teams. This isn't a compensation program. The intent is to get more chum on their spawning grounds. Rebuilding this stock is the objective for us and the Panel."

WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES?

"We would like to see people try to get lake fish. People are worried about that the coho stocks will get hit pretty hard. Coho are difficult to manage and we still don't know much about them."

DO YOU HAVE A MESSAGE FOR ALASKANS?

"Personally, I appreciate how far Alaskans have come in salmon management and listening to our concerns. I want to keep in contact with fishery managers in Alaska. If anyone has questions or concerns or just want to talk, tell them to call me." (William Josie can be reached at 867-966-3261 or wjosie@vgfn.net)

SALMON HABITAT PROTECTION ISSUES

BY JOE SULLIVAN, YRDFA PROGRAM DIRECTOR

YRDFA is currently working on habitat issues which affect salmon within the Yukon River drainage. The information provided below is to keep you updated and informed.

CHANGES TO THE ANADROMOUS WATERS CATALOG. The *Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes* currently contains about 15,000 streams, rivers or lakes around the state which have been specified as being important for the spawning, rearing or migration of anadromous (to spawn in freshwater and rear in saltwater) fish. Additions and deletions of streams, rivers or lakes are made to the Catalog by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR). YRDFA biologist, Mike McDougall and YRDFA Traditional Ecological Knowledge Coordinator, Catherine Moncrieff, through NOAA-sponsored habitat projects, have been able to identify and nominate additions for the Catalog to ADNR. Due to the presence of anadromous salmon, several tributary streams of the Tanana River have been recommended for inclusion. A significant deletion could be the 40-Mile River, which flows from Alaska into the Yukon Territory before joining the Yukon River. McDougall has requested that delisting of the 40-Mile River be delayed until his study, in conjunction with Chris Stark, has concluded.

YUKON RIVER PORT AND ROAD NETWORK. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is proposing to build several roads between Holy Cross, Crooked Creek, Ruby and McGrath with port facilities at Holy Cross and Crooked Creek – the purpose of which is to support mining industry in the area. It is possible many salmon streams in the area are not currently listed in the Anadromous Waters Catalog, simply because they have not been studied. Fewer environmental safeguards are required when building roads across streams not listed in the Catalog. Therefore, if plans go ahead for construction, YRDFA would like to see area streams studied for potential entry into the Catalog. Alternatively, streams should be assumed to be anadromous and treated accordingly. To ensure adequate protection is provided to salmon habitat, YRDFA will also work to follow environmental assessments and/or environmental impact statements prepared for this development. *ADOT&PF is currently seeking public comments. The comment period has been extended to Dec. 10, 2004.*

PROPOSED CHANGES TO MIXING ZONE REGULATIONS IN STREAMS INCLUDING SPAWNING AREAS. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) is proposing changes to water quality regulations that allow mixing zones within Alaskan public waters (18 AAC 70.240-270). When discharge is too polluted to meet standards, mixing zones are often employed. A mixing zone is an area where pollution levels exceed water quality standards, allowing pollution levels to be measured in an area downstream after the polluted discharge has dispersed in the receiving water. Mixing

zones adopt the long-discounted notion that “Dilution is the solution to pollution”. Methods and standards in current regulation 1) determine the area a mixing zone can cover and still provide some protection to the environment and 2) prohibit ANY mixing zones in spawning areas.

Proposed changes would simplify regulations and place current methods and standards in a “guidance document”. Removing the safeguards of recognized standards and methods from regulations to guidance documents would make them no longer have the force of law. Regulators would theoretically use these guidance documents when making decisions. However, without enforceability, personal or political bias could influence their decision to grant a mixing zone permit. The proposed changes would also allow mixing zones in spawning areas if polluters could demonstrate that there would be no impact to fish.

YRDFA requested that ADEC leave the current methods and standards in regulation, departing from them only if scientific evidence demonstrates a better way exists. If proposed changes are made, YRDFA also requested that ADEC be required, in regulation, to consult with the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game (ADFG) before allowing mixing zones in a spawning area. *ADEC is currently seeking public comments. The comment period has been extended to Nov. 1, 2004.*

RIKA’S ROADHOUSE AND FALL CHUM SALMON SPAWNING HABITAT. Rika’s Roadhouse, a historic site in the Big Delta State Historical Park near Delta Junction, sits on the bank of the Tanana River. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) would like to construct rock structures, called stream barbs, in the river to prevent bank erosion in this area. ADNR, with congressionally appropriated funds, must get a permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers before proceeding with this project.

Currently, erosion in this area is caused by overflow created from constant filling of a nearby duck pond and by the lack of bank-stabilizing willows and other riparian (stream bank) vegetation, which has been removed to improve the view of the Tanana River from Rika’s Roadhouse. Further, stream barbs will be ineffective at this site as the river is actually building up the bank in times of high water, and not eroding it.

YRDFA opposes this project because it will impact a prime fall chum salmon spawning area, of which there are only a limited number on the Yukon system. Any loss of spawning habitat decreases the total number of salmon the Yukon can support. YRDFA sent written comment to the US Army Corps of Engineers recommending that ADNR stop overflow from the duck pond, replant riparian vegetation, and leave the fall chum salmon spawning area alone.

For a copy of YRDFA-submitted comments to state and federal agencies regarding these topics, please contact:

Joe Sullivan, YRDFA; Email: joe-yrdfa@alaska.com

Phone: (907) 272-3141, Ext 105; toll-free: 1-877-999-8566

FISHERIES TECHNICIAN TRAINING PROGRAM GRADUATES 10

BY GARY LAWLEY & YRDFA STAFF

The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA), in conjunction with key contractors, conducted a **Fisheries Technician Training (FTT) Program** from June 5- 16, 2004. Ten students, of the 44 who applied, began and graduated from the program, which was in its second year of operation. Last year the program was held at the Twin Bears Camp in the middle part of the drainage in the Chena River Recreation Area and this year, in the lower river, the St. Mary's area was selected.

One lead training director, two support staff and 14 instructors carried out this year's training. The program started with one week of classroom instruction in the village of St. Mary's, with another two weeks

of training conducted at a remote camp about 24 miles up the E. Fork of the Andreafsky River - a major tributary to the Yukon River. Fisheries science, camp living and safety were key aspects covered during the training. Approximately 70 technical training modules were scheduled, which lasted from 30 minutes to 2 days each. Approximately 50% of the training was hands-on and 50% classroom instruction.

The general objective of the program was to provide a pool of Yukon River drainage residents who are capable of performing technician duties for state, federal, tribal or non-profit organizations conducting fish research or surveys on the Yukon River or its tributaries. This increased technical capacity will hopefully inspire some students to pursue further education in the fisheries field to bring back skills and knowledge to their home communities. It may also allow village organizations to develop and staff their own research and survey programs, as well as help individuals better understand fish and fisheries along the river to participate in all aspects of fish research and management.

There are now ten additional qualified technician candidates this year available for jobs scattered throughout the Yukon

Training modules covered topics from identifying juvenile fish, to studying fish habitat; from catching adult fish in a weir to learning how sonar works; from GPS use and mapping to using a dissecting microscope; from boat, gun and bear safety to CPR/First Aid; from learning how to be a supervisor to incorporating traditional knowledge to getting and keeping a job.

FTT PROGRAM 2004 GRADUATES

Roy Bell, *Hooper Bay*
Michelle Demientieff, *Grayling*
Mildred Tassie Fitka, *Marshall*
Harry George, *St. Mary's*
Pius Joe, *Mountain Village*
Frank Paukan, *St. Mary's*
Jessica Prince, *Kotlik*
Otis Sipary, *St. Mary's*
Simon Thomas, *Ft. Yukon*
Susan Tritt, *Arctic Village*

drainage, from Hooper Bay to Ft. Yukon. These individuals have a good, basic understanding of fisheries within the Yukon Drainage, which they can share with other village residents and use during teleconferences, board meetings and workshops to better understand local and regional fisheries issues.

The Fisheries Technician Training Program for 2004 was generously funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). 🐟



MONITORING SALMON PASSAGE ACROSS US/CANADA BORDER: SONAR DEPLOYMENT NEAR EAGLE, AK

BY CARL T. PFISTERER, ADFG

To gain more timely and sufficient information for in-season management purposes of Alaskan fisheries for chinook and fall chum salmon, ADFG set up a new sonar project approximately 12 miles down river of Eagle, Alaska. What is the aim of the project? To use sonar technology to count migrating adult chinook and chum salmon on the mainstem Yukon River heading for the US/Canada border in order to estimate border passage.

But what is sonar? The practice of using underwater sound to detect objects at distances can be traced back to as early as the late 1400s when Leonardo da Vinci noted it was possible to hear ships at great distances by placing one end of a long tube in the water and the other in your ear. The technology advanced rapidly during the two world wars taking on the acronym S.O.N.A.R. for sound navigation and ranging (Urick 1983). The great advantage of sonar is the possibility to detect objects when not possible with the eye, especially in turbid (silty) water. Today sonar is used for civilian and scientific practices, such as counting fish, in addition to use in military applications. Projects that count fish, such as the Pilot Station sonar test fishery, almost exclusively utilize active sonar, as opposed to passive sonar. An active sonar system is one that transmits a sound pulse and then listens for an echo once the wave bounces off an object in its path. Passive sonar continually listens but does not transmit sound – submarines often use this method to avoid giving up their position.

Two different active sonar technologies were used for the ADFG project near Eagle: split-beam and imaging (DIDSON). Split-beam sonar, in use since the early 1990s, has been considered state-of-the-art for fisheries acoustics until the recent introduction of imaging techniques. A split-beam transducer is divided into four quadrants and uses the delay at each of the halves to calculate the position of the returned echo. Split-beam sonar makes it possible to track an

object through the beam and determine direction of travel, while imaging sonar combines information from multiple beams (48-96 in the case of the DIDSON) to form a picture of the underwater environment. Images from imaging sonar played back rapidly and in sequence results in an easy to interpret video. (See Table 1 for a comparison of the two sonar technologies).

The location for this project was chosen after reviewing transects collected from Calico Bluff, Alaska to White Rock, Canada during the fall of 2003 (Pfisterer and Huttunen, 2004). Bottom profiles near both Calico Bluff and Shade Creek were flat - indicating that it could be possible to detect fish throughout most of the sonar range. The main goal of the project this fall was to determine if these sites were indeed suitable for using sonar. ADFG, along with a YRDEA technician, used both DIDSON and split-beam sonar over an 11-day period at sites located near Calico Bluff and Shade Creek.

Although the Calico Bluff site has the preferred bottom profile, it appears the Shade Creek location will be more accessible

	DIDSON (Fig 1)	Split-Beam (Fig 2)
Image Produced	Video-like; utilizing multiple beams (48-96)	Echograms
Frequency	High (700 kHz – 1.8MHz)	Low (120-420 kHz)
Advantage	Equipment easy to operate; data easy to interpret; derives length info useful to identify species differing significantly in size; provides positional information	Allows greater range (excess of 150 m); provides positional information
Disadvantage	Range is limited to ~ 40m; Large storage requirements (~ 1GB per hr)	Equipment difficult to operate; data harder to interpret

Table 1. Feature comparison of imaging (DIDSON) and split-beam sonar systems.

during periods of high water. The data collected during the 2004 season is currently being analyzed. Once the analysis is complete, the preferred site and equipment will be selected based upon range requirements, ease of operation, and expense.

Literature Cited

- Pfisterer, C.T. and D.C Huttunen, 2004. Evaluation of hydroacoustic site on the Yukon River to monitor passage of salmon across the US/Canada border, 2003. Regional Information Report No. 3A04-18. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Management and Development Division, Anchorage.
- Urick, R.J. 1983. Principles of underwater sound. Third edition Peninsula Publishing, Los Altos, California. 🐟

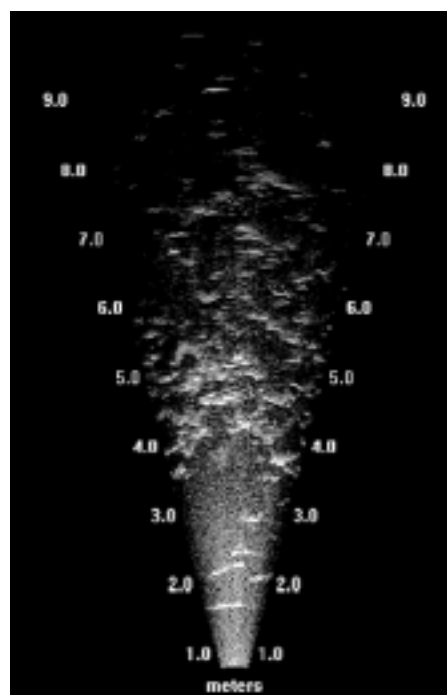


Figure 1. Example DIDSON video, from the Kasilof River, with fish ranging from 1.5-3 m and bottom substrate past 4 m.



Figure 2. Example split-beam echogram, from the Yukon River at Pilot Station, with coloration based on x-position in beam (upstream object goes red to white to blue).

2003 TRADE ASSISTANCE FOR ALASKA SALMON FISHERMEN

Thursday, October 7, 2004

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Sen. Lisa Murkowski announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has recertified a petition granting Alaska salmon fishermen continued assistance to help offset the lower prices received for their salmon catches during 2003 because of competition from foreign pen-reared [farmed] salmon.

The USDA announced this morning that Alaska fishermen will qualify for continuing Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) benefits because the average price for salmon in 2003 was more than 20 percent lower (actually 35.2 percent lower in 2003) than during the previous five years, 1997-2001. Under the TAA program, USDA will provide both technical assistance and cash if increasing imports of a directly competitive commodity contributes to a significant decline in producer prices and results in a loss of net fishing income during the year. The program, originally designed for farmers, added fishermen for the first time last year at Senator Murkowski's request.

"It is not good news that Alaska fishermen continued last year to be impacted by competition from farmed salmon from other countries. Still it is good news that the government for a second year will help offset lost income to Alaska salmon fishermen," said Senator Murkowski.

"We also hope the process will go more smoothly and more fishermen will both apply and be found eligible for benefits this year. This year there will be a full application period and more notice to potential applicants, and both the Department of Agriculture offices in Alaska and the fishing industry are more familiar with the way the program operates and how to get the most from it," added the Senator.

More fishermen are likely to qualify for aid for 2003 than 2002. Since the program requires an actual net loss of total income for fishermen to qualify, many fishermen were not eligible last year because they had received other compensation or earned income from non-fish jobs that resulted in them not having a net income loss for the 2002 tax year. Several million dollars was distributed to fishermen through the program last year. The average fisherman who received aid gained about \$2,200 in assistance, with only about 100 fishermen gaining the program maximum of \$10,000.

Besides financial aid, the Marine Advisory Program of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) will also be offering qualifying salmon fishermen who apply for TAA benefits a variety of technical courses at no cost.

Alaska salmon license and permit holders seeking aid through the TAA program **for 2003** will have to apply between **Oct. 15 and Jan. 13, 2005** for the 2005 program assistance. Checks to qualified applicants should be issued late this winter, after the applications are certified.

General information on the TAA program is available at:

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa.taaindex.htm>

Alaska fishermen may obtain an application for TAA benefits (Form FSA-229)

by going on line at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet> or

by calling the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Service Center in Palmer, 1-866-872-3320 or the FSA in Fairbanks, 907-479-3159.



A Special Thanks

to **Kwikpak Fisheries** for donating processed salmon to locals schools in the YR Delta Region.

to **Alaska Department of Fish & Game management staff** for working with local buyers and fishermen to make a small commercial fishery possible.

to **YRDFA in-season teleconference participants** for their input and weekly participation, as well as to YRDFA staff for facilitating and organizing each call.

to **The Native Village of Fort Yukon** for sponsoring 200 YRDFA memberships for Fort Yukon community members.

...

Funding and finding people to staff field projects can be difficult, particularly in the face of budget issues that are now before the state. The workload in the Yukon Area has increased dramatically during the past several years in response to the declining cycles of salmon abundance. In 2004 funding came from additional sources that provided either extended time for projects to operate, or in the form of funding to hire additional staff. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commercial Fisheries staff wish to acknowledge the contributions made by the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association who provided funding for staff at several field projects that directly provide daily information that is used to either manage or assess Yukon salmon fisheries, and to the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association, that provided staff that worked in Emmonak and funds that allowed the Pilot Station sonar project to begin operations on the 1st of June - almost a full week earlier than the usual start date. 🐟

YUKON RIVER 2004 PRELIMINARY SUMMER SEASON SUMMARY POINTS

BY TRACY LINGNAU, ADF&G SUMMER SEASON MANAGER

ADFG would like to thank all of those who took time away from their daily activities and participated in the YRDEFA teleconferences. The information you provided concerning subsistence reports, health of the fish, and river condition reports helped ADFG make better informed decisions.

PRESEASON:

Chinook Salmon

- 2004 chinook salmon run was anticipated to be improved over recent poor years of 1998-2002 and similar to the 2003 run.
- Anticipated the run would provide for escapements, support a normal subsistence harvest, and a below average commercial harvest.
- Management of the fishery would be based on inseason assessments of the run.
- If commercial fishing was warranted, open between the quarter-points when the bulk of the run is in the river.
- Commercial fishing would be spread out, similar to the subsistence fishing schedule, so as not to concentrate harvests on a particular stock.
- Commercial harvest was expected to be 20,000 to 60,000 king salmon.

Summer Chum Salmon

- Anticipated the summer chum salmon run would provide for escapements, support a normal subsistence harvest, and possibly a small commercial harvest.
- If commercially harvestable surplus, the harvest could range from 50,000 to 150,000 summer chum salmon.
- No directed summer chum salmon was expected unless possible in Districts 4 and 6.

INSEASON:

Lower River

- Subsistence schedule began for Y1 on May 31 and was implemented chronologically upriver.

- Break up was early, as was the chinook salmon run, giving a few alert subsistence fishers opportunity prior to the implementation of the schedule.
- 1st quarter point was on June 12, midpoint on June 17, and 3rd quarter point was on June 24 based on the test fishing project near the mouth of the Yukon River.
- Chinook salmon run was 3 days earlier than normal (June 20 is avg. mid-point).
- The lower Yukon River test fishing and Pilot Station sonar projects abundance indices did not reflect the large chinook salmon catches that were reported from subsistence fishing reports.
 - Highest amount of debris observed in years reduced the catchability of the test nets. Crews spent 8-10 hours daily cleaning the nets for a period of 7-10 days.
 - Pilot Station sonar encountered a reverberation band (interference from suspended silt particles) caused by eroding silt, limiting the sonar range to about 20 meters. Normally, it counts out to 250 meters. The 2004 passage estimate is very conservative because of this.
- Steady entry of chinook salmon throughout the season with one significant decrease in the daily test fishing CPUE (6/18/04). Steady entry was thought to be due to no significant wind storms to push fish into the river
- Offshore winds early in the season pushed fish to a more middle and north mouth entry pattern verses south mouth. Subsistence users also reported fish moving in through unmonitored passes at a higher rate than normal
- Bulk of Lower Yukon River commercial harvests occurred between the midpoint and 3rd quarter point (see table).

Upper River

- Because of chinook salmon run

CHINOOK SALMON PROPORTION OF HARVEST BY QUANTILES			
Run Quartiles	District 1	District 2	Combined
0.00-0.25	0.000	0.000	0.000
0.25-0.50	0.000	0.369	0.168
0.50-0.75	0.389	0.468	0.425
0.75-1.00	0.611	0.163	0.407

strength, the Department tried to provide as much commercial opportunity as possible but was highly dependent on markets.

- Relatively small commercial markets were available in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C, and District 6. No market was available in District 4, mostly because of transportation delays due to smoke from forest fires.
- Because of the run strength of chinook salmon into the Tanana River, harvests were allowed above the BOF guideline harvest range.
- In District 6, the Department tried to open up earlier in the season to harvest a particular portion of the run, which are typically of a higher quality and a higher proportion of males.

POST SEASON ASSESSMENT:

Chinook Salmon

- All lower river tributaries met or exceeded aerial survey chinook salmon SEGs. Anvik was the 2nd highest, and E.F. Andrafsky was the 5th highest since surveys began in 1961.
- Both Chena and Salcha Rivers exceeded their BEGs (almost twice the goal for Chena and more than twice the goal for Salcha). Preliminary indications that percentage of females was over 60% for both tributaries.
- Canada escapement goal was met (goal 28,000, preliminary escapement is ~40,000). Aerial survey estimates were conservative as they were not flown at peak spawning as helicopters were unavailability due to fires.

- Age and sex composition is unavailable from spawning grounds from Canada.

Summer Chum Salmon

- Anvik River escapement of ~366,000 was within the BEG (350,000-700,000).
- Pilot Station was within the .8 to 1.6 million fish OEG (~1,330,000).
- E.F. Andreafsky escapement estimate of ~62,500 was slightly below the low end of the BEG of 70,000-135,000 fish.

PROJECTS:

Radio Telemetry

- Provided useful information to managers during 2004 season related to chinook salmon movements through the basin, and relative stock abundance and timing.
- 995 chinook salmon were radio tagged, and 983 (98%) traveled upriver past tracking stations
- 77 fish were tagged with radio-archival tags that recorded depth and temperature data, and 51 (66%) have been recovered as of 9/10. The data will be useful in addressing concerns over warm water temperatures in the basin, and possible impacts on salmon returns.
- 121 (12%) fish were tracked to tributaries in the lower and middle basin.
- 314 (32%) fish were tracked to the Tanana River.
- 420 (42%) fish were tracked to the upper Yukon River, including 308 (31%) that traveled to Canadian reaches.
- The upper Yukon-Tanana ratio (1.3:1) was substantially less than in previous years of tagging, suggesting a stronger Tanana River component during 2004.
- Remaining fish were most likely harvested in fisheries, although smoke from forest fires hampered survey work in some areas. Post season surveys are planned to address information gaps.
- Tagged 200 summer chum salmon between June 1 and July 14, which provided preliminary information on movements and distribution.

Sonar

- New DIDSON (Dual Frequency Identification Sonar) tested in AYK for possible uses.
- Investigated new border sonar location

and found location near Calico Bluff (just below).

- Spent two weeks at Eagle during which the Department deployed sonar to examine the effectiveness of sonar in this area.
- Calico Bluff appears to be a good site during periods of low water with Shade Creek holding more potential during the spring high water typically associated with the chinook salmon run.
- Might also be used for assessment of other projects (i.e. fish wheel salmon behavior).
- Will investigate the potential of using sonar to assess the lamprey run on the Yukon River this November.

Ichthyophonus

- Expanded study this year using multiple sampling techniques to attempt to determine best method for detection of the disease.
- Continued testing at Emmonak.
- Sample collection efforts expanded in the Chena and Salcha Rivers, and at the mouth of the Tanana River.
- 110 Radio tags were deployed from the test fishing wheel located on the south bank Yukon River below the confluence of the Tanana River.
- Approximately 3,000 samples collected from all sites combined.
- Analysis ongoing with results expected sometime early in the winter of 2005.

YUKON RIVER 2004 FALL SEASON SUMMARY

BY FRED BUE, ADF&G FALL SEASON MANAGER

Run Assessment

- The YR fall salmon season is on going at the time of this report.
- The in-season projection for fall chum salmon is for a run size of approximately 630,000 fish which is above the recent 5-year average of 443,000 and below the historical 1974-2003 average of 821,000 fish.
- Management of the 2004 f. chum salmon run is expected to attain an escapement well within the drainage-wide escapement goal range and most tributary escapement goals are expected to be attained or exceeded.
- Pilot Station sonar cumulative total estimate through August 31 was 200,000 coho salmon, roughly 50% above average for the project, with an average run timing.

Harvest and Management:

- The fall chum run began slowly and all districts started out on the windowed subsistence fishing schedule.
- The run had slightly late timing so it wasn't until after the midpoint when the subsistence salmon fishing began relaxing beyond the 2001 windows fishing schedule
- The first opening of the fall commercial salmon fishing season was on August 30 in YR District 1.
- The unexpectedly late large pulse of fall chum salmon triggered unusual changes of both subsistence and commercial regulations.
- The amount of time required to have closed subsistence fishing prior to the start of the commercial season in District Y-1 was reduced from 24 hours down to 12 hours and the requirement to close subsistence fishing 12 hours before, during and 12 hours after each commercial period was reduced to 6 hours before, during, and 6 hours after each period.
- The commercial season was extended because there was continued market interest for both fall chum and coho salmon in District Y-1 even though harvests were low.
- An extended commercial salmon fishing season was opened in Subdistricts 5-A, 6-A, 6-B, and 6-C on September 23.
- The commercial salmon fishing periods were scheduled concurrent with the subsistence and personal use scheduled periods.
- Length of the season will be dependant on interest and freezing conditions.
- Commercial harvests of both fall chum and coho salmon are incomplete at this time and will likely be relatively low. ☹

WHAT DO YOU THINK? SUBSISTENCE FISHERY REGULATION PROPOSALS 2005

It is time again for the Federal Subsistence Board to consider proposals for changes to subsistence fishery regulations. This year there are four (4) proposals for the Yukon-Northern Area.

The Federal Subsistence Board will meet in January to consider these proposed changes after hearing recommendations from advisory councils and organizations – like YRDFA. If accepted, new regulations would be in place for the 2005 fishing season.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Please take a few minutes to read the following four (4) proposals and become aware of current issues that could affect you. The existing regulation is in italics and the proposed additions/changes are in bold italics.

If you would like further information regarding these proposals contact: YRDFA, 725 Christensen Dr., Ste 3-B, Anchorage, AK 99501; Toll-free: 1-877-999-8566; Email: yrdfa@alaska.com

Proposal FP05-01: Yukon-Northern Area – Salmon

§____.27(i)(3) No regulations related to Federal Subsistence Use Amounts.

(A) Federal Subsistence Use Amounts for the Yukon River:

- (1) Chinook salmon: 45,000-66,704;**
- (2) Summer chum salmon: 83,500-142,192;**
- (3) Fall chum salmon: 89,500-167,900;**
- (4) Coho salmon: 20,500-51,980.**

What the proposal means: This proposal would specify in federal regulation the subsistence harvest ranges of YR salmon species, which are currently used as indicators by state fishery managers to evaluate the portion of harvest taken by subsistence fishers.

Proposed by: Gerald Nicholia, Tanana

PROPOSAL WITHDRAWN BY PROPONENT

Proposal FP05-02: Yukon-Northern Area – Salmon

§____.27(i)(3)(ii) *For the Yukon River drainage, Federal subsistence fishing schedules, openings, closings, and fishing methods are the same as those issued for the subsistence taking of fish under Alaska Statutes (AS 16.05.060), unless superseded by a Federal Special Action.*

(A) When inseason indicators of run timing and run strength provide sufficient assurances that upriver subsistence and salmon population viability needs will be met, subsistence salmon fishing schedules shall be lifted or relaxed on the waters of the Yukon River drainage to the fullest extent consistent with the continuation of upriver subsistence uses, and with the need to protect the continued viability of salmon populations. This decision on whether to lift or relax the subsistence salmon fishing schedules shall be made independently of whether these inseason indicators further indicate sufficient abundance to allow for a state-authorized commercial king salmon fishery.

(B) When the State of Alaska opens a commercial king salmon fishery on the Yukon River, and when federal subsistence managers do not find it necessary to close this fishery in order to protect healthy salmon populations or to provide for continued subsistence uses, the subsistence salmon fishing schedules shall be immediately lifted, subject only to closures before, during and after commercial openings as provided for by state regulation. This lifting of the subsistence salmon fishing schedules shall remain in effect until such time as management of the fishery shifts to fall chum management, or until such time as new inseason run timing or run strength data that was not available at the time of the commercial king salmon opening indicates that the reinstatement of the subsistence salmon fishing schedules is necessary in order to protect the continued viability of salmon populations, or to continue subsistence uses.

What the proposal means: This proposal would change the manner in which federal subsistence managers apply the subsistence fishing schedules on the Yukon. It provides instructions to management about the conditions that would trigger a relaxation in the "windowed" subsistence fishing schedule when sufficient surpluses of salmon are identified.

Proposed by: Association of Village Council Presidents, Yupiit of Andreafsky, Asa'carsarmiut Tribe of Alaska (Mountain Village), Chevak Traditional Council, Native Village of Chuloonawick, Kotlik Traditional Council, Nunam Iqua Traditional Council, and Ohogamiut Traditional Council.

NEW YRDFA STAFF MEMBER

MARJORIE NELSON

I started working for Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association on July 19, 2004 as the Finance Manager. I was hired on a part-time basis to work with the Executive Director, Program Director and Office Manager to implement administrative and financial aspects of YRDFA programs.

I was born and raised in Dillingham, Alaska - a small fishing town in Bristol Bay on the Nushagak River, also referred to the fishing capital of the world. Before moving to Anchorage to pursue a degree in Accounting, I worked for the Bristol Bay Native Association as an Accountant. After receiving my degree I began working for the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council as the Finance Manager, and still work there part-time.

I enjoy working with the staff at YRDFA, and look forward to meeting and working with everyone involved in the Yukon fishing processes especially the board of directors and all off-site employees. Being raised in a fishing village and to a fishing family, I hold fishing near and dear to my heart and soul and most of all to my well being, as I do go back home to partake in the family subsistence fishing activities during the fishing season. Being from a fishing community, I can identify with the projects and accomplishments that YRDFA is, and has been, involved with and fully support their goals and objectives.

Marjorie Nelson, Finance Manager
Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Assoc.
Phone: (907) 272-3141, Ext 104
Email: marjorie-yrdfa@alaska.com 🐟

YRDFA STAFF UPDATE

Catherine Moncrieff has temporarily relocated to Minneapolis, Minnesota to be with her husband and son while her husband is attending graduate school. She continues to work for YRDFA and is focusing on the customary trade project. She can be reached via email at catherine-yrdfa@alaska.com or by phone (952) 938-3879. 🐟

Proposal FP05-03: Yukon-Northern Area – Salmon

§ __.27(i)(3)(xiii) *You may take salmon only by gillnet, beach seine, fish wheel, or rod and reel, subject to the restrictions set forth in this section. In the Yukon River drainage all gillnets with greater than six-inch mesh, may not be more than 35 meshes in depth. This applies to both subsistence and commercial fishing gillnets.*

What the proposal means: The proposal seeks to limit commercial and subsistence gillnet depth though out the drainage to not more than 35 meshes, when mesh size is larger than six inches. It is believed that deeper nets are having a detrimental affect on the stock composition and quality of escapements for YR chinook salmon and tend to target the larger female chinook salmon.

Proposed by: Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council

Proposal FP05-04: Yukon-Northern Area – Salmon

§ __.27(i)(3)(xv) *In Districts 4, 5, and 6, you may not take salmon for subsistence purposes by drift gillnets, except as follows:*

(A) *In Subdistrict 4 A upstream from the mouth of Stink Creek, you may take king salmon by drift gillnets less than 150 feet in length from June 10 through July 14, and chum salmon by drift gillnets after August 2;*

(B) *In Subdistrict 4-A downstream from the mouth of Stink Creek, you may take king salmon by drift gillnets less than 150 feet in length from June 10 through July 14.*

(C) *In the Yukon River main stem, Districts 4B, 4C, and 5, you may use drift gillnet for subsistence harvest of salmon with nets 150 feet long, 35 mesh deep. Fishing with drift gillnet is limited to two (36) hour periods at the end of the windowed openings and fishing periods stated in regulation for Districts 4B, 4C, and 5.*

What the proposal means: This proposal would bring equity of harvest means drainage wide as subsistence fishers have not been attaining their subsistence salmon harvest needs in Districts 4 & 5.

Proposed by: Western Interior Regional Advisory Council

Proposal FP05-05: Yukon-Northern Area – Chum Salmon

§ __.27(i)(3) *No current provisions.*

§ __.27(i)(3)(xxii) ***Within Yukon River sub-district 5D within the Federal waters a September 15 – 20 fall chum subsistence opening for Federally qualified subsistence users only.***

What the proposal means: This proposal would ensure subsistence fishing opportunity and priority for fall chum salmon in the upper portions of the YR drainage.

Proposed by: Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council 🐟

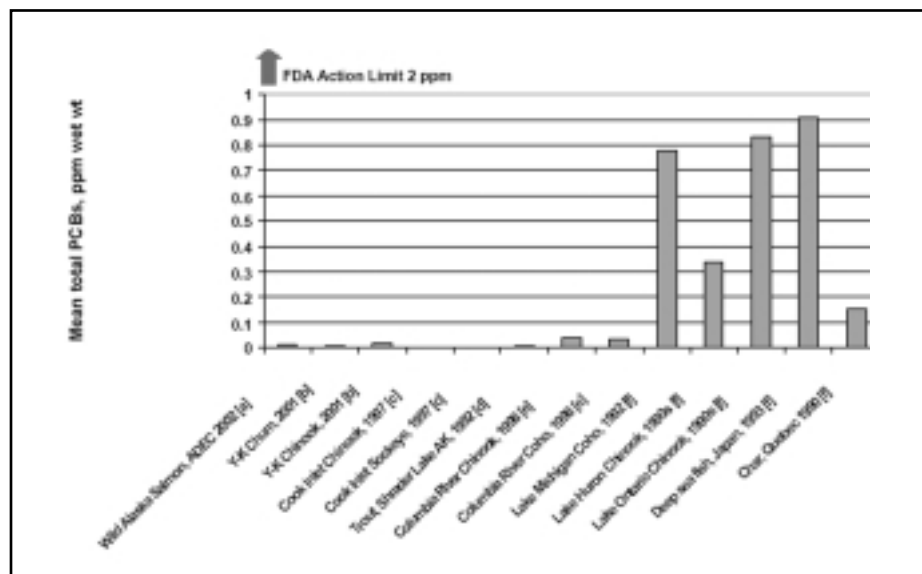


Figure 1. Comparison of PCB Levels in Fish from Alaska vs. Other Parts of the World

Mean total PCBs, ppm wet wt

[a] Three salmon species combined, this study

[b] USFWS, unpublished data

[c] EPA Cook Inlet Study 1998

[d] Wilson et al., 1995

[e] EPA Columbia River Study, 2002

[f] ATSDR, 2000

Small differences in mean chemical concentrations in a particular fish species among Alaska studies (i.e. studies a, b, c and d listed above) may be due in part to differences in analytic methodology or other technical aspects of the studies. Due to their chemical properties, organochlorine concentrations in fish are influenced by many factors such as age, season, condition, and amount of fat stores. Any slight differences in chemical concentrations in a fish species among Alaska studies are probably due to both differences analytical methods and differences in biological factors, and are not indicative of localized sources of contamination.

Figure 1 is part of the *Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation: Fish Monitoring Program: Analysis of Organic Contaminants* report which can be viewed in its entirety by visiting <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/eh/vet/FMP2.htm>

Public Health Interpretation

The Alaska Division of Public Health, Section of Epidemiology has reviewed the contaminant data from this fish biomonitoring project. The overall conclusion is that contaminant concentrations in fish from Alaska waters are low, and are not of public health concern. We continue to recommend the unrestricted consumption of fish from Alaska waters. 🐟

YRDFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION RESULTS

The YRDFA Board of Directors solicited for nominations to fill board member and alternate seats. YRDFA members voted. And here are the results!

BOARD MEMBER SEATS

Y-1	Larry Lujan, Emmonak/Anchorage Frank Alstrom, Alakanuk
Y-2	Art Heckman, Pilot Station Bill Alstrom, St Mary's
Y-4	Richard Burnham, Kaltag
Y-5	Henry Wiehl, Rampart
Y-6	Victor Lord, Nenana
Koyukuk	Stanley Ned, Allakaket/Fairbanks

ALTERNATE SEATS

Coastal	Ole Hunter, Scammon Bay Felix Walker, Scammon Bay
Y-1	John Lamont, Mtn. Village Andrew Kelly Sr., Emmonak
Y-2	Pete Peterson, Mt. Village Jeff Sanders, Bethel
Y-3	Mike Peters, Marshall
Y-4	Carl Walker, Grayling Franklin Madros Sr., Kaltag
Y-5	Stan Zuray, Tanana
Y-6	Steve O'Brien, Manley To Be Determined
Koyukuk	Bill Derendoff, Huslia
Yukon Flats	Paul Herbert, Ft. Yukon

This year's newly elected members join the following **BOARD MEMBERS ALREADY IN TERM:**

Coastal	Lester Wilde, Hooper Bay
Y-1	Ragnar Alstrom, Alakanuk
Y-2	Gabe Evan, St. Mary's
Y-3	Angela Demientieff, Holy Cross
Y-4	Gilbert Huntington, Galena
Y-5	Bill Fliris, Tanana
Y-6	Philip Titus, Minto
Yukon Flats	Don Woodruff 🐟

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FISHERS AND MANAGERS ALONG THE YUKON RIVER