

YUKON FISHERIES NEWS

A Publication of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

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**YUKON RIVER
DRAINAGE
FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**

*A United Voice for
Downriver and Upriver
Fishermen.*



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YUKON RIVER PANEL MEETS IN ANCHORAGE

Escapement Targets for 2005 Set and R&E Fund Projects Approved

BY DARCY KING
EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH
COORDINATOR, YRDFA

Escapement Goals

At its spring meeting in Anchorage from March 8-10, the Yukon River Panel set escapement targets for the 2005 fishing season of Canadian-origin Yukon River chinook and fall chum salmon. It is not the intent of the Yukon River Panel to set temporary escapement targets year after year after year, as escapement goals were established during the negotiations for the Yukon River Salmon Agreement (YRSA). However, those escapement goals can not be fully implemented until salmon populations have been rebuilt. Therefore, as a means to rebuild salmon populations, the Yukon River Panel recommends a 1-, 2- or 3-cycle rebuilding plan and temporary escapement targets to be utilized by both the U.S. and Canada. The use of a rebuilding program allows for subsistence and First Nation fishing opportunities in years of relatively low runs. The intent of such rebuilding programs is to rebuild salmon stocks without causing undue hardship to the people who depend upon the salmon resource, without depleting the resource itself.

Canadian-Origin Salmon	Escapement Target: 2005	Escapement Goal: YRSA
YR mainstem chinook salmon	28,000	33,000-43,000
YR mainstem fall chum salmon	65,000	80,000
Fishing Branch fall chum salmon	24,000	50,000-120,000

Mainstem Chinook:

Consistent with a two-cycle rebuilding plan, the escapement target for Upper Yukon

River Chinook salmon in 2005 is a minimum of 28,000 fish. If the run size is better than expected, i.e. 107,000 total run, the parties will endeavor to put more fish on the spawning grounds, recognizing the goal for rebuilt Upper Yukon River Chinook salmon is 33,000 to 43,000 fish.

Upper Yukon Fall Chum:

Consistent with a two-cycle rebuilding plan, the escapement target for Upper Yukon River Fall Chum in 2005 is a minimum of 65,000 fish. If the run size is better than expected, i.e. 126,000 total run, the parties will endeavor to put more fish on the spawning grounds recognizing the goal for rebuilt Upper Yukon Fall Chum Salmon is greater than 80,000 fish.

Fishing Branch River Fall Chum:

Recognizing the expected run size in 2005 would require extreme conservation actions to be taken by the parties even to accomplish a three cycle rebuild, the Panel recommends a target stabilization of at least 24,000 chum salmon in 2005. If the run size is better than expected, i.e. 38,000 total run, the parties will endeavor to put more fish on the spawning grounds. The number required to meet a three-cycle rebuilding target, 27,000 fish.

Restoration & Enhancement Fund (R&E) Projects

The appropriation granted to the R&E Fund, \$U.S. 1.2 million, is provided annually by the U.S. Congress. The Yukon River Salmon Agreement specifies the R&E Fund

"YUKON RIVER PANEL..." CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

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EMPLOYEE DIRECTORY

JILL KLEIN, Executive Director
Phone: 907-272-3141, ext. 102
Email: yrdfa@alaska.com

JOE SULLIVAN, Program Director
Phone: 907-272-3141, ext. 105
Email: joe-yrdfa@alaska.com

IVA AIGNER, Office Administrator
Phone: 907-272-3141, ext. 101
Email: eva-yrdfa@alaska.com

JEN WILLETTE, Business Manager
Phone: 907-272-3141, ext. 104
Email: jen-yrdfa@gci.net

CATHERINE MONCRIEFF, TEK Project Manager
Phone: 952-938-3879
Toll-Free 1-877-933-1340
Email: catherine-yrdfa@alaska.com

DARCY KING, Education Outreach Coordinator
Phone: 907-272-3141, ext. 103
Email: darcy-yrdfa@alaska.com

MIKE MCDUGALL, Fisheries Biologist
Phone: 907-479-3658/378-3699
Email: yrdfa@mosquitonet.com

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The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
725 Christensen Drive, Suite 3-B
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Phone: (907) 272-3141 / Fax: (907) 272-3142
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*** sponsored by Kotlik Yupik Corp.

**** sponsored by Pilot Station Inc.

R&M PROJECTS FOR 2005

SUBMITTED BY SUSAN MCNEIL, ADFG

The Research and Management Fund (R&M) is a portion of treaty implementation monies, up to \$US 600,000, allocated by the U.S. Congress to support the Yukon River Salmon Act of 2000 (U.S.) and is spent on projects recommended by U.S. delegation of the Yukon River Panel.

This monetary support is intended for Yukon River salmon research and management projects designed to assess salmon runs to determine the available surplus above escapement, subsistence needs, border passage obligations to Canada, and to allow for harvest of those surpluses. The

U.S. delegation of the Yukon River Panel requests conceptual proposals for these projects, reviews them for appropriateness and requests more detailed proposals for those projects that address treaty objectives. These detailed proposals are reviewed by U.S. delegates of the Yukon River Panel to determine which projects are needed to meet research and management goals and if their proposed budget reflects proposed work. Final projects are recommended to fund managers at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Previous projects funded through R&M have includ-

ed test fisheries, video monitoring and escapement enumeration. Innovative projects that aid salmon fisheries management in the Yukon River are encouraged. ☺

Yukon River Salmon Act of 2000. SEC. 208. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. 16 USC 5727. Paragraph #4. "\$600,000 shall be available each fiscal year for cooperative salmon research and management projects in the portion of the Yukon River drainage located in the United States that are recommended by the Panel."

2005 PROJECT	PROJECT TITLE	\$US REQUEST
USRM-02-05	Error checking of the Yukon River Salmon Age, Sex, and Length (ASL) Data.	\$22,700
USRM-03-05	Genetic Stock Identification of the Yukon Chinook Salmon Harvests on the Yukon River during 2004.	\$56,750
USRM-04-05	Length Weight and Fecundity of Yukon River Chinook Salmon	\$56,750
USRM-05-05	Continuing investigations into Ichthyophonus Infections in Yukon River Chinook Salmon	\$104,420
USRM-07-05	Salcha River Chinook and Chum Salmon Counting Tower	\$62,425
USRM-08-05	Yukon River Chinook Salmon Baseline Standardization and USFWS Lab Certification	\$25,000
USRM-09-05	Mountain Village Fall Season Gillnet Test Fishery	\$18,614
USRM-13-05	Yukon River Sub-district 5A Test Fish Wheel	\$37,455
TOTAL	8 project proposals approved	\$384,114

NEW STAFF MEMBER

JEN WILLETTE – BUSINESS MANAGER



Jen grew up in the small town of Houlton, Maine – the northern end of Interstate 95 – two miles from the Canadian border. Home was a 100 year-old farmhouse backed up against hundreds of acres of overgrown potato fields. She and her 4 sisters spent most of their time exploring those fields. She went to Bowdoin College and earned a degree in Archaeology while spending her summers on Mt. Desert Island – Acadia National Park – which is thought by many to be the most beautiful place on earth. After graduation, she decided that she didn't want to get a job right away. So, she did the logical thing and went on a cross-

country road trip. She and a friend packed the car with a tent, two sleeping bags, and a cooler of food and took two months to drive from Houlton to Joshua Tree National Park in California and back, making frequent stops and side-trips along the way. Back in Maine, she fell for a guy who had decided to live in Alaska. So, she got back in the car (now loaded down with everything she owned – mostly books) and drove to Anchorage with him. That was almost 10 years ago, and while the boyfriend didn't work out, she still calls Alaska home – as well as the most beautiful state in the union.

Her first jobs in Alaska were admin and marketing assistant jobs. At her second job, her boss asked her to set up their new

accounting program, and she realized that this was what she had been waiting for. She took some time off from the job-market when her daughter, Mallory, was born, but since then, she has worked exclusively in the non-profit field doing finance and business management. She was with Trustees for Alaska for 3 years, and Pacific Northern Academy for almost 4. She is happy to be bringing this experience to YRDLA.

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
725 Christensen Dr., Suite 3-B
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: (907) 272-3141, Ext 104
Email: jen-yrdfa@gci.net ☺

MIDDLE YUKON RIVER DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY EXPANDED

Article first appeared in *From Land and Water: The Federal Subsistence Management Program Newsletter*, Spring 2005

The Federal Subsistence Board has adopted a new regulation which expands the subsistence drift gillnet Chinook salmon fishery area in the middle Yukon River. Proponents of this change say it will help rural residents meet their subsistence needs in a more efficient manner.

Under the new regulation, federal subsistence users may use drift gillnets for the subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon in federal public waters in Yukon River Sub-districts 4B and 4C. These federal public waters are within the Innoko and Nowitna National Wildlife Refuges. State waters between Galena and Ruby are closed to the use of drift gillnets.

Under the new regulation, drift gillnets for Chinook salmon will be limited to no more than 150 feet in length and 35 meshes in depth. Fishing with drift gillnets will be allowed only during the last 18-hours of the weekly regulatory fishing period for Sub-district 4B and 4C from June 10 through July 14.

Those wishing to participate in this fishery must hold a federal permit. Permits will be available from refuge offices in Galena and Huslia and efforts are being made to distribute permits in additional villages prior to the start of the fishing season. ☺

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

In-Season Management Teleconferences

S U M M E R 2 0 0 5

*Track the salmon runs and keep yourself
informed & updated on
in-season management issues.*

**MAY 31 – SEPTEMBER
EVERY TUESDAY
AT 1:00 PM (ALASKA TIME)**



1-800-861-4084, CODE 9966815#

ADFG SUBSISTENCE FISHING SCHEDULE FOR SUMMER 2005

The intent of the subsistence salmon fishing schedule is to reduce harvest impacts on any particular component of the run and to spread subsistence harvest opportunity among users during years of low salmon runs. The schedule is based on current or past fishing schedules and should provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence users to meet their needs during years of average to below average runs. The goal of the schedule is to provide windows of time during which salmon fishing is closed. ☺

AREA	REGULATORY SUBSISTENCE FISHING PERIODS	SCHEDULE TO BEGIN	DAYS OF THE WEEK
Coastal District	7 days/week	By Regulation	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU – 24 hours
District 1	Two 36-hour periods/week	May 30, 2005	Mon. 8 pm to Wed. 8 am /Thu. 8 pm to Sat. 8 am
District 2	Two 36-hour periods/week	June 1, 2005	Wed. 8 pm to Fri. 8 am / Sun. 8 pm to Tue. 8 am
District 3	Two 36-hour periods/week	June 3, 2005	Fri. 8 am to Sat. 8 pm / Tue. 8 am to Wed. 8 pm
District 4	Two 48-hour periods/week	June 12, 2005	Sun. 6 pm to Tue. 6 pm / Wed. 6 pm to Fri. 6 pm
Koyukuk River	7 days/week	By Regulation	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU – 24 hours
Subdistricts 5-A, B, C	Two 48-hour periods/week	June 21, 2005	Tue. 6 pm to Thu. 6 pm /Fri. 6 pm to Sun. 6 pm
Subdistrict 5-D	7 days/week	By Regulation	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU – 24 hours
District 6	Two 42-hour periods/week	By Regulation	Mon. 6 pm to Wed. Noon /Fri. 6 pm to Sun. Noon
Old Minto Area	5 days/week	By Regulation	Friday 6 pm to Wednesday 6 pm
PLEASE NOTE: THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON RUN STRENGTH			

IN YOUR OWN WORDS...

TANANA TRIBAL COUNCIL
P.O. Box 130, Tanana, AK 99777
Phone: (907) 366-7170, Fax: (907) 366-7195
Email: gnicholia@yahoo.com

April 11, 2005

YRDFA
Yukon River Fishers

Re: Y-4 drift-net fishery

Dear Fishers,

I am concerned that the Federal Subsistence Board has over stepped its management boundary by allowing the drift-net fishery in District Y-4. When there are salmon stocks of concern one needs to approach management of the Yukon salmon conservatively, not brashly. Allowing a new method in the fishery, which has great potential to have adverse impacts to a recovering salmon stock, is acting brashly. It is not known how many fish will be taken or which stocks will be impacted by this new fishery. There is also no mention of addressing the allocation of fish for the new fishery as it will affect overall allocation for all Yukon River fishing districts.

I have been involved with Yukon River fishing issues for a long time and know when something should not be allowed when certain situations exist, and when something should be allowed. There was a request for remote families, which are federally-qualified subsistence users, to be allowed to have a 5-day fall chum fishery regardless of management concerns [this request refers to a proposal submitted by the Eastern Interior R.A.C. to the Federal Subsistence Board]. This request was not approved. Only 5 to 11 families would have benefited from being allowed to fish for 5 days in the Yukon Flats. One big stipulation to this request would have been that the remote family has no other means of income, alternative resource or public/general assistance that would help them make it through the winter. Another requirement would have been that the family has a subsistence-based economy and a need for the 5-day mandatory fishery.

To allow a new method of fishing [Y-4 drift-net fishery] in an existing Yukon River fishing district with old methods of taking fish would increase the overall take of fish for that district; thereby inadvertently increasing the allocation of fish for the fisher-people in that Yukon River District. This new method of fishing was allowed to help alleviate the overcrowding in a congested area. My question: is making it easier to fish to meet one's subsistence needs justifiable when another's need are not being met? especially when the other is not allowed to fish with any method for a 5-day period, regardless of management, in the fall time when the Yukon River ice is on the way?

After years of dealing with the USFWS (OSM), I find them moving away from providing an opportunity to meet a subsistence need in contrast to making it easier to harvest the fish with unknown outcomes or impacts. I always had a bum feeling with the involvement of the Federal government with co-management of fish in the Yukon River. What was once a promising avenue of protection for subsistence fishing in Alaska turned out to be micro-management of a fishing activity that makes it easier to meet one's needs and not allow a much-needed fishery to meet the subsistence needs of a few others (who need the assurance they are going to make it through the winter).

I have a big heart burn with the new federally-allowed drift-net fishery in the Yukon River. It will inadvertently affect the other fishing districts by reallocating the fish for the whole Yukon, just to make it easier. It's hard throughout the Yukon River to meet one's need with one method. Making it easier to fish a new method with existing methods is like wanting something, not needing something.

Respectively,

Gerald Nicholia
Realty/Subsistence

YRDFA reserves the right to include or omit any submissions to the Yukon Fisheries News. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and may not necessarily reflect the views of YRDFA.

YRDFA MEETS IN THE LOWER YUKON RIVER VILLAGE OF MARSHALL

BY DARCY KING, EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH COORDINATOR
YRDFA

From March 21-24, 2005, YRDFA held its 15th Annual Meeting in the village of Marshall, on the east bank of the Yukon River in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. With a population of just under 400 people, Marshall graciously accepted and accommodated visitors from throughout the Yukon River drainage. Approximately 70 participants attended the meeting and all fishing districts were represented by 22 communities ranging from the coast to the upper Yukon River - including the Yukon Flats region, Tanana and Koyukuk River drainages and the Yukon Territory in Canada.

During the meeting ADFG presented on the 2005 summer season fishery outlook and fall season projection, and gave an *Ichthyophonus* update. Members from the Yukon River Panel and the Yukon Salmon Committee - the Canadian voice in Yukon River salmon management - talked to participants about their involvement in fisheries management. Commercial fishery issues (particularly of the lower river) and drainage-wide subsistence fishery issues were addressed during open discussion panels and public requests were taken from the audience. Marine research and by-catch within the Bering Sea were also topics of discussion. YRDFA Project Proposals were reviewed and approved (see YRDFA Projects

List article, pages 14 & 15) and the YRDFA Board of Directors resolved to take action on four items by agreeing to:

- 1) Oppose the practice of the distribution or sale of genetic material from wild Yukon River Chinook salmon for fish farming,
- 2) Support Interior Alaska Fish Processors' (IFAP) efforts to continue to lease the State of Alaska, Division of Agriculture owned building located at 2400 Davis Road in Fairbanks,
- 3) Oppose the current federal interpretation of customary trade which excludes the sale of traditional fish products, and to
- 4) Gratefully thank the various organizations and people of Marshall for their generosity and hospitality for hosting YRDFA's 15th Annual Meeting.

The annual solicitation for nominations for YRDFA Board and Alternate members also commenced and Ruby, within Fishing District Y-4, was nominated for next year's 16th annual meeting location, with Nulato as the alternate site. Meeting locations for YRDFA's annual meetings rotate annually between upriver and downriver communities.

Funding for the annual meeting courtesy of treaty implementation funds, for the Yukon River Salmon Agreement, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 🐟



YRDFA 15th Annual Meeting participants were graciously welcomed to Marshall and enjoyed Eskimo dancing performed by the Tuchuck Native Dance Group.

COMMUNITIES REPRESENTED AT THIS YEAR'S MEETING

Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Alakanuk, Emmonak, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall, Holy Cross, Grayling, Kaltag, Huslia, Allakaket, Galena, Ruby, Manley, Minto, Nenana, Tanana, Rampart, Ft. Yukon, Eagle, Whitehorse.

Other organizations and agencies represented include, AVCP, CATG, YRITWC, ADFG, USFWS, and National Marine Fisheries Service, Marine Advisory Program, Office of the Governor, USDA Rural Development, University of Washington, Yukon Salmon Committee, Yukon River Panel, Boreal Fisheries, Maseculiq Fish Processors, and Kaltag Fishermen's Association.

Also present were members from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region and Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Councils, as well as members from the Koyukuk, Tanana-Rampart-Manley, Minto-Nenana, Ruby and Eagle Advisory Committees.



The Marshall School, home of the Mustangs, was temporary home to YRDFA's 15th Annual Meeting as the gymnasium served as a meeting hall for 3 days in March.



Some meeting participants took a break and watched a local fisherman pull burbot, also called lush, (and other fish) from his fish trap.

RESOLUTION: 2005-01

*Practice of the distribution or sale of genetic material
from wild Yukon River Chinook salmon for fish farming*

WHEREAS the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) is committed to promoting healthy, wild salmon fisheries on the Yukon River; and

WHEREAS YRDFA represents subsistence, commercial and sport fisheries from over 40 communities within the U.S. Yukon River drainage; and

WHEREAS YRDFA supports the Yukon River Salmon Agreement, the international treaty between the U.S. and Canada which was put in place to preserve the integrity of wild Canadian-origin Yukon River salmon stocks; and

WHEREAS the distribution or sale of genetic material from wild Yukon River Chinook salmon has the potential to affect markets for all Yukon River Chinook salmon; and

WHEREAS the use of genetic material for fish farming conflicts with sustaining economically viable wild salmon commercial fisheries along the Yukon River by creating a directly competitive product; and

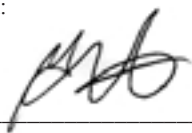
WHEREAS little is known of the possible genetic problems that may result from accidental release of farmed salmon, which is a common occurrence from net pens, the preferred culture method in British Columbia where this stock is currently being reared;

BE IT RESOLVED that YRDFA does not support the practice of distribution or sale of genetic material from wild Yukon River Chinook salmon for fish farming in British Columbia, Canada in particular or in any other places in general.

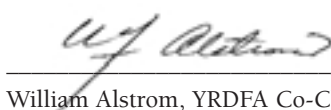
COPIES of this resolution will be sent to the Yukon Salmon Committee; Yukon River Panel; Alaska Department of Fish and Game; Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada; and Creative Salmon Company Ltd.

APPROVED unanimously this 24th day of March 2005 by the Board members and Delegates of YRDFA assembled at their Fifteenth Annual Meeting held in Marshall, Alaska.

Attest:



Gilbert Huntington, YRDFA Co-Chair



William Alstrom, YRDFA Co-Chair

A Special Thanks

...to the village of Marshall for their generous hospitality. A community potlatch followed by an evening of dancing to the Marshall Fiddle Band was a great opportunity for meeting participants to get to know the people of Marshall and build new relationships and, for some, to rekindle old ones. Thanks also to Maserculiq Fish Processors for donating salmon for all to eat at the potlatch. YRDFA also wishes to thank Frontier Flying Service for getting meeting participants and cargo safely to and from Marshall. The success of a meeting of this capacity is not possible without the support of the community.

Thank you!

YRDFA held a raffle, with proceeds to benefit YRDFA's membership. Thanks to everyone, including meeting participants and Marshall Community members, who bought tickets. The raffle generated **\$1,000!** YRDFA would like to thank the following companies for donating raffle items:

ALASKA BEAD COMPANY

ARTIQUE LTD

DAYS INN
DOWNTOWN ANCHORAGE

HILTON HOTEL
DOWNTOWN ANCHORAGE

REED'S SNOW MACHINE & MARINE

SAM'S CLUB

SPENARD BUILDERS SUPPLY

HAGELAND AVIATION SERVICES

MARSHALL ELDERS SPEAK, PARTICIPANTS LISTEN

Meeting participants were honored by the presence of Marshall Elders, who joined the group for dinner, and then spoke of their experiences and knowledge related to fishing. Andrew Kelly, Sr. of Emmonak translated for some of the Elders as they spoke in their native Yup'ik language. The following is a summary of their words as recorded by Catherine Moncrieff, YRDLA's Traditional Ecological Knowledge Program Manager.

Nick Andrew, Sr.

I live in Marshall. I am 71 years old. When I was growing up, the elders were our teachers. They talked to us and taught us how to survive, subsistence and how to behave. We talked in the morning and in the evening.

The Yukon River used to be high water. The elders wanted high water. I didn't understand why. I asked why. They said when we have high water lots of salmon come up. It clears the way and we have clear water.

We haven't had high water for a long time. Our water is contaminated now from outboard motors. We need to write to the outboard motor factory and ask them to pull the mufflers out of the water. When I was a kid, the muffler was above the water.

The old people were born and raised by the river. They watch the weather and the stars. They know when the weather will be good, bad and for how long.

Our elders were our teachers. They talked to us and taught us how to survive, subsistence and how to behave. The elders wanted high water...lots of salmon come up. It clears the way and we have clear water.

—NICK ANDREW, SR.

Fedusia Shorty

I am 75 years old. Growing up our mothers, aunties, grandfathers, before the fish would arrive, would welcome the fish and treat them with respect. The fish would take their time. None were wasted. All fishing was done with a set net.

I came from a big family. Our family moved to fish camp. When the fish finally came, they didn't come in a bunch, just one fish. That fish would be divided among everyone. Everyone would get a piece regardless of how small or big the fish was. When the fish finally came it was a very welcome sight. As the fish run increased we would cut them up and dry them, then smoke them. Anything created by nature was treated with respect. As the fish or game increases, which nature provides, they were all treated with respect. Nothing was wasted. As a young girl, I was taught how to treat them with respect and not waste anything.

The most necessary item in every family in this area was salmon. It was never put aside; it was taken care of as soon as it arrived. In those days people were like nomads, traveling to fish camp, spring camp, summer camp and winter camp. Today, I don't have the

answers. I don't know why people don't travel any more. People hardly leave the village. They just stay at home and wait for someone to bring them something from nature. Anything that nature provided was a welcome sight. The only items bought were flour to make bread, tea and coffee. In those days, I thought life was hard. I was told, "Never refuse any food that is put to you." No matter how old the fish is, you will have no choice but to eat it. They were very strict in treating the fish right. You were told never to leave the fish or let the flies get to it. We made smoke so the bugs wouldn't get to it. I wanted to share what I went through as I was growing up.

When the fish finally came, [it] would be divided among everyone. Everyone would get a piece regardless of how small or big the fish was. As a young girl, I was taught how to treat them with respect and not waste anything. The most necessary item in every family in this area was salmon. It was never put aside; it was taken care of as soon as it arrived.

—FEDUSIA SHORTY

Nastasia Andrew

I am 69 years old. What this lady next to me said is very true. We are all the same people. Our teachings, what we were taught, it is all the same. In those days our ancestors never went by the book. They didn't read to know what they are supposed to do, they already knew. They didn't wait for a certain date to go fishing. Our ancestors were very strict and they would say anything that nature provides is not to be fought over or make noise about. We are starting to have a taste of those days they told us about. It's starting to happen.

This is directed to the younger ladies. Learn to treat what nature provides with respect. Today things have changed. We have freezers to store food. Put the food away and take care of it. Things are not like they used to be. Fish runs are smaller. We must take time to respect what nature provides. We are told to take care of everything in the right way. We are being watched by someone superior. I am saying this in hope that young people listen and will remember what I say. We need to respect and love each other.

Our ancestors were very strict and they would say anything that nature provides is not to be fought over or make noise about. Learn to treat what nature provides with respect. Today things have changed. Put the food away and take care of it. Fish runs are smaller. We must take time to respect what nature provides.

—NASTASIA ANDREW

Lorraine Fitka

Mom and Dad took care of me until they died. They were born in St. Michael and moved here. They said we have to take care of ourselves. They told me to get married before they leave us. I had to lis-

ten to everything they tell me. My husband was in the army, discharged in 1955. After he died I had to take care of our 10 kids. One died. I had to do all the hard work. I had to get wood, pull the sled. I still do some heavy work. I get water, walk all the way to town. I had to take care of my kids, put out snares for ptarmigan and rabbits. Sometimes I had to cut fish, dry them up and get wood at the same time. When my boys grew up, they helped me. My oldest boy went to the Navy.

My mom and dad used to teach me, I learned how to work. At the same time I had to go out and get wood, take care of the dogs, get water from the river. My oldest sister took care of us. She taught me how to take care of kids. I had to get up early to get my kids to school. At first I didn't know what to do after my parents and husband died. I'm the only one living, all my aunties and uncles, they died. Now I'm not strong enough, I get so tired. When my parents were alive, we used to move out to spring camp before breakup.

Theresa Boots

I didn't speak English when I was growing up. I learned how to live. Unfortunately, my parents died after I got married so I learned how to survive from my husband. He taught me how to catch beaver and how to clean fish. The river water, I drank from it and washed the fish. When I was growing up I would go and listen to my grandparents. Once, I brought a friend and my friend got up and left while my grandparents were talking. They said, "Your friend is not going to live very long."

Anyone who is older than you, you have to listen to them. They will not tell you something wrong to do. Nobody can forget what they went through as they were growing up. I never bought things from the store- never even knew what they looked like. The past is never forgotten. Our parents didn't take us to the store. The fish was a welcome sight in the summer. It was treated with great respect. They buried it for winter use. They did not listen to radio or TV.

When I was growing up I would go and listen to my grandparents. Anyone who is older than you, you have to listen to them. They will not tell you something wrong to do... The river water, I drank from it and washed the fish. The fish was a welcome sight in the summer. It was treated with great respect.

—THERESA BOOTS

Anna Polty

I am 74 years old. I am not speaking English because I didn't grow up speaking English.

When we were growing up we would move to fish camp. On the others side there would be about 20 people camping. On our side there would be about ten. As the fish arrive, our parents and aunties would get ready for them. We would help out even though we were small and didn't feel like it. They told us never be lazy to work on the fish because one day we won't be with you. As we were working, sometimes the fish were too heavy to lift. Every part of the fish was utilized. The head was cut up and hung, even the stomach. Eggs

were put away for winter. Only the liver and the red stuff was cooked for the dogs or buried. Nothing was thrown into the river. We put fish in containers; the fish house was really cleaned out. Trash from the smokehouse was taken away from camp.

Nowadays I remember my grandfather talking about less fish days, pollution, and outboard motors and the decline of fish. Too many nets are allowed. Fish are left on the river banks or island. This is breaking the rule of never throwing fish into the river.

Nowadays I remember my grandfather talking about less fish days, pollution, and outboard motors and the decline of fish. Too many nets are allowed. Fish are left on the river banks or island. This is breaking the rule of never throwing fish into the river.

—ANNA POLTY

Paul Polty

I was born in Pilot Station, went to school for two years. I lost my mom at six, dad at 12 years old. I grew up as an orphan with my brother, used to be a hard time. We had to get wood, king salmon, enough to last a whole winter. Sometimes they short. We used to have to make nets out of twine. No nets in the store, we make our own. Cotton nets don't last long. Nylon nets—got them at Bristol Bay. Torn up but we mend them and use them on the Yukon. Before the cannery on the Yukon, we worked for the processor. We got 50 cents a king.

We made money by getting wood, and sold it to the store. A cord of wood was four foot high and four foot wide. A boat came by. He used to go to Emmonak to fish and to make money, the only way. We used to order food from Anchorage, it's cheaper. Some people blew their money in Bethel or Anchorage. That's what happens now.

Fish, not enough fish in the Yukon nowadays. It used to be colder. Ice used to get thick. Ice would come down the Yukon. They bombed the Yukon two times. Everyone is complaining about no more fish in the Yukon. That is nature's way.

Fish, not enough fish in the Yukon nowadays. Everyone is complaining about no more fish in the Yukon. That is nature's way.

—PAUL POLTY



Elder Anna Polty spoke to meeting participants before playing and dancing in performances by the Tuchuck Native Group.



Elder Paul Polty also played the Eskimo drum during performances by the local dance troop.

A NEW FACE IN THE PARTNERS PROGRAM

BY BETH SPANGLER, USFWS, OSM

The Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program welcomes Gretchen Sidorov, as the program enters its third summer. Gretchen Sidorov is working with the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG) and is a fisheries restoration specialist. She owned and operated a small aquatics company in Winthrop, Wash. that partnered with an academic nonprofit team from the University of Washington. Their work was focused on complementary watershed grant efforts for salmon habitat assessment, restoration, monitoring, and education in the Pacific Northwest. Gretchen is looking forward to continuing CATG's involvement with a number of ongoing projects this year, among them: the Chandalar River Chinook sonar project, for which CATG will provide an intern and technical assistance to the U.S.



Gretchen Sidorov is the new Partner fishery biologist at the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments.



Partner fishery biologist (David Waltemeyer) and student intern (Rainy Diehl) working on the Andreafsky River weir.

ologist with the Tanana Chiefs Conference and David Waltemeyer is the Partners biologist with the Association of Village Council Presidents.

The Partners Program, part of the Federal Subsistence Management Program, funds the hiring of six biologists and two social scientists by Alaska Native and rural organizations. The goal of the program is to build fisheries management expertise within these organizations, giving rural Alaskans the tools to participate more fully in subsistence management and research. Specific program objectives include participation in Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program projects, community outreach and education, and mentoring college interns. Partners positions are located in towns and villages throughout the state, including Aniak, Bethel, Cordova, Dillingham, Fort Yukon and Fairbanks.

Last year Partner organizations started to develop programs that

collect genetic data on the Sheenjek River. In addition, CATG, the Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will host science camps in Fort Yukon from August 1 – 12. The camps will combine both traditional knowledge and western fisheries technical training. Gretchen will mentor two high school interns who will provide assistance on the genetics projects and science camps. Fish and Wildlife Service. CATG will also provide an intern as well as field and technical support to

Gretchen joins two other Partners Program fishery biologists working on the Yukon River. Kim Elkin is the Partners biologist with the Tanana Chiefs Conference and David Waltemeyer is the Partners biologist with the Association of Village Council Presidents.

Gretchen joins two other Partners Program fishery biologists working on the Yukon River. Kim Elkin is the Partners biologist with the Tanana Chiefs Conference and David Waltemeyer is the Partners biologist with the Association of Village Council Presidents.



Student intern, Valli Peterson, sampling at the Tozitna River weir.

17 college students. We anticipate these trends will continue as the Partners Program evolves and matures. ☞

would meet the needs of their regions. Partner scientists worked on 28 Monitoring Program projects, and served as co-investigators on 14 of these projects. This summer, Partners will become principal investigators for the first time on two projects in the Yukon region including the Henshaw Creek weir and the Fort Yukon Science Camp. In addition, the Partners internship program has doubled in size and now supports

Seasonal Fisheries Technician Jobs!

Wages: \$ 14 - \$17/ Hour + OT

Positions open until filled

YRDFA is recruiting Seasonal Fisheries Technicians for the 2005 field season. Technicians will gain valuable experience, as well as enjoy a challenging and exciting Alaskan summer. Each position will require extended periods (2 or more weeks) in the field.

The projects are conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Bureau of Land Management and US Fish & Wildlife Service with the technician positions provided by YRDFA. The on-site ADF&G site leader will be the field supervisor.

Duties and pay rate will be contingent on project location.

Technicians can expect to be involved in many aspects of data collection on salmon migrating on the Yukon River to contribute to the process of fisheries management. Activities may include:

- Collecting sonar-derived abundance, and age, sex, length data
- Participating in mark-recapture studies
- Collecting biological data from salmon harvests, weirs and other study methods

Preference will be given to candidates with previous experience as a fisheries field technician or graduation from the YRDFA fisheries technician training camp (or equivalent training camp) or fisheries related college coursework.

Contact Eva Aigner (1-877-999-8566/907-272-3141 x 101/eva-yrdfa@alaska.com) at the YRDFA office for full position descriptions, requirements and an application.

These positions may require the possession and use of a firearm and ammunition. If you have been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, please do not apply. (See federal Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997 (PL 104-208))

CERTIFYING "BEST PRACTICES" OF ALASKA SEAFOOD PRODUCTION

BY CHERYL CUMMINGS, MANAGING DIRECTOR
ALASKA QUALITY SEAFOOD® PROGRAM



The Alaska Quality Seafood® Program's mission "To establish and sustain a mechanism for consistent pro-

duction quality to increase the value of Alaska seafood for industry and market" is what motivated changes to make the Program assessable and meaningful to Alaska's seafood industry.

Consistent production quality begins the moment a fish comes out of the water and continues until that fish is placed in a box for shipping to a buyer or customer. The Alaska Quality Seafood Program (AQS or Program) has developed a best practices system to assure that seafood harvested and produced in Alaska will meet reliable production standards, to ensure consistent long-term value to the industry and the market.

A modified AQS certification program now recognizes each segment of the industry for their willingness to continually improve their processes and to a commitment for maintaining best practices for harvesting and production. In addition to AQS plant certification, the Program has extended certification to fishermen and receiving stations – tenders, buying stations and docks. Those who register to the AQS Program and meet training and other requirements are eligible for AQS Certification. This approach provides a system which standardizes knowledge, education/training and experience. It levels the playing field for the industry, and at the same time, demonstrates that Alaskans are aware of market concerns about consistency and reliability of food quality.

An interested fisherman or fishermen group can now register with the Program to receive training for AQS Fishermen Certification. Training is based on gear-type, with every fisherman around the state in that gear group receiving the exact same instructional training each and every time. Each fisherman will gain knowledge and an understanding of harvesting techniques designed to preserve the quality of their fish

and minimizing poor quality characteristics such as gaping, blood spots and bruising.

AQS recognizes that product quality has to be maintained and assured at every step. Now individual receiving stations (tenders, buying stations and docks) can demonstrate their efforts in product quality improvement through AQS certification. The Program has developed handling practices and compliance guidelines, a standard training program and certification requirements for receiving stations. A tender or buying station operator can add value to their business by improving and standardizing their process and practices under the AQS umbrella. Like the fisherman program, everyone receives the same training and is required to operate under identical guidelines.

Maintaining fish quality continues with plant operations. A plant can participate in the AQS program at different levels. If one chooses to be an AQS Certified plant, and receives fish from AQS fishermen and receiving stations, their product can be grade certified, labeled, marketed and sold as AQS Premium, Choice, Standard or

Select. A plant manager may only be interested in educating and training QC staff, or other segments of the production such as grading and/or case-up. AQS can also assist a plant that requires only the need for a record keeping/recording system.

Furthering adding value to the industry, AQS has designed a quality control and inspector training program. This was created to offer a formal and standardized training program to educate individuals in the field of quality control, or for those who wish to go on and become AQS inspectors.

AQS has formalized and standardized all training. AQS offers a list of options to choose from for fisherman or fishermen's groups, individual tenders or a plant interested in implementing improved handling practices, a quality control system, or individual/staff quality training.

Alaska Quality Seafood offers a mechanism to industry for 'making the best seafood in the world even better'. For more information, please contact Cheryl Cummings, Managing Director at 907-565-5650 or visit www.alaskaqualityseafood.com

RELATED ANNOUNCEMENT

Starting in April 2005, a majority of the salmon processors on the Yukon River got together to meet and form a regional marketing association to be called the Yukon River Fisheries Marketing Association. This Association will work to enable processors to market wild salmon products and to seek funding for further marketing efforts. One of the first issues the Association will work on is salmon quality. Due to increasing competition in the marketplace, it is more important to ensure that fish are handled in the best manner possible; they have a long way to go before they make it to the consumer's plate or shopping cart from the distant Yukon River.

YRDFA, along with the fishery processors will be working with commercial fishermen to carry out trainings this coming summer season to enable fishermen to learn more about quality improvement techniques for salmon. The best possible fish will bring the best possible dollar to the fishermen, so it is in the fishermen's best interest to take extra effort to care for their salmon. If you are a commercial fisherman and want to know more about how to improve the quality of your salmon, call YRDFA at 1-877-999-8566 and we will assist you.

THE YUKON SALMON COMMITTEE

The Canadian Voice in Yukon River Salmon Management



Salmon has significant cultural, economic and recreational value in the Yukon Territory, Canada.

For thousands of years, salmon has played an important role in meeting the food, social and ceremonial needs of Yukon First Nations. Since the Gold Rush

era, the Yukon River has supported varying levels of commercial and domestic fisheries. In more recent years, salmon sport fishing has become a favorite recreational activity for many Yukoners (residents of the Yukon Territory, Canada) and visitors to the Yukon Territory.

WHO ARE WE?

A Little History of the Yukon Salmon Committee

The Yukon Salmon Committee (YSC) was established in 1995 under Chapter 16 of the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) to act as “the main instrument of salmon management in the Yukon”. Referred to in the UFA as the ‘Salmon Sub-Committee’, the YSC is a sub-committee of the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and operates at arm’s length to government. As a public advisory body, the YSC does not have decision-making powers; instead they make recommendations to various government Ministers and to Yukon First Nations governments. These recommendations are accepted, varied, set aside or replaced by the Minister, in a process that is laid out in the UFA.

WHAT ARE THE YSC’S RESPONSIBILITIES?

Yukon Salmon Committee Mandate

The Yukon Salmon Committee’s mandate is clearly laid out through a number of specific provisions in Chapter 16 of the Umbrella Final Agreement. The first objective of Chapter 16 of the UFA is: “to ensure conservation in the management of all fish and wildlife resources and their habitats”.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The YSC’s primary responsibility is to make recommendations to the Minister and to Yukon First Nations on “all matters related to salmon, their habitats and management including legislation, research, policies and programs.” The UFA provides some examples of the types of recommendations the YSC may make. These include:

- policies for the management of salmon and their habitats;
- need for, content and timing of salmon harvesting and management plans;
- need for, and a position on, inter-jurisdictional agreements affecting the use of Yukon salmon resources;
- new opportunities and proposed management measures for commercial uses of salmon;

- allocation of salmon to users (after consultation with affected Yukon First Nations);
- management measures required to ensure that the basic needs allocation of a Yukon First Nation is met.

INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

The UFA also requires that YSC members form “...the majority of the Canadian representatives to any Yukon River Panel established pursuant to the Treaty between the governments of Canada and the United States of America concerning Pacific Salmon.” As such, YSC members fill four of the six Canadian seats on the Yukon River Panel.

The Yukon River Panel is an international panel comprised of representatives from the Yukon Territory and Alaska. It is concerned with conservation of salmon stocks, originating from the Yukon River in Canada, through the development and implementation of agreed research and management programs, the identification of restoration and enhancement opportunities, and the submission of recommendations to management entities in the Yukon Territory and Alaska. The Yukon River Panel also manages the Restoration and Enhancement Fund.

The Restoration and Enhancement Fund (R&E) is part of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement. It provides funding for programs, projects and associated research and management activities, on either side of the Alaska-Yukon border, directed at the restoration, conservation and enhancement of Canadian-origin salmon stocks of the Yukon River. The Yukon River Panel strongly encourages projects that are community-based and have a training and capacity-building component.

INTERESTED PARTY STATUS

The UFA grants the YSC standing as an ‘interested party’, which means that the YSC may participate in any public process that affects the management and conservation of Yukon salmon or their habitat.

WHO IS REPRESENTED ON THE YUKON SALMON COMMITTEE?

YSC Members

Members of the YSC come from all parts of the Yukon Territory and represent both First Nation and non-First Nation people. The composition of the ten-member Committee is laid out in the UFA and is carefully structured to ensure diversity and balance. Two YSC members are nominated by each of the following five nominating bodies:

- The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board;
- The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans;
- The Council of Yukon First Nations (for the Yukon River drainage);
- The Champagne & Aishihik First Nations (for the Alsek River drainage);

- The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (for the Porcupine River drainage).

From the nominations provided, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans finalizes the appointment of the ten Yukon Salmon Committee members.

SUPPORT STAFF

The UFA requires the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to provide support services to the YSC. DFO has two specific responsibilities, with regard to support for the Yukon Salmon Committee; 1) DFO must provide technical and administrative support to the YSC; and 2) must provide a senior official to act as Executive Secretary to the YSC.

HOW TO CONTACT THE YUKON SALMON COMMITTEE

As a public advisory body, the Yukon Salmon Committee is always pleased to hear from members of the public on any issue related to Yukon salmon or their habitat.

Yukon Salmon Committee
100 – 419 Range Road
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 3V1

Phone: (867) 393-6725
Fax: (867) 393-6738
E-mail: salmon@yukonsalmoncommittee.ca
Website: www.yukonsalmoncommittee.ca



Fisheries Technician Training Program for 2005

The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDLA), is sponsoring a three-week program to provide education and training to become a Fisheries Technician. The goal of this program is to provide training for qualified individuals to obtain basic skills about operation of fisheries research projects, fish biology, and safety for work as entry-level fisheries technicians in fisheries field camps for federal, state, tribal, non-profit and private employers.

This training program will include both classroom and field (hands-on) experiences to provide a broad-based background for entry-level fisheries technician jobs. It will begin August 1, 2005 near the upper Yukon River village of Eagle and last approximately three weeks. There will be space for 10 - 12 students; must be 18 years or older to participate. There will be no cost to the student - lodging, food and travel will be provided by YRDLA.

Students completing the program receive:

- Final personnel evaluation that will function as a "Letter of Recommendation"
- Stipend & Personal Gear/Equipment

For more information contact:

Darcy King
725 Christensen Dr., Ste. 3-B
Anchorage, AK 99501
Tel: (907) 272-3141, Ext. 103
Fax: (907) 272-3142
Email: darcy-yrdfa@alaska.com

Classes and job skills will include:

- Basic fish biology & life history
- Collecting fish for research & management
- Obtaining & recording data from fish
- Finding and applying for jobs
- Creating a personal resume
- Fisheries management & research on the Yukon River
- Safety training for first-aid, firearms, boating, & working in bear country



YRDFA SUMMER 2005 PROJECTS

Project Title	Funder & Collaborator	Project Description
In-season teleconferences	YRDFA/USFWS/R&E	Weekly YRDFA teleconferences with state and federal managers, DFO, Canada, tribal and first nation representatives, subsistence and commercial fishers to discuss progression of the salmon returns and fisheries and management options.
US/Canada Information and Education	USFWS	Activities to disseminate information and education on the Yukon River salmon agreement and activities of the US/Canada Yukon River Panel and salmon management. Includes publishing the YRDFA newsletters, in-season teleconferences and the annual meeting.
Customary Trade	USFWS/OSM	This project will develop case studies in Yukon River communities, describing patterns of customary trade of fish. Improved understanding of customary trade can be applied to subsistence management issues.
Yukon River Salmon Agreement Handbook	Yukon River Panel	Handbook, written in layman's terms, to explain how the Yukon River Salmon Agreement affects and impacts the fishers and users of the Yukon River.
<i>Ichthyophonus</i> Education	YRDFA, DFO	The purpose of the project is to educate fishers through local presentations to understand the human health risks or lack thereof from some of these parasites to make better decisions on retaining or discarding subsistence caught fish and how to safely prepare them for consumption.
Subsistence Assistance	YRDFA	YRDFA-hired project assistants facilitate ADF&G post-season harvest subsistence surveys. Assistants will provide logistical and administrative support.
Lower Yukon Fishery Market Development - flesh markets	YRDFA	Develops materials for Lower Yukon processors to enable them to direct market. Displays, brochures, and other materials will support marketing presentations.
Yukon River Salmon Marketing Program	YRDFA	Develops generic marketing materials for all Yukon River salmon processors, forms an association of river-wide processors and may finance other unified efforts.
Ocean Carrying Capacity	NOAA	Places a YRDFA fisheries technician onboard a NOAA vessel conducting ocean carrying capacity research in the Bering Sea. This project assists NOAA in collecting information important to understanding marine survival of Yukon salmon stocks and supports capacity building of Yukon River residents through the knowledge gained.
Changes in Salmon Spawning Grounds on Koyukuk River	NOAA	Interviews village elders and good fishers to determine where salmon once spawned by now no longer do. Information will be corroborated by ground surveys and may lead to changes in the Anadromous Waters Catalog and community-based habitat restoration projects.
Chatanika River Stock Monitoring	NOAA	Documents the return of Chinook salmon to spawning and rearing habitats upstream from the F&E Dam on the Chatanika River, which was removed in 2002.
Clear Creek Chum Salmon Ecology	NOAA, USGS/BLM	YRDFA supplies a fisheries technician to a joint project on Clear Creek, a tributary to the Koyukuk River. The projects document outgoing chum salmon juveniles and returning chum adults. Capacity building results from the gain in knowledge and experience of fisheries research.
Anvik River Coho Spawning Survey	NOAA	Estimates the number of adult coho salmon returning to the Anvik River. The project helps to fill in data gaps that exist regarding coho salmon escapement.
Nenana River Coho Spawning Survey	NOAA	Estimates the number of adult coho salmon returning to the Nenana River. Data collected will add to the limited escapement assessment information.
Fisheries Technician Training Camp	NOAA	Conducts a three-week camp at a remote location to train 10-12 students seeking employment as a fisheries technician. Both fisheries and safety-oriented topics are covered.
Andreafsky Science Camp	NOAA, Yupiit of Andreafski Tribal Council	YRDFA sends its biologist to teach fisheries related elements of this workshop conducted by the Yupiit of Andreafski Tribal Council. The camp focuses on science subjects for St. Mary's high school students.
Program Reporting and Oversight and Research and Management Policy Monitoring	NOAA	This project not only allows YRDFA to oversee its projects, but it also allows it to develop new ones and supports the YRDFA as they interact with management agencies, regulatory boards, and others on fisheries issues.
Tradition Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Informed Run Projection	NOAA	Gathers Traditional Ecological Knowledge indicators related to salmon for integration into management decisions. Incorporated with the in-season teleconferences to add TEK information to the YRDFA table of TEK indicators.
Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Outreach and Information Gathering	NOAA	Supports YRDFA participation in historical documentation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge. TEK staff will share research methods to assist communities in collecting TEK.



YRDFA FUNDED PROJECTS THROUGH PACIFIC SALMON RECOVERY FUND

Project Title	Funder & Collaborator	Project Description
Sheenjek River Genetics GSI Study	CATG, USFWS	Collects tissue samples for DNA-based stock identification work. Samples will come from salmon of the Sheenjek to add the current genetic stock information baseline.
Abundance and Run Timing of Adult Salmon in Tozitna River	BLM	Supplies a local YRDFA fisheries technician to assist Bureau of Land Management with this salmon stock timing and enumeration project. Project experience builds local fisheries science capacity.
Abundance and Run Timing of Adult Salmon	USFWS, Alaaci Tribal Council, Ciunerkiurvik Corp., Nerklukmte Native Corp., Yupit of Andreafski Tribal Council, OSM, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge	Supplies a local YRDFA fisheries technician to assist US Fish and Wildlife Service with this salmon stock timing and enumeration project. Project experience builds local fisheries science capacity.
The Effect of Gear Selection on the Stock Composition and Life History	ADFG	Using genetic tests, determines whether fish caught in mid-river by gill nets are the same stocks as those caught near-shore by set nets and fish wheels. Important information used by resource managers to meet spawning and border escapement requirements.
YR Fisherman's Training	YRDFA, Yukon River buyers and processors of salmon and roe	Trains Yukon River fishers to be able to deliver prime quality salmon to processors through bleeding techniques, icing and other handling aspects.
Fisheries in the Classroom	YRDFA in collaboration with UAF – CES, 4-H Natural Resource & Youth Development Program	Sets up small-scale re-circulating salmon egg incubation systems in three village school classrooms and seeks out suitable local stocks for incubating in 2006 and beyond so that juveniles raised may be released.
Train and Assist the Operator of Test Fish Wheel Project	Bill Fliris, Patrick Moore	Former test wheel operator has moved out of state. This project provides former operator with travel support to train the new operator.
Project Technicians	ADFG	YRDFA-hired project assistants facilitate ADF&G monitoring projects. Technicians will be placed at the Eagle sonar, Pilot Station sonar, Sheenjek sonar, Tanana tagging, Emmonak test fisheries, and Galena harvest monitoring.
Fort Yukon Subsistence Catch Monitoring	CATG	Interviews subsistence fishers to determine catches and evaluate the impact of subsistence fishing to stocks going to the Porcupine River.
Upper Yukon Fishery Market Development - Wild YR Salmon Caviar	Doug Sweat, Jim Friedman	Marketing project to identify markets for Yukon River salmon caviar. Project will stress the unique qualities of salmon for domestic and international markets.
Plans for a HACCP Approved Cutting Station	UAF/Marine Advisory Program/Sea Grant	Provides travel money to UAF/MAP to investigate the best alternative for a preliminary processing facility on the Yukon River that meets HACCP standards.
Kaltag Salmon Roe Extraction and Cooler Storage	Kaltag Fisherman's Assoc., YRDFA	Provides assistance to the Kaltag Fisherman's Association in the form of equipment, probably refrigeration, and business development services.

Become a YRDFA MEMBER and... VOTE for your fishing district representatives!

Your membership supports our core purpose, to promote healthy wild salmon fisheries on the Yukon River.

In order to sustain fisheries YRDFA works to:

- Solve problems in fisheries management
- Sustain wild salmon populations & restore habitat
- Keep people informed of current fisheries issues.

2005 YRDFA BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

OPEN BOARD MEMBER SEATS, FOR 2 OR 3-YR TERMS, INCLUDE:

Coastal, Seat 1	Y-3, Seat 1	Y-4, Seat 1
Y-5, Seat 1	Y-6, Seat 1	Yukon Flats, Seat 1

ALL ALTERNATE SEATS, FOR 1-YR TERMS, ARE OPEN.

Coastal, Seat 1&2	Y-1, Seat 1&2	Y-2, Seat 1&2
Y-3, Seat 1	Y-4 Seat 1&2	Y-5, Seat 1
Y-6, Seat 1&2	Koyukuk, Seat 1	Yukon Flats, Seat 1

Elections will be conducted in May by mail to all YRDFA members.

Voting privileges extended to YRDFA members only.

District seats will be voted on by YRDFA members within that district; sorry general public memberships do not receive voting privileges.

Members receive a newsletter on the latest events affecting Yukon River salmon fisheries and voting privileges for their Fishing District's representatives.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

- Subsistence Only User (1 year)\$ 5
- Subsistence Only User (2 year)\$10
(You receive a YRDFA baseball cap)
- Commercial Permit Holder or Crew Member (1 year)\$10
(You receive a stainless steel travel mug)
- Sport User/General Public/Student\$10
- Commercial Permit Holder or Crew Member (2 year)\$20
(You receive a Barlow pocketknife)
- Associate/Business/Corporation\$100
(You receive recognition & thanks in the YRDFA newsletter)
- Lifetime Membership\$100
(You receive a mug, a knife, and recognition & thanks in the YRDFA newsletter)

Send cash, check or money order to: YRDFA at 725 Christensen Dr., Ste 3-B, Anchorage, AK 99501. Must include your Name, Address, Village, State, Zip Code, Amount Paid, Membership Type (chosen from list above) and Fishing District you reside/fish in.

**NEW MEMBERSHIPS & RENEWALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
JUNE 14, 2005 IN ORDER TO VOTE!**

“YUKON RIVER PANEL...” continued from page 1

support programs, projects and associated research and management activities directed towards restoration, conservation and enhancement of Canadian-origin salmon stocks of the Yukon River in Alaska and the Yukon Territory - including the Porcupine River system. Within the Canadian portion of the Yukon River drainage, programs and projects can also be directed at developing stewardship of salmon habitat and resources, and for

maintaining viable salmon fisheries. According to the Agreement, up to 50% of the available funds annually available can be disbursed directly by the Canadian section of the YR Panel on Canadian programs and projects. Through these efforts both countries hope to see a return to productive salmon stocks and the long-term sustainability of the salmon fisheries. Projects approved by the Yukon River Panel for 2005 include the following:

HOW DOES THE R&E FUND PROCESS WORK?

The R&E funding process is initiated each fall by the Executive Secretary with a 'call' for one-page conceptual proposals. The conceptual proposals are reviewed by the JTC, in relation to the YR Panel's priorities, for technical merit. Based on the merits and appropriateness of the proposed project, the YR Panel decides in December which applicants should submit a detailed project proposal. The YR Panel makes final funding decisions in March of every year. The YR Panel's Executive Secretary relays funding decisions to all project proponents, develops and administers contracts for the approved projects, and provides progress status reports on all projects to the YR Panel.

RESTORATION & ENHANCEMENT FUND 2005

Project	Project Title	Project Proponent	SUS/Cdn ¹ Request	TC ²	PD
URE-06-05	Kaltag Fall Chum/Coho Drift Gillnet Test Fishery	City of Kaltag	20,500/25,625	S	A
URE-09-05	Rampart-Rapids Chin & Chum Video Monitoring	Stan Zuray	32,000/40,000	S	A
URE-14N-05	Ichthyophonous Diagnostics, education & Outreach	YR DFA	30,000/37,500	S	A
CRE-07-05	First Fish 2005 Youth Camp	Tr'ondek Hwech'in FN	2,800/3,500	A	A
CRE-11-05	2005 In-season Management Fund	YRCFA	40,000/50,000	P	A
CRE-13-05	Chandindu River Weir Demobilization	YRCFA	4,000/5,000	P	A
CRE-18N-05	Coho Radio Tagging/Telemetry Pilot Project	Vuntut Gwitchin FN	41,300/51,600	P	A
CRE-19-05	Mayo R. Channel Reconst. - Assess. Juv. Chin. Hab	FN NND ³	16,000/20,000	A	A
CRE-27-05	Chum Mark/Recapture Test Fishery - Porcupine R.	Vuntut Gwitchin FN	53,840/67,300	P	A
CRE-29-05	Chum Spawning Ground Recoveries - Minto Area	Selkirk First Nation	9,600/12,000	P	A
CRE-31N-05	Pelly River Sub-Basin Community Stewardship	Selkirk Ren Res Cncl	16,000/20,000	A/P	A
CRE-36N-05	Community Based Stream Assessment - LSCFN TT	LSCFN ⁴	12,000/15,000	A	A
CRE-37-05	Blind Creek Chinook Salmon Enumeration Weir	Jane Wilson & Assoc.	37,440/46,800	P	A
CRE-41-05	Chinook Sonar Enumeration Big Salmon River	Jane Wilson & Assoc.	64,800/81,000	P	A
CRE-47-05	Teslin River Sub-Basin Stewardship	Teslin Tlingit Council	38,160/47,700	A/P	A
CRE-49N-05	Morley River Chinook Salmon Enumeration Weir	Teslin Tlingit Council		P/A	M ⁵
CRE-50-05	McClintock Watershed Salmon Management Plan	Kwanlin Dun FN	24,000/30,000	A/P	A
CRE-53N-05	Range Road Dump Stabilization/Clean-Up	Ta'an Kwach'an Cncl	27,680/34,600	A	A
CRE-55-05	Upper Nordenskiöld Salmon Stewardship Project	Champ. & Aishihik FN	5,200/6,500	A	A
CRE-58N-05	Community Salmon Stewardship - Kluane FN TT	Kluane First Nation	24,000/30,000	A/P	A
CRE-61N-05	Chinook Fry Release - Whitehorse Rapids Hatchery	R&D Env Mngmt	4,800/6,000	A/P	A
CRE-62N-05	Education/Interpretive Displays Whs Fishway	R&D Env Mngmt	4,000/5,000	A/P	A
CRE-63N-05	Whitehorse Rapids Hatchery CWT & Fishway	Y.F&G. Assoc. ⁶	48,000/60,000	S/A	A
CRE-65-05	McIntyre Creek Salmon Incubation Project	NRI Yukon College	34,480/43,100	A	A
CRE-67-05	Yukon Schools Fry Releases & Habitat studies	Streamkeepers Nor Soc	3,200/4,000	A	A
CRE-75-05	Value-Added Fish Processing Facility	YR Salmon Coop.	120,000/150,000	S/P,H	A
CRE-87a ⁷ -05	Germaine Creek Off-Channel Monitoring	M Miles & Assoc.	17,200/21,500	A	A
CRE-87N-05	Germaine Creek Off-Channel Habitat Development	Env Dynamics Inc.			NA
CRE-89N-05	Salmon & Boreal Forest Ecosystem-Tracer Salmon	M Bradford(DFO/SFU)	17,600/22,000	A/P	A
CRE-95-05	Mitigation Plan - Yukon Queen II Operation	YR Panel	8,000/10,000	A/P	A
CRE-97N-05	Porcupine River Salmon Gathering	Vuntut Gwitchin FN	9,600/12,000	A/P	A
CRE-98-05	Yukon Stewardship Program	Yukon F&W Board	104,000/130,000	A/S,H	A
CRE-104-05	Yukon Fisheries Field Assistant Prog - 3rd Offering	Yukon Coll/Teslin	52,800/66,000	S/P,A,H	A
CRE-110N-05	Canadian Escapement Sampling	DFO	40,000/50,000	S	A
	Stock ID - US & Cdn agencies		150,000/187,500	JTC	A
Total Approved Project Proposals			1,112,200/1,390,300		
'B' Budget Projects⁸					
URE-17N-05	Error Check Salmon Age, Sex, Length	Salmon & Moore	(20,000/25,000)	S	1st
CRE-16N-05	Assess Juv Chin Rearing in Non-Natal Streams - PR	Vuntut Gwitchin FN	(32,500/40,600)	A	
CRE-24N-05	Nogold & Grey Hunter Creeks Chinook Reconn.	FN NND	(16,000/20,000)	A	
CRE-48N-05	Teslin Chum Salmon Radio Tagging	Teslin Tlingit Council	(16,000/20,000)	P	
CRE-54N-05	Fox Creek Beaver Management	Ta'an Kwach'an Cncl	(12,000/15,000)	A	
CRE-96N-05	Ichthyophonous Pre-Spawning Mortality - Yukon	DFO ⁹	(40,000/50,000)	S	

1 Based on an exchange rate of \$1Cdn=\$.80US - with project totals being rounded to the nearest \$100.

2 Technical Contact - lead reviewer, in some cases with the aid of other reviewers, for the conceptual proposal, detailed project proposal, and ongoing lead technical contact for the conduct and review of the project report.

-S/Susan McNeil (ADF&G) for all US applications; with lead for Cdn applications are DFO reviewers - A/Al von Finster, P/Pat Milligan/Rick Ferguson, S/Sandy Johnston, ME/Mary-Ellen Jarvis; and, H/Hugh Monaghan (Panel Secretariat).

3 First Nation of the Nacho Nyak Dun

4 Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation

5 This project will be delivered in combination with CRE-47-05

6 Yukon Fish and Game Association

7 This designation is to draw distinction between this and the similar new project designated CRE-87N-05.

8 'B' Budget Projects are considered in order of priority if funding becomes available. Given the level of 2005/06 budget commitments it is assumed that only the 1st priority (URE-17N-05) has a possibility of being considered in this fiscal year; while, all 'B' projects can be considered as applicants in 2006/07.

9 Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada