

YUKON FISHERIES NEWS

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

SUCCESSFUL SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL YUKON RIVER PANEL IN WHITEHORSE

BY ELIZABETH ANDREWS, ALASKA DEPT. FISH & GAME
AND SANDY JOHNSTON, FISHERIES & OCEANS CANADA

The Yukon River Panel, as mandated by the U.S./Canada Yukon River Agreement, met in Whitehorse on March 22-23 to determine the 2006 international management arrangements for Yukon River fall chum and chinook salmon stocks of Canadian origin throughout the length of the Yukon River in Alaska and Yukon Territory.

At the meeting, the Panel allocated \$US1.2 million for salmon restoration and enhancement projects; recommended priorities for resource management and research projects; and established specific escapement guidelines for the management of these salmon stocks for 2006.

Despite many contentious issues throughout the 16-year negotiating process, the Panel has set an example for cooperatively sharing and managing international salmon stocks, with direct involvement of community representatives. The Panel, which operates under the umbrella of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, consists of 12 Alaska and Yukon Territory residents from throughout this system, supported by regional advi-

sors and agency staff from Canada and the United States.

Upon reviewing the 2005 salmon runs and fisheries, the Panel found that salmon stocks are generally depressed, but that the runs returned in 2005 significantly stronger than expected. Similar runs are expected in 2006, hopefully contributed to by the Panel's recent stock rebuilding conservation measures. Management measures planned for 2006 envision subsistence (in Alaska), aboriginal (Yukon Territory), sport and limited commercial fisheries for both the chinook and fall chum stocks of Canadian origin.

The Panel also acknowledged allocation and escapement objectives set by the Panel have been met and exceeded in recent years, and the use of new and improved technology (supported by the Panel's Restoration and Enhancement Fund), has advanced the Panel's management goals, particularly as they relate to genetic identification in allocation of harvest and stock escapement. ☪



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CORRECTION

In the last edition of this newsletter we printed an article summarizing our final report on the Phenotypic Characterization of Chinook Salmon in the Yukon River Subsistence Harvest and regretfully neglected to thank our funding sources and partners.

YR DFA would like to give a big **thank you** to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for making it possible to conduct this study. Without the support of agencies like these, YR DFA would not be able to accomplish the many things it does.

YR DFA would also like to thank the co-authors on this project, David Wiswar and Penelope Crane, both of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for their time and effort in completing this study.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY JILL KLEIN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, YR DFA

YR DFA is a group of many voices. Sometimes, some of these voices are louder than others, but that does not mean the other voices are not being listened to. As salmon runs return to their pre-2000 strengths and our commercial fisheries rebuild their markets, management of these fisheries is coming to a head. Times have changed for commercial salmon markets, and changes are necessary if the commercial salmon fishery is to be able to compete. Years of controversy from up and down the river are getting in the way of approaching these new issues with a fresh outlook, and this is delaying the development and stabilization of the Yukon River commercial fisheries.

People need a resource base they can depend on. That is a challenge in today's world where more people are competing for limited resources and taking just what one needs isn't as simple as it used to be. The lifecycle of the salmon is one of the more amazing cycles on this planet, and one we are only beginning to understand. As salmon migrate out of the longest river in Alaska, they swim out in the Bering Sea, where numerous state, national and international decisions affect them. Once they return to their natal river, Yukon River fishers long to catch them for food and some much needed cash.

YR DFA was founded on the principle of conserving healthy, wild salmon fisheries on the Yukon River so this important resource will be available not only for today, but for future generations. Within this goal, YR DFA's job is to strive towards workable solutions that enable both subsistence and commercial fisheries to be successful. Conserving the species will always be our principle goal, since without salmon we have no subsistence or commercial fishery. Within these parameters, Yukon River salmon can provide for both a subsistence and commercial fishery. YR DFA works to develop commercial fisheries because our



community-based fisheries provide a much-needed source of income on the river, and in many cases provides the resources to continue the fish camp culture and subsistence lifestyle. In this regard the commercial fishery affects the entire river. In addition, a small, limited commercial fishery which does not threaten the salmon species provides a sustainable source of revenue for Yukon River residents, and prevents more ecologically harmful industries such as mining and oil and gas drilling. Promoting our commercial fishery is an important part of YR DFA's work and serves all users on the river, commercial and subsistence, upriver and downriver.

YR DFA was formed to provide a place for all fishers to come together to work towards managing our own fishery. I hope that we can

continue this legacy as we now set out on this exciting new chapter of restoring our commercial markets and can work with a fresh mind towards the needs of today's fishers.

To this end, our in-season teleconferences are beginning soon with the start of the fishing season in June. Participation on the teleconferences is usually strongest at the beginning of the season in June. People want to know how many fish are coming back to the river. They want to know this because they want to go fishing and want to ensure there are enough fish for others to go fishing. We encourage you to participate in the teleconferences, join the management process and help make decisions. We all need to work together to balance all of these important needs. ☺

IT'S THAT
TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!



IN-SEASON MANAGEMENT TELECONFERENCES

SUMMER 2006

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

END OF MAY – SEPTEMBER
EVERY TUESDAY
AT 1:00PM (ALASKA TIME)

1-800-315-6338, CODE 9966815#

DEC'S NEW ROE PROCESSING REGULATIONS

BY BECCA ROBBINS, POLICY COORDINATOR, YRDFA

In January 2006, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) issued proposed regulations for roe fishers who remove roe at their fish camps for later delivery to a processor. Under the new regulations, fishers who remove roe at their fish camps will be considered "processors." As processors, roe fishers will need a DEC-permitted facility in which to remove roe and will need to abide by DEC's regulations for cleaning, sanitation and handling. Because Yukon River roe fishers are operating in remote locations without electricity or running water and processing small numbers of fish, DEC created a special category of processor with different rules that will apply to these operations, called a "Direct market land—based processing facility." DEC's proposed rules, while offering some accommo-

dations for the specific needs of Yukon River fishers, posed many hurdles for fishers seeking to operate on the Yukon. YRDFA worked extensively on realizing changes to the proposed regulations. In addition to submitting official comments through the public comment process, we talked with DEC staff, wrote letters to Yukon River legislators and the Governor's office asking them to advocate on our behalf and coordinated a teleconference for Yukon River roe fishers and processors to talk with DEC Staff.

The final regulations will not be released until June 1, but will likely include changes which make the regulations more practical for fish camp use. In addition to the facility requirements, a fish camp roe facility must include a handwash station with hot and cold water, which can be achieved with

insulated water coolers full of hot and cold water. Fishers must also adhere to cleaning and sanitizing standards, using chlorine and testing and keeping records of the chlorine levels in water. Adhering to the new regulations will take additional effort both from fishers and from YRDFA. YRDFA is currently working on developing an inexpensive facility design which will meet DEC's requirements and will be assisting with permit applications and developing record keeping forms to help fishers comply with the new regulations and keep the roe fishery alive and active.

If you'd like more information about these regulations and YRDFA's work on this topic please contact Becca Robbins in the YRDFA office (at extension 106) or e-mail Becca@yukonsalmon.org. ☺

NEW YRDFA STAFF



MIKE ILLENBERG

Outreach and Communications Coordinator

Mike is excited to join the YRDFA team. He came to Alaska two and a half years ago to train sea lions and seals for the Alaska SeaLife Center. Shortly after arriving he transitioned into the Outreach Coordinator role for the North Pacific Research Board. There he worked with the NPRB advisory panel and the Alaska SeaLife Center to develop and implement an Outreach and Education strategy that targets all Alaska fisheries user groups, including subsistence and commercial fishermen and women.

Originally, an upstate New Yorker, Mike spent the majority of his adult life in central Florida. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration – Marketing Management, and degrees in Life Science and Zoo Animal Technology. Mike's previous employment includes experience at Disney's Animal Kingdom and Sea World of Florida, where he trained and cared for a variety of animals including hippopotamus, rhinoceros, antelope, dolphins, and manatees. He also worked closely with, and as part of education teams at both theme parks.

In his free time, Mike likes to hike, exercise and visit his family. He has three brothers and three sisters, most of who still live in New York. He also volunteers for the Big Brothers Big Sisters non-profit organization in Anchorage as a big brother. He looks forward to meeting new faces along the Yukon River and building strong partnerships with the fisheries users. ☺

YRDFA IN THE NEWS

Unintended Catch: Bycatch of Yukon River Salmon in the Pollock Fishery by Becca Robbins, YRDFA Policy Coordinator, appeared in the March 2006 edition of Fishermen's News.

Becca Robbins was also on Alaska News Nightly on April 6, 2006 talking about Salmon bycatch in the 2006 season and efforts to reduce bycatch in the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. ☺

ACTION ALERT LIST

Want to stay up to date on issues affecting Yukon River salmon and communities? Send an e-mail to Becca@yukonsalmon.org to join our e-mail list or call the YRDFA office to make sure your address or fax is on our list to receive Action alerts and updates on important issues! ☺

YUKON RIVER CHUM SALMON REGULATORY MANAGEMENT PLANS

PROVIDED BY ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

Summer and fall chum salmon runs will be managed using the regulatory management plans. If it is determined that salmon runs are insufficient to provide for escapement, then subsistence fishing time may be reduced from the regulatory subsistence salmon fishing schedule and/or gear restrictions may be implemented. Subsistence salmon fishing opportunity on waters applicable to ANILCA TITLE VIII may be further restricted to “Federally qualified users”. Once enacted, this restriction could be rescinded if the salmon run size is determined to be sufficient to provide for escapement and subsistence needs. Fishermen are reminded that they should consult both State of Alaska fishing regulations and the Federal Subsistence Management regulations for waters subject to ANILCA Title VIII before fishing within the Yukon River drainage.

SUMMER (5 AAC 05.362)		FALL (5 AAC 01.249)	
Projected Run Size	Actions	Projected Run Size	Actions
Below 600,000	Then NO directed fishing by any user except that subsistence fishing may be allowed in a specific district or area projected to meet escapement goal.	Below 300,000	Then NO directed fishing by any user except that subsistence fishing may be allowed in a specific district or area projected to meet escapement goal.
600,000 TO 700,000	Then limited subsistence fishing. No directed commercial, sport or personal use fishing.	300,000 TO 500,000	Then variable subsistence fishing. NO directed commercial fishing. May allow sport or personal use fishing if specific district or area is projected to meet escapement goal and subsistence needs.
700,000 TO 1 million	Then Board of Fisheries subsistence schedule. No river wide directed commercial, sport, or personal use fishing. Fishing may be allowed if a specific district or area is projected to meet escapement goal. (e.g. Anvik River).	500,000 TO 600,000	Then return to the pre-2001 subsistence fishing schedule and allow river wide personal use fishing and retention of sport caught fish. Consider commercial fishing if specific district or area is projected to meet escapement goal and subsistence needs.
Greater than 1 million	Then directed summer chum salmon fishing by all users.	Greater than 600,000	Then directed fall chum salmon fishing by all users.

2006 YUKON RIVER SUBSISTENCE FISHING SCHEDULE

PROVIDED BY ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

The subsistence salmon fishing schedule is intended to reduce harvest impacts during years of low salmon runs on any particular run component and to spread subsistence harvest opportunity among users. The schedule is based on current, or past, fishing schedules and should provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence users to meet their needs. The goal of the schedule is to provide periods during which salmon fishing is closed. Please Note: this schedule is subject to change depending on run strength.

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 29, 2006	Mon. 8 pm to Wed. 8 am /Thu. 8 pm to Sat. 8 am
District 2	Two 36-hour periods/week	May 31, 2006	Wed. 8 pm to Fri. 8 am / Sun. 8 pm to Tue. 8 am
District 3	Two 36-hour periods/week	June 2, 2006	Fri. 8 am to Sat. 8 pm / Tue. 8 am to Wed. 8 pm
District 4	Two 48-hour periods/week	June 11, 2006	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 20, 2006	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

All subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets and fish wheels must be stopped during subsistence salmon fishing closures. ☞

2006 YUKON RIVER SALMON FISHERIES OUTLOOK

PROVIDED BY ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

The information below describes the anticipated management of the 2006 season. State and Federal fishery managers will coordinate management of the Yukon River subsistence salmon fishery.

CHINOOK	CHUM	COHO
Average to below average run is projected to provide for escapement and subsistence purposes.	Average to above average run is projected to provide for escapement and subsistence purposes.	Average to above average run is projected to provide for escapement and subsistence purposes.
2006 Chinook salmon run is anticipated to be similar to 2005.	Runs have been increasing due to improved production.	Runs have been increasing due to improved production.
Commercial harvest is anticipated to be between 30,000 and 60,000 fish.	Summer chum commercial harvest is anticipated to be between 500,000 and 900,000 fish.	Commercial harvest is anticipated to be between 50,000 and 70,000 fish.
	Fall chum commercial harvest is anticipated to be between 100,000 and 400,000 fish.	

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- Manage for escapement and provide for subsistence salmon fishing harvest opportunity along the entire Yukon River drainage, beginning the season using the regulatory subsistence salmon fishing schedule.
- Anticipated management actions based on the evaluation of inseason run strength indicators include:
 - When a harvestable surplus of fish is projected, return to the pre-2001 subsistence salmon fishing schedule and allow commercial harvest of Chinook, chum, and coho salmon. Chum and coho salmon commercial harvest are dependent on markets.
 - If a poor run develops, reduce the subsistence salmon fishing schedule to meet escapement goals.
 - In 2006, based on preseason projections, the management strategy is to schedule a commercial fishing period, near the first quarter point (historically, June 15) for Chinook salmon in District 1 or 2, which may be of short duration, and continue with spreading the harvest over the middle 50% of the run. Additional harvest after the third quarter point depends on information from assessment projects and available markets.
- Present run assessment information and discuss management strategies during weekly Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association sponsored teleconferences. Input from fishers along the river is important to management.

For additional information:

ADF&G Steve Hayes in Anchorage 907-267-2383;

Fred Bue, Fairbanks 907-459-7274; or Emmonak 907-949-1320
Subsistence Fishing Schedule-1-866-479-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call 459-7387

USFWS: Russ Holder in Fairbanks 907-455-1849 or
1-800-801-5108; or in Emmonak 907-949-1798 ☞

UPDATE

WESTERN ALASKA SALMON STOCK IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM UPDATE (WASSIP)

BY BECCA ROBBINS, POLICY COORDINATOR, YRDFA

WASSIP is a multi-stakeholder group formed to genetically identify Western Alaska salmon and improve abundance estimates and management strategies. The group, which is composed of the Association of Village Council Presidents, Bristol Bay Native Association, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, Aleut Corporation, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Kawerak Incorporated, Aleutians East Borough, Lake and Peninsula Borough, concerned Area M fishermen and Alaska Department of Fish and Game, was formed to gain a better understanding of salmon stock migration and harvests and thus eliminate conflict between user groups. The group received \$300,000 of the \$3.3 million requested from the federal government this year. The WASSIP members are currently meeting to determine how these limited funds will be spent, and will be approving a sampling plan this spring to ensure that sampling begins this summer. If additional funds are secured next year, this project could provide much needed information about the genetic composition of stocks caught in interception fisheries such as Area M and in the Yukon River itself. This information will not only dramatically increase our understanding of Western Alaska salmon stocks but will also provide an incredibly valuable management tool. ☞

2006 RESTORATION & ENHANCEMENT FUND PROJECTS

Project ¹	Project Title	Project Proponent	\$US/Cdn ² Request
URE-01N-06	Yukon River Border Sonar Equipment Purchase	ADF&G ³	135,700/159,600
URE-05N-06	Marshal Chinook Test Fishery	AVCP ⁴	17,800/20,900
URE-06-06	Kaltag Fall Chum/Coho Drift Gillnet Test Fishery	City of Kaltag	20,400/24,000
URE-08N-06	Tech Assist, Dev & Support – Fish Wheel Video	USFWS ⁵	4,500/5,300
URE-09-06	Rampart-Rapids All Species Video Monitoring	Stan Zuray	34,000/40,000
CRE-06N-06	Spawning & Rearing Access Restoration	DDRRC ⁶	5,100/6,000
CRE-07-06	First Fish 2005 Youth Camp	Tr'ondek Hwech'in FN	3,000/3,500
CRE-08N-06	Salmon Celebration	THFN/YRCF Assoc. ⁷	8,500/10,000
CRE-10N-06	Size Selective Fishing – Live Catch Fish Wheel	YRCF Assoc./THFN	29,800/35,000
CRE-11-06	2006 In-Season Management Fund	YRCF Assoc.-THFN	42,500/50,000
CRE-14-06	<i>Icthyophonus</i> Diagnostics, Education & Outreach	DFO ⁸	6,200/7,300
CRE-19-06	Mayo Riv Chnl Reconst-Assess Juv Chin Hab-2	FN NND ⁹	12,900/15,200
CRE-20N-06	Stewart River Chum Pilot	FN NND	4,300/5,000
CRE-23N-06	Prelim Assessment Porcupine River Juv Sal Mig	Vuntut Gwitchin FN	37,200/43,700
CRE-25N-06	Project Assistance Mentoring /Capacity Building	Vuntut Gwitchin FN	10,500/12,400
CRE-26N-06	Commercial Chum Roe Economic Feasibility	Vuntut Gwitchin FN	3,800/4,500
CRE-27-06	Porcupine River Chum Mark/Recapture Project	Vuntut Gwitchin FN	57,200/67,300
CRE-29-06	Chum Spawning Ground Recoveries – Minto Area	Selkirk First Nation	10,200/12,000
CRE-31-06	Pelly River Sub-basin Community Stewardship	Selkirk Ren Res Cncl	21,300/25,000
CRE-37-06	Blind Creek Chinook Salmon Enumeration Weir	Jane Wilson & Assoc.	38,300/45,000
CRE-41-06	Chinook Sonar Enumeration Big Salmon River	Jane Wilson & Assoc.	65,500/77,000
CRE-47-06	Teslin River Sub-Basin Stewardship	Teslin Tlingit Council	40,000/47,000
CRE-48N-06	Teslin Tlingit People & Salmon Kiosk Interp Centre	Teslin Tlingit Council	8,500/10,000
CRE-50-06	KDFN Salmon Stewardship	Kwanlin Dun FN	42,500/50,000
CRE-53-06	Range Road Dump Stabilization/Clean-up	Ta'an Kwach'an Cncl	19,900/23,400
CRE-54N-06	Fox Creek Beaver Dam Management	Ta'an Kwach'an Cncl	16,200/19,100
CRE-55-06	Upper Nordenskiold Salmon Stewardship Project	Champ. & Aishihik FN	2,000/2,400
CRE-56N-06	Upper Takhini/Hutchi Stewardship Plan	Champ. & Aishihik FN	12,800/15,000
CRE-58-06	Community Salmon Stewardship – KFN Territory	Kluane First Nation	25,500/30,000
CRE-61-06	Helicopter Release Chinook Fry from Whs Hatchery	R&D Environ. Mngt.	5,100/6,000
CRE-63-06	Whitehorse Rapids Hatchery Coded Wire Tagging	YF&G Assoc. ¹⁰	49,500/58,200
CRE-64N-06	Wolf Creek Monitoring	YF&G Assoc.	5,100/6,000
CRE-65-06	McIntyre Creek Salmon Incubation Project	NRI Yukon College	36,600/43,100
CRE-67-06	Yukon Schools Fry Releases & Habitat studies	Streamkeepers Nor Soc	3,400/4,000
CRE-75-06	Value-Added Fish Processing Facility	YR Salmon Coop	120,000/141,200
CRE-79-06	Stock ID Microstellite Variation – Chin & Chum	DFO	34,000/40,000
CRE-87-06	Germaine Creek Restoration Monitoring	M. Miles & Assoc.	21,300/25,000
CRE-95-06	Mitigation Plan – Yukon Queen II Operation	YR Panel	8,500/10,000
CRE-97-06	Porcupine River Salmon Gathering	Vuntut Gwitchin FN	9,600/12,000
CRE-98-06	Yukon Stewardship Program	Yukon F&W Board	127,500/150,000
CRE-110-06	Cdn Involvement in Eagle Sonar	Fisheries & Oceans	34,000/40,000
Total – 41 projects approved			\$1,191.5k/1,401.2

¹ N – denotes a new YRP R&E project.

² Based on an exchange rate of \$1Cdn=\$.85US/1.176Cdn – with project totals being rounded to the nearest \$100, from the denomination used by the applicant.

³ ADF&G – Alaska Department of Fish and Game

⁴ AVCP – Association of Village Council Presidents

⁵ USFWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service

⁶ DDRRC – Dawson City District Renewable Resources Council

⁷ YRCF Assoc – Yukon River Commercial Fishing Association.

⁸ DFO – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

⁹ First Nation of the Nacho Nyak Dun

¹⁰ YF&G Assoc. – Yukon Fish & Game Association.

YUKON RIVER WILD ALASKA SALMON ATTEND THE BOSTON SEAFOOD SHOW

BY JILL KLEIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, YRDFA

The Boston Seafood show took place on March 12 – 14, 2006 at the Boston Convention Center. It is with great pride that the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) hosted a booth at this show. In attendance were almost all of the salmon processors along the Yukon River to promote their products, some of them awarded winners at the Symphony of Seafood!

Processors in attendance at the regional booth included Boreal, Maserculiq, Meedoy, and Santa's Smokehouse. The regional booth hosted two processors at a time to be at the booth and sample their products. Also in attendance were Yukon River Board members for both YRDFA and Kwipak to learn more about the realities of selling fish in the marketplace.



longer river. richer taste.

YRDFA staff and contractors, Jill Klein, Dan Senecal-Albrecht and Norman Cohen, joined the processors in order to be able to promote Yukon River salmon for the region

in general. The three days of the show were packed with restaurant owners, distributors, store managers and other seafood suppliers from all over the world, converging together. Many people were interested in Yukon River Wild Alaska salmon and all agreed it was one of the best tasting items at the show.

Overall, the booth was a great success. Our goal was to increase awareness and actually assist the processors in potential sales. It is more important than ever to promote Yukon River salmon in the domestic marketplace due to the transition away from traditional Japanese markets. This show helped us attain that goal. We now begin the follow-up work to discuss the potential for new markets for the coming 2006 summer season. Stay tuned! 🐟



Executive Director, Jill Klein and Former Executive Director, Dan Senecal-Albrecht.



Doug Sweat



Norman Cohen

SEATTLE-TACOMA SEAFOOD BUYERS WANT YUKON KING SALMON QUALITY TO IMPROVE

BY DAN SENEAL-ALBRECHT, FORMER YRDFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello again to all of you on the Yukon River. I was asked by Jill Klein to contact some of the seafood buyers in the Seattle-Tacoma area who first started buying Yukon River king salmon around 1996-1997. Those I interviewed included both large and small distributors and retail fish markets. Here is a summary of their comments:

Why do you buy Yukon king salmon?

Great flavor and high oil content. Great "story" to tell about the fish. Customers are asking for it.

Have you been able to meet demand?

Definitely not in 2005. We did better in meeting demand in 2003 and 2004 but there is still definitely room in the market for more sales.

What are the reasons that make you hesitant sometimes to buy Yukon salmon?

Quality concerns. Quality must match the high price. Deliveries are sometimes inconsistent.

Comments on quality

Quality has improved since 1990s but is still only average. Some of the fish we receive is not chilled enough and/or the fillets are bruised or split. Definitely room for improvement in both fish handling and chilling.

How can the Yukon salmon industry improve its sales to you?

Improve the reliability of shipping and improve the quality and chilling.

What can the Yukon salmon industry do to help you improve your sales to your customers?

Keep "telling the Yukon story" to the media and the public. Let us buyers know when the fish will be available and the general price range.

What other Alaska kings compete with Yukon kings in your markets?

Cook Inlet, Nushagak, Stikine, Taku

It was very educational for me to talk to these distributors whom I used to speak to frequently from 1996 to 2001 when YRDFA first began its domestic marketing efforts. They believe that Yukon kings are one of the best fish in the world and want to continue to buy it. However, all salmon fisheries around the world are improving their handling and chilling of the fish because customers demand the best. These seafood buyers will continue to buy Yukon salmon but its clear they won't be able to significantly increase their purchases unless Yukon fishermen, tender boat operators and processors handle the fish carefully, chill them faster and keep them cold all the way from the River to the final customer at the grocery store or the restaurant.

Dan Senecal-Albrecht was YRDFA's Executive Director from 1991-2001. He can be reached at senecalalbrecht@yahoo.com. ☞

16th YRDFA ANNUAL MEETING – RUBY

BY BECCA ROBBINS, POLICY COORDINATOR, YRDFA

The 16th YRDFA Annual Meeting was held in Ruby this year from February 13-16. Over sixty people attended this year's gathering, including YRDFA Board members from all Yukon River districts; fishers from St. Mary's, Huslia, Pitka's Point, Alatna, Marshall, Mountain Village, Minto, Beaver and Rampart; several Yukon River processors; and federal and state agency staff.

Meeting in the gym of the Ruby School, the YRDFA Board and members had two and a half information and discussion filled days. In addition to the agenda items mentioned below, many people from the community of Ruby and throughout the Yukon River shared their own experiences and observations on the river and its salmon.

The group heard presentations on the 2006 season outlooks from ADF&G staff; presentations on the changing size of salmon from Cliff Schleusner (OSM), Kristin Mull (YRDFA) and Dani Evenson (ADF&G); and a presentation on the impacts of climate change on the Yukon River from Orville Huntington of Huslia, Co -Chair of the Alaska Native Science Commission. YRDFA also heard updates on

the development of the Kaltag fish plant and commercial marketing efforts for Yukon River salmon.

Outcomes

After hearing the presentations on the changing size of salmon, as well as observations from many people on the river who are seeing smaller salmon these days, YRDFA committed to forming a workgroup to develop solutions to this problem. The workgroup will be composed of upper and lower river fishers, tribal groups and state and federal agency staff and will develop proposals to solve this problem for the Federal Subsistence Board and the 2007 Board of Fish meeting. YRDFA hopes that this workgroup can develop a solution supported by all fishers which will adequately protect Yukon River fish stocks and ensure the continued viability of our fishery. There was some initial discussion of using windows as a conservation measure, but discussion was not finalized.

"ANNUAL MEETING..." CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

“ANNUAL MEETING...” *continued from page 9*

YRDFA also discussed the new DEC Seafood Processing Regulations (see article on the issue in this month's newsletter) and passed a motion to send letters to the Governor, state and federal legislators asking that roe harvesters on the Yukon River be exempt from classification as processors and thus not subject to permitting requirements and regulations. YRDFA also discussed the importance of being able to trade salmon strips to Yukon River communities and maintaining the subsistence way of life.

Increasing hatchery salmon production in the state of Alaska was another issue of concern to the YRDFA Board and YRDFA members. To address this issue, the Board passed a motion that staff will send a letter to the Governor addressing hatchery production and exemption from the wanton waste law. The letter will also state that ocean-ranched and hatchery fish are not wild and that YRDFA opposes labeling these fish as wild.

Proposals

The YRDFA Board approved the following proposals:

1. *Quarter Point Opening proposal*

- * The Board approved a proposal to allow a commercial opening at the quarter point of the run, which is historically June 15th. This will allow a limited amount of fish to be caught early in the season for marketing purposes, and will be used by management to assess run strength.
- * The rationale was that if run strength will provide for upriver subsistence and escapement needs, then fish can be harvested along the entire Chinook run, spreading out the harvest and having less impact on specific parts of the run.
- * Proposal: A run assessment opening shall be made at the first quartile in Y1 or Y2 with the intent to set a date at the beginning of the season. There was intent to start this in Y2 first. Management shall use this opening to assess run strength for data verification prior to opening commercial fisheries and to evaluate in-season indicators of run strength.

2. *Directed coho fishery*

- * A placeholder proposal will be submitted to the Board of Fisheries to allow for a commercial coho fishery.

3. *Marking subsistence harvested fish*

- * A proposal to mark subsistence taken fish by cutting the tail instead of the dorsal fin will be put in to the Board of Fisheries to make marking fish easier.



Becca Robbins, YRDFA Policy Coordinator, reports to the Board members at the annual meeting.



Philip "Jeep" Titus, Jill Klein, Henry Wiehl, and Richard Burnham take a break to smile for the camera.

Resolutions

The YRDFA Board passed the following resolutions. The full texts of the resolutions are available from the YRDFA office.

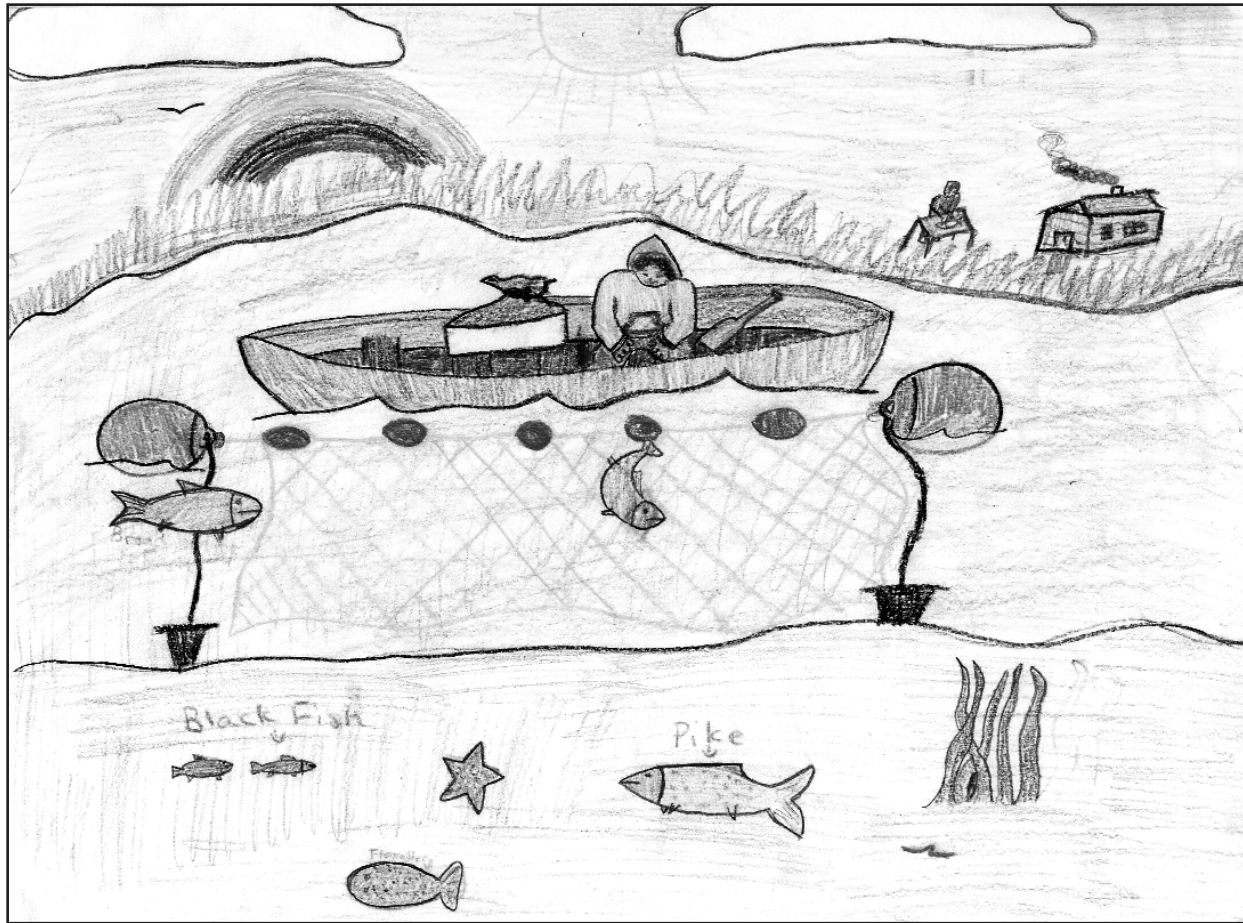
- 2006-01 Opposing Mixing Zones in Fish Spawning Areas
- 2006-02 Opposing Overproduction from Hatcheries and Roe Stripping
- 2006-03 Encouraging the collection of Age Length Sex & Girth/Weight Data
- 2006-04 Thanking the community of Ruby
- 2006-05 Regarding the Area M fishery and Stock Identification (WASSIP)
- 2006-06 Regarding Salmon Bycatch in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Pollock Fishery

Meeting attendees were well-nourished throughout the meeting by the excellent cook staff in Ruby. In addition to all the hard work, meeting attendees were treated to warm welcomes, excellent hospitality and entertainment from the community of Ruby. Many thanks are due to the community of Ruby for hosting this year's annual meeting. The 2007 Annual Meeting will be held in Pilot Station – more details to come. ☺

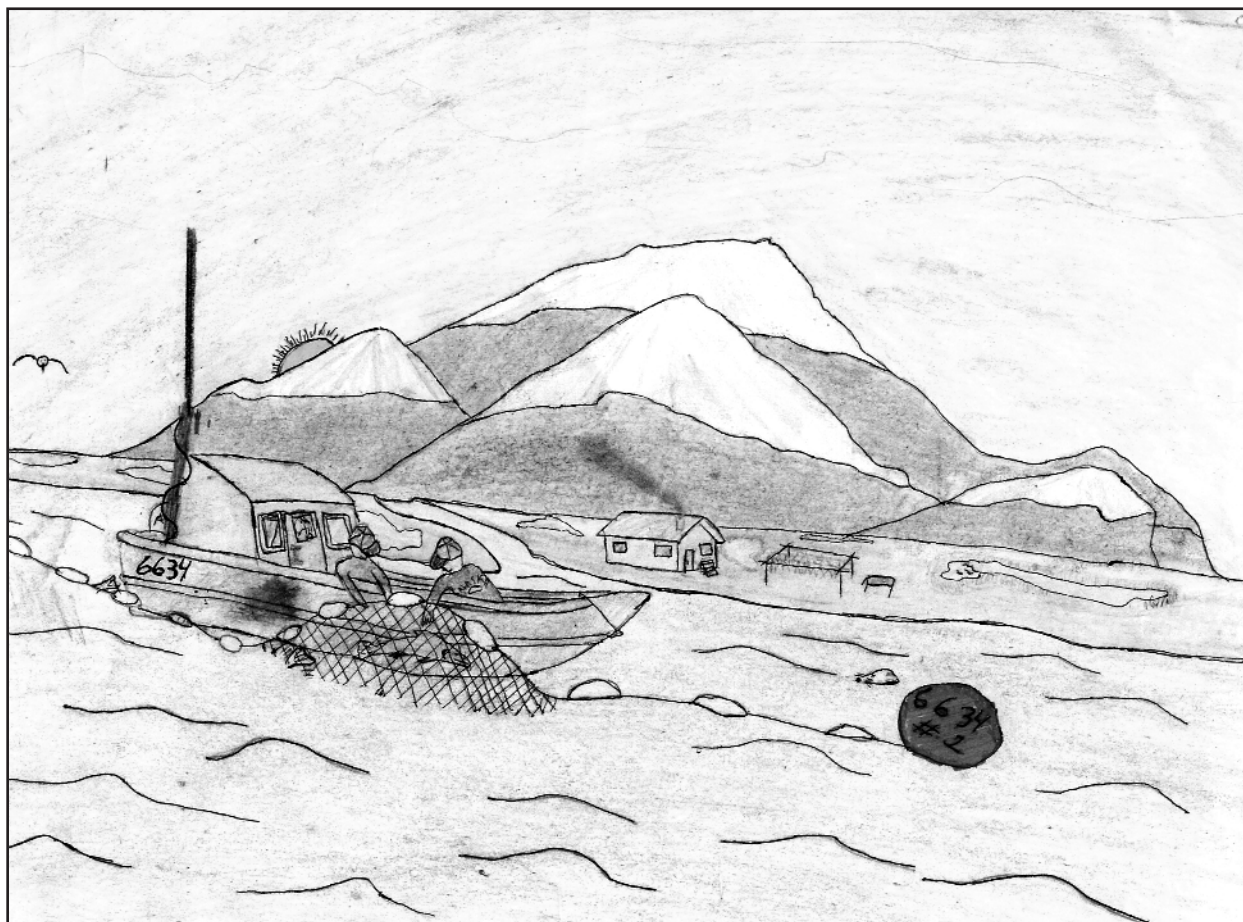
Thank You
to the community of Ruby for hosting
this year's Annual Meeting.

YRDFA POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to YRDFA's Poster Contest winners Michael Henry of Scammon Bay, and Evelyn Teeluk of Kotlik! Michael and Evelyn both won a new I-Pod shuffle and will have their art displayed on an upcoming YRDFA poster. There were approximately 50 entries in each category. Thank you to all the contestants for their hardwork and creativity! ☺



Winning poster for the K-5 grade age group designed by Evelyn Teeluk of Kotlik.



Winning poster for the 6-12 grade age group designed by Michael Henry of Scammon Bay.

Thank You!

YRDFA would like to extend their appreciation to the following individuals and businesses that graciously donated raffle prizes to support our annual meeting in Ruby.

ARTIQUE LTD., ANCHORAGE
Byron Birdsall Print *Southeast Sunset*

CISCO SYSTEMS, ANCHORAGE
Wooden Box, Clock and Compass

FRED MEYER, FAIRBANKS
\$25 Gift Card

HOME DEPOT, FAIRBANKS
\$50 Gift Certificate

REED'S SNOW MACHINE & MARINE, FAIRBANKS
\$100 off a new Mercury Outboard

JAN PARISH & DON WOODRUFF, EAGLE
Handspun Dog – Wool Yarn

DAYS INN, ANCHORAGE
(2) One Night Stay Coupons

CARL WALKER, GRAYLING
Beaded Gloves

MILLENNIUM HOTEL, ANCHORAGE
Two Sunday Brunch Tickets

WELLS FARGO, ANCHORAGE
Wells Fargo Goodie Bag

ARCTIC PROMOTIONS
Folding Pocket Knife

WIEHL'S, RAMPART
Four Pints Jarred King Salmon

COSTCO WHOLESALE, ANCHORAGE
\$50 Gift Card

HAGELAND AVIATION SERVICES, FAIRBANKS
(2) Round-trip Tickets

PIKE'S, FAIRBANKS
One Night Stay Coupon

WRIGHT AIR SERVICE, FAIRBANKS
(2) Round-trip Tickets

YRDFA would also like to thank
FRONTIER AIRLINES
for shipping food,
equipment and cargo to this year's
16th Annual Meeting...
and for getting meeting participants
to Ruby safely!!

SIZE TRENDS AMONG YUKON RIVER CHINOOK SALMON

BY KRISTIN MULL, FISHERY BIOLOGIST, YRDFA

At several recent meetings, including the YRDFA Annual Meeting in Ruby in February 2006, the Joint Technical Committee (JTC) and Yukon River Panel (YR Panel) meetings in Whitehorse, Canada in February and March 2006, participants have spoken about an important fishery issue for the Yukon River drainage: age, sex, weight, and length trends in Chinook salmon. Some fishermen and women who live on the river and its tributaries have noticed that the size of the Chinook salmon they are catching is decreasing over time, while others have not noticed this trend. Given the importance of this matter and the potential impacts to the salmon fishery, several non-governmental organizations and government agencies have become involved, including: YRDFA, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (BSFA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

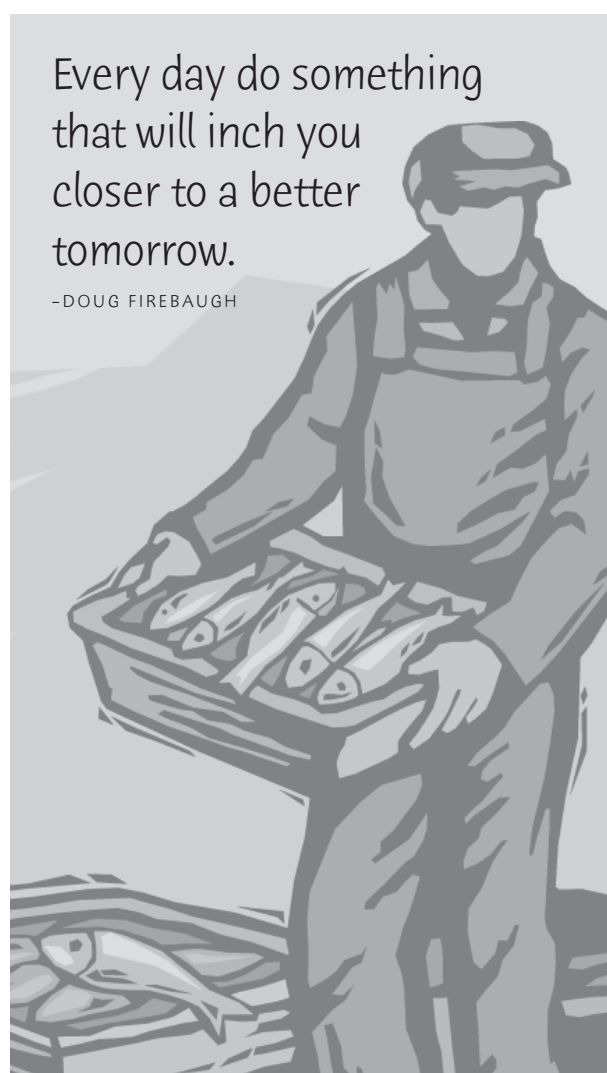
October 2006	<p>Yukon River Fish Size Working Group Meeting – Facilitated by YRDFA <u>Participants:</u> Representatives from YR communities, tribal groups, RACs, state and federal agencies, YRDFA, and other non-governmental organizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present research findings to date. • Develop a strategy for the short term. • Develop research priorities for addressing long-term concerns.
Fall 2006	<p>YRDFA Board Meeting <u>Participants:</u> YRDFA Board members which include YR fishermen and women and community members from the entire river.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present research findings to date. • Present outcomes of working group meeting. • Vote on Board of Fish Proposals (may or may not relate to ASWL trends).
January 2007	<p>Board of Fish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present fish size, sex, and age analysis to date. • Present outcomes of working group meeting. • Present update on progress of JTC ASWL Subcommittee.

The USFWS completed a report in December 2005 which indicated that the proportion of Chinook salmon larger than 35 inches in length has decreased over time throughout the drainage. This trend was most pronounced further upstream, and no size trend was detected in two lower river tributaries. This finding may help explain why some fishermen and women (predominately in the middle and upper river) are noticing that the salmon are smaller while other fishermen and women (predominately in the lower river) are not.

Because of the significance of this issue, YRDFA began its own preliminary analysis and presented initial results to the JTC and YR Panel, who agreed that more thorough investigation is needed. The JTC established a Subcommittee to undertake additional examination and analyses of age, sex, weight and length (ASWL) trends in Yukon River Chinook salmon. The ASWL Subcommittee is represented by one member each from YRDFA, BSFA, USFWS-Office of Subsistence Management, USFWS-Division of Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, ADF&G, and DFO. This Subcommittee will assess ASWL trends in Yukon River Chinook salmon, and provide updates to the JTC and the YR Panel and other interested parties. Management decisions that result from any findings will be

left to the appropriate management entities. By progressing methodically and thoroughly, and by including several stakeholders, the JTC ASWL Subcommittee will take an independent and balanced look at the available information.

YRDFA believes that this is a very important issue facing fisheries in the Yukon River, and it should be investigated in great detail. We are supportive of the formation of the JTC ASWL Subcommittee. Based on the analyses that have been completed to date, it is still too early to tell what potential mitigation or solutions might be. Due to the significant socio-economic impacts that any change in management regulation would have on all Yukon River fishermen and women, any recommendations for alternative management strategies should be thoroughly investigated and evaluated by the public and stakeholders before they are implemented. YRDFA has drafted a work plan to facilitate timely communication between all stakeholders on this issue. A summary of the draft timeline for the near future is shown in the table below. YRDFA takes this issue very seriously and will continue to play an integral role in future research and management relating to age, sex, and size trends of Yukon River Chinook salmon. 🐟



UPDATE FROM THE YUKON RIVER PANEL MEETING IN WHITEHORSE

BY KRISTIN MULL, FISHERY BIOLOGIST, YRDFA

The Yukon River Panel (YR Panel) met in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, March 22-23, 2006. The main goals of this meeting were to establish interim escapement goals for Canadian-origin salmon and to approve Restoration and Enhancement Fund (R&E Fund) Projects for 2006. Other agenda items included Joint Technical Committee (JTC) reports, 2006 summer and fall season outlooks, and an update from the Communications Committee.

Escapement Goals

The establishment of escapement goals for Yukon River salmon is one of the primary ways in which the fishery is managed. These goals make it possible for adult salmon to reach the spawning grounds while providing for maximum sustained yield, and they are a crucial part of the State of Alaska's Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy. The Yukon River Salmon Agreement (YRSA) established escapement goals for rebuilt stocks of salmon (see table). The YRSA also provides a means for the YR Panel to set interim escapement goals for Canadian-origin salmon that will help bring salmon populations back to these rebuilt levels. These are temporary goals and are agreed upon each year at the spring YR Panel meeting. The overall aim is to protect and rebuild wild salmon stocks while at the same time emphasizing the human factor and protecting the way of life of fishing families.

The Joint Technical Committee (JTC) of the YR Panel provides fishery management and technical expertise to support the YR Panel. The JTC is responsible for recommending interim escapement goals to the YR Panel, but the YR Panel ultimately makes the final decision each year. These interim, temporary escapement goals are based upon 1-, 2-, or 3-cycle rebuilding periods. A 1-cycle rebuild means that escapement goals would rise to the rebuilt range established in the YRSA in one salmon generation (consid-

ered to be 6 years for Chinook salmon and 4 years for chum salmon). Thus, a 3-cycle rebuilding program aims to bring wild Chinook salmon escapement up to the rebuilt range in 18 years. The YR Panel recommended a 1-cycle rebuilding plan for mainstem fall chum salmon and 3-cycle rebuilding plans for mainstem Chinook salmon and Fishing Branch fall chum salmon. The table below shows the interim spawning escapement goals that were approved by the YR Panel for 2006.

Canadian-Origin Salmon	2006 Interim Escpmt Goal	YRSA Rebuilt Range
YR mainstem chinook salmon	28,000	33,000-43,000
YR mainstem fall chum salmon	80,000	80,000
Fishing Branch fall chum salmon	28,000	50,000-120,000

R&E Fund Projects

The YRSA specifies that the R&E Fund shall be used to support programs and research directed towards restoration, conservation and enhancement of Canadian-origin wild salmon stocks and the habitats upon which they depend. Within this framework, the YR Panel sets more specific priorities. R&E funds are provided annually by appropriations from the U.S. Congress. Each year, the JTC provides technical reviews of project proposals, and the YR Panel reviews and approves projects to receive funding from the R&E Fund. At the March meeting in Whitehorse, The YR Panel approved 41 projects totaling US\$1.2 million for 2006.

Other Agenda Items

The YR Panel requested several reports and updates from the JTC. These included an update on marine fishery impacts on Yukon River wild salmon stocks, genetic baselines for Yukon River Chinook and chum salmon, and data about trends in age, sex, weight, and length (ASWL) of Chinook salmon. Marine bycatch of chum salmon and Chinook salmon appears to be increasing, and it has been estimated that 25% of

salmon in the bycatch are from the Yukon River. The bycatch issue is very important, and the YR Panel will continue to monitor and advocate for progress in reducing salmon bycatch. The Panel also discussed the importance of establishing and using genetic baselines for Chinook and fall chum salmon to help identify stocks for in-season management. The YR Panel also approved the formation of the JTC ASWL Subcommittee, which will investigate age, sex, weight, and length trends in Yukon River Chinook salmon. The YR Panel recommended that related studies under the R&E Fund should include measurements of salmon weight and/or girth.

Fishery managers from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) presented outlooks for the 2006 summer and fall seasons. The 2006 run of Chinook salmon is expected to be similar to 2005 and is projected to provide for escapement goals, subsistence needs, border passage obligations, and a U.S. commercial harvest of 30,000-60,000 fish. Approximately 90,000 Canadian-origin Chinook salmon are expected to return to Canada in 2006. Average to above average runs are expected for summer chum and fall chum salmon, which will provide for escapement goals, subsistence needs, and a harvestable surplus. The summer chum salmon commercial harvest is anticipated to be 500,000-900,000 fish, dependent on the availability of markets, and the fall chum salmon commercial harvest is anticipated to be 100,000-400,000 fish. The 2006 outlook for Canadian fall chum salmon is for an average return of approximately 126,000 fish. Returns of coho salmon in Alaska are expected to be average to above average and will provide for escapement goals, subsistence needs, and commercial harvest (anticipated to be 50,000-70,000 fish).

"YRP UPDATE..." CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

OFFSHORE OIL & GAS DRILLING IN BRISTOL BAY

BY BECCA ROBBINS, POLICY COORDINATOR, YRDFA

YRDFA sent out an Action Alert to our members and tribal councils in mid-March on proposed offshore oil and gas drilling in Bristol Bay. The Mineral Management Service (MMS) is currently proposing a 5-Year lease plan for the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) which includes areas in Bristol Bay, despite the fact that Bristol Bay has been closed to offshore drilling since 1989. The plan also includes areas in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. The potential effects of drilling are numerous and deadly: drilling operations can pollute waters and oil spills from drilling operations and tankers can cause devastating effects on fish, wildlife and the marine environment for years to come.

The impacts drilling could have on Bristol Bay salmon stocks and fisheries is obvious, but the issue should be of great

concern to Yukon River fishers as well. As we know, Yukon River salmon spend four to five years of their lives in the ocean. During this time they move throughout the Bering Sea, down to the Aleutian Islands and the waters of Bristol Bay. Yukon River salmon are exposed to many dangers while out in the ocean. Until recently, Yukon River salmon, and other Western Alaskan stocks, have not had to contend with the harmful impacts of offshore drilling. If the current proposals for lease sales by the Minerals Management Service (MMS) are successful, oil and gas drilling could come to Bristol Bay, threatening Yukon River salmon stocks. A spill could also severely threaten our "Wild Alaska Salmon" label, which depends on the clean, pure nature of the waters in which our fish swim.

The Bristol Bay Native Association, Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, the Bristol Bay Borough and Bering Sea Fishermen's Association as well as many other native and fishing organizations are opposing offshore oil and gas drilling in Bristol Bay. The comment deadline for the 5-Year plan was April 11, and YRDFA submitted comments opposing the inclusion of Bristol Bay in the leasing plan. As MMS moves forward there will be other opportunities to comment, about which YRDFA will be keeping its members informed. If you'd like to receive updates on this and other issues affecting Yukon salmon, please e-mail Becca@yukonsalmon.org or call the YRDFA office. ☺

YRP Community Webpage Contest

The Yukon River Panel is looking for residents along the Yukon River in Alaska and Yukon Territory, to create their community webpage. Every community and fish camp has a place on our map of the Yukon River drainage. Selected entries will be published on the Yukon River Panel's Website.

PRIZES:

The top three from Alaska and the top three from the Yukon Territory will receive;

1ST PRIZE
\$500

2ND PRIZE
\$250

3RD PRIZE
\$100

For more information visit our website
www.yukonriverpanel.com/contest.htm

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 9, 2007

"YRP UPDATE..."

continued from page 13

The Communications Committee of the YR Panel gave a review of their 2005-2006 activities. The in-season teleconferences which involved YRDFA last summer were very successful, and they will be continued in 2006. The Communications Committee also completed a 2006-2007 calendar and a DVD called No Boundaries, which explores the journey of Yukon River salmon and follows a YR Panel educational exchange between fishermen and women, managers, and fishery biologists from the U.S. and Canada. The deadline for the community webpage contest has been extended to February 9, 2007. All groups, associations, schools and individuals from Yukon River communities are invited to participate, and information can be found on the website <http://www.yukonriverpanel.com/contest.htm>.

The next Yukon River Panel meeting will take place in December 2006 in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. YR Panel meetings are open to the public and all are invited to attend. ☺



A smiling group of participants from the Yukon River Panel meeting in Whitehorse, Spring 2006.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS...

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

March 23, 2006

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
725 Christensen Dr., Ste. 3-B
Anchorage, AK 99501
Attn: Darcy King, Program Manager

Re: shrinking "Kings"

Dear YRDFA

I am asking myself what else can be done to protect the genetic integrity of the Yukon King Salmon. The upriver people are always trying to protect the viability of this fish that provides nourishment for the whole Yukon River drainage, to no avail.

I was born and raised on this river and have seen first hand the big fish that were. What I see today and what is being called a big King Salmon is not the forty pound fish or the small fish that make up the majority of the King run.

Selectively fishing for the bigger fish is having a detrimental affect on the genetics and viability of King Salmon. Look at the Columbia River and other river systems in the US and other countries, and see what happened when selective fishing was done. Listen to the experts that know and are saying that selective fishing is adversely affecting the King Salmon in the Yukon River. Ask the Elders that are still around on the Yukon to see what size of Kings they saw thirty years ago. Like I said I grew up by the Yukon River in Tanana and my father raised me on Yukon Salmon, even the Chum Salmon were big. I am almost a half century old, I have seen a lot and I hate to see the Kings shrink before my eyes and have agencies and users say nothing is wrong, there is something wrong. Ignorance of a problem is not the solution, recognizing there is a problem, identifying the cause and doing something "action" is the solution.

The windows concept was a good idea, but for windows to truly work you have to stick to windows whether it be subsistence or commercial. No breaks in the windows concept for nothing, nobody.

Reducing the size of drift nets, very controversial, no one wants to commit. Doing something about by-catch, even recognizing that CDQ groups do throw a lot of Yukon Salmon back into the water, is being ignored, and is very controversial.

The district 5 users have pulled out their nets, stopped their wheels. I even pulled out my sixty foot net to abide by the windows schedule, and I can personally say that we have not met our historical needs to feed our families. We don't have the commercial fishery we once had; we don't have the opportunity of having all the fish in the Yukon go by Tanana. The fish disburse of to their respective spawning grounds before they get this far and we get what is going farther up the river.

To take and take the big fish continuously as it is being done now is going to have negative impacts, realize it, breathe it, and know it.

To reverse the trend that is happening may take drastic measures to keep the genetic viability of the Yukon "Kings" around for your children and grandchildren, "the next generation". Are we as Yukon River commercial and subsistence users taking from the plate of the next generation that is sure to show up on our doorsteps hungry? If any one can truly answer this question for me, don't be shy to tell me.

"Lets do something now, together, you may be mad at for what I say: be mad, get over it and be prepared to save a fish that is called the "KING" Salmon for the future that not only the users of today rely upon, but very certainly, the next generation will".

Respectfully,

Gerald Nicholia
Realty/Fish & Game/Subsistence



YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

"Promoting healthy, wild salmon fisheries on the Yukon River."

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: The Board of Directors of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFFA) hereby solicits nominations for candidates for delegates, either Board or Alternate, for the 2006 elections, in order to represent the particular membership districts of the YRDFFA.

Open Board Member Seats, for 2-yr terms, include:

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

All Alternate Seats Open, for 1-yr terms, which include:

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
 Coastal, Seat 1&2 Koyukuk, Seat 1 Yukon Flats, Seat 1



Nominate yourself, or someone you know who is involved in salmon fisheries, to become an elected YRDFFA Board Member or Alternate.

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

*Voting privileges extended to YRDFFA members only.
 District seats will be voted on by YRDFFA members within that district.
 Once elected, winners must become members and pay appropriate dues within 30 days.*

Phone in, email, fax or mail nomination form to:

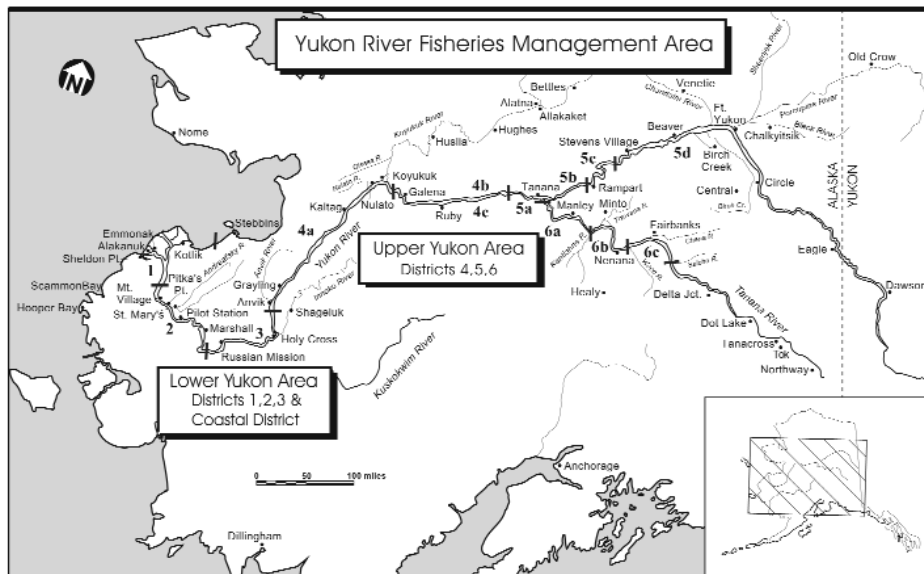
YRDFFA

725 Christensen Dr., Ste 3-B, Anchorage, AK 99501
 Phone: (907) 272-3126, Toll Free: 1-877-999-8566
 Fax: (907) 272-3142, Email: darcy-yrdfa@alaska.com

Nomination forms must be received or postmarked by May 5, 2006

www.yukonsalmon.org

It's not too late to become a member of YRDFFA!
 Join today and help support sustainable fisheries through cooperative management.



YRDFFA BOARD MEMBER & ALTERNATE NOMINATION FORM 2006

NOMINEE NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

FISHING DISTRICT: _____

**HELP US, SO WE CAN SUPPORT YOU!
 BECOME A MEMBER NOW!**

Your membership helps support our core purpose, which is to provide a collective voice for the people of the Yukon River to ensure the long-term sustainability of the river and its cultural and economic benefits.

IN 2005 ALONE, YRDFFA:

- Conducted 7 research projects dealing with stock monitoring, habitat investigations, local & traditional knowledge and marine by-catch
- Trained 9 fisheries technicians
- Employed 10 local residents as seasonal technicians
- Held 14 in-season teleconference calls to connect local fishermen with management
- Hired over 40 local residents as project assistants
- Brought together 60-80 people river-wide for a fisheries forum to discuss current fisheries issues

ANNUAL DUES:

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

**Payable by cash, check or money order to:
 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association**

NAME _____

AMOUNT PAID _____

ADDRESS _____

VILLAGE _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ FISHING DISTRICT _____