

# YUKON FISHERIES NEWS

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YUKON RIVER  
DRAINAGE  
FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

A United Voice for  
Downriver and Upriver  
Fishermen.

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YRDFA 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 YRDFA.

## NEW ESCAPEMENT GOAL & METHOD FOR COUNTING SALMON ADOPTED

BY BOB DUBEY, PH.D., FISHERIES BIOLOGIST

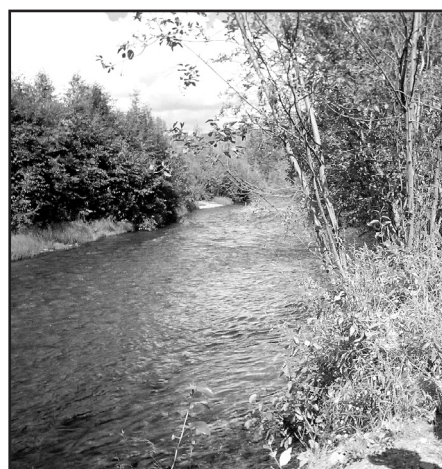
Yukon River salmon fisheries management has begun a new chapter. In April the Yukon River Panel agreed to switch from the long-standing mark/recapture program to a newer method involving sonar to measure border passage estimates of Chinook and fall chum salmon returning to Canada. And since the sonar method yields different numbers for Chinook salmon than the old program, the Panel also adopted a revised escapement goal for Chinook salmon in Canada's portion of the Yukon River.

The new Interim Management Escapement Goal (IMEG) for the Canadian Yukon River escapement is 45,000 Chinook salmon as measured by the sonar project in Eagle, AK. This goal is only in effect for one year.

Sonar and mark/recapture estimates of fall chum numbers are similar. The Canadian Yukon River fall chum escapement goal for 2008 was once again set at 80,000 fish.

### WHAT IS AN INTERIM MANAGEMENT ESCAPEMENT GOAL?

This is the number of Chinook salmon that fisheries managers are trying to get onto the spawning grounds in Canada for this year. This management goal is an estimate of the escapement needed to maximize the sustainable yield—the escapement needed to maximize the number of juveniles that return per spawner. The border passage count will need to be higher than the goal, because the goal does not include Chinook salmon that fishers will harvest up stream of the Eagle sonar. This goal is an integral component of



A Chinook salmon spawning stream in Canada, near Dawson City.

how commercial, subsistence, and sport fisheries will be managed throughout the fishing season.

### WHY IS THE NEW GOAL ONLY FOR ONE YEAR?

A one year goal reflects an adaptive approach to management that allows adjustments as more information becomes available. Every year there will be more information from the sonar project and escapement survey data, and biologists can

use this data to refine the goal.

### WHY SWITCH FROM MARK/RECAPTURE TO SONAR ESTIMATES?

The mark/recapture estimates of Chinook salmon in Canada have been highly variable and inconsistent. Sonar has been used statewide and is a tried and proven method of counting fish. The Eagle sonar estimates of Chinook salmon are thought to be more accurate than the mark/recapture estimates as the sampling conditions at the Eagle site are considered ideal. It has been in operation for three years, which has allowed scientists to compare it to the mark-recapture program and other population surveys. These comparisons gave the scientists enough information to formulate the new sonar goal.

### BOTTOM LINE: WILL THIS MEAN I GET LESS FISH?

The old goal of 33,000 to 43,000 Chinook salmon as measured by the mark/recapture program is very similar to the new goal of 45,000 Chinook salmon as measured by the Eagle sonar. This change in itself should not have a major impact on the number of fish available for harvest. 🐟



## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Allakaket Tribal Council  
Asa' Carsarmiut Tribal Council  
Beaver Village Council  
Birch Creek Gwich'in Tribal Council  
City of St. Mary's\*  
Evansville Tribal Council  
Interior Alaska Fish Processors, Inc.  
Kotlik Traditional Council\*  
Koyukuk Tribal Council  
Nulato Tribal Council\*  
Pitka's Point Tribal Council  
Yukon Salmon Committee  
Yukon Kings Seafood  
Yupit of Andreafski

*\*Welcome to our newest associate members!*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT / SEAT #	REPRESENTATIVE
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### TOK

Thor Jorgensen

### WASILLA

Ernie Chase  
Ernest Demoski

### OUTSIDE ALASKA

Bill Fliris  
Richard Kocan

\* sponsored by Alakanuk Native Corp.    \*\* sponsored by Kotlik Yupik Corp.    \*\*\* sponsored by Pilot Station Inc.

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and the management of Yukon River salmon.*



# A MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR

BY BECCA ROBBINS GISCLAIR, POLICY DIRECTOR

To me, the coming of spring has a sound: the honking and calling of the sand hill cranes which fill the hay fields in front of my home for a few precious days in the spring,



not to be seen again until the long days of summer come to a close. Their arrival, late this year, is always a vocal reminder of the changes to come as the fields turn to green, trees bear their leafy coats and our attention shifts from eating what is in the freezer to growing and catching the next year's food.

At YRDFA this spring is a time for change and new beginnings as well. We celebrate the birth of Jill Klein's daughter, Sipora, and congratulate the proud parents. In Jill's absence, and with a few less positions due to funding cuts, staff has adapted to the changes here in the workplace and are working diligently to ensure that YRDFA's work continues.

As the season's change is upon us, it is hard to ignore the bigger changes occurring in our world, and the dramatic impacts on salmon. The changes from global climate change, from rising in-river temperatures to shifts in river hydrology and ocean acidification, are amongst the gravest – and scariest – factors which could fundamentally affect the productivity of Yukon River salmon. Salmon bycatch in the pollock fishery and pollution from new development are equally worrisome.

In the face of these serious threats we have but two options: to sit back as the iconic Yukon River salmon runs weaken, or to work diligently and passionately to ensure that the fish and subsistence and commercial fisheries survive.

Here at YRDFA, we are committed to our mission of ensuring healthy, wild salmon runs on the Yukon River. Through education and outreach, scientific research and advocacy

we are working hard to ensure that the treasure of the Yukon River salmon can endure. As one of my favorite authors, Terry Tempest Williams, said, "The eyes of the future are looking back at us and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time." At times like this, with huge environmental change on the horizon, and the possibility of no commercial fishery on the Yukon this year, we must think not only of our own time, and what we need to fill the drying racks or freezer for next year, but what those eyes of the future—and the stomachs they are attached to—will need.



## YRDFA Welcomes New Addition



On March 26, 2008, at 4:30 p.m., YRDFA Executive Director Jill Klein and her husband Dov brought a new baby girl into the world. Sipora Bayla Margalit weighed in at 6 pounds, 4 ounces and measured 19 inches long. Both mother and baby are in good health. Congratulations, Jill and Dov, and welcome, Sipora! 🐾

## 2008 Bycatch Management Action Calendar

### June 2-10

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/>  
*Chose preliminary preferred option  
for managing bycatch*  
– Kodiak –

### July-August

45 day public comment period for Environmental Impact Statement for North Pacific Fishery Management Council salmon bycatch management measures  
*Analyze social and environmental impacts of the options*

### September 29-October 7

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/>  
– Anchorage Sheraton –

### December 8-16

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/>  
*Final action adopting option for  
managing bycatch*  
– Anchorage Hilton –

# YRDFA THANKS ANNUAL MEETING SUPPORTERS

This past February more than 50 community representatives and YRDFA Board Members gathered in the gym in Grayling to discuss the fisheries issues of the day. Over the course of the week, they covered issues from bycatch to alternative energy, learning and sharing on each topic. They spoke with local youth and elders and enjoyed the hospitality of the welcoming community. The meeting brought ideas and understanding to participants. It was said to be a success by all involved, and it is now time to thank those who made it possible.

## PRESENTERS

Knowledge is power, and YRDFA would like to thank these experts for arming attendees with the most current facts regarding a number of key issues: David Lockard, *Alaska Energy Authority*; Jaime Pinkham, *Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission*; Steve Hayes, Eric Newland, Fred Bue, and Gene Sandone, *ADF&G*; Kristin Mull, *Bureau of Land Management*; Jeremiah Millen, *Alaska Wilderness League*; Dorothy Childers, *Alaska Marine Conservation Council*; and Jennifer Hooper, *Association of Village Council Presidents*. Last, but far from least, special thanks to Beverly Chmielarczyk for sharing thoughts and activities on salmon with the youth of Grayling.

## RAFFLE DONORS

Before every annual meeting, YRDFA reaches out to its vendors and friends for items to raffle. The goal is to raise funds to support our mission, and this year the raffle successfully drew in nearly \$1,000. The raffle table was covered with desirable items, including airline tickets, a fishing net, binoculars, artwork, and money. YRDFA would like to thank the following vendors for their generous offerings: Hageland Aviation Services, Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, Wells Fargo Bank N.A., Reed's Snowmachine & Marine, Donalson Company: Warehouse & Net Loft, Auction Arms, Fred Meyer West, Katie Seigny Studios, Crowley Petroleum Distribution, Inc., Boreal Fisheries, Inc., Golden North Motel, and Everts Air.

## COMMUNITY

From the time attendees exited their planes and were welcomed by a fleet of smiling snow machiners, they felt the warm hospitality of the people of Grayling. Local officials visited the meeting daily, going out of their way to make everyone feel at home. The cooks sang, joked, and laughed as they prepared and served delicious meals. The community liaison checked in with each person throughout the day and worked tirelessly to meet everyone's needs. Numerous community members brought food for the potluck and danced the night away at the evening social. The teachers, principal, and students of the school showed kindness and generosity at every turn, and even the basketball team didn't complain, despite losing their gym to the meeting the week before hosting a big tournament with surrounding villages. YRDFA is extremely grateful for all the heartwarming hospitality and would like to offer its most sincere thanks.

*YRDFA's work on the annual meeting is funded under agreement number 701813G221 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), agreement number NA07NMF4720091 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and agreement number NA06FP0387 from the Pacific Salmon Recovery Fund (PacSal). The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of USFWS, NOAA, PacSal, or any related subagencies.* 🐟



*A girl from Grayling offers cake to everyone at the potluck.*

## YRDFA BOARD RESOLUTIONS 2008

The YRDFA Board of Directors passed the following resolutions at the annual meeting in February. For more information, please contact Becca Robbins Gisclair, policy director, at 907-272-3141 ext. 106 or [becca@yukonsalmon.org](mailto:becca@yukonsalmon.org).

### 01 - SALMON BYCATCH

BE IT RESOLVED that YRDFA supports the continued monitoring of wild salmon bycatch; increased understanding of stock composition, wild salmon distribution and the relationship between wild salmon abundance and wild salmon bycatch; and management measures at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that will effectively reduce the number of wild salmon caught as bycatch, including explicit limits on the total number of wild salmon that may be caught as bycatch.

### 02 - HATCHERIES

BE IT RESOLVED that YRDFA opposes the allowing of roe stripping in hatcheries and supports setting specific limits on hatchery production and decreasing funding and loans to private non-profit hatcheries.

### 03 – THANKING THE COMMUNITY OF GRAYLING

BE IT RESOLVED that the YRDFA Board Members, delegates and staff of YRDFA gratefully thank the Grayling School, the City and IRA Tribal Council of Grayling, and the people of Grayling for their generosity and hospitality.

### 04 – CONCERN OVER PEBBLE MINE

BE IT RESOLVED that YRDFA has concerns over the development and implementation of the proposed Pebble Mine.

### 05 – SUBSISTENCE WINDOWS

BE IT RESOLVED that YRDFA does not support current regulations requiring elder subsistence users to adhere to the subsistence windows schedule, and



YRDFA supports creating an exemption to allow elders to fish 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the Yukon River Drainage.

#### 06 – RENEWABLE ENERGY

BE IT RESOLVED that YRDFA supports the development and use of renewable energy resources, including wind, biomass, geothermal, solar, and hydrokinetic, providing that there is minimal environmental impact to fish and wildlife resources.

#### 08 - BERING SEA ELDERS' ADVISORY GROUP

BE IT RESOLVED that YRDFA supports the work of the Bering Sea Elders' Advisory Group.

#### 09 - YUKON DELTA FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION'S CONTRIBUTION TO YRDFA

BE IT RESOLVED that Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association respectfully requests the Yukon Delta Fishery Development Association reinstate their annual \$10,000 donation to Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

#### 11- DONLIN MINE

BE IT RESOLVED that YRDFA expresses its concern that the mine, if permitted, operate with no impacts to the environment and, particularly, no impacts to aquatic life and habitat productivity. 🐟



A high school student from Grayling presents a question to fishers from the length of the Yukon River at the annual meeting.

# VOICES FROM THE RIVER

## Yukon River Fishermen Speak Out

BY JASON HALE, OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

### *“How has salmon fishing changed in your lifetime?”*

*In April 2008, YRDFA Outreach & Communications Coordinator Jason Hale had a chance to ask this question of fishers from up and down the Yukon. Here are their thoughts...*

#### **Richard Carroll II, Ft. Yukon**

The salmon numbers are down, definitely. Because of the restraints people want to get fish faster than they need to. That's sort of disappointing. I think you have the same number or more people fishing because of the high cost of groceries at the store.

You don't see the long fish camps like you used to. People stay closer to home. It still makes people happy to get salmon and put them away for the winter.

Of course, the king salmon are smaller. You hardly see 40 pounders anymore. Twenty-five to 30 pounds, and that's about it.

#### **Carl Sidney, Teslin, Yukon Territory**

The most noticeable—it takes 40 times longer to get the amount of fish that we used to take. Therefore, a lot less salmon.

The salmon are much smaller.

People in my community are getting less and less salmon to get them through the winters. It can be noticed in their health. The knowledge, experiences, values of the salmon cannot be transferred to the future generations—the values, lessons, experiences from fish camps are being lost.

#### **Angela Demientieff, Holy Cross**

In the 60's I think it was a lot more work than it is now because we were on a raft and we had to haul all the fish up to where we cut them. It was a long day, it was all day. We got a lot more fish, especially the chum—maybe 5,000-8,000 summer chum and about the same number of kings as we get today.

#### **Vicky Josie, Old Crow, Yukon Territory**

We didn't fish for two years voluntarily because we want stocks to build up. Another time we pulled our nets during part of the run. People aren't complaining.

Last year the water was low and we had to pull boats, but fish still came and were in good shape, and we caught them.

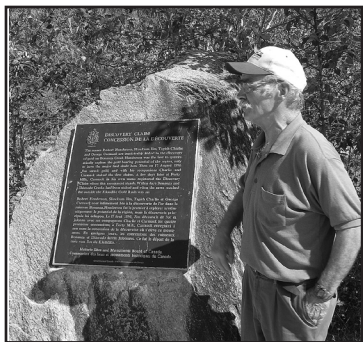
The new escapement goal, I couldn't believe we would let so few fish get up the river, but after seeing the spawning numbers I think it's okay. We'll see what happens. Everybody was happy with their fish last year.

#### **Erik Weingarth, St. Mary's**

It definitely has changed. I think no matter what people will subsist off the land... it's in their blood. Over the years we've sacrificed a lot. I think it's in the best interest of the whole river to rebuild the runs.

The concept of sharing hasn't been lost. The toughest things have been the price of boats, motors, and fuel. I think it's really important, even with no returns, that we share with future generations—kids, grandkids—just to show them that we need to preserve the resource no matter what. 🐟

# YUKON RIVER PANEL BIDS FAREWELL TO GERRY COUTURE



The Yukon River Panel meeting this spring saw the retirement of one of the original Panel members, Gerry Couture of Dawson City, Yukon. Gerry has demonstrated commitment to the conservation and enhancement of salmon in the Yukon River through his involvement in many committees, boards, panels, work groups, and public forums that are devoted to this cause. We all have enjoyed Gerry’s wit and candor at Panel meetings, and wish him the best in his retirement. 🐟

# GOVERNOR PALIN APPOINTS YUKON RIVER PANEL ADVISERS

From State of Alaska Press Release

On February 29, 2008 Governor Sarah Palin announced the appointment of eight advisers to the Yukon River Panel. The advisers assist the Panel in achieving conservation of salmon stocks originating from the Yukon River in Canada through development and implementation of agreed upon research and management programs, identification of restoration and enhancement opportunities, and submission of recommendations to management entities in Canada and Alaska.

Richard Carroll II (Fort Yukon) and Erik Weingarh (St. Mary’s) were appointed, and Shirley Clark (Grayling), Angela Demientieff-Walker (Holy Cross), Jennifer Hooper (Bethel), Mike Smith (Fairbanks), Joseph Strongheart Sr. (Nunam Iqua), and Virgil Umphenour (Fairbanks) were reappointed. 🐟



Yukon River Panel U.S. Advisors Erik Weingarh, Jennifer Hooper, Shirley Clark, and Panel Member Francis Thompson share a laugh during a reception at the Panel meeting this spring.



# YUKON RIVER PANEL 2008 RESTORATION & ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

Project <sup>1</sup>	Project Title	Project Proponent	\$US/\$Cdn <sup>2</sup> Req.
URE-07-08	Gillnet Catch Comp (ASLWG) – Lower Yukon River TF	YRDFA	7,620/
URE-08-08	Tech Assist, Dev & Support – Fish Wheel Video	USFWS	5,600/
URE-09-08	Rampart-Rapids Full Season Video Monitoring	Stan Zuray	46,100/
URE-16N-08 (a)	Eagle Sonar Operations	ADF&G/DFO	99,525/
URE-16N-08 (b)	ASL Collection	ADF&G/DFO	20,100/
URE-16N-08 (c)	Canadian Participation	ADF&G/DFO	/69,000
URE-19N-08	In-season Chin Stock ID Pilot	ADF&G	45,000/
URE-04N-08	Ruby Data Collection	Ruby Tribal Council	14,900/
URE-13-08	Ichthyophonous Sampling at Emmonak & Eagle	ADF&G	34,191/
URE-05-08	Marshall Chinook Test Fishery	YRDFA	28,000/
URE-06-08	Kaltag Fall Chum/Coho Drift Gillnet Test Fishery	City of Kaltag	21,000/
CRE-78-08	Collection of DNA Baseline Samples YR AK & YT	DFO/ADF&G	/60,000
CRE-11-08	In-Season Management Fund	YRCF Assoc & THFN	/50,000
CRE-06-08	Yukon River North Mainstem Stewardship	DDRRC	/24,000
CRE-07-08	First Fish Youth Camp	Tr’ondek Hwech’in FN	/10,000
CRE-09-08	Tr’ondek Hwech’in Student Steward	Tr’ondek Hwech’in FN	/4,600
CRE-10-08	Size Selective Fishing using Live Catch Fishwheels	YRCF Assoc.	/29,700
CRE-16-08	Klondike River Chinook Sonar	B. Mercer	/18,100
CRE-19-08	Mayo Riv Channel Reconst–Assess Juv Chin Hab-4	FN NND	/14,527
CRE-27-08	Porcupine River Chum Mark/Recapture Project	Vuntut Gwitchin Gov	/52,201
CRE-29-08	Chum Spawning Ground Recoveries – Minto Area	Selkirk RRC	/12,000
CRE-37-08	Blind Creek Chinook Salmon Enumeration Weir	Jane Wilson & Assoc.	/47,100
CRE-41-08	Chinook Sonar Enumeration Big Salmon River	Jane Wilson & Assoc.	/77,700
CRE-46N-08	Upper Teslin River Chum Tracking Pilot	Teslin Tlingit Council	/5,000
CRE-51-08	KDFN Michie Cr Salmon & Habitat Monitoring	Kwanlin Dun FN	/30,000
CRE-54-08	Ta’an Kwach’an Council Community Steward	Ta’an Kwach’an Cncl	/41,845
CRE-63-08	Whitehorse Rapids Hatchery Coded Wire Tagging	YF&G Association	/41,800
CRE-64N-08	Incubation Temp/Sex Ratio Whs. Hatchery Study	Kwanlin Dun FN	/5,500
CRE-65-08	McIntyre Creek Salmon Incubation Project	NRI Yukon College	/45,300
CRE-66N-08	Salmon in the Classroom Incubator Chillers	Streamkeepers Nor Soc	/4,700
CRE-67-08	Yukon Schools Fry Releases & Habitat studies	Streamkeepers Nor Soc	/4,000
CRE-79-08	Stock ID Microsatellite Variation – Chin & Chum	DFO	/30,000
	<b>32 R&amp;E Projects</b>	<b>Total \$999,109</b>	<b>\$322,036/677,073</b>

<sup>1</sup> N – Identifies a new YRP R&E project.

<sup>2</sup> The amount expressed in \$US or \$Cdn as per the request/application, and the respective values presently being essentially equivalent.



# TR'ONDEK HWECH'IN FIRST FISH PROGRAM TEACHES CONSERVATION TO YOUTH

BY ROBERTA JOSEPH, TR'ONDEK HWECH'IN FISH AND WILDLIFE COORDINATOR

Annually since the late 1980s, the Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation Government in Dawson City, Yukon Territory, has held a fish camp for youth, known as First Fish. The First Fish project was established to provide an opportunity for youth to experience and become educated about conservation. The local youth have been exposed to the principles of conservation by expounding on the value (both cultural and biological) of salmon and their habitat. In regards to stewardship, we have used the project to educate both users and non-users on the importance of maintaining healthy salmon stocks now and into the future. It is our expectation that these principles will be carried forward for, as the youth grow into young adults, they will carry with them an appreciation and respect for salmon and their habitat.

Over the years we've observed the knowledge that the youth have gained and we continue to feel the need to provide opportunities for youth to learn more about conservation and stewardship of salmon. Through this project, local children between the age of 10 and 14 have grown to know the value of salmon and the importance of their habitat and conservation. By continuing to educate as many youth as possible, we believe we are helping to instil within them the value of stewardship and are thereby helping to ensure the future health of our salmon

resources. The stewardship messages are reinforced as youth return to First Fish year after year. The most important components of the program are learning about salmon, how to harvest salmon by using a fish net or fish wheel, processing the salmon, identifying different parts of the salmon, and fish hatcheries. Other components include boat safety, bear safety, traditional medicine identification, and some recreation and leisure time.

Early in July, camp personnel will be identified and all workshops will be coordinated with the respective participants. The camp is a joint effort of the various Tr'ondek Hwech'in governmental departments (Heritage and Culture, Fish and Wildlife, and Youth Enhancement), with much valued

input from Tr'ondek Hwech'in elders, who provide not only traditional handling methods but also oral history and Hän language. This inter-generational approach is one way that we are able to maintain a link to past practices while crafting modern means of salmon harvesting. In this way, we are able to help frame our children's understanding of our social world according

to the beliefs passed down to us. Since not all youth can experience opportunities out on the land, the Tr'ondek Hwech'in Government

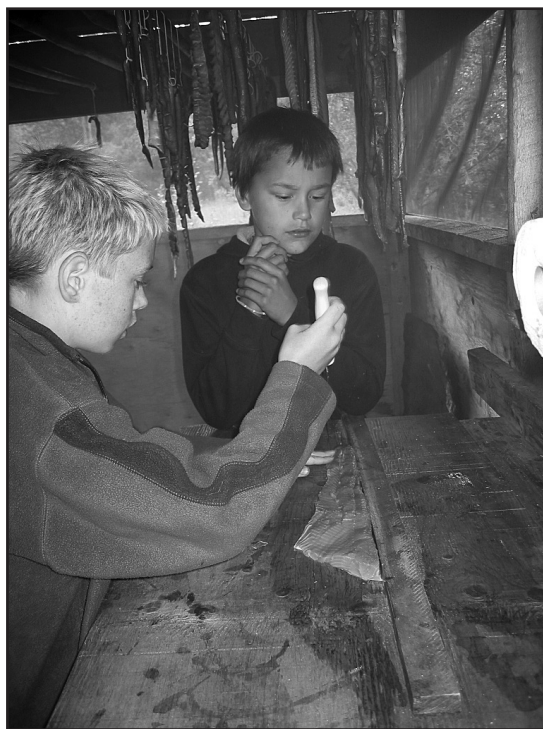


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provides the program on an annual basis, as we believe that good stewardship evolves from teaching the youth from a young age. To date the program continues to be successful in meeting its objectives.

*The First Fish program is made possible by funding from the Yukon River Panel, First Nations and Inuit Science and Technology Camp Program Youth Strategy – Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and Tr'ondek Hwech'in Government.*

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# SALMON BYCATCH UPDATE

BY BECCA ROBBINS GISCLAIR, POLICY DIRECTOR

So far in 2008, Chinook salmon bycatch is much lower than it has been in recent years, with a total of 15,500 Chinook taken as bycatch in the pollock “A” season. While this is good news, it’s still important for us to continue our efforts to push for a hard cap on salmon bycatch in the pollock fishery. This would ensure that these low levels of bycatch are the norm, rather than the record highs we’ve seen in recent years.

## THE DECEMBER MEETING WILL BE AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR WESTERN ALASKANS TO MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD ABOUT THE ISSUE OF SALMON BYCATCH.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is moving forward with an analysis of salmon bycatch reduction measures, including hard caps and triggered closures. They will be choosing a preliminary preferred option or “alternative” for

Chinook salmon bycatch at their June meeting in Kodiak. A draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be released for a 45-day comment period in July. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the analysis of the EIS at this time. In December the Council is scheduled to take final action on Chinook salmon bycatch reduction measures at their meeting in Anchorage. The analysis for chum salmon will follow shortly behind this timeline.

The Council accepts written and oral public testimony at all of their meetings. Testimony at Council meetings can focus on the options they are considering and which management measure they should ultimately choose. The December meeting will be an important opportunity for western Alaskans to make their voices heard about the issue of salmon bycatch. YRDFA will be continuing to provide updates about the process and opportunities for public comment through mailings, faxes, and future issues of this newsletter. If you have any questions about this important issue please contact Becca Robbins Gisclair in the YRDFA office at (877) 999-8566 ext.106.

*YRDFA’s work on Bycatch is funded under award number NA07NMF4720091 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or any of its subagencies.* ☞

### WRITTEN COMMENT SHOULD BE SENT TO:

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

### IMPORTANT POINTS YOU MAY WANT TO INCLUDE ARE:

- The importance of salmon to you, your family, your community and your culture;
- In-river users make sacrifices in their salmon harvests to conserve salmon populations – the pollock fishery must bear the burden of conservation as well;
- A hard cap set by the Council and NMFS must be put in place to ensure that there is a limit on the number of salmon which can be caught as bycatch.

## YRDFA CONTINUES LOCAL KNOWLEDGE PROJECT ON SALMON INDICATORS

BY CATHERINE MONCRIEFF,  
ANTHROPOLOGIST

YRDFA is beginning its third field season on the Natural Indicators of Salmon Run Abundance and Timing project. This summer, staff will travel to Hooper Bay and Emmonak to revisit knowledgeable elders and active fishers in follow-up interviews and to map sites discussed in the interviews.

This project, a partnership between YRDFA and ADF&G Office of Subsistence Management, seeks to understand historical abundance, distribution, and health of salmon populations in several communities in the Yukon River drainage through the documentation of natural indicators of salmon used by fishermen and women in preparing for the salmon arrival. Examples of natural indicators we hear about through this project include release of aspen seeds or “cotton” correlated with the arrival of Chinook salmon. Some natural indicators seem to be more causal such as high tides on the coast that bring the salmon in.

The communities in the study include Hooper Bay, Emmonak, St. Mary’s, Grayling, and Kaltag. To date, there have been 38 participants in the interview portion of this project.

*YRDFA’s work on Natural Indicators is funded under award number IHP-06-119 from the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative.* ☞



# 2008 YUKON RIVER SALMON FISHERIES OUTLOOK

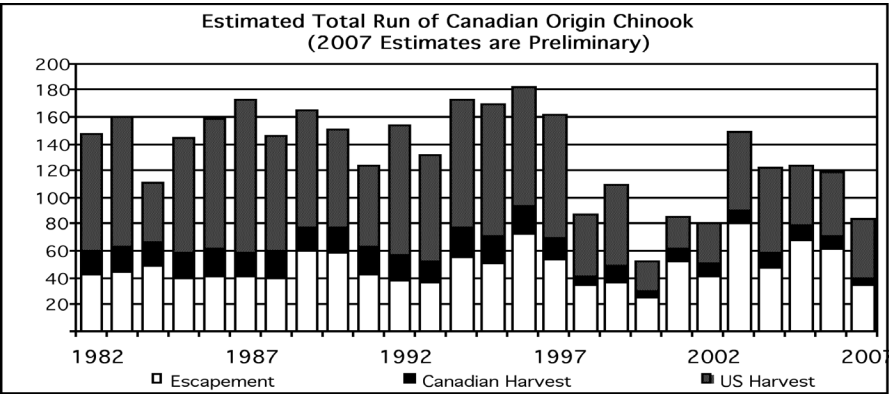
The following information describes the anticipated management strategies of the 2008 season. State and federal fishery managers will coordinate management of the Yukon River subsistence salmon fishery.

## RUN AND HARVEST OUTLOOK

Chinook Salmon	Chum Salmon	Coho Salmon
<i>Below average run is projected to provide for escapement and subsistence uses.</i>	<i>Average run is projected to provide for escapement and subsistence uses.</i>	<i>Average to above average run is projected to provide for escapement and subsistence uses.</i>
<i>2008 Chinook salmon run is anticipated to be similar to 2007.</i>	<i>Summer chum commercial harvest is anticipated to be between 500,000 and 900,000 fish.</i>	<i>Runs have been increasing due to improved production.</i>
<i>Commercial harvest is anticipated to be between 5,000 and 30,000 fish.</i>	<i>Fall chum commercial harvest is anticipated to be between 50,000 and 400,000 fish.</i>	<i>Commercial harvest is anticipated to be between 50,000 and 70,000 fish.</i>

## MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- Initial management will be based on preseason projections and shifted to inseason project information as the runs develop.
- Continue the regulatory subsistence salmon fishing schedule until run assessment indicates there is a harvestable surplus for additional subsistence opportunity and other uses.
- Because of the unexpected weak Chinook run in 2007, the department will be delaying Chinook directed commercial fishing in 2008 until the midpoint of the run to ensure that escapement and subsistence needs and Canadian border obligations will be met. At that time, Chinook directed openings may occur if a surplus is identified beyond escapement and subsistence needs.
- If a surplus of summer chum salmon is identified above escapement and subsistence needs, there may be directed chum commercial fishing with gillnets restricted to 6 inch maximum mesh size. The actual commercial harvest of summer chum will likely be dependent on market conditions and may be affected by a potentially poor Chinook run.
- The US/Canada Yukon River Panel agreed to a one year Canadian Interim Management Escapement Goal (IMEG) of >45,000 Chinook salmon based on the Eagle sonar program and set a 3 year IMEG for the Fishing Branch River of 22,000 to 49,000 fall chum salmon based on the Fishing Branch River weir count.
- The US/Canada Yukon River Panel agreed to a Canadian Yukon River fall chum salmon mainstem escapement objective of >80,000 fish based on the Eagle sonar program.



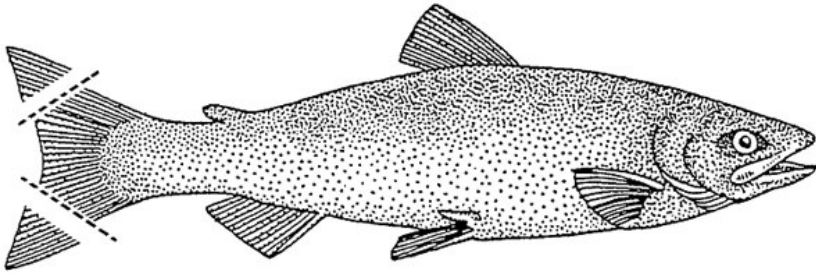
# 2008 SUBSISTENCE FISHING SCHEDULE

The subsistence salmon fishing schedule will be used early in the season until the salmon run size is projected to be of sufficient strength to warrant discontinuing the schedule. The 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. 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 26, 2008	Mon. 8 pm to Wed. 8 am / Thu. 8 pm to Sat. 8 am
District 2	Two 36-hour periods/week	May 28, 2008	Wed. 8 pm to Fri. 8 am / Sun. 8 pm to Tue. 8 am
District 3	Two 36-hour periods/week	May 30, 2008	Fri. 8 am to Sat. 8 pm / Tue. 8 am to Wed. 8 pm
District 4	Two 48-hour periods/week	June 8, 2008	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 17, 2008	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.

**NOTICE:** In **Districts 1-3**, from **June 1 to July 15** a person may not possess king salmon taken for subsistence uses unless **both tips (lobes) of the tail fin** have been removed. Marking must be done before the person conceals the salmon from plain view or transfers the salmon from the fishing site. A person may not sell or purchase salmon from which both lobes of the tail fin have been removed.



### 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



# SPOTLIGHT ON ALLAKAKET

BY CATHERINE MONCRIEFF, ANTHROPOLOGIST

*In each issue of Yukon Fisheries News YRDFA highlights a different village. We hope these descriptions will give readers a glimpse into life and history in different areas of the Yukon River drainage.*

The village of Allakaket is located on the south bank of the Koyukuk River southwest of its junction with the Alatna River. Allakaket is mainly an Athabascan community while Kobuk Eskimos live across the river in Alatna. Allakaket and Alatna are separate villages with their own village councils.

The people of Allakaket are Koyukon Athabascan, Koyukuk River Division. They are the most northwestern group of Athabascans. Within the Koyukuk River Koyukon there are four subdivisions; Yukon-Kateel, Huslia-Dalbi (Dulbi)-Hogatza, Todatonten-Kanuti, and South Fork (Clark 1981:582). Allakaket is located within the South Fork band territory.

Prior to settling in villages, the Koyukon Athabascans traveled in groups consisting of several families totaling 50 or more people. They moved between several camps within a territory of 50 to 75 miles (Clark 1981:585). Before twine was available, fish traps and weirs were the primary methods of fishing. Families moved to their fishing areas and someone directed the group in preparing and installing the traps and weirs. Women set gill-nets in eddies and sloughs or near the mouths of tributaries of the Koyukuk River. Traps were also used for whitefish and suckers in tributaries. Nets became the primary fishing method after twine became available and its use allowed for an increase in small fishing camps (Clark 1981:588).

Subsistence is still the focus of the local economy. Salmon, whitefish, moose, bear, small game and berries provide much of the food eaten by people in Allakaket (Commerce 2008). Interviews with fishers in Allakaket described fishing for dog (chum) and king (Chinook) salmon, as well as whitefish, pike, grayling, sheefish, blackfish and long-nosed suckers. Non-salmon fish species are harvested with nets, traps, and hook-and-line gear (Andersen et al 2004). Both gillnets and seine nets are used for salmon and non-salmon fishing (Andersen et. al. 2004).

Fishing takes place year round in Allakaket. Burbot traps are built and installed following freeze up and allowed to freeze into the ice. In the past there were as many as five burbot traps in the Allakaket area but more commonly there is one in operation at a time (Andersen et. al. 2004). Gillnets in use today catch a variety of types of fish and are used in open water and under the ice. They are often set and left overnight to catch fish. Traditionally these nets were made out of willow bark, twisted by hand. Willow bark continued to be used after commercial nets were available to extend or make the new nets more usable. Seine nets, 150 to 300 feet with a small mesh size, are used by the residents of Allakaket as a primary method of subsistence. Seining is a good way to catch whitefish and sheefish. These nets were also traditionally made with willow bark (Andersen et. al. 2004).

Allakaket can be an exciting place with gatherings for traditional potlatches, dances and foot races, attracting visitors from other villages (Commerce 2008). A mission was established in 1906 across the river from a

traditional trading center for Athabascans and Eskimos (old Alatna). A post office opened in 1925 and the community became known as Allakaket. A flood in 1964 caused by ice jamming covered 85% of the community. Another flood in 1994 destroyed most of the community's buildings, homes and winter food caches (Commerce 2008).

YRDFA has been working with the people of Allakaket on a traditional knowledge project on changes in salmon spawning grounds since 1995. The first summer of the project ten elders and active fishers shared their knowledge with YRDFA staff and Koyukon language expert Eliza Jones. They also participated in the follow-up community meeting and helped YRDFA staff draft maps of salmon and other fish areas. During these community meetings, Eliza Jones connected YRDFA with the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge, who had mapped Koyukon place names in the area. These place names were documented in the 1990s by Allakaket and Hughes elders and Eliza Jones and Wendy Arundale. Together, with the villages of Allakaket, Alatna, and Hughes, YRDFA plans to publish a glossy Koyukuk River Atlas highlighting the place names and fish lifecycle and harvesting areas.

For more information on any of the above mentioned projects, please contact Catherine Moncrieff at the YRDFA office.

*YRDFA's work on Traditional Knowledge is funded under award number NA07NMF4720091 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or any of its subagencies.*



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Commerce, DCRA  
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## YRDFA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

BY LAUREN SILL, PROGRAM ASSISTANT

YRDFA extends a warm welcome to our newest members! As always, our annual meeting provided a great chance to give gift memberships to friends and family. Thanks to everyone who renewed their membership for another year and welcome to YRDFA:

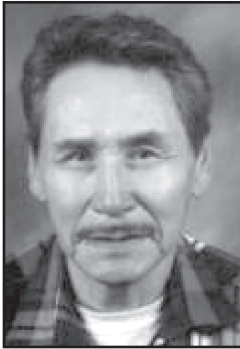
*Benita Aguchak (Scammon Bay)*  
*Douglas Aguchak (Scammon Bay)*  
*Sheila Aguchak (Scammon Bay)*  
*Aloysius Aguchak, III (Scammon Bay)*  
*William "Boss" Alstrom (Saint Mary's)*  
*Dennis Argall (Nenana)*  
*Beverly Chmielarczyk (Anchorage)*  
*Cameron Clairmont (Grayling)*  
*Patience Clairmont (Grayling)*  
*Brenda Deacon (Grayling)*  
*Henry Deacon (Grayling)*  
*Alfred Demientieff (Holy Cross)*  
*Bernard Edwards (Grayling)*  
*Esau Evan (Nenana)*  
*Gerilyn Fitka (Marshall)*  
*Leo Fitka (Marshall)*  
*Roberta Gochenauer (Grayling)*  
*Kelsey Gochenauer (Grayling)*  
*Jennifer Gochenauer (Grayling)*  
*Vanessa Golilie (Grayling)*  
*Patricia Green (Fairbanks)*  
*Doug Green, Sr (Fairbanks)*  
*Michael Grundberg (Anvik)*  
*Skip Johnson (Grayling)*  
*Marilyn Johnson (Grayling)*  
*Scott Joseph (Fairbanks)*  
*Melody Kruger (Grayling)*  
*Rick Kruger (Nulato)*  
*Maureen Larson (Marshall)*  
*Karen Lord (Nenana)*  
*Willie Lord (Nenana)*  
*Hannah Maillelle (Grayling)*

*Harry Maillelle (Grayling)*  
*Martha Maillelle (Grayling)*  
*Martika Maillelle (Grayling)*  
*Alvin Maillelle (Grayling)*  
*Jason Maillelle (Grayling)*  
*Harold Maxim (Grayling)*  
*Timothy Mcmanus (Nenana)*  
*Jeremiah Millen (Palmer)*  
*Bernice Nicholi (Grayling)*  
*Gabriel Nicholi (Grayling)*  
*Jack Nicholi (Grayling)*  
*Kevin Nicholi (Grayling)*  
*Sue Nicholi (Grayling)*  
*William Nicholi (Anvik)*  
*George Nicholi (Grayling)*  
*Gabe Nicholi, Jr (Grayling)*  
*Bradley Painter (Grayling)*  
*Moses Paul (Nenana)*  
*Gary Richardson (Anvik)*  
*Anthony Shelton (Alakanuk)*  
*Patricia Solomon (Grayling)*  
*Cecelia Solomon (Grayling)*  
*Ephrim Thompson (Mountain Village)*  
*Margie Walker (Grayling)*  
*Alexie Walters (Mountain Village)*  
*Henry Wiehl (Fairbanks)*  
*Mary Jane Wiehl (Fairbanks).*

**Welcome also to our new associate members:** Nulato Tribal Council, Kotlik Traditional Council, and the City of St. Mary's,

If there's someone you think would like to be a member, let us know. And we always welcome comments and suggestions to help us serve you better.

## YRDFA MOURNS PASSING OF ANDREW PAUKAN



Andrew Paukan of St. Mary's died March 2, 2008 at Providence Extended Care Center of natural causes. Andy was born Feb 23, 1939 in Akulurak. He was a knowledgeable fisher and participated in YRDFA's first traditional ecological knowledge project. His interview was videotaped and became part of YRDFA's video associated with the project. Andy's knowledge led to other important research questions that YRDFA is still exploring.

The Anchorage Daily News wrote, "He was an advocate for bilingual education and cultural events." His family wrote, "Andrew Paukan was a wonderful, loving and caring husband and father. He was an advocate for bilingual education and cultural events." Andy had 29 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. ☞

## Yes! I want to support healthy salmon runs for generations to come!

**Enclosed is my tax-deductible annual gift of:**

☐ \$5 Subsistence only user

☐ \$5 Student

☐ \$10 Commercial permit holder or crew member

☐ \$25 General public or agency

☐ \$100 Business

☐ \$100 Individual Sustainer

☐ Other: Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**YRDFA works to:**

- Solve problems in fisheries management
- Sustain wild salmon populations
- Keep people informed on current fisheries issues
- Restore salmon habitat and depressed runs

*\*payable by cash, or check or money order made out to "YRDFA"*

**Please indicate the ONE fishing district you live and/or fish in:**

☐ Coastal   ☐ Y-1   ☐ Y-2   ☐ Y-3   ☐ Y-4   ☐ Y-5   ☐ Y-6   ☐ Koyukuk  
☐ Flats/Y-5d

Member name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Village/City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail/fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

NL-0508

**yukon#**  
(98566#)

PARTICIPANT  
CODE

1-800-315-6338

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

# Yukon River In-Season Management Teleconferences

**1:00 pm Alaska Time**

**2:00 pm Yukon Time**

**each Tuesday**

**Starting the first week in June**

Tracking the run,  
one week at a time



This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel.