YUKON FISHERIES NEWS

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WINTER 2002

YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

A United Voice for Downriver and Upriver Fishermen.

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YUKON RIVER PANEL UP AND RUNNING

BY JILL KLEIN

The Yukon River Panel has met two times since the Yukon River Agreement has been signed. The first meeting took place in Anchorage last fall and the past meeting just took place this spring in Whitehorse. In order to communicate the importance of the Yukon River salmon agreement to local fishers living in communities of the Yukon River, the Panel has created a communications committee and work plan.

Yukon River Panel Members at U.S./Canada Agreement Signing Ceremony

1. Purpose of the Communications Strategy

- To guide the Panel's communication initiatives that will be directed to encouraging effective participation of Yukoners and Alaskans in all aspects of the Panel's affairs, and to helping the Panel achieve its objectives with the various agencies and interests that affect the use and conservation of Yukon River Salmon stocks and their habitats.

2. Communication Objectives

- Explain the origin, purpose and scope of the USA-Canada Agreement on Yukon River salmon stocks as a distinct part of the Pacific Salmon Treaty
- Communicate how Yukoners and Alaskans can participate and benefit from the Agreement
- Foster communication amongst Yukoners and Alaskans involved in or affected by Yukon River fisheries
- Explain what the objectives and priorities of the Restoration & Enhancement (R&E) Fund and how communities can use and benefit from the Restoration & Enhancement (R&E) fund.
- Share knowledge of Yukon River salmon stocks, habitats and fisheries
- Encourage the development of effective stewardship initiatives in Yukon River communities
- Develop effective communication 'bridges' with industries having an effect on the habitat of Yukon River salmon stocks
- Educate the public at large on how they can participate in the Panel's activities
- Improve communications within the Panel, between the Panel and the management agencies, and private contractors participating in the management of Yukon River stocks and habitats
- Support communication from by the Panel as an institution with the Parties to the Treaty and others that effect conservation of Yukon River salmon stocks beyond the drainage (ex. near and offshore)

Please look forward to the publication of informational materials that will explain the details of the Yukon River Agreement, the Yukon River Panel, the Joint Technical Fund, and the Restoration and Enhancement Fund.

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: January 16, 2003
Contact: Barbara Massey (800)478-1456 or (907)786-3392E-mail: barbara_massey@fws.gov

Federal Subsistence Board Adopts New Regulations For Customary Trade of Fish

Anchorage —- The Federal Subsistence Board adopted new regulations today clarifying customary trade practices of subsistence-caught fish, their parts, and their eggs. The Board's final rule sets enforceable regulations that protect the traditional practices of customary trade of subsistence-harvested fish, but reduces the potential for commercializing those fish by prohibiting customary trade with any business or re-sale by nonrural individuals. The new regulations allow customary trade transactions between rural subsistence users to continue but limits transactions between rural residents and others in that the fish sold must be used for personal or family consumption.

Federal Subsistence Board Chairman Mitch Demientieff said the Board's goal is "protecting the resource, to preserve traditional customary trade practices, while preventing abuse." Demientieff emphasized the revised language is a starting point and the Board plans to address the region-specific concerns from the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils through the annual regulatory process.

Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act [ANILCA], protects subsistence uses for rural Alaskans, including barter, sharing, and customary trade of fish and wildlife. When the Federal Subsistence Management Program expanded to include subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands in Alaska in 1999, Federal regulations were adopted in an attempt to accommodate ongoing customary trade practices. The revised language replaces the term "significant commercial enterprise" in existing regulations, which the Board felt was unclear and hampered effective law enforcement. The Board established a task force and undertook an extensive public process to assist in clarifing the regulatory language for customary trade. The Board received numerous comments and recommendations from the customary trade task force, 10 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, public, Tribal organizations, and Federal and State agencies.

For more information, please contact Pete Probasco at the Office of Subsistence Management, (800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3375, write the Office of Subsistence Management, 3601 C Street, Suite 1030, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 or electronically at subsistence@fws.gov. TTY users may call through the Federal Relay Service (800) 877-8339. Please visit our website, http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/home.html.
- FSB -

CUSTOMARY TRADE REGULATIONS

The Customary Trade Regulations read as follows:

(11) Transactions Between Rural Residents. Rural residents may exchange in customary trade subsistence-harvested fish, their parts, or their eggs, legally taken under the regulations in this part, for cash from other rural residents. The Board may recognize regional differences and define customary trade differently for separate regions of the State.

(12) Transactions Between a Rural Resident and Others. In customary trade, a rural resident may trade fish, their parts, or their eggs, legally taken under the regulations in this part, for cash from individuals other than rural residents if the individual who purchases the fish, their parts, or their eggs uses them for personal or family consumption. If you are not a rural resident, you may not sell fish, their parts, or their eggs taken under the regulations in this part. The Board may recognize regional differences and define customary trade differently for separate regions of the State.

(13) No Sale to, nor Purchase By, Fisheries Businesses. (i) You may not sell fish, their parts, or their eggs taken under the regulations in this part to any individual, business, or organization required to be licensed as a fisheries business under Alaska Statute, AS 43.75.011 or to any other business as defined under Alaska Statute 43.70.110(1) as part of its business transactions.

(ii) If you are required to be licensed as a fisheries business under Alaska Statute, AS 43.75.011 or are a business as defined under Alaska Statute 43.70.110(1), you may not purchase, receive, or sell fish, their parts, or their eggs taken under the regulations in this part as part of your business transactions.

YRDFA HOSTS TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOP

BY CATHERINE MONCRIEFF & HENRY HUNTINGTON

The topic of traditional ecological knowledge, or TEK, has received increasing attention in recent years. More and more people have come to appreciate the depth of experience, information, understanding, and knowledge held by those who live close to their environment and depend on its resources for their way of life. How this information can be used to improve management, however, remains a challenge. To try to address this question in relation to salmon, the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) held a workshop with the goal:

> *To develop constructive approaches to utilizing Traditional Ecological Knowledge with regard to sustaining salmon harvests in the 21st Century.*

The workshop was held January 16th and 17th in Anchorage at the Sheraton. There were approximately 50 people in attendance both days. The Yukon River communities, fishing districts and tribal governments were well represented with 21 people arriving from all over the Yukon River. The Federal and State agencies were also well represented with 20 people from various funding, managing and related offices.

The workshop began with presentations on three projects that have documented TEK about salmon or other fish. Catherine Moncrieff of YRDFA described a project in the lower and middle Yukon River. She also showed the video produced as part of the project. The project was successful in building relationships with the fishing communities and in returning the product of the video, which can be used in schools and shown in other communities as well. Less successful was the attempt to build capacity for doing this sort of project in the communities.

Dave Anderson, formerly of the Subsistence Division of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, described a project on whitefish and beaver in the Yukon Flats. The project documented Native names for various species, along with the ways people place different species in groups. The project also looked at whitefish life history, population status, fishing strategies, and interactions with beavers. Climate change and social changes (such as the decline in beaver trapping) were identified as significant factors in changing the whitefish populations and distribution in the area.

Bill Simeone of the Subsistence Division of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game presented the results of a project on traditional knowledge of salmon fishing practices of the Ahtna of Copper River. The study documented information about salmon ecology, self-management practices, harvesting methods and devices, fish camps and processing, and legends referring to salmon. The Copper River lacks an organization comparable to YRDFA, which would greatly help promote cooperative management throughout that watershed. The project has also invited biologists to the interviews with Ahtna elders, to encourage stronger connections between fishers and those who study the fish.

The three studies demonstrate that TEK can make powerful contributions, but also that studying TEK takes considerable time and effort. Linking TEK with scientific research and management is an important task. One starting point is to use TEK studies to compile the ecology of Yukon River salmon, a format that biologists and managers would readily recognize.

Following the presentations, a discussion of local interested and needs identified many topics of importance to people living in the Yukon River drainage. They include:

- *Food web ecology:* document the life histories of salmon and other fishes, especially with regard to their position in the entire ecosystem
- *Hunting and fishing activities:* compare historical activities, including harvest methods and catch levels, with current practices
- *Education about TEK:* prepare course on TEK, culture, and local environment for use in schools, to help students better understand their local area and heritage
- *Fish cycles and human responses:* Conduct a review of available literature and oral histories to document past cycles in fish abundance and the ways in which humans responded
- *Subsistence education:* help young people understand their subsistence heritage and how to integrate it into life today and in the future
- *Impacts of environmental change:* examine changes to the environment, including global change as well as the implications of changes in policies such as fire control, and their impacts on species and subsistence
- *Impacts of societal and cultural change:* examine changes in harvesting, processing, lifestyles, and technology and their implications for harvests and consumption of salmon
- *Hatcheries and fish farms:* examine the implications for disease, competition with wild stocks, and other potential impacts
- *Conservation messages:* demonstrate that people throughout the Yukon River drainage depend on the same salmon runs and share responsibility for their health and future

- *Local values and beliefs:* protect and perpetuate local cultural values, beliefs, and systems of information
- *Results from scientific research:* develop ways for getting the results of research in various programs back to local residents and others who are interested in and can benefit from the new information being generated
- *The whole Yukon system:* take a coordinated look at the entire drainage and the associated terrestrial and marine areas to understand the full scope of interactions that affect salmon throughout their life cycle
- *Out-migration:* examine the dynamics and characteristics of the out-migration of salmon

Goals of Workshop

A major goal of the workshop was to develop constructive approaches to using TEK in management. Fisheries management depends on setting appropriate goals and on gathering relevant and accurate information to help achieve those goals. TEK can contribute by helping to provide good information. In addition, fishers need to participate in setting management goals. Often, the process by which information is contributed to and used by managers is not clear to those who provide TEK. At the same time, public advisory groups and similar committees have a long history of using local perspectives, although those perspectives have not been called "TEK." In-season management practices, such as the YRDFA conference calls, are one mechanism by which TEK can be used in management. Exactly how those conference calls incorporate TEK and how such information would be a good topic for further study.

Future Research Ideas

Participants listed several areas where future research is important. These broad ideas may be a useful starting point for regional discussions about projects.

- *Salmon ecology and the whole ecosystem:* document salmon ecology and the place of salmon in the ecosystem throughout the whole Yukon River drainage
- *Climate and environmental change:* examine the impacts of environmental change on salmon and salmon habitats
- *Harvest patterns:* look at the ways that harvest patterns have changed over time, including the implications of changes in human populations
- *Population cycles:* examine past cycles in salmon populations and how people have responded to those cycles, especially with regard to actions that help population recovery
- *Management practices:* analyze changes in management practices and regulations and how those changes affect fisheries, fishers, and communities
- *Information sharing:* obtain the results of studies of interest from various programs (e.g., the North Pacific Research Board) so that fishers and others can better understand what has been learned
- *TEK in management:* examine specific cases of how TEK has been used in management to develop ideas for better approaches
- *List of TEK studies:* compile a list, or annotated bibliography, of existing TEK projects and other relevant sources, such as archives
- *Forecasting:* document TEK in relation to projecting run strength to improve the ability of managers to anticipate salmon returns and plan accordingly
- *Legends and stories:* examine and preserve records of legends and stories that help show how people used and interacted with salmon long ago
- *Place names:* document and map place names and meanings to understand their connection with TEK of salmon and other species and natural phenomena
- *Databases:* create databases for TEK and other such information, including geographic information systems (GIS), to make more information more accessible to those who want to use it
- *Assessment of regional interests:* hold meetings in the various regions of the Yukon River drainage to assess their needs and interests with regard to TEK and other studies, while making sure that there is a coordinated approach for the whole drainage
- *Record of salmon knowledge:* create a common, accessible record of knowledge accumulated about salmon and other fish, from all sources, so that all can use it
- *Record of unusual sightings:* compile a record of unusual sightings or events, such as new fish species in an area or new diseases being observed, to keep track of changes to the ecosystem over time

Three specific projects were identified at the workshop:

- *Regional assessment:* hold regional meetings to build on the discussions at this workshop, especially to identify TEK studies that could be conducted in one or more areas (YRDFA was identified as a good organization to do this)
- *Post-season management evaluation:* review, after the salmon season, the various management activities (e.g., in-season conference calls) and how TEK was or was not used effectively (YRDFA was identified as a good organization to do this)
- *Return forecasts and fall, winter, and spring conditions:* examine the connections between fall, winter, and spring conditions in the rivers and salmon returns (Huslia expressed interest in pursuing this project)

In discussion potential projects, participants noted that it is important for TEK projects to build on successes. This is best done by starting with smaller goals, then building on them to create more ambitious projects.

The workshop was successful, as nearly all participants indicated in their responses on an evaluation form circulated by YRDFA at the end of the meeting. The long-term impact of the meeting will depend on what takes place as a consequence. With this in mind, participants identified three follow-up steps, in addition to the project ideas listed in the previous section:

- Circulate the workshop summary to Regional Advisory Committees, the Yukon River Joint Technical Committee (JTC) and other groups and individuals to whom it will be of interest
- Prepare a short summary for newsletters and other publications that are widely circulated in the Yukon River drainage or among salmon fishermen, researchers, or managers
- Discuss the workshop at the next YRDFA meeting and identify actions that YRDFA can take

ERIN McLARNON

I began working with YRDFA in late December to assist with the coordination of the Annual Meeting, newsletter, website, membership, summer teleconferences and whatever else pops us. My official title is Communications and Information Coordinator.

I come from a varied background. I was born and raised in Indiana and moved to Alaska 10 years ago to attend Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka. I graduated in 1995 with a B.S. in Aquatic Resources with an emphasis in Fisheries Science and Marine Biology. I did not get an opportunity to work many fisheries jobs because my husband and I have the same degree and we always ended up competing for the same jobs. So, in order to keep things peaceful at home I chose a different path.

I did work as a fisheries technician (under my husband) at Port Armstrong Hatchery, been a National Park Service Ranger, an Environmental Programs Technician for the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, the Operations Manager for the Alaska Natural History Association and a substitute teacher for the Mat-Su Borough School District. I was even a jail guard in Nondalton for a short time.

Besides working for YRDFA my husband, Paul and I own Broken Runner Sled Dog Kennel & Tours in Willow. Currently we have 32 sled dogs that we train for mid-distance and distance racing. We have hopes of competing in the 2004 Iditarod. I take part in the 800-mile Serum Run and travel through many of your villages along the Yukon River.

If you have any ideas or articles for the newsletter and/or website or if you just have questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I am excited about being a part of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association and can't wait to get to know everyone throughout the region.

Happy fishing!

Erin McLarnon, Dion Clark, Joe Sullivan

DION CLARK

In October 2002, I began working at the YRDFA as the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) intern. My role here has been to assist our TEK Project Coordinator Catherine Moncrieff, with various components of the TEK Project. I assisted in the video editing process by researching local archives for useable photos and video footage of the Yukon River areas included in the video. I was also responsible for assembling and mailing out the finished product. YRDFA sent copies of the video to schools and tribal councils in the Yukon watershed, as well as video participants and various agencies. In addition, I assisted Catherine in travel arrangements and other duties related to the TEK Forum held in Anchorage on January 16th and 17th.

Originally from Grayling, I am a senior majoring in Anthropology at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Prior moving to Anchorage to continue my education, I worked for the Grayling Tribal Council as Tribal Administrator. Growing up on both the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers, I have years of experience in both commercial and subsistence salmon fishing and I am happy for the opportunity to gain useful work experience while helping to document traditional knowledge of salmon.

JOE SULLIVAN

Mwashabukeni mukwai, bonse ("I hope you slept well, all" in Bemba). My name is Joe Sullivan and I am the new Program Manager for YRDFA. I have had a long career in fisheries that has carried me from where I grew up in Georgia to Alaska and then on to Africa and Asia and now back to Alaska. I have a Ph.D. in fisheries and allied aquacultures from Auburn University in Alabama where I studied bass parasites. From there I went to teach fisheries courses at Humboldt State University in northern California for a couple of years, some post-graduate work at the University of Idaho and then to Alaska in 1979. I worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as a fish pathologist traveling to many parts of the state inspecting hatcheries, diagnosing fish diseases and looking for the presence of pathogens in the wild fish and shellfish.

After the Exxon Valdez oil spill, I left my position as a fish pathologist to get involved in the damage assessment and restoration work ADF&G was doing. I managed projects that tried to determine what the impacts of spilled oil had been and then looked to ways to fix what was broken in the environment. Commercial fishing seasons were missed that first year and subsistence users did not know what was safe to eat. ADF&G was one of six state and federal agencies making up the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council and our views of restoration contrasted in some ways and overlapped in others with those of the other agencies. Each Trustee Council meeting brought members of the public from every user group to say what they thought was wrong and how it should be fixed. I learned a lot about different people's points of view, commercial fishers, subsistence users, recreation advocates and many others. I learned a lot about the resources that supported them, fish, shellfish, marine mammals and birds and so forth.

Eventually I left all that behind though when I was able to retire from ADF&G and pursue my life long goal of joining the

Peace Corps. Peace Corps asked me where I wanted to go and I said any place warmer than here. They said "Not a problem" and I wound up teaching small scale farmers in Zambia how to grow fish (tilapia) for food and income generation. Peace Corps taught farmers how to build a 300 square meter pond, stock it with fish and raise a crop of about 60 pounds every six months. That would give them some fish to eat and get about $30 from the sale of the extra tilapia. While that might not seem like a lot, it meant they could send their children to school for a semester ($2.50 for grade school, $10 for high school), buy some clothes and maybe some medicine to fight malaria. Zambia is one of the poorest countries of the world and $30 meant a lot.

After Peace Corps, I traveled to Tajikistan with the US Agency for International Development's Farmer to Farmer program. They share a thousand-mile border with Afghanistan and a Taliban-supported civil war there had ruined their economy and, with that their fish culture program. Like Zambia, they are a land-locked country and must raise the fish they need. The war destroyed their carp and trout hatcheries and the people who knew how to raise fish were killed or driven away. I was there to help them find a way to restore what they once had.

Later the Farmer to Farmer program sent me back to Zambia to teach fish genetics to the same farmers. They learned how to avoid inbreeding and how to raise larger, healthier fish by trading stocks and following practices that avoided brother-sister matings. With just a little planning and cooperation among farmers, they could get 50% larger fish in their six month cycles and $30 would become $45.

Shortly after returning from Zambia the second time, I began work with YRDFA. So far I have been reviewing the projects with which we are currently engaged, what we have done in the past, and now I am working on project proposals for the future. I have met a few of the board members so far, but am very much looking forward to the annual meeting in Kotlik at the end of February to meet many of the rest of you from whom I hope to get a better sense of what is important to you, what answers you need from the research we can do, and simply to get to meet you.

The phrase at the beginning of this article was in Bemba, the language the people spoke in the part of Zambia in which I was stationed in Peace Corps. Teach me how to say "Hello" in Yupik and Athabascan.

2002 EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE TRIP TO EMMONAK

BY CARL SIDNEY

My name is Carl Sidney, a member of the Teslin Tlingit Council, and also a member of the Yukon Salmon Committee, and a member of the Yukon River Panel. Myself and three elders from the Yukon traveled over to the mouth of the Yukon River (Emmonak) during the last part of the Chinook run beginning their long journey up to their respective spawning areas along the Yukon river and its confluences. Along on our educational tour were three elders from different communities in the Yukon. Beginning in Dawson City Yukon, from the Trondek Hwechin First Nation, Elder John Semple, from the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation was Elder Johnny Sam, and from the Teslin Tlingit Council, Elder Pearl Keenan.

This being the first of one of hopefully many more tours to come in the future, we had attempted to spread the delegates from one end of the Yukon Territory to the other, and also attempted to allow Elders to begin this very lucrative experience. Maybe in the future one of the recommendations that were thought of was to allow youth to experience this journey. After all, this very precious resource, we as adults refer to are for these future generations. Our Elders, today have always heard of where these salmon originally come into the mouth of the river, and have only now, after these many generations, experienced this beautiful wonder of the world. For generations upon generations, our First Nations have had the luxury of have this resource as one of their many very important food diets. Upon our return home, the three Elders revealed to me, "This was one of the exciting trips I have ever experienced, I only wished that I could have done this earlier in my life."

Some of the other concerns that came from the Elders and myself were the vast amounts of expired salmon fishing nets that were just simply left practically everywhere we went. One of the Elders commented, "I wonder how many are in the water, catching fish, which were never going to see their spawning grounds or be utilized." and also some of these nets were just simply left in fish camps along the waterways.

We had also the opportunity to visit a few fish camps along the way, and it was simply beautiful to see the fish camps that were so similar to ours. The only exception was that their caches had to be multi storied, because the salmon was so rich in oil that it took longer to dry, so it had to be moved up the rack to make room for more. All in all, even though we are several thousand miles apart, the technique of cutting the salmon was very similar. The other very significant difference was that excellent taste of the salmon - it was just so delicious.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Elders and myself to thank the many people of Emmonak for the wonderful hospitality that was expressed to us and for the excellent community dinner and dance. *Guyanna.*

And to the director of Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, Jill Klein and her assistant, Tim Patronski that worked very hard in arranging this very beneficial information exchange, *Gunal-chish.*

And lastly, I would like very much to show my appreciation to the Members of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association for being able to fund such a wonderful experience, and hopefully, in the future, we together can assist in carrying out this opportunity for other people to experience this "Wonder of the fish world"

Gunal-chish,
Carl Sidney

THE ROLE OF THE YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

BY JILL KLEIN

YRDFA goals are focused on building and sustaining communication among various Yukon River fisher groups and between them and management agencies. We also work to ensure continued healthy stocks of fish to support Yukon River drainage fisheries. Meeting these goals can occur by bringing sufficient numbers of all groups and regions to the discussions about the fisheries which support their income and way of life. Therefore, our membership goals are to increase our membership and representation in local communities and to keep them as informed as possible. An informed and representative public will support management decisions that are biologically sound and also support our core values of fair play, equity and sharing.

We have and hope to continue to have a strong, informed and representative membership base along the Yukon, fiscally sound support for our program, a staff fully capable of accomplishing the program goals, and a Board providing the common, wise voice of the Yukon River drainage fishers. Because of this, YRDFA will continue to play a key role in ensuring healthy stocks of Yukon River fish for Yukon River fishers for generations to come.

In specific, YRDFA works in these six core areas:

1) communications,
2) education and information,
3) Traditional Ecological Knowledge and cultural resources,
4) salmon life history investigations,
5) fish disease, and
6) habitat protection and restoration.

We have many on-going projects in the above categories and we look forward to continued work in the Yukon River drainage. We try to build capacity and work with local, state, federal and Tribal partnerships. Please contact us if you have questions about the work we do or would like to make suggestions on how we can better serve local Yukon River communities and the salmon fishery that they depend upon.

1

Yukon River Fisheries 2002 Chinook Season Summary

2

2002 US Chinook Salmon Harvest Summary

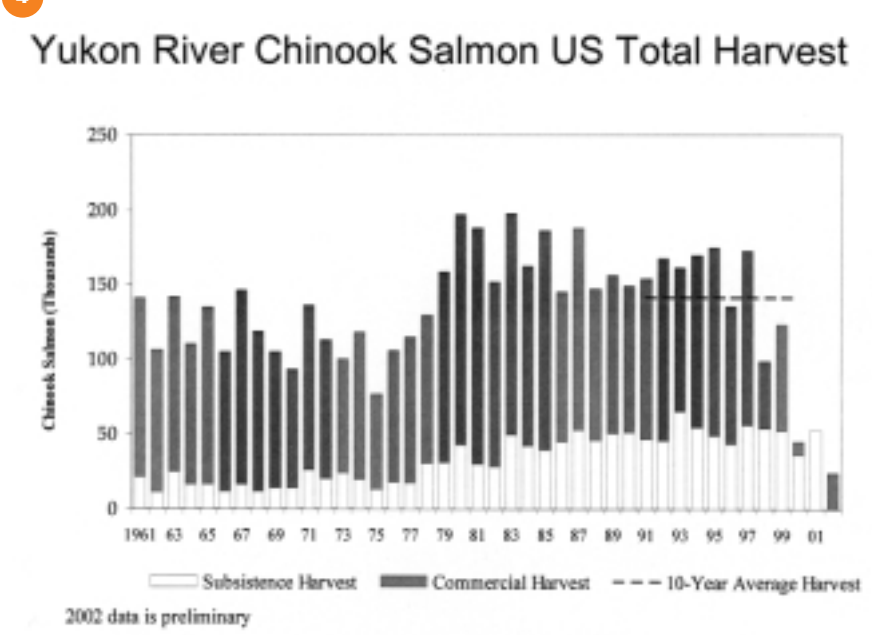
- District 1
  - 3 periods: 2 six-hour, 1 nine-hour.
  - 11, 159 chinook
  - 323 fishermen.
- District 2
  - 3 six-hour periods.
  - 11, 434 chinook
  - 223 fishermen.
- District 3
  - No commercial fishing periods.

3

2002 US Chinook Salmon Harvest Summary

- Subdistrict 4-A
  - One 12-hour period.
  - No deliveries.
- Subdistricts 4-B & 4-C
  - Four 48-hour periods.
  - No deliveries.
- Subdistricts 5-B & 5-C
  - Two periods: one 12-hour & one 18-hour.
  - 564 chinook.
  - 12 fishermen.
- Subdistrict 5-D
  - One 24-hour period.
  - 207 chinook.
  - 2 fishermen.
- District 6
  - Four 42-hour periods.
  - 1,066 chinook.
  - 6 fishermen.

4



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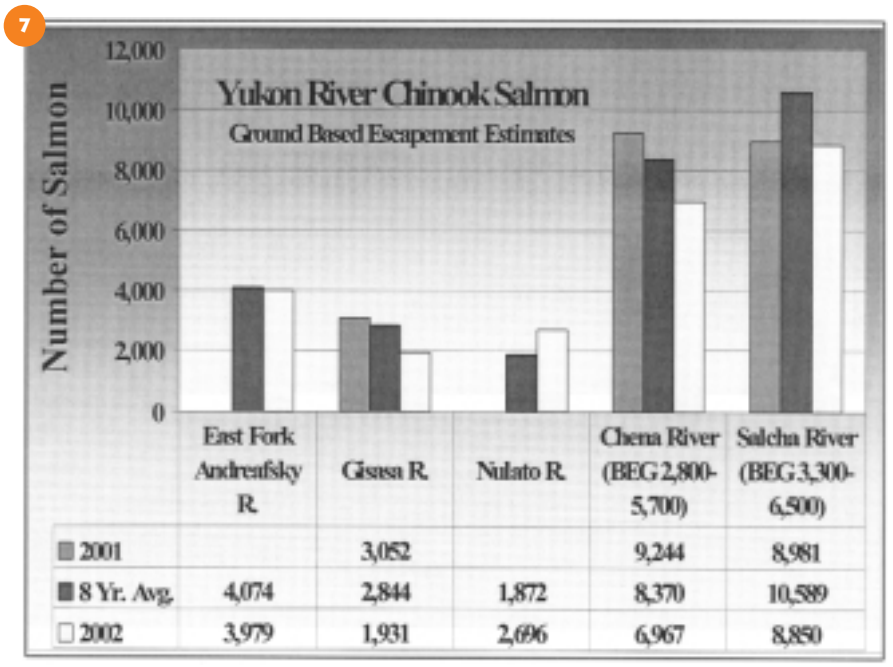


5

2002 Summer Chum Salmon Harvest Summary

- 13,568 – Commercial Harvest.

1997 – 2001 average = 75,000 summer chum salmon.

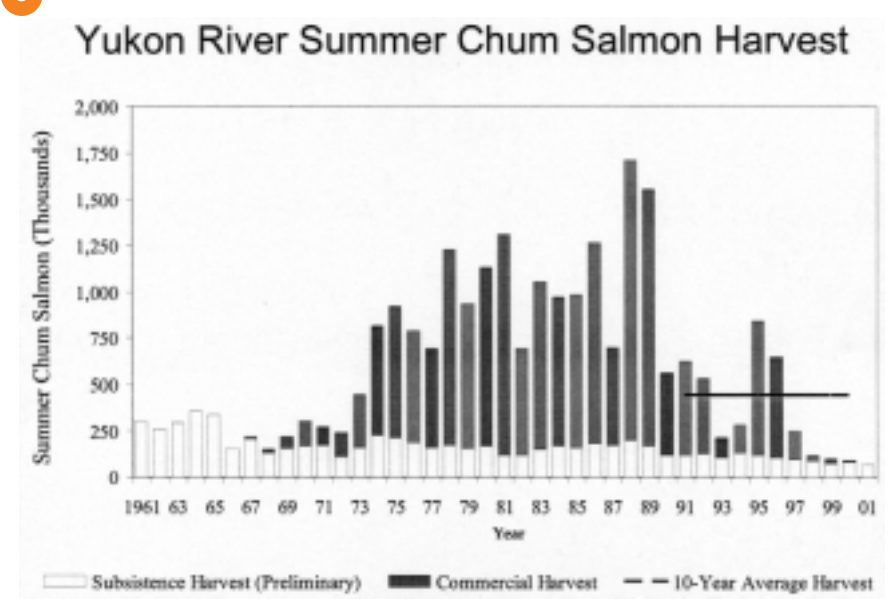
1992 – 1996 average = 493,000 summer chum salmon.

8

2002 U.S. Salmon Summary

- Total run abundance for chinook salmon was slightly less than 2001 and well below average.
- Total run abundance for summer chum salmon was twice as good as 2001, but still well below average.
- Small commercial harvest on chinook and summer chum salmon.
- Chinook and summer chum salmon subsistence needs most likely near average.
- Escapement needs generally met in most Alaskan streams.

6



1

Yukon River Fisheries 2002 Fall Season Summary

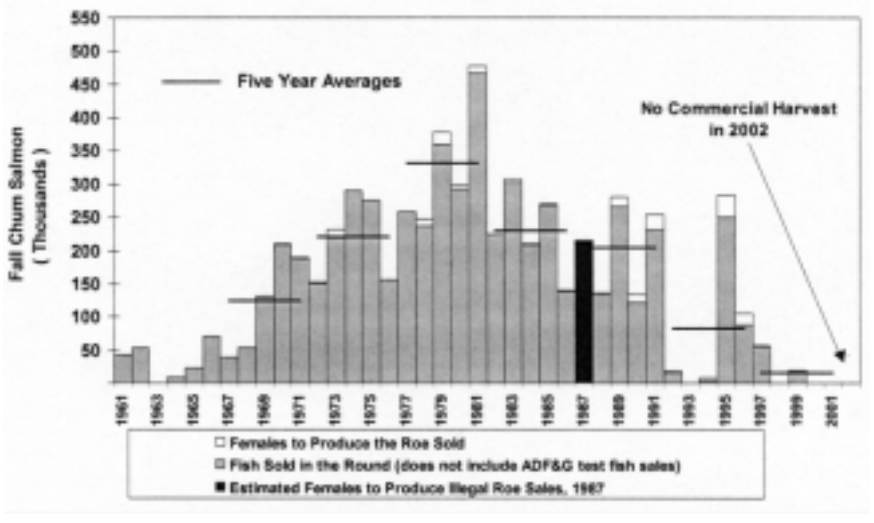
2

2002 US Fall Season Overview

- Yukon River 2002 overall fall chum run size was well below average.
- Complete closure of US commercial fall chum and coho salmon fisheries.
- US subsistence fishing closures were implemented to conserve the majority of the fall chum salmon run.
- Drainage-wide escapement was judged to be near goals.

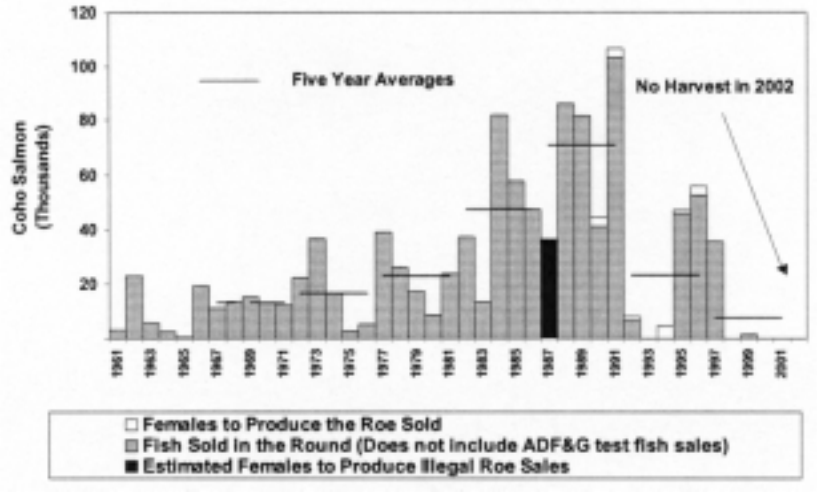
3

Yukon River Fall Chum Salmon US Commercial Harvest



4

Yukon River Coho Salmon US Commercial Harvest



5

Fall Chum Salmon Management Strategy

- Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan in regulation guides management actions.
- Fall Season begins with the same subsistence fishing schedule that was in place at end of Summer Season.
- Reduce if necessary, the subsistence fishing schedule after the first quarter point of the fall chum salmon run.
- Manage tributaries separately when possible to attain individual escapement objectives.
- Wait until after the midpoint before considering commercial fishing.

6

Fall Chum Run Assessment:

Preseason run projection of 210,000 to 650,000 fall chum salmon.

Early Season fall chum run projection increased to range of 500,000 to 650,000 fish.

Mid-Season fall chum run projection decreased to less than 350,000 fish.

End-of-Season preliminary total run was estimated at approximately 380,000 fall chum salmon.

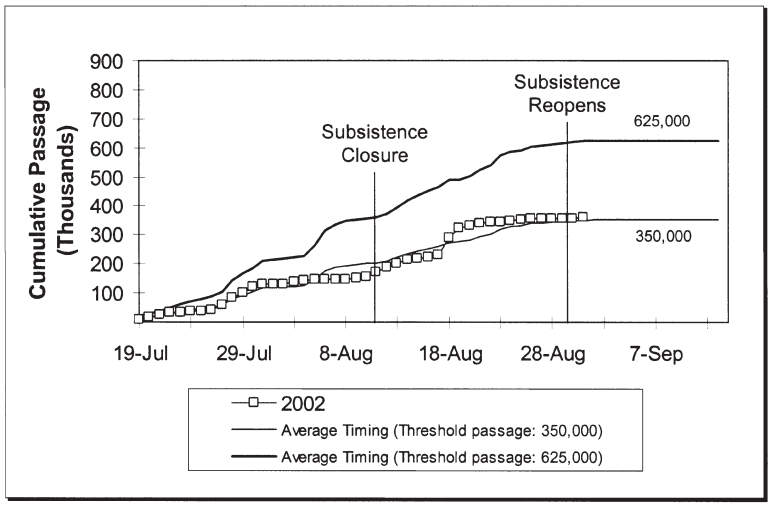
7

Management Action:

- Fall season began with closed commercial fishing and open to full subsistence fishing schedule.
- Subsistence closures implemented on August 11 through August 16 drainage-wide.
- Subsistence reopened beginning August 29th in the lower districts after the last large pulse had passed to conserve fall chum salmon.
- Districts reopened sequentially as the fall chum migration progressed upriver.
- Chandalar and Tanana River tributaries reopen earlier because their individual goals were expected to be attained and they could be managed separately.
- Majority of subsistence coho fishery foregone to conserve fall chum.

8

Pilot Station Sonar Cumulative Fall Chum Salmon Passage



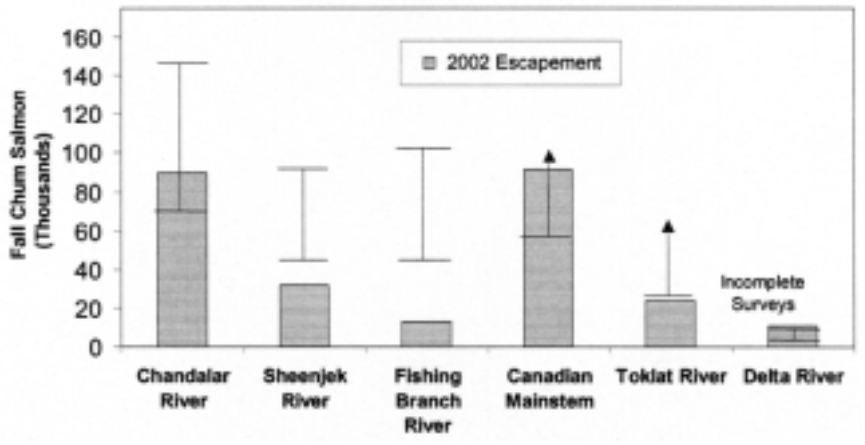
9

Fall Season Escapement Assessment:

- Yukon River fall chum salmon drainage-wide minimum escapement goal attained.
- Upper Yukon River mainstem components above the Tanana River varied, but were near overall combined goals.
- Tanana River components attained individual and overall goals.
- Delta Clearwater River coho salmon escapement goal attained.

10

Yukon River Fall Chum Salmon Passage Estimates And Established Goals



11

2002 Fall Season Summary

- Fall chum salmon run was poor.
  - Run had a slow start and a stronger end.
  - No commercial, sport, personal use.
  - Reduced Subsistence fishing opportunity.
  - Windows schedule important to spread out harvest in a mixed stock fishery.
  - Escapement mixed – Good on the Tanana River and mixed in the upper Yukon River.
- Coho salmon run was good.
  - No commercial, reduced subsistence and personal use harvest.
  - Escapement likely good in most places.

YUKON RIVER SALMON FISHERIES • 2002 SEASON SUMMARY

2002 Outlook and Commercial Harvest

	Chinook	Summer Chum	Fall Chum
2002 Outlook	0 – 20,000	0 – 150,000	0 – 150,000
2002 Harvest	24,430	13,568	0

Chinook Salmon

The total estimated commercial harvest including the estimated harvest to produce roe sold was 24,430 chinook salmon for the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River drainage. The total harvest was comprised of 24,200 chinook salmon in the round, and 896 pounds of roe. The chinook salmon harvest was the third lowest commercial harvest since statehood and 75% below the 1990-1999 average harvest of 97,000 fish. No commercial fishing occurred in 2001.

Summer Chum Salmon

Due to the lack of a summer chum salmon market, the summer chum harvest was taken incidental to fishing directed at chinook salmon, except for two directed chum salmon commercial fishing periods in District 6. The total estimated commercial harvest including the estimated harvest to produce roe sold was 13,568 summer chum salmon for the Yukon River drainage. The total harvest was comprised of 13,548 summer chum salmon in the round, and 16 pounds of roe. The summer chum salmon harvest was the third lowest since 1968 and 97% below the 1990-1999 average harvest of 390,000 fish. No commercial fishing occurred in 2001.

Fall Chum Salmon

No commercial fishing was allowed due to poor run abundance. Severe subsistence fishing restrictions occurred. There has been no commercial fishing for fall chum salmon in the last three years.

Fishing Effort

A record low total of 560 permit holders participated in the chinook and summer chum salmon fishery, which was 24% below the 1990-1999 average of 737 permit holders. The Lower Yukon Area (Districts 1-3) and Upper Yukon Area (Districts 4-6) are separate CFEC permit areas. A total of 540 permit holders fished in the Lower Yukon Area in 2002, which was 16% below the 1990-1999 average of 646 permit holders. In the Upper Yukon Area, 20 permit holders fished, which was 80% below the 1990-1999 average of 101 permit holders.

Exvessel Value

Yukon River fishermen in Alaska received an estimated $1.7 million for their chinook and summer chum salmon harvest in 2002, approximately 71% below the 1990-1999 average of $6.0 million. The decrease in exvessel value was due to the poor chinook and summer chum salmon run resulting in a low commercial harvest.

Four buyer-processors operated in the Lower Yukon Area. Lower Yukon River fishers received an estimated average price per pound of $3.37 for chinook and $0.06 for summer chum salmon. The average price paid for chinook salmon in the Lower Yukon Area was well above the 1990-1999 average of $2.82 per pound. Prices paid for summer chum salmon in the round continued to be low as observed since 1995. The exvessel value of the Lower Yukon Area fishery of $1,695,447 is 69% below the 1990-1999 average of $5,470,697 million. The average income for Lower Yukon Area fishers that participated in the 2002 fishery was $3,131.

Upper Yukon Area fishers received an estimated average price per pound of $0.75 for chinook and $0.32 for summer chum salmon. The average price paid for chinook salmon in the Upper Yukon Area was slightly below the 1990-1999 average of $0.90 per pound. The exvessel value of the Upper Yukon Area fishery of $26,920 is 95% below the 10-year-average (1990-1999) of $533,112. The average income for Upper Yukon Area fishers that participated in the 2002 fishery was $1,346.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

"A united voice for downriver and upriver fishermen."

Your membership supports our core purpose, which is to sustain fisheries through cooperative management.

In order to sustain fisheries YRDFA works to:

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

Membership is open to subsistence users, commercial fishermen, processors and sport fishermen. Members receive a newsletter on the latest events affecting Yukon River salmon fisheries and voting privileges for their District's representatives.

ANNUAL DUES:

☐ Subsistence Only User	$ 5
☐ Commercial Permit Holder or Crew Member (1 year) *(You receive a coffee mug)*	$ 10
☐ Sport User/General Public/Student	$ 10
☐ Commercial Permit Holder or Crew Member (2 year) *(You receive a Victorinox pocketknife)*	$ 20
☐ Agency (subscription; no voting privileges)	$ 20
☐ Lifetime Membership *(You receive a mug, a knife, and recognition and thanks in the YRDFA newsletter)*	$100

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

NAME _____ AMOUNT PAID _____

ADDRESS _____ VILLAGE _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ FISHING DISTRICT _____