

YUKON FISHERIES NEWS

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A Publication of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

WINTER 2004



**YUKON RIVER
DRAINAGE
FISHERIES ASSOCIATION**

*A United Voice for
Downriver and Upriver
Fishermen.*



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YUKON RIVER PANEL MEETS IN WHITEHORSE

Escapement Goals for 2004 Set and R&E Fund Projects Approved

BY DARCY KING
EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH
COORDINATOR, YRDFA

For its spring meeting the Yukon River Panel met in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada from March 8-11th 2004. The main goals of the spring meeting were to set escapement goals and approve Restoration and Enhancement Fund (R&E Fund) projects for 2004. Other agenda items included a review and discussion of JTC assignments for 2003-2004, and an overview of current & future projects of the Yukon River Panel's Communications Committee.

Escapement Goals

A crucial means for managing Yukon River (YR) salmon fisheries is establishing and implementing escapement objectives or goals. Escapement objectives allow a significant number of adult salmon to make it to spawning grounds through avoidance of harvest in any fisheries. The *Yukon River Salmon Agreement* (YRSA) specifies escapement spawning objectives for salmon stocks once they have been rebuilt, or returned to recent historical numbers (see table at right).

As written into the language of the YRSA, the Yukon River Panel may establish and revise temporary spawning escapement objectives for these stocks. Intended to rebuild salmon populations, these objectives are currently set based on a three-cycle rebuilding plan considering average recent levels of salmon and the minimum number necessary to sustain future harvests. These



The Yukon River Panel, alternates & advisors, with delegates from Alaska and the Yukon Territory, met from March 8-11th 2004 in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory for their spring meeting.

temporary spawning escapement objectives, based upon JTC recommendations, are set annually by the YR Panel, as they were at this year's spring meeting.

Spawning Escapement Goals for Canadian-Origin Salmon

Canadian-Origin Salmon	Escapement Goal: 2004	Escapement Goal: YRSA
YR mainstem chinook salmon	28,000	33,000-43,000
YR mainstem fall chum salmon	65,000	80,000
Fishing Branch fall chum salmon	13,000	50,000-120,000

R&E Fund

The *Yukon River Salmon Agreement* authorizes U.S.-sponsored appropriations for funding programs in the U.S. and Canada which focus on the restoration, conservation and enhancement of Canadian-origin salmon stocks. The appropriations granted to the R&E Fund are managed by the YR Panel to support efforts to increase understanding of the factors that affect Yukon River salmon health and abundance.

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

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Yupit of Andreafski

Interior Alaska Fish Processors, Inc.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY JILL KLEIN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, YRDFA

The 2004 fishing season is appearing on the horizon. After a long winter of meetings, getting out into the field and onto the water



will be much appreciated by the biologists, social scientists, and fishermen and women working year round on fishery issues for the Yukon River. An even greater reward will

be strong numbers of salmon returning to the Yukon River.

Many meetings took place this winter that included the Federal Subsistence Board, the Alaska State Board of Fisheries, YRDFA, Regional Advisory Committees and the Yukon River Panel. These meetings dealt with various regulatory, research and management issues. The Federal Subsistence Board and the Board of Fish (BOF) reviewed many of the same proposals and took mainly similar actions on all proposals. (See *BOF Press Release*, page 4). Many of the proposals were to either expand a current fishery, create a new fishery, or to limit a fishery due to conservation concerns. The Board of Fish was conservative in their actions. They did not make any drastic decisions regarding proposals that had drastic solutions to conservation concerns. Instead they seemed to leave the fishery mainly in a status quo situation with hopes that in the next three years, the fishery groups will work together to address some of the tougher questions surrounding the fishery. While this made some fishermen relieved, it also further alienated other fishermen that felt their needs were not addressed through this public process. As well, some fishermen look to YRDFA, in addition to the public process, and ask "how did YRDFA meet my needs?" My response is that YRDFA tries to accurately represent all fishermen and women from subsistence and commercial viewpoints. Sometimes these two fisheries conflict and put YRDFA in a tough spot. We want to support our members and the public, but not at the expense of any other user group or the

future of the fishery. Unfortunately, this doesn't always come across to the people we are trying to represent and people feel unrepresented and unacknowledged.

YRDFA will be working during these upcoming months to promote local participation in the in-season teleconferences that will take place during the salmon fishery. The calls will begin on June 1st at 1:00 pm. We are encouraging YRDFA Board members, along with the Coordinating Fisheries Committee of the Federal Regional Advisory Councils (RAC) and the other organizations representing fishermen and women to join us during these in-season management teleconferences in order to have a wide array of people that can interact with the state and federal management entities. The goals of the teleconferences are to bring fishermen and women together with the managers to discuss the salmon returns to the Yukon River. Both the managers and the fishers have important information to share (see *In Your Own Words*, page 9) and can make decisions together that all participants can agree to.

I am looking forward to the onset of spring as it is the time of renewal and I ask all of you to start this spring with a new beginning towards working together dur-

ing the summer fishery season; it is integral towards meeting the goals of conserving the salmon fisheries for current and future generations. ☞

The long awaited....

Yukon River Salmon Agreement Handbook

will be available in May 2004

*"A layman's guide to understanding the **Yukon River Salmon Agreement** and how it impacts and affects the lives of fishermen and women within the Yukon River drainage."*

Reserve your copy today!

Contact Darcy King, YRDFA

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IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

In-Season Management Teleconferences

SUMMER 2004

Are you involved in salmon fisheries in your community?

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



**JUNE 1ST – MID-SEPT.
EVERY TUESDAY
AT 1:00 PM (ALASKA TIME)**



RESULTS OF THE ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIM BOARD OF FISHERIES FINFISH MEETING

NEWS RELEASE JANUARY 28, 2004

PROVIDED BY ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) met in Fairbanks from January 12 to 19 to decide on fisheries proposals concerning the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) areas. Proposals and action plan options affecting the Yukon Area are the subject of this news release.

The following is a brief summary of the action plan options and proposals the Board considered along with the decision taken regarding each option and proposal.

Stock of Concern Action Plan Options

- Stock of Concern Status
 - Chinook Salmon - continue Yield Concern
 - Summer Chum Salmon - continue Management Concern
 - Fall Chum Salmon - continue Yield Concern
 - Toklat River Stock - remove Management Concern
 - Fishing Branch River Stock - remove Management Concern
- Yukon Area Subdistrict 5-C Subsistence Salmon Fishing Permits:
The board increased the permit harvest area for subsistence salmon fishing to include all of Subdistrict 5-C as a means to track resource use changes due to the completion of the Rampart road construction project and the increased mobility of fishermen.
- Operation of gear during subsistence salmon fishing closures:
The board adopted a regulation requiring gillnets greater than 4" mesh size to be removed from the water and fish wheels must stop rotating during subsistence closures. A similar regulation is in place on the Kuskokwim River system and this would make regulations for subsistence closures the same for both rivers.
- Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan:
The board modified the Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan by:
 - aligning the escapement goal threshold with the lower end of the established BEG range of 300,000 to 600,000
 - this will provide more subsistence fishing opportunity in years with poor runs
 - commercial fishing drainage wide will not be allowed until the run is projected to be 600,000 fish, which will provide for the subsistence priority and bolster escapement on strong runs.
 - key elements of the Toklat River Fall Chum Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan were incorporated into the Fall Chum

Salmon Plan which included changing management of the Toklat stock from the OEG target to managing for the established BEG range of 15,000-33,000.

- Tanana River Salmon Management Plan:
An amendment was made to remove the restriction requiring no more than 42 hours of commercial fishing per week after August 15, which provides the department with more flexibility to manage for escapement while accommodating unpredictable market interest.

Proposal 132- If adopted the effect of this proposal would have been to keep subsistence fishing periods in place all season for each district regardless of the abundance of fish. **This proposal failed.**

Proposal 150- This proposal was a modification to the Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan. **No Action** was taken on this proposal because the issue had already been addressed as part of the Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan.

Proposal 151- This proposal sought to replace the Toklat Management Plan Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) that the Board of Fisheries adopted in 2001 with the BEG of 15,000-33,000 fall chum salmon. **No Action** was taken on this proposal because the issue had already been addressed as part of the Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan.

Proposal 152- This proposal sought to change the language that defines when the subsistence fishing schedule can be relaxed from being related to a commercial surplus to being related to a surplus abundance above a level necessary to provide for escapement and subsistence. **This proposal failed.**

Proposal 153- This proposal sought to develop new management plans for the lower, middle and upper sections of the river that would be the basis of salmon allocation for the entire Yukon River. **This proposal failed.**

Proposal 154- This proposal would have reduced the subsistence salmon fishing schedule in Districts 1, 2, and 3 from two 36-hour periods per week to two 18-hour periods per week. In addition all fishing for salmon, commercial or subsistence would occur within the two 18- hour fishing periods per week. **This proposal failed.**

Proposal 155- The main objective for this proposal was to revise the subsistence fishing schedule in Districts 3 and 4 to provide weekend subsistence fishing opportunity for fishers that work. This

proposal would establish a start date for the subsistence salmon fishing schedule in regulation. **The Board voted to allow the department to set a weekend schedule day by emergency order and not to set the start date in regulation.**

Proposal 156- This proposal sought to increase the subsistence fishing schedule from two 42-hour periods per week to two 48-hour periods per week in Subdistrict 5-A and District 6. **The Board voted to allow the two 48-hour periods per week schedule in Subdistrict 5-A, but to keep District 6 on two 42-hour periods per week.**

Proposal 157- This proposal sought to allow a 24-hour per day seven day per week subsistence fishing schedule in the Tanana River (District 6) after October 1, provided that abundance of salmon was adequate. **This proposal was adopted with an amendment to change the proposed October 1 date to September 30.**

Proposal 158- This proposal would have allowed Alaska Natives to fish at their discretion throughout the year, regardless of schedules or other management measures in the Yukon Delta. This proposal was beyond the authority of the Board so the board took **no action.**

Proposal 159- This proposal sought to allow the use of gillnets with mesh sizes greater than 3" in the Birch Creek drainage. **This proposal failed.**

Proposal 160- This proposal would have allowed fishers in the Koyukuk River drainage to use mesh sizes of their own discretion to target non-salmon species. In addition, should more than 5 salmon be caught per day fishers would be responsible for pulling the net for 24-hours. **This proposal failed.**

Proposal 161- This proposal would have allowed the use of drift gillnets for subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C. **This proposal failed.**

Proposals 162 and 163- These proposals were identical to proposal 161 except that they wanted to limit the area open to drift gillnetting for salmon to the area downstream of the Yuki River within Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C. **Proposal 162 failed and no action was taken on proposal 163.**

Proposal 164- This proposal sought to open the waters of the South and Middle Forks of the Koyukuk River to subsistence fishing and to allow the use of 3.5" mesh or smaller along the Dalton Highway corridor, during the period of November 1 to June 30. Subsistence fishing would be closed to the use of gillnets from July 1 to October 31. This proposal **was adopted with the amendment to require a subsistence fishing permit** to aid in assessing harvest by fishermen residing outside the immediate area who would not be covered by the post season community harvest survey.

Proposal 165- This proposal would have closed subsistence fishing for salmon _ mile above and _ mile below the mouth of spawning tributaries until the Department could determine that escapement goals had been reached. **This proposal failed.**

Proposal 166- This proposal would have closed all commercial fishing for salmon until 2011. **This proposal failed.**

Proposal 167- This proposal sought to develop community quotas through the use of management planning committees. In addition the proposal asked the Board to "consider" closing commercial fishing for salmon for a period of seven years. **This proposal failed.**

Proposal 168- This proposal sought to lower the Guideline Harvest Level for chinook, summer and fall chum salmon and reallocate the harvest of all three species. **This proposal failed.**

Proposal 169- This proposal would have allowed commercial permit holders in Subdistrict 4-A to switch gear from the current set gillnet or fish wheel permits to drift gillnet gear when there is sufficient abundance for directed commercial fishing chinook salmon and when a conservation concern exists with summer chum salmon. **This proposal was passed with the amendment to allow all commercial permits to use set gillnet gear during such times, but not drift gillnet gear.**

Proposal 170- This proposal would have prohibited directed roe fisheries. **This proposal failed.**

Proposal 171- This proposal would have adopted a 6" maximum mesh size for Districts 1 and 2. **This proposal failed.**

Proposals 172- This proposal sought to limit the maximum depth of fish wheel leads and gillnet gear to 47% of the water depth (presumably at the fishing site). **This proposal failed.**

Proposal 173- This proposal would have allowed catch and release sport fishing for chinook salmon in the Goodpaster River drainage. **This proposal failed.**

Proposal 174- This proposal would have put the sport fishery on the same fishing schedule as subsistence fishing for salmon with gillnets and fish wheels in the Yukon Area. **This proposal failed.**

Proposal A- This proposal was a Board generated proposal that resulted from an emergency petition to allow commercial fishing for herring throughout the entire Cape Romanzof herring district. **This proposal was adopted.** 🐟

YRDFA MEETS IN THE KOYUKUK RIVER VILLAGE OF ALLAKAKET

From February 22-25 2004, YRDFA held its 14th Annual Meeting in the village of Allakaket along the Koyukuk River.

Approximately 70 participants attended the



The Allakaket Community Hall where participants gathered for YRDFA's 14th Annual Meeting along the Koyukuk River.

meeting and all fishing districts were represented by a total of 22 communities from the coast to the upper Yukon River,

including the Yukon Flats region and the Tanana and Koyukuk River drainages.

Agenda topics included presentations on YRDFA projects, overview of escapement

goals from various perspectives, marine research and by-catch reduction efforts, the effects of *Ichthyophonus*, 2004 Summer Season Outlook for Chinook, and a Fall Chum 2003 Update with 2004 Outlook. Various updates were given on projects related to radio telemetry, genetics and a contaminants study on Chum and Chinook salmon. Koyukuk River issues of local concern regarding subsistence and commercial fisheries were addressed during an open discussion by Koyukuk Advisory Committee members, elders, local residents and other members of the audience.

The meeting proved to be productive as the YRDFA Board of Directors resolved to take action on four items by agreeing to:

- 1) Support collaborative efforts amongst all researchers and entities planning future *Ichthyophonus* research that takes place within the YR drainage,
- 2) Request management entities to treat all fishers within the YR drainage fairly when considering restrictions and changes to fisheries policy and regulations (see *Resolution 2004-02*, opposite page),
- 3) Oppose the current federal interpretation of customary trade which excludes the sale of traditional fish products, and to
- 4) Gratefully thank the various organizations and people of Allakaket and Alatna for their generosity and hospitality for hosting YRDFA's 14th Annual Meeting.

Location sites for YRDFA's annual meetings rotate annually between upriver and downriver communities. Next year's 15th annual meeting will take place in Marshall, within Fishing District Y-2, with St. Mary's as the alternate location. 🐟

REPRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Communities: Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Alakanuk, Emmonak, Mountain Village, St. Mary's, Marshall, Holy Cross, Grayling, Kaltag, Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket, Alatna, Galena, Ruby, Tanana, Manley, Minto, Beaver, Ft. Yukon, Eagle.

Organizations and Agencies: AVCP, CATG, YRITWC, ADFG, USFWS, BLM, DEC and NOAA. Also present were CFC Members from Eastern Interior, Western Interior and Yukon-Kuskokwim Regions, and members from the Koyukuk, Tanana-Rampart-Manley, Minto-Nenana and Eagle Advisory Committees.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

YRDFA BIOLOGIST VISITS WITH ALLAKAKET YOUTH

BY MIKE MCDUGALL,
YRDFA FISHERIES BIOLOGIST

While working for YRDFA the past few years, I have had the chance to attend many fishery related meetings. Educational outreach is a theme I hear repeatedly, and has been suggested as one way YRDFA can be more involved in educating people, especially youth, on topics pertinent to fisheries and fish habitat.

Recently, while attending the YRDFA annual meeting in Allakaket, I had the opportunity to lead an in-class science activity at the village school. Topics students learned about included: the salmon lifecycle; local resident species; pollution

and ways to reduce it; and the role aquatic insects play in the ecosystem.

We ended the activity with a whitefish dissection. Students identified and learned about the parts of the fish along with basic fish biology. I was pleased to find that many of the kids already knew the parts of the fish quite well and were well versed in habitats differing species utilize. Students also had the opportunity to view aquatic insect specimens up-close under a stereoscope.

In the near future, we hope to do more educational outreach activities such as this where students, teachers and YRDFA staff can learn from one another about topics important to Yukon River fisheries. 🐟

Photo courtesy of Laurel Devaney, USFWS



This past summer, Mike McDougall (far right) had another opportunity to help educate youth on topics related to fisheries and fish habitat at the Andreafsky Weir Science Camp, sponsored by the USFWS, on the Andreafsky River.

LOCAL KOYUKUK REGION ELDER SPEAKS

Johnson Moses, Elder from Allakaket, spoke during YRDFA's annual meeting regarding the traditional way of life on the Koyukuk River. When asked a few questions after the meeting, this is what he had to say:



Johnson Moses, an Elder from Allakaket, spoke to those who gathered for the two-day meeting.

"That was the best meeting I've ever been to for a long time."

What was good about the YRDFA meeting?

I'll tell you that I think the people were happy to be in Allakaket that time, all the people from different place because I see all the people that were here were smiling and they look like they were happy to meet with the people. You know all the villages have the same thing, when they meet in the villages, we like to work with the people everybody is all alike and they take care of each other.

Do you think it's important to bring together fishermen from different regions along the Yukon River and to involve the youth in fisheries issues?

The youth are supposed to go. So if anything like that [YRDFA annual meeting] comes up, we need to have all the youth/kids there. The meeting, that's the best meeting when you have all the people get together from all the villages and see what's going on in the other villages, because we all work the same way with everything.

What future do you see for the Koyukuk River fisheries?

In the future we are supposed to have that [meetings to bring everyone together] all the time. Whenever we can get the people together, when there is money to travel and everything, then we can have that [meetings] in the villages. The whole of Alaska is almost all native. We all work the same way, we provide food the same way and we take care of our life and animals out there and also all the others. When there are fish rules by Fish & Game, and the game wardens have a stop for certain things on the fish, that's a good way because they know how it works.

Do you think salmon will return to the Koyukuk River?

Yeah, the salmon will return to the Koyukuk.

What needs to be done now to ensure salmon return to the Koyukuk?

We have to meet like that and talk with all the other people from all around the coast where they have the big canneries and then maybe we can work with the canneries and then we can have our salmon come back. We have to have the salmon come back like the other animals we worked on before and looked after, because they are coming back now. If we work on salmon like that, then I think our salmon will keep coming back again. 🐟



YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

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RESOLUTION: 2004-02

YUKON RIVER SUBSISTENCE

WHEREAS the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) represents and promotes the equal treatment of all fishers of the Yukon River drainage; and

WHEREAS the question of fishing opportunities continues to be a pressing issue to the communities of the Koyukuk River drainage in times of weak salmon runs; and

WHEREAS restrictions on fishing days, mesh size and net length are added hardships to an already small fishing opportunity in view of the opportunities of other fishing districts; and

WHEREAS even small fishing openings in Lower and Middle Yukon districts can equal a whole season's opportunities in the Koyukuk River;

BE IT RESOLVED that YRDFA asks the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to take the utmost care and consideration to any restriction in these areas and propose needed changes to the State Board of Fisheries' and Federal Subsistence Board's policy and regulations to reflect this concern of the YRDFA Board.

COPIES to be sent to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Koyukuk Fish and Game Advisory Committee members, Koyukuk River village councils and cities, Coordinating Fishery Committee members of the Federal Regional Advisory Committees.

APPROVED unanimously this 24th day of February 2004 by the Board members and Delegates of YRDFA assembled at their Fourteenth Annual Meeting held in Allakaket, Alaska.

Attest:

Gilbert Huntington
YRDFA Co-Chair

Lester Wilde
YRDFA Co-Chair

THANK YOU

Thanks to Frontier Flying Service and Wrights Air Service for getting meeting participants and cargo safely to and from Allakaket. A special thanks to the villages of Allakaket and Alatna for their generous hospitality. Funding for the meeting courtesy of treaty implementation funds, for the Yukon River Salmon Agreement, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA. 🐟

KOYUKUK RIVER ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERN DISCUSSED

Koyukuk River issues of local concern regarding subsistence and commercial fisheries were addressed during an open discussion by Koyukuk Advisory Committee members, elders, local residents and other members of the audience at YRDFA's 14th Annual Meeting in Allakaket. Eleven residents of the Koyukuk Region responded to a survey asking 6 questions regarding subsistence fishery issues. Here are their responses:

Question: Were you, others you know and your community in general able to meet subsistence needs with salmon: chinook, summer chum or fall chum?

- Yes, I was able to meet my needs because of trade.
- Yes, it was the best fish run in about 20 years on the Koyukuk River.
- No, water was too high during the run with too much rain.
- No, I was also not able to meet my needs because of run-off from gold mining at Wiseman.
- No, because unrealistic fishing closures affect our area up in Allakaket. I was only able to meet my needs because people share whatever they get and that is the way I got fish.
- No, in the last 15 years it has been very hard with not enough salmon for the winter months. We are only able to meet our needs because we use other species of fish to fill in.
- No, because we don't have that much [fish] up here. We have to fish real hard from when the first chums come to freeze-up, and even after, under the ice.

Question: How was the run in 2003 compared to other years?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Percentage of those surveyed</u>
Best	9%
Better than before	55%
Usual	18%
Not so good	18%



Elder Joe Beetus, from Hughes, spoke to meeting participants at YRDFA's 14th Annual Meeting on issues regarding the traditional way of life along the Koyukuk River.

Question: Did you target other species of fish, other than salmon, to help meet your needs?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Percentage of those surveyed</u>
Yes	91%
No	9%

Yes: Non-salmon fish species targeted were shee-fish, white fish, pike and grayling. One person also mentioned the need to hunt for more moose to alleviate the shortage experienced with salmon.

No: It was not a good season for fishing because of high water and the fishing eddies were under water.

Question: What do you think management could do better to help you meet your subsistence needs?

- When they close fishing for a week down river we get more salmon or kings.
- On the upper Koyukuk, do away with the windows and go to 24/7 fishing schedule.
- Do whatever management did last summer (2003) that allowed large escapement.
- Have no fishing closure around Allakaket because we target whitefish and shee-fish.
- What we are doing right now, listening and communicating with one another, hearing each concerns.
- Have people on the Koyukuk River pull their nets to prevent catching fall chum.
- Maybe shut down commercial fishing so that some fish can pass.
- Communicate with villages on how much fish coming up the river.
- Get more meetings in our area to see how we live. And a survey of when to close it so we can get enough to live on.
- Keep our Koyukuk River open. We only use nets.

Question: Are the subsistence windows or schedules working for you?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Percentage of those surveyed</u>
Yes	64%
No	9%
Don't know	27%

Question: Do you believe the windows are passing fish through to your part of the river?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Percentage of those surveyed</u>
Yes	45%
No	18%
Don't know	27%
Depends on many factors	9%

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

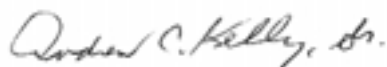
YRDFA encourages any and all submissions, relating to salmon fisheries, for the *Yukon Fisheries News*. The newsletter is a medium for all users of the Yukon River to disseminate information and express an opinion...in their own words.

“Cooperation is what the elders emphasize to us if we are to repopulate the fishes of the great Yukon River. The Webster’s dictionary defines ‘cooperate’ as “to work or act together toward a common end or purpose”. This is why the elders always tell us that it is the traditional law not to fight over fish or whatever the Creator has provided or placed on Earth for us to use for survival. This is very difficult to follow because our natural tendency is to be selfish. When we are selfish we forget that there are a lot of other people up and down this great and long river who are also in need of this resource. We should put our selfish feelings aside and listen to other people who are involved in trying to rebuild this very necessary and important resource.

Indigenous native elders up and down the Yukon River need to be heard and listened to because they were taught how to manage the natural resources from their parents and previous elders. The elders observe and speak from the heart and experience. They do not make up stories because they deal with resources from birth and they live with it until they die. Two basic management concepts which have allowed the natural resources to remain healthy is 1) because people were taught to take only what they needed and stop when they have enough no matter how plentiful the fish run may be, and 2) the methods of harvest were relatively inefficient.

The other important people who should be listened to are the biologists. They are the people who worked hard and have spent a lot of time studying the science of living organisms and life processes. They have made their life studying the behavior of fish. They also know many factors that affect the fish, such as timber cutting, mining and other activities on the ground. They also know the life cycle of fish and much more. We need to concentrate on educating our young people about the life cycle of salmon. The more people understand the many dangers and enemies during the life cycle of salmon, the better it will be for this resource. We should do more to encourage our young people to become biologists and to help make the connection between native ways and western science.

Each village needs to listen and understand what other villages are doing and their needs up and down the Yukon River. There should not be any blaming. One village should not describe what another village is doing because they are not there and they don’t know. If they suspect certain things then they should go to that area and see for themselves and then say what they have to say. Other villages should not say that certain areas are taking too much fish for roe fishing. They should witness such activities and then they can say something”.



Andrew C. Kelly Sr.
Emmonak Resident
Refuge Information Technician, USFWS

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

FOR THE 3RD YEAR IN A ROW,
YRDFA WILL BE COORDINATING THE

Yukon River Educational Exchange Program Summer 2004

Find out how the YUKON RIVER SALMON AGREEMENT affects and impacts your life.

•
Interact with local fishermen, management entities, commercial fishermen, processors, elders and youth from Alaska and Yukon Territory, Canada.

Learn about salmon biology, status of stocks and different types of fisheries occurring along the Yukon River.

Become informed and updated regarding salmon management issues.

Obtain the skills and resources necessary to share this knowledge with your home community.



Bringing together those involved in salmon fisheries as Yukoners visit Alaska and Alaskans visit the Yukon Territory to explore, experience and understand regional and cultural fisheries issues within various communities along the Yukon River.

Currently searching for participants, presenters & facilitators, and local guides!

Interested in participating in a 7-10 day educational and cultural exchange either the last week in June (Yukoners to Alaska) or last week in July (Alaskans to Yukon Territory), or for more information please contact:
Darcy King –Educational Outreach Coordinator, YRDFA
Phone: (907) 272-3126 • Toll Free: 1-877-998566
Fax: (907) 272-3142
Email: darcy-yrdfa@alaska.com

Creating relationships among people and communities within the Yukon River drainage.

Funding for this program courtesy of the Yukon River Panel.

CHINOOK SALMON FISHERY

Yukon River chinook salmon return primarily as age-5 and age-6 fish, although age-4 and age-7 fish also contribute to the run. Spawning ground escapements in 1998, the brood year producing 6-year-old fish returning in 2004, were near the upper end of the escapement goals in the Chena and Salcha Rivers but below the escapement objective in Canada. However, the 5-year-old component in 2003 was average, indicating improved production. With the exception of 2003, the return of salmon since 1998 has been well below average in strength indicating abnormally poor production from parent year escapements. Assuming a normal return of 6-year-old fish, and a weaker return of 5-year-old fish, the 2004 return is expected to be average to below average.

Overall, the 2004 chinook salmon run is anticipated to be average to below average in strength but improved over recent poor years of 1998-2002. Given the uncertainties associated with recent declines in productivity, it is anticipated the run will provide for escapements, support a normal subsistence harvest, and a below average commercial harvest. Fishery management will be based upon in-season assessments of the run. If in-season indicators of run strength suggest sufficient abundance exists to have a commercial fishery, the commercial harvest in Alaska could range from 20,000 to 60,000 chinook salmon. This range of commercial catch is near the 10-year (1994-2003) average of approximately 62,800 chinook salmon. 🐟



FALL CHUM SALMON FISHERY

Yukon River fall chum salmon return primarily as age-4 or age-5 fish, although age-3 and age-6 fish also contribute to the run. The 2004 run will be comprised of the parent years 1998 to 2001. The 2004 run size projection will range from 350,000 to 672,000 fall chum salmon. The major contributor to the 2004 fall chum salmon run is anticipated to be age-4 fish returning from the parent year 2000, which was the worst return on record. Collectively the age-4 and age-5 fish will contribute to nearly 98% of the 2004 fall chum salmon run.

The projection for 2004 is based on the combination of extremely weak escapements and the likelihood of a weaker return in an even numbered year, which advocates the use of a conservative run size estimate for 2004. However improvements in production were evident in the 2003 return that included an unanticipated strong component of age-4 fish from the brood year 1999. If this affect of improved survival was maintained a strong carryover of age-5 fish could materialize which may bolster the run size enough to realize or surpass the upper end of the range.

The projected run size using the point estimate for the 2004 fall chum return should support normal subsistence fishing activities. The run will be monitored in-season to determine the strength in relation to the estimated range and what amount of harvest can be provided based on the levels stipulated in the Alaska Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan. 🐟

SUMMER CHUM SALMON FISHERY

Summer chum salmon runs in 2004 will be dependent on the escapements, and the production of the escapements from 2000 (age-4 fish) and 1999 (age-5-fish). Spawning escapements in 1999 were slightly above the low end of the recently established Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) range in the Anvik River and below the BEG in the East Fork Andreafsky River. The 2000 run of summer chum salmon was the poorest on record and none of the escapement goals were met. It appears that recent declines in the productivity of Yukon River summer chum salmon are continuing. While exact reasons for the run failures are unknown, it is widely speculated that poor marine survival related to localized weather and ocean conditions in the Bering Sea are the primary contributing factors. Weakness in Yukon River salmon runs is being attributed to reduced productivity, and not the result of low levels of parent year escapements. However, information from the Bering Sea (BASIS and trawl fisheries) indicates that ocean conditions may be improving and that summer chum salmon production may be improving.

If ocean conditions are more conducive to survival, it is anticipated the run will provide for escapements, support a normal subsistence harvest and possibly a small commercial harvest. If not, subsistence harvest opportunity may require reductions to provide for escapements. If in-season qualitative indicators of run strength suggest sufficient abundance exists to have a commercial fishery, the commercial harvest in Alaska could range from 0 to 50,000 summer chum salmon. 🐟



TEK INFORMED RUN PROJECTION

At the YRDFA's 2001 TEK forum in Anchorage, a manager with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game told forum participants that if a TEK informed run projection could be compiled, it would be included with ADFG preseason information. Since that forum, YRDFA TEK staff has created a table of identified TEK indicators (see below) to begin cataloging the many indicators local fishers use in preparation for the salmon fishing season. This table will be sent to each community participating in the YRDFA

teleconferences and participants will be asked to briefly report on the status of any indicators listed or to add new ones as they become relevant. YRDFA's TEK staff will participate in the teleconferences and record comments and additions to the table throughout the season. At the end of the season, the results will be compiled and analyzed to assist in determining if the information should continue to be provided to managers and fishers. ☞

INDICATOR/OBSERVATION	SIGNIFICANCE	COMMUNITY OBSERVATIONS	EXPECTED RESULT	ACTUAL RESULT
Lamprey/Eel Strength	Strong eel run means strong king run and vice versa	Holy Cross-Strong Run Fall '03	2004 King run should be strong	
Placement of Adipose Fin	Closer to head means heavy king run arrives early, closer to tail means heavy run arrives later.			
Wind Strength	Strong winds mean more fish, bad or lesser winds mean weak/lite runs			
Wind Direction	N. Wind/fish come in S.mouth. S. Wind good for N. mouth and middle mouth.			
Arrival of Geese/Migratory birds	If birds arrive early, fish will be early and vice versa.			
Migratory bird abundance	Lots of birds means lots of fish and vice versa			
Appearance of Bluebells	When bluebells come out the kings are arriving			
Arrival of Fish Birds	When little dark birds arrive so do kings			
Breakup Time (early/late)	Early breakup means fish come early and vice versa			
Cottonwood seed/pollen	When pollen starts flying, Kings arrive			

BECOME A FISHERIES BIOTECHNICIAN!

Fisheries Biotechnician Training Camp

This is a great opportunity to learn about fish and fisheries research and to learn new skills to become a Fisheries Biotechnician for work at summer research field camps.

For the second year in a row, the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) is sponsoring a three-week workshop to provide education and training to become a Fisheries Biotechnician. This training program will include both classroom and field (hands-on) experiences to provide a broad-based background. The goal is to provide training for qualified individuals to obtain basic skills about operation of fisheries research projects, fish biology, and safety for work as entry-level fisheries biotechnicians in fisheries field camps for federal, state, tribal, non-profit and private employers.

The training camp will begin in June 2004 and last approximately three weeks. The site for this summer's training camp, yet to be determined, will be at a lower- Yukon River location. There will be space for 10-12 students. Lodging, food, and travel will be provided by YRDFA. College credit for completing the three-week course will be available.

For an application or more information please contact:

Joe Sullivan, Program Director, YRDFA
Phone: (907) 272-3118 or Toll Free: 1-877-999-8566
Email: joe-yrdfa@alaska.com



SALMON BYCATCH IN BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AND GULF OF ALASKA GROUNDFISH FISHERIES

FEBRUARY 2004 UPDATE

PROVIDED BY THE ALASKA MARINE CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Last year the Alaska Marine Conservation Council presented to YRDFA on salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea/ Aleutian Island and Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries. The following report updates our last bulletin to include 2002 and 2003 data.

In *An Overview of Salmon Bycatch in Alaska Groundfish Fisheries*, the authors state, “From 1990 – 2001, an average of 37,819 chinook salmon and 69,332 other salmon species (more than 95% are chum salmon) were incidentally caught as bycatch annually in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish trawl fisheries and 20,779 chinook and 20,496 other salmon were incidentally caught annually in the Gulf of Alaska.” In comparison to other groundfish fishing gear, vessels using trawls account for 99% of salmon bycatch in Alaska. The salmon that are intercepted as bycatch in the groundfish fisheries are primarily between one and two years away from returning to their natal streams to spawn.

Salmon taken as bycatch in North Pacific groundfish fisheries are bound for rivers in western Alaska, central and southeast Alaska, Asia and British Columbia. Fishery scientists estimate that approximately 60% of chinook salmon bycatch in any given year are bound for western Alaska rivers.

Bering Sea

In the Bering Sea, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) has implemented chinook and chum salmon bycatch “savings areas” (Figure 1). It was determined that these are areas of especially high salmon bycatch and that savings areas would provide a means to reduce the incidental take of salmon in the pollock fisheries.

Chum Salmon Savings Area - All trawling is prohibited during the month of

August inside the chum salmon savings area. The area remains closed for the rest of the year if a bycatch cap of 42,000 chum is exceeded within the “catcher vessel operation area” prior to the “accounting period” (August 15 to October 14). However each year the bycatch cap is exceeded. Salmon caught outside of the accounting period or outside of the catcher vessel operation area do not apply towards the closure of the savings area. In recent years the savings area has been triggered closed, but vessels targeting pollock still catch high numbers of chum and other salmon outside of the savings area. The “catcher vessel operation area” and the “accounting period” are caveats to chum salmon bycatch reduction that are rendering the program ineffective. Although chum salmon bycatch is controlled inside the savings area, bycatch is remaining high at an average of 69,264 chum and other salmon per year over the past eight years.

Chinook Bycatch Savings Areas - There are two areas that close to trawling if the bycatch cap is exceeded before April 15 or after September 1. If the cap is reached after April 15 but before September 1, the savings areas close on September 1. In 2000, new regulations were implemented that incrementally reduced the Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands chinook bycatch limit from 29,000 in 2003. The cap only applies to chinook caught by vessels targeting pollock. In 2003, the non-CDQ pollock fishery greatly exceeded the cap with a total catch of 44,748 chinook salmon. The savings areas were closed on September 1, 2003, but chinook were still caught outside of the savings areas.

Gulf of Alaska

Bycatch of chinook salmon in the Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries averages 20,181 chinook per year (1990- 2002) but in recent years has averaged 14,433 (2001 – 2003). In an average year, the pollock fishery accounts for 60% of the chinook salmon

bycatch, trawl fisheries targeting Pacific cod catch 18% and 17% by trawl fisheries targeting flatfish. In February 2004 the NPFMC voted unanimously to include an analysis of bycatch controls for crab and salmon bycatch (chinook and “other” salmon) as part of the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Rationalization program. Presently there are no limits to the amount of salmon that could be caught as bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries.

Table 1. Bycatch of Pacific salmon in Alaska groundfish trawl fisheries, 1996 – 2003. Bycatch includes salmon incidentally caught in the Community Development Quota (CDQ) program.

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands		
YEAR	CHINOOK	CHUM*
1996	63,205	77,771
1997	50,218	67,349
1998	58,966	69,237
1999	14,586	47,204
2000	8,219	59,306
2001	40,303	60,460
2002	39,296	80,858
2003**	44,748	94,429

Gulf of Alaska		
YEAR	CHINOOK	CHUM*
1996	15,761	3,969
1997	15,119	3,349
1998	16,941	13,539
1999	30,600	7,529
2000	26,706	10,996
2001	14,946	5,995
2002	12,920	3,219
2003	15,435	N/A

* Chum bycatch includes coho, sockeye and pink salmon. Total numbers are, however, predominantly chum salmon.

** 2003 BSAI data does not include bycatch taken in CDQ fisheries.

For further information, please contact Ben Enticknap, Alaska Marine Conservation Council (907) 277-5357. 🐟

Figure 1. Salmon Bycatch Savings Areas



Figure 2. BSAI Reporting Areas

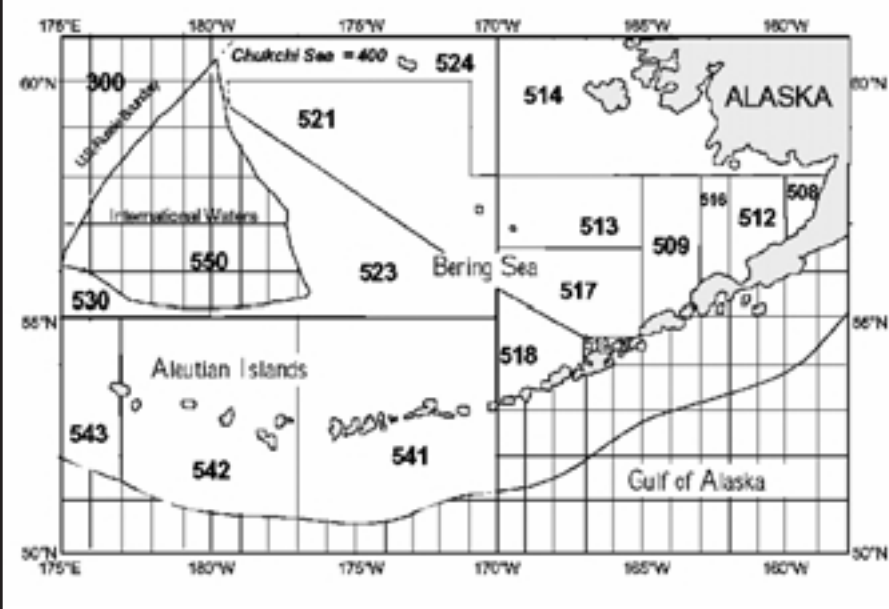


Figure 3. 2002 BSAI Trawl Chinook Salmon Catch by Reporting Area

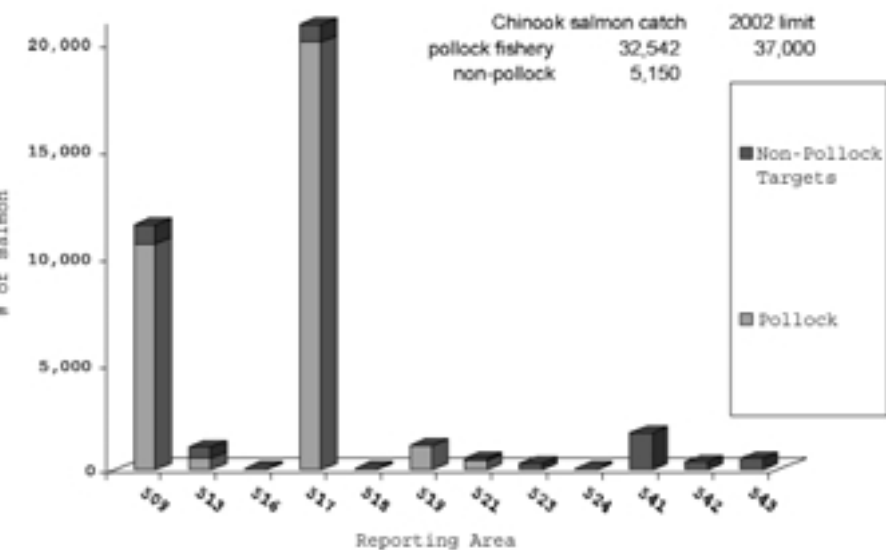


Figure 4. 2002 BSAI “Other” Salmon Bycatch

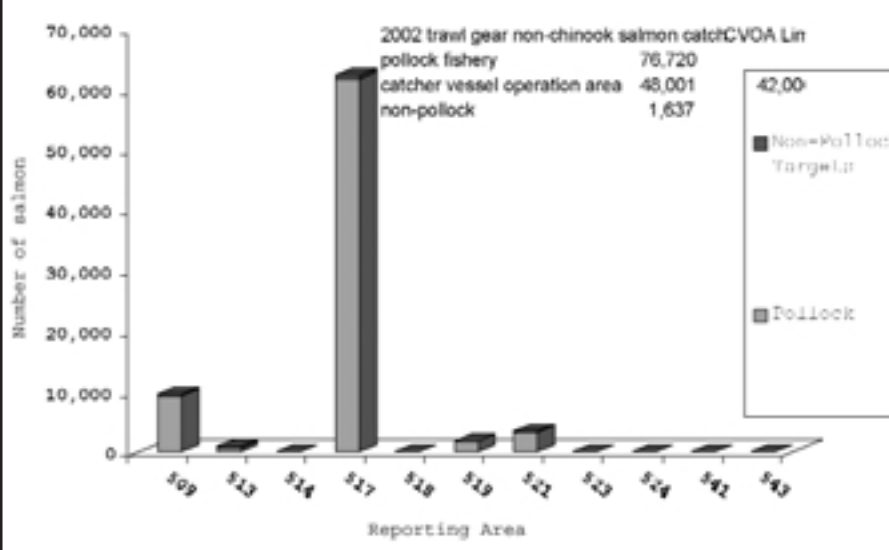


Figure 5. 2003 Chinook Salmon Bycatch by Month and Area

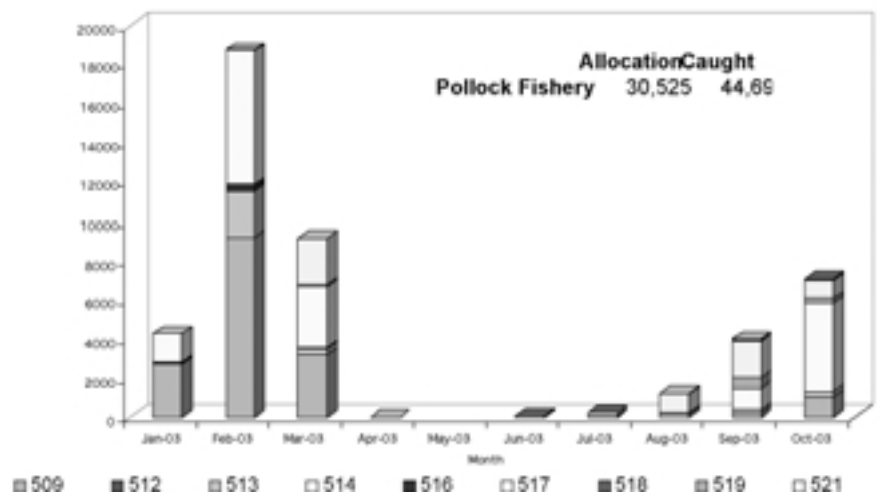
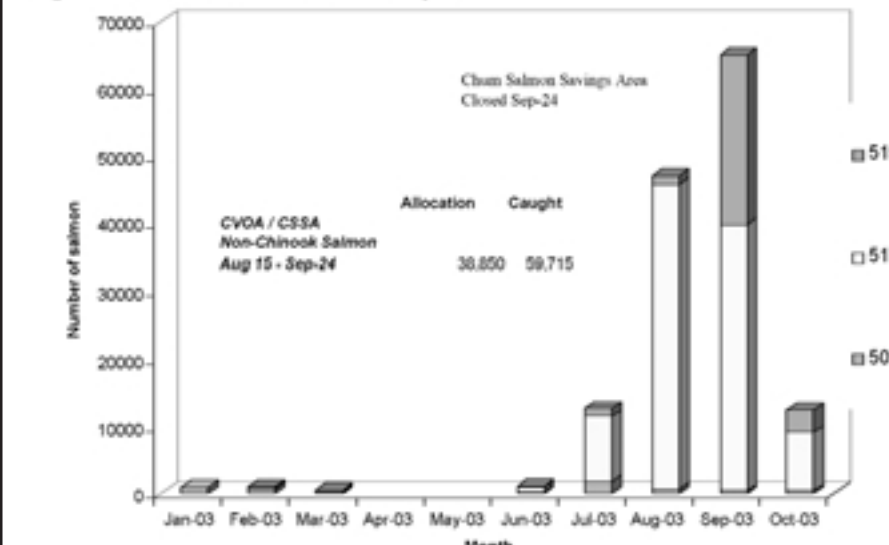


Figure 6. 2003 BSAI “Other” Salmon Bycatch



PUBLIC MEETING ON REQUESTS FOR FEDERAL INTERVENTION IN AREA M FISHERY TO BE HELD

PROVIDED BY USFWS

ANCHORAGE -- The Federal Subsistence Board will hold a public meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 27, at the Egan Civic and Convention Center in Anchorage to take public testimony on requests that the Federal government intervene in management of the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands (Area M) commercial salmon fisheries. If necessary, the meeting will continue on Wednesday, April 28.

Last month, the Alaska Board of Fisheries liberalized regulations for the Area M commercial salmon fisheries. Several of the 10 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils are seeking Federal intervention, due to concerns that the State's action may impact subsistence salmon fisheries in Western Alaska and the Bristol Bay region.

The Federal Subsistence Board does not have authority to regulate the harvest of fish and wildlife outside Federal jurisdiction.

However, the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture have the authority to extend Federal jurisdiction in order to protect a Federal interest. Such authority is rarely exercised. To do so would require proof that there has been a failure to provide rural Alaskans with a subsistence priority on Federal lands and waters and that activities occurring beyond Federal jurisdiction are the direct cause of that failure.

The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture have asked that the Federal Subsistence Board make a recommendation on a response to these requests for intervention. The Board will meet in executive session at a later date to develop its recommendation and will consider testimony, written comments and a staff report addressing the concerns of the petitioners. A decision from the Secretaries is anticipated before the start of the June fishery.

Written comments must be received by April 23 to be included in the public meeting materials. Comments should focus on how changes in the Area M fishery would, or would not, affect the subsistence priority in Federal waters.

Comments can be faxed, mailed or delivered to the Office of Subsistence Management. The fax number for the Office of Subsistence Management is 907-786-3898. The mailing address is: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, 3601 C St., Suite 1030, Anchorage, AK 99503. Those wishing to testify at the meeting must sign up by noon, April 27. Public testimony will be limited to five minutes, but may be supplemented with written comments. For special accommodations, or an agenda, please contact Larry Buklis at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at (800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3822. ☘



TEK & CLIMATE

Circle of Knowledge: Climate, Weather and Environmental Change is a project to co-develop a community-participatory research project on weather and the environment, with local Native experts, **along the Koyukuk River**, and scientists who study Arctic and global climate change. The goal is to document observations of changes in the weather and environment and create ways to **exchange information between scientists and Natives**. It is hoped that Natives and scientists working together will lead to a better understanding of the changes that are impacting the land, air, water, & subsistence resources.

This project is led by Shannon McNeeley, Associate Scientist from the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado and Huslia community member Orville Huntington, in cooperation with the Huslia, Hughes & Koyukuk Tribal Councils. Ms. McNeeley will visit communities on the Koyukuk River in April to work with Elders and other interested community members on developing appropriate research questions. She will also be available to discuss the idea of co-creating an outreach product for the Koyukon communities on local perspectives of weather and environmental change.

If interested, please contact: Shannon McNeeley
Phone: 303-497-8122, Fax: 303-497-8125
Email: shannon@atd.ucar.edu



YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

"A United Voice for Yukon River Fisheries."

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: The Board of Directors of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) hereby solicits nominations for candidates for delegates, either Board or Alternate, for the 2004 elections, in order to represent the particular membership districts of the YRDFA.

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

Y-1, Seat 2&3 Y-2, Seat 2&3 Y-4, Seat 2
Y-5, Seat 2 Y-6, Seat 2 Koyukuk River, Seat 1

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

**SEE MAP
BELOW
FOR YOUR
FISHING
DISTRICT**

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

The YRDFA Board of Directors works together to take action on issues which benefit all user groups of Yukon River salmon stocks. Meeting at least twice a year, and any other times when called upon by the Co-Chairs, the YRDFA Board works on such issues as:

- Board of Fish & Federal Subsistence Board regulations
- In-season management decisions
- Funding decisions for research that conserve wild salmon

"Sustained fisheries through cooperative management."

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

Voting privileges extended to YRDFA members only.

District seats will be voted on by YRDFA members within that district.

Once elected, winners must become members and pay appropriate dues within 30 days.

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

YRDFA, Attn: Darcy King

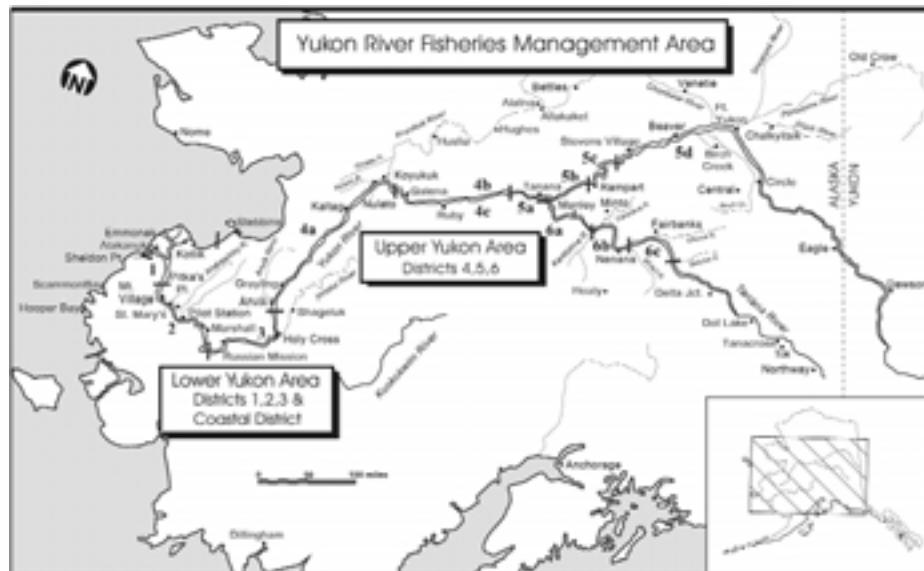
725 Christensen Dr., Ste 3-B, Anchorage, AK 99501

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 April 30, 2004

www.yukonsalmon.org



YRDFA BOARD MEMBER & ALTERNATE NOMINATION FORM 2004

NOMINEE NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

FISHING DISTRICT: _____

M E M B E R S H I P F O R M

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

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

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

NAME _____

AMOUNT PAID _____

ADDRESS _____

VILLAGE _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ FISHING DISTRICT _____

“YUKON RIVER PANEL...”

continued from page 1

According to the *Yukon River Salmon Agreement*, of the \$US 1.2 million, 50% shall be disbursed on Canadian programs and projects as approved by the Canadian section of the YR Panel, based on recommendations by the Canadian portion of the JTC. However, the full YR Panel must find these projects and programs to be consistent with the principles and guidelines laid out in the



Reviewing, Discussing & Deciding: Yukon River Panel members work through two days of meetings to set interim escapement goals and approve projects for R&E funding for 2004.

Agreement. The full YR Panel decides how the remaining 50% of the R&E Fund should be allocated for programs and projects

occurring either in Canada or the U.S. Projects approved by the YR Panel for 2004 include:

RESTORATION & ENHANCEMENT FUND 2004

Project N ¹	Project Title	Project Proponent	\$US/Cdn ² Request	TC ³ URE-01-03
URE-01-04	Radio-Arch. Tag Recovery – Lower Yukon River	BSFA ⁴	\$20,000/26,000	S
URE-03-04	Chinook Salmon Capture for Radio Telemetry Stdy	BSFA	60,000/78,000	S
URE-06-04	Kaltag Fall Chum/Coho Drift Gillnet Test Fishery	City of Kaltag	23,800/30,940	S
URE-09-04	Rampart-Rapids Chin & Chum Video Monitoring	Stan Zuray	32,200/41,860	S
URE-12-04	Enhance Mainstem Fall Chum Escapement	EASFA ⁵	14,600/18,980	S
URE-18N-04	Aerial Survey for Radio Telemetry Study	ADF&G ⁶	12,000/15,600	S
CRE-01-04	Juv. Chin & Chum Out-migration Tmng. & Char.	YRCFA ⁷	20,846/27,100	R/A
CRE-02-04	2004 Radio Tag Recoveries	Jake Duncan	10,615/13,800	R
CRE-05-04	Klondike River Spawning Escapement Est. (AUC)	YRCFA	15,923/20,700	R
CRE-07-04	First Fish 2004, Youth Camp	YRCFA	1,923/2,500	A
CRE-11-03	2004 In-season Management Fund	YRCFA	16,231/21,100	R
CRE-15-04	Juvenile Chinook/Coho Habitat Assessment	NYRRC ⁸ /VGFN ⁹	28,154/36,600	A
CRE-17-04	Chinook Radio Tracking Telemetry Project	NYRRC/VGFN	14,308/18,600	R
CRE-19-04	Lower Mayo River Chin & Channel Assmt.	NND ¹⁰	30,769/40,000	A
CRE-23-04	S. McQuesten Riv. Water Quality Mntrng. – Year 2	NND	8,308/10,800	A
CRE-27-04	Chum Mark/Recapture Test Fishery – Porcupine R.	NYRRC/VGFN	37,923/49,300	R
CRE-29-04	Chum Spawning Ground Recoveries – Minto Area	Selkirk First Nation	9,231/12,000	R
CRE-35-04	Klusha Creek & Tatchun Creek Beaver Mngmnt.	LSCFN ¹¹	15,385/20,000	A
CRE-37-04	Blind Creek Chinook Salmon Enumeration Weir	RRDC ¹²	28,462/37,000	R
CRE-41N-04	Chin Sonar Enum Big Salmon Riv & Mnstm Teslin	Panel/J. Wilson	86,692/114,000	R
CRE-47-04	Teslin River Sub-basin Stewardship	Teslin Tlingit Council	38,462/50,000	A
CRE-50-04	McClintock River Watershed Sal. Management Plan	Kwanlin Dun FN	43,077/56,000	A
CRE-55-04	Upper Nordenskiold River Stewardship	Champ. Aishihik FN ¹³	7,308/9,500	A
CRE-59-04	Beaver Mngmt - Chum Spawning Sloughs - Kluane	Kluane First Nation	4,6150/6,000	A
CRE-63-04	Whitehorse Rapids Hatchery Coded Wire Tag	Y.F.&G. Assoc. ¹⁴	30,769/40,000	R
CRE-65-04	McIntyre Creek Salmon Incubation Project	Yukon College - NRI	28,769/37,400	A
CRE-67-04	Yukon Schools Fry Releases & Habitat studies	Streamkeepers Nor Soc	3,077/4,000	A
CRE-72-04	Commercial Fish Plant Upgrades Value Added	C.Ball/S.Fleurant	14,615/19,000	S/H
CRE-75-04	Yukon River Salmon Co-operative	YRCFA	36,385/47,300	S/R,H
CRE-77-04	Chin Aerial Telemetry Tracking– Cdn Sec Yukon R	B. Mercer	53,846/70,000	R
CRE-78-04	Chinook Telemetry - Canadian Section YR Basin	Haldane Env. Services	81,538/106,000	R
CRE-79-04	MHC ¹⁵ Variation & Stock ID of Yukon River	T. Beacham/DFO	38,462/50,000	R/S
CRE-87-04	Germaine Creek Restoration Assessment	M. Miles & Assoc.	26,923/35,000	A
CRE-93N-04	Salmon Info Workshop Ta'an Kwach'an TT	Ta'an Kwach'an Cncl	16,231/21,100	A/R
CRE-95-04	Mitigation Plan - Yukon Queen II Operation	DDRRC	13,077/17,000	A/R
CRE-98-04	Yukon Stewardship Program	Yukon F&W M Board	80,769/105,000	A/S,H
CRE-104-04	Yukon Fisheries Field Assistant Prog – 2nd Offering	Yukon Coll./Dawson	49,923/64,900	S/R,A,H
CRE-106-04	Chum Fishery Substitution	NYRRC/VGFN	13,385/17,400	R/S,H
	Support to successful #104 students @\$2000 est. 12	Panel Admin.	18,460/24,000	H
TOTAL	38 project proposals approved & 1 support		\$1,088.1/1,414.5	

1 N – Indicates a new project, the absence of which indicates continuance of a previous project, either ongoing or multi-year projects.

2 Exchange rate of 1US=\$1.3Cdn. – based on the project proposal URE in \$US and CRE based on \$Cdn rounded to the nearest \$100.

3 Technical Contact/reviewer (and where appropriate secondary reviewers also identified): for US/URE applications S/Susan McNeil (ADF&G/AK); for Cdn/CRE projects/DFO reviewers – A(AI von Finster), P(Pat Milligan/R/Rick Ferguson, S(Sandy Johnston), ME(Mary-Ellen Jarvis); and, Panel Secretariat - H(Hugh Monaghan).

4 Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (Anchorage, AK)

5 Eagle Area Subsistence Fisherman's Association (Eagle, AK)

6 Alaska Department of Fish & Game

7 Yukon River Commercial Fishing Association (Dawson, Yukon)

8 North Yukon Renewable Resources Council (Old Crow, Yukon)

9 Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (Old Crow, Yukon)

10 First Nation of the Nacho Nyak Dun (Mayo, Yukon)

11 Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (Carmacks, Yukon)

12 Ross River Dene Council

13 Champagne and Aishihik First Nation (Yukon)

14 Yukon Fish and Game Association

15 Major histocompatibility complex

The next Yukon River Panel meeting will take place in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory in December 2004. Yukon River Panel meetings are open to the public and all are invited to attend. 🐟