

Unified Yukon River Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan

By Jill Klein, Executive Director

Initiated by a resolution from the river-wide YRDFA board of directors, YRDFA is launching a two-year project to develop a unified conservation plan to address the low Chinook salmon runs to the Yukon River. At the core of this process will be a working group of stakeholders, agencies, and other experts. With the groups' blessing, a proposal could be submitted this April 2012 and then this plan will be presented to the Alaska Board of Fisheries at its next Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim meeting, most likely in January 2013.

While YRDFA will be coordinating the meetings and providing staff support, we recognize that there are numerous organizations that must be involved in this process, not just as participants, but as full partners. We are inviting these groups to partner with us:

- Yukon Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council
- Western Interior Regional Advisory Council
- Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council
- Yukon River Panel (Alaska only)
- Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association
- Association of Village Council Presidents
- Tanana Chiefs Conference
- Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments
- Alaska Department of Fish & Game
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- YRDFA

As part of this process YRDFA is forming an Elders group to serve an advisory role throughout this process. Further, at key stages in the development of the plan, it will be made available to Tribes, fishers, and the general public for comment. Our hope is to keep the core planning group small enough to be manageable, but give all stakeholders multiple opportunities to provide input.

The first step will be for the group to establish broad goals and agree upon a direction for the process. YRDFA will convene an initial stakeholder meeting to begin this work. Updates will be forthcoming throughout this project and will be posted on our website and in newsletter articles to the public.

For more information, contact Jill Klein, executive director, at 877-999-8566 ext. 102 or jill@yukonsalmon.org.