Greetings from the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association!

Here is a summary of the 4th Yukon River Salmon In-Season Management Teleconference held on Tuesday, June 23, 2015.

**Background:** Yukon River salmon management teleconferences are held annually on every Tuesday in June, July, and August for fishing communities and fisheries managers throughout the Yukon River drainage to discuss fishing conditions and management strategies as the salmon run is occurring. Funded by the Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel.

**Communities participating this week:** Nunam Iqua, Saint Mary’s, Pilot Station, Marshall, Russian Mission, Anvik, Grayling, Koyukuk, Allakaket, Galena, Ruby, Beaver, Fort Yukon, Circle, Nenana, Old Crow, Dawson, Teslin

**Subsistence Reports:** (reports may be from one individual or a few depending on who participated in the call this week and reflect the participant on the call at the time)

The coast reported that things are slow, one commercial seiner doing well but it is challenging to catch fish in Black River up against 200 boats and the dip nets are not doing well.

Y-2 area of St. Mary’s, Pilot Station and Marshall reported people are not getting their subsistence needs yet and the commercial and subsistence openings at the same time are not working. The dip nets are challenging to use. There are still many empty racks and people feel they should be further along in meeting their subsistence needs this time of year. Flies are getting onto the racks and dry fish is getting ruined. People are still fishing for pike.

Subsistence fishing is still not good yet in Anvik or Grayling but people will try dip netting soon. People are gardening, off fire fighting and catching some chum. In Koyukuk there is no fishing activity and no 4” nets as the suppliers are backlogged.

On the Koyukuk River the water is dropping and people have used dip nets.

Galena and Ruby reported no fish and they are waiting for 4” nets and dip nets and also for the fish to come by – people do not have required gear yet. There are lots of fires and smoke is in the area. Water is low and temperatures are high.

In Beaver a few are dip netting and the water is dropping. In Fort Yukon people just started fishing with no reports of catching anything. Water is low and clear. It is hot and smoky in Circle folks are gearing up and anticipating fish soon.

On the Nenana River, a king salmon showed up a week ago in 6” sheefish net. The Elders ate it ceremonially.

In Canada a few nets are in the water in Old Crow for whitefish and pike. Water is dropping. In Dawson they supported a voluntary withdrawal from fishing and Telin said they also would be under extreme conservation and thank everyone for their conservation efforts too.

**Public comments, questions, and answers:**

People asked various questions on the topics of: fish size, what gear they can use and what their fishing schedules are in the different districts. In the Y-5D area it was mentioned that they do not have access to summer chum and commented or questioned if they could catch some king salmon or they would have to wait until the fall season to fish. People asked for 6” gill net opportunities to fish for chum salmon because it is easier and more efficient to use than dip nets. The issue of gold mining in Canada was brought up as a concern for impacts on salmon and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Canada assured the public that they very strong federal regulations in place. People felt this year they are encountering more king salmon in their targeted summer chum fishing and management explained that the numbers of summer chum are lower right now, so there are more king salmon around. Concern was expressed about children not growing up learning the skill of cutting fish. Management expressed they are trying to balance the need for conservation with the need for subsistence practices to continue for food and cultural preservation.

**Salmon Fisheries Research and Management:**

For Alaskan research and management information, please visit:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingCommercialByArea.interior>

*OR* he subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call(907) 459-7387

For Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada updates, please visit:

http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/yukon/fmcountingfac.htm

For further information, please contact the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association at 907-272-3131 or look for us on the web at www.yukonsalmon.org.

Please join us on the next teleconference, Tuesday at 1 p.m. Alaska time (2 p.m. Yukon time). As a reminder, the toll free number is 1-800-315-6338 and the code is YUKON# (98566#).