Greetings from the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association!

This is a summary of the Yukon River Salmon In-Season Management Teleconference held on Tuesday, July 21, 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 and or community members were participating this week:** Saint Mary’s, Marshall, Russian Mission, Kaltag, Allakaket, Galena, Ruby, Rampart, Fort Yukon, Nenana Fairbanks, Old Crow, Dawson, Whitehorse, 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)

Saint Mary’s reported that everyone is foraging for berries and it is pretty wet out and the water is rising and people are completed with their subsistence needs.

Marshall reported one family fished and the water came up a bit and there is some erosion. The fish looked healthy and new fish are coming in. There has been a lot of berry picking for salmon berries.

Russian Mission said there is not much subsistence activity for salmon. The water came up a lot and people are berry picking. People are waiting for fall chum and coho now. There is no debris.

Kaltag reported that they fished on the last five hours of their fishing period. Not too many were out but two fishermen caught six chums and one ten pound king that was not in good shape and the other one got eight chums in really good shape.

Allakaket said it has been raining and people are waiting for silvers or fall chum.

Galena said that no one fished and everyone is waiting for fall chum

Ruby reported there has been little to no subsistence activity. Of the people that have fished, half the chums have been pale, the water has stopped rising and has been high for this time of year. There is no debris and the river now started to clear up from the smoke. People are out firefighting.

Fort Yukon reported that six fishermen fished and all got some small harvest of 4-year Chinook males and a few chums. The water has dropping the past few days. They had an opener and there were a few reports of harvests from over the weekend but a lot thought that it was not worth it to go out for 24 hours and they would have preferred 36 hours to go fishing because it takes longer to get to their fishing locations.

Nenana said one person went fishing finally and the fish are pretty good. People are out berry picking. There was one commercial fisherman and he put a lot of big, good-looking kings back into the river.

Old Crow said they passed a resolution that allows a small incidental harvest and they have taken a small amount of Chinook salmon for a potlatch and other than that there has been zero harvest.

Tr’ondek Hwech’in based in Dawson said they have a moratorium in place. There are no nets and no wheels in the river for any Chinook salmon.

The Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee did a recommendation to the minister and can do another one mid-season to look at the way the run is materializing. At this point, based on what we know and the recommendations we have already made, we manage to the mid point of the range and this is still our target. We met yesterday and we are still not confident that we will make border escapement and only when we meet the mid point of the range will we have an idea. We are not certain how the fishing periods in Y-5 will impact our border passage.

**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.

A question was raised about the way people on the teleconference are reporting about silvers and what fish are they referring to when they mention silvers? Management said that silvers are early fall chum and they tend to be very bright and go to the upper reaches of the drainage and are used for people food.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game thought that escapement looked encouraging in the U.S. and across the border with Canada. They offered fishing opportunity in Y-5D with 6 inch or smaller nets and want to provide this opportunity to fishermen in the upper portion of Y5D. The Eagle sonar counts are encouraging and we spoke with fishermen in Y5D and they have been catching mainly smaller males. The proportion of females is higher at Eagle as males are being caught between Pilot Station and Eagle.

A question was asked to the U.S. about the effort they are making to make escapement into the Porcupine River with fall chum. Management said they would meet with people from Fort Yukon and Old Crow to discuss this. It was mentioned that the communities have already done this and management should follow up with them.

**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#).

The last conference call of the season will take place on August 25th, 2015.