

### **Cooperative Salmon Drift Gillnet Test Fishing in the Lower Yukon River, 2003.**

The Lower Yukon drift gillnet test fish program is designed to assess run timing and relative abundance of Chinook, chum, and coho salmon returning to the Yukon River. This project tests the feasibility of using drift gillnets to obtain pertinent information inseason that fisheries managers can use for assessing relative abundance and run timing of these salmon species. Testing the ability of the summer season Middle Mouth drift gillnet test fishery to correlate with trends in other Lower Yukon test fisheries or the Pilot Station sonar passage estimates was inconclusive. Drift fishing at incorrect times in relation to high tides may have caused the failure of Middle Mouth to correspond with other assessment projects in the Lower Yukon River during the summer season. Fall operations for drift gillnet test fishing in the Lower Yukon River were similar to trends observed in the sonar passage estimates obtained at Pilot Station. Age, sex and length measurements were taken; run timing recorded and catch per unit effort calculated for each species.

**Citation:** Hayes, S J. and R. Sollee. 2003. Cooperative Salmon Drift Gillnet Test Fishing in the Lower Yukon River, 2003. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Division, Regional Information Report No. 3A03-28, Anchorage.