

Yukon River In-season Salmon Teleconferences, 2011

ABSTRACT

Teleconference calls are a practical and useful method for discussing the complexities of salmon management and for gaining immediate real-time information from fishers along the expanse of the Yukon River. As such, the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) hosted weekly in-season teleconference calls during the 2011 Yukon River salmon fishery season, from early June through the end of August. The teleconference calls, held every Tuesday at 1 p.m. Alaska time (2 p.m. Yukon time), were a means to exchange information on run timing, abundance, and escapement data; discuss management strategies; facilitate open dialogue between users and management entities; and enable salmon resource stakeholders drainage-wide to communicate. To ensure consistent participation and reporting regarding subsistence harvests and perceived abundance, in-season harvest interviewers were hired in 9 communities along the Yukon River to collect and report subsistence harvest information each week. In addition to reports of local observations, the calls provided information to fishers regarding research and escapement monitoring tools operated by management entities, and facilitated information sharing and capacity building amongst all interested parties. Calls were typically 1-2 hours in length. Summaries of each call were written and distributed to teleconference participants within three days. In total, 13 teleconferences were held in the 2011 fishing season.

Funding for the Yukon River In-season Salmon Teleconferences was supported by the U.S. Fisheries Information Service, Office of Subsistence Management and the Yukon River Panel Communications Committee.

Key Words: Alaska, Canada, Chinook, chum, commercial, federal, in-season management, salmon, state, subsistence, teleconference, Yukon River, Yukon Territory.

Citation: C. Moncrieff, T. Willoya, J. Hale, G. Maschmann. Yukon River In-season Salmon Teleconferences, 2011. Annual Report No. 08-253. Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, Anchorage, Alaska.