

Yukon River Salmon Management Teleconferences

Abstract: Given the complexity of fisheries management on the Yukon River, the vast size of the drainage, and the reality of short timelines, teleconferences are a practical method for discussing fisheries management. Yukon River in-season management teleconferences have occurred since 1994 and provide valuable insights from local users into management strategies. Teleconferences make information available on location, abundance and quality of salmon. Additionally, teleconferences enable fishers and managers to work together to manage the salmon fisheries through a combination of research and monitoring tools as well as local observations by fishers. The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association hosted 16 in-season teleconference calls during the summer of 2003. The calls were held on a weekly basis; every Tuesday at 1300 hours (Alaska Time). Written teleconference summaries were provided to participants via e-mail within several days. There was consistent participation from YR communities, agency personnel, fishers, Tribal non-profit staff and fish processors. For the second year, Canadian participation included the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Tribal representatives and fishing organizations. Alaskan and Canadian managers shared information on run size, border passage and timing. Some Yukon River communities did not participate and boycotted calls due to feeling alienated by certain parts of the river and by management.

Key Words: Alaska, Canada, Chinook, chum, commercial fisheries, fisheries management, in-season management, salmon, subsistence harvest, teleconference, Yukon River, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

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