



YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

**19th Annual Meeting
Hooper Bay, Alaska
March 2-5, 2009**

DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Meeting called to order 9:08am

I. Invocation – Benedict Jones

II. Roll call

Lester Wilde
Stanley Ned
Edgar Monroe
Benedict Jones
Victor Lord
Leroy Peters
Philip Titus
Mickey Stickman
Jan Woodruf
Henry Wiehl

III. Welcoming remarks

Joe Bell - Mayor of Hooper Bay: Welcome to Hooper Bay and glad to have you here in our community

Lester Wilde: welcome to Hooper

IV. Introductions

Board present (see roll call) introduce selves
Joe Bell, Eric Newland
Catherine Henzler
Dina
Becca
Heather Hildebrand\Carleton Bell, Driver
Clarence Alexander, YRITWC
Fred Bue
Russ Holder

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V. Review and approve agenda

Jill reviews agenda

VI. Review and approve summary minutes from last meeting

Hold until quorum present

VII. Distribution / explanation of materials and meeting logistics

Already covered

VIII. Appoint resolution committee for this meeting

Victor Lord

Benedict Jones

Stanley Ned

(will appoint more when lower river arrives)

IX. Executive committee nominations by the YRDFA Board

Officers and committees appointed at fall board meeting – descriptions are in board policies (in binder with green covers)

Executive committee gets appointed here

Smaller comm. of board, but still representative

X. Administrative Report – Jill Klein

Welcome, hope for a productive meeting and that lower river makes it..

Have structured agenda to cover important fisheries issues – bycatch, summer season projection. Have longer breaks scheduled for time to talk, time to get outside. Lots of changes this year – within YRDFA, in the salmon runs, in economic

Changes for YRDFA - big improvements in salmon bycatch work, see people working together riverwide to fight this. Also this year, finished Koyokuk River atlas. Many local people, USFWS worked really hard to complete this atlas. Maybe this is something we want to do throughout YR. In terms of our funding sources – have worked to diversify funding sources, become less reliant on earmarks. With econ. situation – harder to receive govt. support. Have received our gaming permit. Ted Suckling worked with local place in Nenana to sell pull tabs and donate. Several private foundation funding – Koyokuk atlas and bycatch. Great that staff is motivated to work on this and find funding. YRDFA continuing to work on tough issues facing the Yukon – summer season teleconferences, etc.

YRDFA created to bring people together from along the YR and to communicate with each other. For the past 19 years YRDFA the only group bringing people together riverwide to talk about salmon. Everyone here has something to share, is here for a reason. Encourage everyone to share and to encourage discussion. Lots of

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history (anyone here from 1st meeting in Galena ? – Russ Holder only one), lots of knowledge. Hope together we can tackle the issues we need to discuss.

XI. Resolutions from 2008 – Becca Gisclair

See page 51-51 for summary of progress.

XII. Introductions of Hooper Bay instruction leaders –

Mike & Scott – welcome to Hooper

Lester – thank you for your hospitality

XIII. YR DFA Board member concerns

Stanley Ned – One of the biggest concerns is the low salmon returns we're having – looking at various options. With low salmon returns, will probably put a stress on other species (whitefish). We're commercial fishing on whitefish without doing any baseline studies.

Edgar Monroe – None right now.

Victor Lord – The size of the king salmon. Last year didn't have much choice with high water in Nenana. Other than that doing pretty good with king salmon. There were no big salmon like we used to have. Fall chum was pretty good fishing, did pretty well with whitefish too. Really concerned with king salmon runs. We've all been around before. If we pass all these resolutions, what if there is a big run of king salmon?

Leroy Peters – Sensitive issue we're going to be dealing with. Every 10 years the fishery turns back around. There are 4-5 feet of snow right now – we'll have high water. YR gets narrow upriver. Concerned about mesh size. If we have to switch to 6' or 7.5" mesh where will we get money to buy them. Pollock fishery intercepting lots – 45%. Have to reduce that. Need to cut down quota in lower river. Think it's a good idea to let the first pulse pass. We've been sacrificing. In BB there are 5-10K fish laying around the beach. On the middle Yukon we don't go after the chums – don't have any dog teams anymore. We did lots of sacrificing all these years – what more sacrificing do we have to do. They're going to make these regulations – I feel targeted at. We've been here for generations – we respect the land and the water.

Jan Woodruff – Comments are just from talking to people in Eagle area and downriver towards Circle. Biggest thing is for years we've been trying to bring attention to the fish size issue – how we're losing the big females. The bycatch issue is huge for us – all feel there should be more restrictive limits on those guys. There is very little if any commercial in our district – we're all subsistence. We feel that escapement goals come first – if we don't get fish to spawning ground no one will have fish. Then subsistence. We all feel for the comm. guys – don't want to penalize. We all need to recognize that something needs to be done. Lower river has a lot more fish options and salmon options than upper river. We just have kings in summer and fall chum in the fall. We don't get much pike or burbot. We fish kings for subsistence and chums for dog teams – have lots of dog teams – use them for traplines, etc. When chums crashed we didn't fish chums for our dogs – bought pinks

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from the hatcheries. Just started fishing for chums for dog teams again a couple of years ago. All communities need to work together to make sure people meet needs. Upriver a lot of us didn't meet needs. Had high water, lots of debris – couldn't use nets. A lot of us didn't get our fish. People in upper river feel cash sales of subsist. caught kings shouldn't happen with low returns. Fish early on the run. Only catch what you need to feed your family. Switch to smaller mesh – phase in gradually. Everyone riverwide needs to pitch in on the measures.

Benedict Jones – See resolution we passed out – want to let first pulse pass by. Want to have fresh fish to eat. Summer chums – 1st pulse good quality for human consumption. After that flesh deteriorates. Wants to see a fall chum opening 5 days a week to replace the Chinook salmon. Sheefish are returning smaller and smaller every year to – b/c of change in climate, less insects in the streams that they feed on. Normally fish travel 30 feet below the surface. Noticed this year they were down 25 feet b/c of the water temp. The concern I have with the Canadian tour boat – complaints that the jet boat hurts juvenile fish coming back from the spawning grounds. People complaining that a lot of juveniles wash up on the beach after the jet boat goes through. Maybe that's the problem why Canadian stocks not getting returns.

Henry Wiehl – Let the fish go by to us. We're about 75 miles above Tanana. Let the first pulse go by.

Mickey Stickman – I'm in favor of letting the 1st pulse go by. If everybody can agree with that I see no reason to do that. On the smaller mesh size – last summer that first pulse of kings were small. They were going right through a regular size net. I started using a silver salmon net and started catching some kings. Always worry about dropout. I have no idea about dropout rates. The river is changing. By Nulato used to be a hotspot for set net – now produces no fish. Used to average 50 fish in morning, 80 in night. This year 4-5 fish in morning and 7-9 fish in the evening. Everyone had to learn how to driftnet – that eddy was gone. When it comes to customary trade – a lot of people who do cash sales don't make much money – just enough to survive in the village. I lived my whole life on the Yukon. My dad didn't believe in welfare so I grew up on what the country provides. I don't eat pork, etc. I grew up eating fish, moose, rabbits. They don't get that much fish up Koyokuk, don't get that much moose. I don't know how they're surviving. If we don't get enough kings to survive the winter we target fall chums. Fall chums was our salmon strips for a long time. We don't have a lot of dogs, don't need them. It's been harder and harder. In 2006 I caught 380 kings in Nulato, 2007 – 280, 2008 – 160. At W. Interior RAC. Sidney Huntington said we should do a 6 year moratorium on king salmon. I know that's hard, but that's what someone who has lived his whole life on the Yukon says we need to do

Jeep – Several concerns. Hatchery on the river – will that contribute (?). On letting the 1st pulse go by – have to make sure it doesn't last forever. Whatever we do have to put a clause in it.

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Lester Wilde – Want to introduce a few people from Hooper Bay - Harvey Hill, salmon fishermen, also fishes halibut. Albert Simon. For my comments – you would think living on the coast we're lucky and get king salmon whenever you want. We depend a lot on the winds and tides to get our fish. If we don't get our wind and tides we don't get our fish. Hooper Bay is biggest village on Yukon Delta. Biggest catch was 50 Chinook, the year before was 10 or 15. We depend on the first run, because we don't know if we'll get any salmon after that run. We harvest mainly the summer chum – that's our main salmon diet. If we were able to get 60 salmon per household, we'd be sitting pretty. That's why we depend on chums. Only other salmon we depend on if no chums is pinks. But pinks are silver bright and fat, so they're good to eat. So when you need to complain about what you haven't gotten that there are people out on the coast who are having it a little harder. We're a marine mammal group of people – not so dependent on the mammals like upriver (like moose). Chum salmon is main source of our diet. We're a subsistence group of people and we depend on our natural resources. We're a tough group of people – try to treat everyone else like we treat each other.

XIV. Other concerns

Joe – what Lester just said. The other thing – Chinook, chums – we rely on chums. If no chums, we go for humpies to fill up our fish rack. Winter time we observe the winds to see if there will be more fish. Strong winds from the north all winter – that means there will be quite a bit of fish. But if the N, E and S keeps popping in between, that means there won't be enough fish in our bay. Other than that, out in the bay there are clams that we eat. In fall time – Sept. we keep checking the bay, lots of times there are water bags and different kinds of clams.

Stanley – What Mickey said about resources in Koyokuk is true. Used to be 14 moose/mile², now its 4. In my area its .2. Beaver and fish pops. going down too. Getting harder and harder, but fins ways to make it.

Clarence – Summer chum are my favorite food. Even better than a nice big Chinook. Our summer chum quality has always been good. Later in the fall they turn black. Early in the summer they're good. We just split them and smoke them. I don't want to look back at how it was – want to look forward at how to protect what we have. In 1914 – my grandfather would catch 700-800 fish in one night. Yet today, since we're moving away from dog teams. It used to be every member of comm. had teams. Now its just 5 of them. Don't utilize fish like they used to (for trapline bait and feeding dog teams. Have to remember there are other species going up the Yukon. There are smelt that come all the way past me. I catch them halfway up the river – they're nice and round (like herring). We use 1.5" mesh net to catch herring. I go out and fish for every summer. Don't forget that we like chum up the YR. I grew up for the 1st 20 years of my life I was living of n. pike, whitefish, burbot. We would cut the reeds that grown into the rivers. Those are overgrown now. Our people used to manage fish. We'd cut the brush so fish would go in and out. Several years ago I was in Emmo – they have a million beavers. You wouldn't fish a beaver in my area – we either get rid of them before they destroy our territory or eat them. We have to go back to how we used to do things. How our elders would take care of the lands and se still should now. Since we

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can't shoot beaver – you all have Fish & Game ACs. We changed the laws so it says we can “hunt” for beaver – allowed 50 beavers. Can use the fur and utilize the carcass – can sell them to the hunters who use dog teams. We can send down a whole bunch of beaver trappers to take care of the streams.

Jan – To add to that – we don't get a lot of summer chum, but we do eat them when they show up. The fall chum are usually not in the best shape, that's why they go to the dog teams. If they're in good shape though we eat them. Clarence is right – beaver is good eating if you cook it right.

Lester – living on the coast we're blessed b/c when we do catch our salmon they're fattest and bright.

Mickey – in the middle Yukon we traditionally make sun-dried fish from summer chum. Only fish we cold smoked was king salmon and fall chum. Traditionally ate it with bear fat or seal oil that we bartered for (summer chum – lunch food)

Lester – I think that's about the story up and down the river.

Benedict Jones – we're getting invaded with different species of fish. They're kind of grey. When I catch them - I tried to feed them to my dogs they wouldn't eat it.

Lester – is it white?

Benedict – pale

Lester – yeah – humpies (pinks) get that way.

Discussion about bycatch – who is going to meeting.

Clarence – I know you have a lot of resolutions. You know YRITWC is about clean water. One resolution that may be considered at our YRITWC meeting in Whitehorse – when we first started org. intent was to work on toxic materials that exist along YR. Like in Galena – barrels of jet fuel. We've taken materials out using barges, etc. The last couple of years about 6 million lbs have been taken to Nenana where it can be recycled. One of the things I'd like this org. to help out with - the state allows some of the villages to run their sewage right back into the YR and that's really uncalled for. Want to find other solutions to take care of it. In Ft. Yukon we moved our open lagoon about 4.5 miles away from YR. Also talking to young people that even if they throw one can of oil into river – its harming our water and the fish. Villages want to talk about fish but we don't want to fight. This org. starte with lower river people coming to us – said if we need help we'll help you. Focus on water b/c every village wants clean water. Our org. is designed so it acts like an elder – have to be honest, trustworthy, inclusive – means that we have 4 nations along the YR that now no about each other, no what the problems we have are. We don't use Roberts rules. We sit in a circle and operate in consensus – we ask if there's anyone who disagrees. If they speak up we know we're not in consensus. E/o has an opportunity to say what their elders tell them to say. We have to teach our children. I used to make my own gerber – put it in the blender – moosemeat, beaver, put it in the blender and fed it to my young ones. They are all healthy b/c

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I fed them well. Need to educate our young people so they're proud of who they are and can go me a doctor or accountant or nurse and come home and be who they are. We have to think about our young people who have yet to be born. Why do we have managers for the ocean and managers for the in-river that don't talk to each other. We need to bring them out here and have them tell us why they don't talk to each other.

Benedict – lakes don't have oxygen.

Clarence – I'm really happy to be here. I've never been this far west. It's really good to hear from comm. members.

Lester – I think we need to do this more often – just talk and understand each other's cultures.

Recess for lunch at 12 noon.

Back at 2:25

XV. Bob introduces professor? and high school students

Student questions:

How many fisheries are there in Alaska?

A. Russ Holder, USFWS – Chinook salmon, summer chum, fall chum, lamprey

Q. Walter - How would global warming affect fish?

A. Russ Holder – we don't know for sure, but we are seeing some of these changes. Food supply that fish are eating in the BS are changing – plankton, zooplankton. Could be contributing to some of the lower returns. We'll see changes in abundance of diff. species. Sockeye abundance has increased. When you have changing water temperatures, you'll have diff. species of salmon spawning in areas they haven't been before.

Q. Do we eat more fish than animals do?

A. Russ Holder – I think we have the potential to eat more than animals do. The ADF&G post-season survey – about 50,000 Chinook salmon are taken for subsistence in Alaska, 100,000 summer chum, ???? fall chum, 50,000 silver salmon. In Alaska we think about 50,000 Chinook salmon are going to escapement – that means less than that are getting eaten by animals. People are probably eating a lot more than are being eaten by animals.

Q. Mining projects can effect the fish to spawn and they can't lay their eggs, can't they stop the mining?

A. Fred Bue- lots of regulations protect water quality. But all based on what we know. We do the best we can to mitigate effects, protect fish resources. People like you have a role in making recommendations to the governing bodies. People like you, your parents, and communities have a lot of say in what happens.

Q. Misty – Where is the place where you catch the most fish?

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A. Fred – on the Yukon

- *missed some while setting up teleconference* –

Q. Do you know which year was the highest fish population? When?

A. Russ - Summer chum salmon have the highest population.

Q. If there is such a low population why not stop commercial fishing for a while to let the population recover?

A. Eric Newland – we do make those efforts to reduce the commercial harvest. For the last few years we've had a very low commercial harvest. Have harvest as bycatch in pollock fishery that we don't control, YRDFA and other groups are trying to get that reduced.

A. Mickey stickman – last year no directed Chinook fishery, only ones caught were in chum fishery

A. Russ Holder – both ADF&G and USFWS have the legal authority to shut down the fishery, but don't do it for multiple years because fish numbers can be so unpredictable because it could be different

Q. If there are fish swimming in the chemicals from mining can they hurt other fish around them?

A. Bob Dubey - They become part of the food chain – if something else eats that fish, it gets carried through the food chain.

A. Stanley – the metals accumulate in humans

XVI. YRITWC Presentation – Clarence Alexander

YRITWC is composed of the leaders of all the tribes on the YR. Have concentrated on water. Help communities get money, clean up. Wanted to clean up water to help animals that were hurting. We have elders advisors – ask them for advice. Org. is designed to be like an elder. Issue of salmon came up next year. There we received a resolution sponsored by Native village of Fort Yukon that this August when we meet in Whitehorse will talk about salmon. This is because communities talking about what is happening. I ask the question: what is the problem? Seems that there is ocean salmon management team and also in-river, but they seem to be not working together. Some questions don't even get answered in a straight way. I used to work for ADF&G, quite a few villages with rivers that are dead b/c of mining. We have salmon that should be going up the river but are being caught elsewhere. We are talking about starting Salmon Nation – people whose lives depend on salmon. From Alaska to Baja – have support from Columbia R. Want people at least to say they can fish without any restrictions. I don't know what will come out in Whitehorse – village chiefs will have a resolution in front of them. I think you should be present. I think you will hear that these are the comms. that have no interest in comm. activity – their way of life is their only concern. If we honor this system I think we would go with our community and how our community makes that decision. I went to Clifford Lupe before I came here. Your mission statement doesn't cover the way of life, just the economic resource. I never want to be up front with people who make their living off the salmon because it means we're going to have to fight. I have to admit this last summer people have gone from 18" stretch mesh. You catch Chinook 50,60, 70, 80 lbs out there in the middle of the Yukon. Last summer went down to 6" mesh – even there salmon are slipping through. Salmon are getting smaller. There are big ones but they don't get caught. There are a few going up the Porcupine. In Canada the indigenous people – saw summer chum jumping in Old Crow, but weren't allowed to fish b/c

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they had to allow it to go by to spawn. Fish go up to the headwaters – if our headwaters are mined they hurt. One of the girls asked about mining – salmon have been wiped out. You should know how many rivers are dying up the Yukon, Tanana, Porcupine, up the Kuskokwim. As many years as I've been in leadership, this is an issue I've always avoided, because its people's economies. Like when Euro parliament said they wouldn't buy fur up to their standards. Canadians met standards, we funnel through them. Clifford said we have to stop and think about the commercial activity that is going on, but have some kind of escapement plan that hangs back – go back 25% or 5,000 or something. If we can meet the families and be in consensus with each other I think our fish will rebound if we allow escapement. Feds. don't monitor comm. activities aside from what is going on. There are people who make 12 jars of salmon, and their friend buys one for \$10. We'd like to figure out a way – we don't want the village to take over fisheries. But if you're pushing villages far enough – they would move according to fed. law – ANILCA, whatever it may be – the only activity that would go on is subsistence activity. But that is not good for everybody. What is good? What are you willing to give? If you were the managers – we know the ages that come back. Used to be 7 years old. Now I catch them in my whitefish net – little ones, and I don't know if they're coming back. I'm the wrong person to send down here to fight for salmon as I've been avoiding it. But the villages are talking – they want an escapement plan that isn't designed by the experts or you who use the resource for money. We need to become partners. YRITWC has affiliated members that agree with our laws and accord. Accord is our treaty among each other. We need to fight Dawson for dumping sewage in Yukon. Galena nuclear...other things developing – Donlin Mine. Have Doyon attacking Fort Yukon – we like our clean air and water. E/t there is in a pristine state. Yet we have other forces out there making it impossible for us to maintain our way of life b/c someone sees good real estate, good resources. We're creating a tribal code that will be designed so that it protects our water – creating water standards from the headwaters all the way down to the mouth. Clean and healthy village is what I'm after. No matter what I don't like people getting sick b/c of what we created. We have taken our toll of people dying of cancer. This is the 1st winter no one has died in our community. I don't know how to address you other than the way I am. I live off the land, yet today, and I figure that's the reason I'm healthy. I want young people in years to come to be as healthy as we are. I cannot live on wheat. E/t designed for us to eat is wheat – chicken, beef, it eats wheat. Myself, I consider myself to be a bog, tree, crustacean. Fish eat these crustaceans in these clean lakes. We clean out these creeks – if there are beavers we clean them out – fish come in and come out. We can create Salmon Nation. People all through Alaska, down to Baja – they eat salmon, and see their industry dying. We need to unite, and show people at higher levels we can be a unified voice, a voice of the people. I have no problem with economic development that takes place, but there are other options. I am only a messenger, and those of you that are messenger, I speak to you. There are messengers with good intentions and there are those who are not there for other than who they are.

Discussion

Mickey – You said ever since 1997 when YRITWC just formed it was all about clean-up. I witnessed the clean-up in Nulato. I just wonder how the subject of salmon came before the watershed council.

Clarence – Year before most of the villages come to Fort Yukon to go fishing b/c their villages are on the outside. They were told they can't fish. Tribal govt. put all fish nets under ownership of the tribal govt. and challenged the state and fed. govt. to see if they can take the fish net out.

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They decided then that they needed to find a solution. By introducing a resolution at our meeting last year in Tok that will be up for discussion in Whitehorse. Tribal members along the Yukon brought it up.

Mickey – we have all of these non-profit orgs. I thought at some point we should all get together to really make a difference, and put what we need in to save the fish or even save the river.

Leroy Peters – I have a question on this EPA. We have an asst. in the village. They go to the village and collect old refrigerators and whatnot and they've been sitting on the beach for lots of years. I know the YRITWC has lots of money – why are they sitting on the beach.

Clarence – we have individuals in the villages. The person to get ahold of is Jon Waterhouse. He is the expert. I just make sure that the work that is being done is being done. We don't have lots of money. We get grants, but we make sure the villages come first. We don't take money which should go to tribes.

Benedict Jones – We had our annual tribal meeting in Koyokuk last month and they advised us that barge will no longer backhaul for free – will charge 10% now.

Clarence – we do have grants, it comes from brownfields from EPA. That's the money we use for backhaul. We've been using barge b/c they get fined and we negotiate so they can take back toxic material and write it off of fines. I'll stick my neck out and say the money will be gotten if we can identify the areas that are polluted.

Thank you being good listeners. One of the first thing we learn in the indigenous world. If we're good listeners we'll go a long way.

XVII. Natural Indicators – Lauren

Peter Seaton, Sr.
James Smith

For last 3 summers we've been researching salmon and the signs that they're coming. Team is Lauren, Bob, Catherine, Kristin, Brown and Amy Russell (ADF&G). Funded by aykssi

Through elders and fishers – learn about natural indicators used to prepare for salmon arrival (i.e. watching other animals). Worked with tribal councils about research plans, interviews, and results. Hooper, Emmo, St. Mary's, Grayling and Kaltag were study areas.

See Lauren's notes

Peter Seaton, Sr. – We don't understand why the fish come or not, but when they come we're happy.

Jan Woodruff – Could you do this in the upper river too?

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Jill – originally we applied for upper river too and it wasn't funded, but once this part is finished could apply for funding to do this in upper river too if communities are interested and we can receive support.

We take care of the fish all over the state, the fish will take care of us.

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Wednesday, March 3, 2009

Roll Call: 5 lower river

Motion to open annual meeting – Mickey Stickman, Victor second. None opposed

Lester –

Need to approve meeting minutes & executive committee

Move that we wait to approve meeting minutes & appoint exec. committee

Lester motion, Stan Zuray second. Mickey calls question.

None opposed – motion carries.

Board Member Concerns (cont'd)

Stan Zuray – does Board want to reactive Fish Size committee? Put it back in active status. With this last 2 years of run, there is a core of people starting to think there is a problem with the science on the Yukon and maybe its time to start the comm. Since this is one of the larger issues and one that there are differences of opinions among board members. If we don't take action to restrict ourselves we'll find ourselves restricted in the future just by the fact that there are no large fish coming in the river. If you look at where we are now – with no commercial and subsistence reduced – wasn't because of some sort of regulation, it's because the fish aren't there and the size of fish passing to Canada – large component of males. I'd like to see the Board get active on this.

Richard Burnham – One of the things I want the YR DFA Board to talk about is the proposal at the BOF to reduce hatchery production to what they'd agreed to back in 2001. Wasn't the best way to do it.

Bill Alstrom - ???? So many people aren't aware of what's going on. Other issue is bycatch – lots of factors. Don't know what's the cause of all this.

Ephrim Thompson – My concerns are related to the subsistence. Some people might have commercial but in my village its subsistence.

Mike Peters – One of my concerns is customary trade. Talking about their livelihoods – have a big concern. I respect the elders and if they have a concern about that I try to give them the information. Other thing of great concern is the bycatch on the high seas. The tribal govt. has resolutions.

Al Unuk – I've got concerns about subsistence people sacrificing for commercial fishing. I would like to see for the first week of June for subsistence. We need to work together. Want to see an equal share of subsistence use.

Harry Wilde – Its bad weather again and hardly any fish in the river. I want you guys to do something for me. Get together up river and down river and don't point fingers. Do your best. Don't let me get hungry, don't let my friends upriver go hungry. When things were worse we organized this organization. Don't start over again because we have a hard time. I want to thank

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you. I am 79 years old and looking at the Yukon and you do your best and work together and don't forget subsistence is the first priority.

Bill Alstrom – want to mention customary trade. People here don't have customary trade. People coming in from down state and doing their subsistence fishing.

Scammon Bay – hunting and fishing very important to our people and our spiritual traditions. Very important that we fish in the first part of June. I don't think people will comply with ADF&G policies in the future. Our subsistence rights are preserved by treaties and the Boldt decision as well. We've been giving and giving for 30 years and we have to stop giving. Fish & game have been taking and taking. They're not going to feed our kids. We have to become bold. We're tired of it. Fishing season starts the first or second week of January. We're not going to abide by Fish & Game decision, we're going to fish.

Fisheries Reports and Outlook

II. Chinook and Summer Chum Outlook – Eric Newland, ADF&G

2008 Season Summary

- * Preseason outlook was for below avg. run similar to 2007. Anticipated to provide for escapement, subsist., small comm., meet border escapement.
- * Mgmt strategy – manage for escapement, delay comm, until mid-point, continue regulatory subsistence salmon fishing schedule. Action based on in-season indicators of run strength
- * LYTF at end was average (explained by lack of comm. fishery and subsist.)
- * Pilot – June 20th looked like run would only be 80K. 2nd and 3rd pulses stronger, but not enough to justify comm.
- * In-season indicators were warning flags.
- * Management strategies discussed at YRDFA teleconferences – with input decreased fishing periods by half. Reductions put in place chronologically along river. Gillnet mesh size rest. To 6" or smaller in D1-3 since these districts had opp. early on to harvest.
- * Summer chum comm. beginning July 2 – after majority of Chinook had passed. Scheduled when Chinook abundance low and after 80% of run had gone through. Only restricted mesh (6" or less) openings in 2008.
- * Total US Harvest 2008 ≈ 50,000
 - Genetic composition – Canadian origin: 643 Y-1, 586 Y-2
 - Overall 25% in Y-1, 28% in Y-2
- * US Escapement – most could not be assessed. Appears lower end of BEGs in Chena & Salcha were met. Overall total abundance was low.
- * Canadian run – about 55,000. Minimum IMEG 45,000 – nearly every Canadian fish that entered needed to cross border. Actual escapement was 32,000.

Summer Chum

- * Preseason projection was 2-2.5 million
- * Surplus – 500-900K, affected by poor Chinook run.
- * Subsistence 85,700
- * Comm harvest 151,201

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- * Total US harvest 237,000
- * Total run estimate: 1.7 million fish. Well above escapement objective of 600K.

2009 Preseason Outlook

Chinook

- * Likely below average to poor. Subsistence conservation measures will likely be required. Directed Chinook fishery unlikely.

Summer chum

- * Preseason projection 1.5-2 million fish (avg)
- * Will provide for escapement, subsist., commercial harvest. Likely affected by poor Chinook run.

Management planning

- * YRDFFA teleconferences
- * TCC transboundary meeting

Projects

- * Offshore salmon test fish feasibility study Hooper Bay/Dall Point – to see if this could provide an index. Cooperative project with YDFDA. Looking for local techs
- * Also plan to operate lower yukon river cooperative drift gillnet test fishing project. Will be operated with help of YDFDA.

Questions

Mickey – you talked about mesh size restrictions you implemented in Y-3. At W. Interior RAC was mentioned that instead of switching smaller mesh gear they just drove up into Y-4a and fished with larger mesh.

Russ – We did hear that in-season. We did contact law enforcement. They weren't fishing illegally. There was less time allowed in Y-3 than in Y-4. They could do that if they wanted to use the gas to go up that far.

Mickey – only real concern I have is that when they do that there are already people in Y-4a that fish there, so they are just creating more competition. Lots of people got necks hung up as well.

Steve Hayes – hard part of this is that we're trying to reduce subsistence with those. Hope through this process we can work some of the issues out.

Myron – Hear there will be subsistence closures. Will ADF&G or USFWS monitor sport fishing at spawning?

Steve – Whatever steps we take – if we have to reduce subsistence time, sport fishing and personal use would be restricted too.

Myron – Also, ADF&G pushing 68,000 hard cap at the same time they are doing further restrictions on the Yukon. Asking our people to abide by what USFWS says.

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Russ – I know it doesn't sound good, doesn't put more fish on the table to say we're sympathetic. We have a non-voting seat, so it's hard to be effective. We have written a letter, OSM has written letters of concern, trying to show NPFMC that these high bycatch amounts are taking fish away from the river. YRP has expressed its concern, sent people. We don't have ability to regulate marine fisheries, but are trying to influence the decisions. We are trying to get the Council to set a cap low enough to protect

Myron – met with Geoff Haskett and Denby (?) – staff don't recommend declaring a fishery disaster.

Russ – Staff level he is referring to is above my level – I was not asked about establishing a fishery disaster level.

Myron – who is above you?

Russ- office supervisor is Deborah Rock, then ??, then LaVerneGary Edwards, then Haskett.

Jan Woodruff – if everyone recognizes that we have an impending disaster, why can't the pollock fishery be shut down for the season. Why do we have to wait 2-3 years?

Mickey – Question for Myron – you're the leader for 56 villages, TCC and CATG are leaders for 108 villages. The only way we will really make a difference is if we have a campaign. I think it would be a great idea to sit down with Jerry Issac and Ben Stevens and begin a riverwide campaign.

Myron – We've been working with TCC, others. Big fact missing right now is that ADF&G and USFWS haven't declared a fishery disaster.

Mickey – we have the orgs. sitting here listening to us...

Becca – we are working riverwide on bycatch. On emergency regs – id bycatch numbers low, don't meet requirements, but will make case if we do. Also, fish being caught aren't the ones returning this year.

Stan - Mountain Village – city, tribe, corporation – concern over bycatch. Joint resolution of city, tribe and be it resolved the NPFMC place a 7 year moratorium on pollock fishing. This is necessary for Yukon River Chinook to recover. Hard cap of 29,000 should be placed on pollock fishery effective immediately. A moratorium was placed in LY on moose for 5 years and moose pops. recovered. Same thing would happen with the salmon. It can be done.

Russ – moratorium in-river unlikely because we want people to catch fish. Pollock fishery

Stan – moratorium is on pollock fishing. They closed

Russ – DOC governs pollock fishery, like comparing apples and oranges.

Stan Zuray – while efforts by YRDFa and other orgs. to have a cap put on pollock fishery, because of the small number they take it should not distract us from our actions in-river.

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Jill – want to talk about in-river regulations – regardless of what happens in BS, need to talk about what should be done.

Aloysius? – Scammon – want to know what happened to the study from ADF&G 2 years ago about where the king salmon migrated.

Russ – are you talking about the radio telemetry project?

(yes)

On summer chum salmon – results that very few chum that went from that tributary stream up to the Yukon – just a few fish were being missed.

Steve – whole idea of pre-season planning is to get info. from fishers about what to do. Think last season people didn't understand why we had less fishing time, that it was supposed to get more fish to the spawning grounds. Might be that there are enough fish, just have to fish different times – have to get Canadian fish across the border. For the April meeting – talking about ways that people can voluntarily reduce harvest. Trying to figure out how to have summer chum comm. without impacting Chinook.

Myron – what are ADF&G and USFWS going to do if people on river are making all these sacrifices – will they declare a fishery disaster?

Russ – managers have a specific responsibility that we are charged to accomplish. When the fish hit the river, we make decisions in-season. I appreciate your concern about getting fishery disaster declared, will continue to happen at a higher level in USFWS than myself. There are a lot of political and economic issues beyond what I'm charged with. Steve and I are just charged with time, gear, etc. We're trying to make decisions about what can get fish to the spawning grounds. Discussing what voluntary measures. I know you'd like me to be able to say I'll be able to declare a disaster, but those discussions happen in our agency.

Myron – as part of discussions, we should have someone at that level of decisionmaking to participate in our teleconferences.

Russ – I will for sure pass those concerns on to the people I'm working with.

Steve – I'll just reiterate what Russ said. As managers we have to deal with in-season management. Declaring econ. Disasters is well above our level. I too will report this to higher levels and appreciate your concerns.

Philip – anyone from LY want to volunteer to be on resolution committee?

Steve – I'll get back on-line about 2:30

Afternoon: back at 1:45

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Lester: Introduce Hooper Bay community members - Albert Simon, Holcher – RAC member, David Bunyan – Tribal Council member, James Smith

Jeep – call for Resolution committee members from upriver.

All volunteers

Summer Season Planning 2009 River wide Discussion - YR DFA

Jan: our community came up with suggestions which are in the book. Big thing is they want managers to do community-based management b/c every stretch in the river is unique and has different needs. Want no cash sales of subsistence caught kings. Take only what you need to feed your family. Fish early (for our area). Different for every region. People riverwide need to pitch. Those who have 6" gear should fish it. People are planning to target chums if we can get good quality chums.

Jason: Summary of the teleconferences (see Jason's note page). Want input on specific items –

1. Regulatory vs. voluntary

- * Jeep: regulatory would make us criminals.
- * Scammon Bay: would be useful for all of the cillages to meet before making any kind of decision.
- * Stan Zuray: Its important for fishermen to talk amongst themselves. Voluntary measures aren't going to cut it. Fishermen are very independent people. There are a lot of different opinions. There is no level of org. possible that will protect Chinook salmon this season with voluntary regs. We need regulatory or management decisions on fishing time, fishing methods.
- * ????: If 700+ commercial fishermen can stop fishing it can happen for subsistence. We need to work on the subsistence side.
- * Ephrim Thompson: we can stop commercial fishing.
- * Stan: On customary trade – all understand that it's all very important, the trading of different food with other areas. Someone was talking about the customary trading for money. It would make a whole lot of sense to just do a study for this year alone. In Anchorage there are lots of meetings – one of the staff people just go around the arts & crafts and just see if there is salmon being sold and make a note of that.
- * Mike Peters: In Marshall like any other place we have to live on subsistence. Can't put any more restrictions on the river. Making too many restrictions. Need to put some kind of restriction on the bycatch. The other thing they need to look at is the high seas boats. We should have test fisheries every 200 miles.
- * Bill Alstrom: For customary trade. We know in our individual villages who is abusing this.
- * Scammon: Here on the coast some go fish in the bay or on Black River. Some of the families here are not very fortunate to go out and fish for their own use. I take what I can take. I don't try to limit what I catch until I'm satisfied and they're satisfied. As far as the windows are concerned I don't have any problems with that but I don't know about the other comms.

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- * Benedict: We will voluntary quit fishing on the first pulse b/c we mainly depend on the fall chum. They're just as good quality as the Chinook. If you people would just depend on the fall chum instead of the Chinook that would be good.
- * Stanley Ned: We're having a really hard time with the teleconference. I think we should recess 'til the April meeting.
- * Victor: Everytime we have ADF&G regulate us its hard to get out of it. Once they've got you in harness its hard to get out of there. As far as feeding your family – I've got a big family in Nenana and out and I feed them all. AL lot of native people are getting diabetes and whatnot from eating junk food and are returning to eating Native food.
- * Lester: I have a big family too, 1200 here in Hooper Bay. I think we're better off regulating ourselves. Whenever reg. is needed we've been able to regulate ourselves. We'd rather regulate ourselves than to have regs. come in.
- * Mickey: I think it would be wrong for us to make any decisions without us being face to face or clearly understood. Decisions should be made only when we can be actually face to face.
- * Leroy: I didn't hear anything Bill said. I don't think its fair to board members that aren't here. Should save this for next month when weather gets better.
- * Mickey: So everyone is saying we should wait.
- * Lester: I think we should listen to the Fed. Subsistence Board and then recess until we can come to a face to face sometime in April.
- * Leroy: Another teleconference should take place in March at the earliest.
- * Mike Peters: ???
- * Jill: we're discussing that we'd like to postpone until April

Fall Chum and Coho Outlook - Fred Bue

Presentation

Federal Subsistence Board & Board of Fish

FSB proposals deferred until after BOF

BOF proposals due April 10

Russ: FSB will consider Fairbanks AC proposal (?) to prohibit customary trade, if it meets emergency reg. requirements, can consider it.

Victor:

Russ: fed. allows sale ONLY of fresh, unprocessed salmon. Customary trade legal only under fed. law, not state law. Have to be a federally qualified user, only applies to fish harvested in federal waters. Sale of processed food has to meet DEC regs and FDA.

Stanley Ned: what about a gift?

Russ: okay

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Stanley: What about barter?

Russ: I don't know

Lester: Anything that has to do with subsistence caught fish – trading one food for another is allowable and considered barter.

Stanley: If trading a bag of fish so he can buy gas so he can fish – is that okay?

Russ: The barter part I don't know. I am familiar with the customary trade part – if its for cash, can't be processed food.

Jan: Just to clarify – when I was talking for the upper river about things to help for this summer. They were talking about people selling fish off the river – Fairbanks or Anchorage. They weren't talking about barter or trade among the villages.

Russ: What the AC submitted was to limit the customary trade from rural to urban for the 2009 season – customary trade from rural to rural (villager to villager) would still be allowed.

Leroy: Very touchy issue here...in fed. waters fish can be caught and traded. The people out in the villages – we know whose doing it. How can it be regulated? How will they enforce it? Will they have to have a ticket like when we go commercial fishing?

Russ: Yes, it is a tough situation to enforce. The Fed. Board does have the ability to limit the # of fish which can be sold, or institute a trading system.

Victor: One of the elders before I left Nenana instructed me to stay away from this conversation at this time. Go ahead and talk all you want but we're just listening.

Lester: On the YK RAC we discussed the possibility of putting a proposal in as a special action request or on the regular cycle to do away completely with customary trade for cash. None of the villages on the YK delta have customary trade recorded in today's time. I'd like to get a feeling from the rest of you – how do you feel about customary trade for cash.

Stanley: When I talk to my people in my community. They say we're not even going to touch cust. Trade so I'm going to stay away from it.

Mickey: Stanley is right. There are a lot of people who do CT for cash. But its not like the case like Leroy talked about wehere they make 30-40K annually. When we do it we probably from 5, 6 lbs at a time and it's the money to pay for the gas to go out there. There's really only one family in Nulato who does CT for cash. But the eddy they fish in went away. The lady who used to do it was 75 and she used to fill up her smokehouse twice. CT in Nulato isn't like it was 5 yrs. ago. People do it now but they do it to buy gas for moose hunting. I don't really do anyway myself. Just with my cousins in Anvik – I'll by a few lbs off them and send it to them in Huslia. I have enough to send them, but they really like the really greasy strips. CT is a really touchy issue. Even though I brought it up on one of the teleconferences I really only brought it up for conservation. I brought it up b/c we have to talk about e/t if we're going to talk about

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conversation. At this time I don't think it's the right time to bring it out. One of the things that bothered me up in E Int they talked about doing away with driftnetting. That wouldn't do for me – the majority of the fish I catch and jar I get by driftnetting. There's no way I'm ever going to stop drifting.

Jeff Bromaghin report – postpone for full board to do this.

Jill: Those were most of the items we could do without the full board. Could go through the calendar and set a teleconference. Have the April 10 meeting scheduled but that is really to discuss summer season. TCC has April 8-9 meeting. Could potentially meet on a Saturday April 11, if people will already be in town

Lester: I would like to recess this meeting until April 11.

Jill: Could do a teleconference before to do BOF proposals. Date could be Friday, March 27?

Becca: YRP meeting

Mickey: I think we should have proposals supporting customary trade and support drift gillnetting. E. Int RAC talking about 4a, b, c where I fish.

Lester: I'd like to make a comment – I think you might jump into something on customary trade – LY people are not here. I think we need to talk with the LY people and leave that CT until we come to agreement.

Jill: Any other thoughts or ideas about things people want to start

Lester: Discussion on the motion?

Mickey: I guess you and rest of the staff will work to make sure that there is a quorum at the proposed meeting.

Stanley Ned calls question.

Recess until April 10.

Stanley: I'd like to thank the comm. of Hooper Bay for hosting us and to the staff for trying to put this meeting together.

Victor: I second that and if we have to stay a few more days I double that.

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**Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
Annual Meeting Continued
April 6, 2009
Westmark Hotel
Fairbanks, AK**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM

Benedict Jones carried out the invocation

Richard Burnham and Bill Alstrom, YRDFA co-chairs welcomed everyone

Roll call was carried out

Board introductions took place

Staff introductions took place

The agenda was reviewed and approved:

Victor Lord: move to adopt agenda

Jeffrey Demientieff. seconded the motion

Bill Alstrom added an executive session to the agenda

Discussion: Victor Lord– 1 pm advisory committee teleconference to attend, so may miss some of the meeting

Phillip Titus – where will the executive session be held? (in the same room with others excused)

Bill Alstrom– after review and approval of minutes is when it will take place

All in favor, motion carries

The minutes from Grayling 18th annual meeting were reviewed and approved:

Jeffrey Demientieff: move to adopt the minutes

Henry Whiel. seconded the motion

Jeffrey Demientieff called question

Motion passes

Motion to go into executive session

Jeffrey Demientieff moved

Victor Lord seconded

Phillip Titus called question

Motion passes

Executive committee meeting

The YRDFA Board meeting reconvened @10:05 AM

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Nomination for executive board to remain seated as is.

Jeffery Demientieff made the motion.

Leroy Peters seconded.

Phillip Titus called question.

Motion passed unanimously.

Vice chair to be included in by-laws was brought up and majority thought that a by-law change not needed at this time.

YRITWC summit discussion took place and would like consideration of board member attendance there. Educational exchange participants might be part of it depending on dates. Mickey Stickman volunteers.

Mike Peters - How will selection be made?

Richard Burnham– we'll pick 4 people from the board.

Jill Klein – 6th, 7th and 8th of August are the dates of the summit

Bill Alstrom– if you're a member of an organization, maybe they can send you. From here, if you're interested submit your name to Jill Klein and the office.

Benedict Jones– attended meeting when it was at Teslin Lake. Spoke a bit about the meeting, how it works.

Al Aguchak – asked if there are restrictions to go into Canada?

Richard Burnham – need passport.

Fred Huntington– mentioned information on how to get a passport.

Jason Hale – takes a while to get your passport so if you're interested in going should start now

Mickey Stickman – if you have a criminal record they won't let you into Canada.

Richard Burnham – FY09 3rd quarter financials by Jill Klein

Jill Klein – we'll leave binders out for people to look through. She reviewed the financial statements and projects. Lean on spending so far as we spent about half the budget so far at end of 3rd quarter. Some of our funds roll over to next year.

Mike Peters – asked about the boat and motor that we're supposed to get rid of?

Jill Klein – both boats and motors are valued under \$5000 now. Don't have to go through NOAA federal protocol for sales as both boats are valued at about \$4,000 each.

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Bob Dubey– We got the NATA valuation of boat, motor and trailer at about \$4,000.

Bill Alstrom– they've got motors on them?

Bob Dubey– yes. We've got interest in St. Mary's for a purchase and we would like to get a little more than they're offering but the lower end unit is out.

Mickey Stickman – suggest boats be raffled off; we could make \$4,000 in raffle sales.

Mike Peters – would be a lot of tickets to sell.

Jill Klein – if someone from up river gets the St. Mary's boat, there will be a cost associated with shipping. Would YRDFA assume that cost?

Bill Alstrom– can you sell it for over 5000? Or does it have to be sold for under?

Jill Klein – valued below 5K, can sell for more.

Al Unok– we talked about the boats last year. Lots of ways to get information out and make all kinds of money. Fiddling, fliers, festivals. Help from villages. [sell raffle tickets all year at things like fiddling festivals, then draw the winner in springtime.]

Jill Klein – appreciate the ideas, all good. Reiterate there will be costs associated with it. Raffles can be successful. We've had annual meeting ones, but this year we did purchase something for the raffle, and it made our profit margins smaller than they've ever been. Selling them is easiest and quickest, but understand if you think should go another direction.

Mickey Stickman – just an idea. If you have a buyer, sell it. All agreed to sell the boats to interested parties.

Richard Burnham - Nominate primary and alternate 2010 meeting site for the upriver.

Fred Huntington– what does the board consider upriver?

Jill Klein – Holy Cross and up. The annual meeting is funded by the R&M section of the U.S. side of the Yukon River Panel. They funded us again this year, but a comment was that we hold the meeting in a hub community. Thought it would be cheaper and easier. But this year it would not have mattered. St. Mary's was as bad as or worse than other communities in terms of weather conditions for flights. Upriver hubs would be Nenana, Fort Yukon and Galena.

Jan Woodruff– I appreciate the funder suggesting that. Is it ironclad? Personally, I feel it's very important to go to these small communities. Sometimes it's the only chance some of these villagers get to go to see and meet people. I'd like to keep it in the villages as long as possible. Understand if the funding is going to dry up.

Fred Huntington - What days?

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Jill Klein – last week in February usually

Fred Huntington– I suggest Galena. Bed and breakfasts, it's a hub.

Victor Lord – would that be 20 years? Go back to Galena.

Mickey Stickman – suggest Nulato. Easier for people to snowmachine to than Galena.

Benedict Jones – how will you vote? Ballot?

Richard Burnham– no, not ballot.

Mike Peters– think it should be left to the upriver people. Courtesy to choose where they think they should go like we did with the lower river.

Richard Burnham – yeah that's what we've done in the past. Groups go off on their own.

Phillip Titus – does the lower river have somewhere they'd like to go? Just as a courtesy.

Jan Woodruff– it's been a number of years since there's been a meeting in the upper, upper river part of the river. I'd like to see it somewhere like Fort Yukon or above.

Victor Lord – changed mind, didn't realize we haven't had a meeting in Nulato yet. Rather go somewhere we haven't been.

Leroy Peters – What about Fort Yukon?

Victor Lord – We had a meeting there already.

Richard Burnham – the village needs to be the one to accept this. Nice to have people nominating their own village as it is a big undertaking. I appreciate the offer of Galena, but I was thinking Nulato too because we haven't been there. So, I guess we get a nomination process and then we can vote on it. Just the upriver members.

Al Unok– a village like Galena...that should be considered to.

Jan Woodruff– I'm not from Fort Yukon, but I spoke with Clarence Alexander at Hooper Bay and he was very interested.

Fred Huntington– suggested Galena because of the bed and breakfasts and the meeting facilities already here. Otherwise, Nulato is good.

Richard Burnham – hate to do it while everyone is here. Maybe we can caucus. 10 minute break, then we can continue.

11:20 AM

Richard Burnham – Nulato is primary; Galena is secondary.

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Jill Klein gave update on Federal Subsistence Board and Board of Fish proposals process.

Richard Burnham – proposals are still coming out. We'll consider them in the fall.

Benedict Jones – Shared proposals he brought and wants YR DFA support.

Richard Burnham – we'll consider it in the fall.

Mickey Stickman – that much harder and longer to come up with any kind of solutions.

Fred – we need to put our heads together and work with the pollock fishery. It doesn't do any good to save our fish so that they can catch them and throw them back in the ocean

Mickey Stickman – how long are we going to sit around and talk about complete age classes that are missing; whole ages of fish that are gone and not coming back? When are we going to decide to do something?

Richard Burnham – these comments are lead in to what we're going to be talking about tomorrow. The Yukon River Panel is a treaty organization. We've missed our escapement goals the past few years. So take the effort seriously – asked YR DFA to be the liaison and host teleconferences to get ideas of how to manage this upcoming run since it is projected to be so poor. Idea was to coalesce and condense these ideas down. Jason did a good job conducting those teleconferences. He was also in Whitehorse and we talked about those ideas there too. Tomorrow's meeting is going to have a lot of people. So we tried to condense down a little more at Whitehorse. So tomorrow they'll be bringing that list to that meeting for us to take a look at. Small toolbox for managers to use without going through long term changes through the board of fish. Tomorrow, take a look at these options moving forward. Less than two months before the fish are here.

Benedict Jones – willing to sacrifice 48 hours per week. But that would be split 4 ways. 12 hours per period. 6pm to 6am. That way we let the fish go by. What we're thinking about is try to get most of the Canadian bound fish into Canada as much as possible.

Richard Burnham – the portion of the run having the toughest time is the Canadian bound stocks. Normally a 50 / 50 split of US and Canada stocks. Last two years has been about 38% Canadian. Some of the US stocks are doing okay, not fabulously, but okay. Those Canadian stocks are probably the most prized stocks that go by.

Victor Lord – we don't have any ADFG biologist to ask questions to. But I see we've got you (Richard Burnham).

Richard Burnham – any questions about the meeting taking place tomorrow?

Mike Peters– elders really concerned about the first run of the fish. Usually elders just fish and take what they need. One of the concerns they had. Hard to make them understand why there are big cutbacks. Try to explain it the best way we can. Good reason why the elders who have been fishing for years. Might be misunderstanding somewhere along the line. Last summer, went fishing for the fall chum. ADF&G open for the season, ration out gas. People went out to

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fish, didn't have enough gas to go far. Commercial fishermen didn't catch enough fish to pay for the gas.

Al Unok – want to know where the boundary is where we're gonna fish. Because ADF&G is using the pilot station sonar, we haven't fished the first pulse in years.

Bill Alstrom– ADF&G uses pilot station sonar as indicator of what the run is. But they have their test nets too. Teleconferences will start last week in May, hopefully ADF&G will use that too as a tool. Don't know what they are going to do this year. Nothing set in stone, just options. Depends on what comes in. Talk about laying off the first run. My village, we had a couple meetings to discuss options. Tomorrow, everything will get compacted.

Alexie Walters, Sr. – river is 1.5 – 2 miles wide at mountain. ADF&G fishes the same spot in their test fishery. We that live there, don't do good here, move and try a new spot. We look for the good spots. They don't leave it up to the guy they hired to catch the fish. Always had a problem with that. Waste of money, to me.

Richard Burnham – appreciate the fact that people have gone through cutbacks in subsistence over the years. Even with last year and we had time restrictions, the Eagle sonar showed we were 12,000 short of our border passage goal. The idea is that even though we've been giving up, we're still not making border escapements. That's where the future of our fish runs is coming from. Have to look into our hearts and souls and we all have to be part of the process of getting these runs back. The mighty Yukon River kings are in trouble

Mike Peters– Eagle sonar; worthwhile project and that fish tech training project

Jan Woodruff – very few people in Eagle made their goals. We didn't hardly hit that run, high waters, and still didn't make passage.

Alexie Walters– fish camp long time been there. Seen lots of changes. Erosion. Can't get to camp anymore. Seen a change in 15 years. Something is in the water. Global warming, water temperature maybe. See changes in the water color in the slough right by camp. Scary thing.

Al Unok – Atlas was very good. Talked about where king salmon is spawning in the Koyukuk River. We don't even know what the real problem is. Low water, or high seas fishery, what is it? Needs to be more study about what's going on with our fish. How are we going to get that?

Paul Herbert– False Pass interception fishery – affect fish in the river?

Richard Burnham – affects summer chum. I don't know about Chinook.

Bob Dubey. – very small percentage of the kings there are bound for the Yukon.

Mike Peters– so much snow I've ever seen in so many years. We're going to have lots of debris. The first pulse of fish is going to be swimming in the main channel. Everyone is going to have a hard time fishing this year because of high water. Koyukuk letting first pulse go by, water so high, lots of debris. Hard time fishing this year. Last summer didn't have mosquitoes or gnats.

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Elders used to say if there were lots of mosquitoes, lots of kings. Lots of gnats – lots of summer chum. Lots of no-see-ums – lots of fall chum.

Mickey Stickman – Everyone is willing to give up fishing time to try and save the king, but one thing I told state and feds: we're willing to give up fishing time. Not enough kings, you're going to target fall chum to meet your needs. That has to be considered. Give up something, we're going to take it from somewhere else.

Bill Alstrom– long river, every region is different. My village there is lots of concerns about they've been living off the first run of kings. Fishing time and drying time is different for us than the middle river.

Bill Alstrom– let's break for lunch come back at 1:30. Can bring up more concerns until 3.

Stan Zuray. – reactivate the fish size committee? Maybe not with full consensus. Concern/question about live boxes? As a way to catch kings and then let the big ones go?

Jill Klein – live boxes are being brought up by fish and game tomorrow.

Stan Zuray – We've been doing live boxes from my fish camp. 2 studies have been done. All these reports, sheefish report, etc many reports. Three major independent studies show that fish held in live boxes for even minimal amounts of time, much less than used in test fisheries, within 1 – 6 hour times. Fish caught in a fish friendly wheel. All studies showed fish held in live boxes are 10 times less likely to make it to spawning grounds than a fish that is immediately returned to water, not held in a livebox. Every time a livebox fishery comes up as a solution, bring this back up. The department does not want to hear this stuff. They don't have a single study showing an opposite effect. Ask people to talk out against it. Someone from USFWS thought that the usage of liveboxes in the Yukon drainage probably considered significantly to the chum crash. This isn't about live shooting – different issue. Holding them in a livebox has been found to do the damage.

Jan Woodruff– in support of Stan. Would like to see the fish size committee get activated. This is something we've been concerned about on the upper river for a long time. Elders have been pushing for a few years to have it done. Didn't know much about liveboxes. A few years ago, I caught a tagged fish from the Whitehorse.

Richard Burnham: Who's on the fish size committee?

Jill Klein: I'd have to look in my notes.

Stan Zuray: I was and Lester was. Motion by Stan and, seconded by Henry to reactivate fish size committee.

Richard Burnham: Staff found out who was on the sub-committee: Stan Zuray, Lester Wilde, Bill Alstrom, Victor Lord and YR DFA staff member.

Mickey Stickman: Does it have to stay the same?

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Richard Burnham: No. Volunteer, anyone can be on.

Stan Zuray: Next winter will be the AYK cycle at BOF that we'll have to deal with. I just thought maybe it would be nice if YRDFA could effectively weigh in on those a little more. A lot of times we use committee to prepare ideas for the board. If we have a fish size committee in place, they could meet before the fall board meeting. A lot has changed since 2007. There was no consensus then.

Jeffrey called question

Richard Burnham: Do we want to have a voice vote

Al: Clarification on what we're voting for

Richard Burnham: Reactivate fish size committee.

Phillip Titus: Voice vote.

Stan Zuray: I'd like to at least keep track of how many votes each way

Jill Klein carried out roll call and unanimous all in favor vote for reactivating committee.

Bill Alstrom: Fred do you want to be on the fish size committee?

Fred: Yes.

Bill: Okay, we need one more member from the lower river.

Mike Peters volunteered.

Phillip Titus: Are we putting in a proposal to eliminate live boxes?

Stan Zuray: Don't have one yet, maybe we should. Trying to keep it from becoming an issue.

Richard Burnham: Summer season prep meeting. These are some of the recommendations that came out of the teleconferences and were narrowed down by the YRP.

Jason Hale gave brief update with a handout on the process and what was happening tomorrow.

Richard Burnham: Open discussion on this.

Yellow sheet – delay start of subsistence windows by one week

Al Unok: Don't agree on June 7 – too early, snowshoes at camp.

Frank Alstrom - don't think it is too early. Sheefish and whitefish.

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Bill Alstrom– hard to get the word out. First pulse, dry weather. It's not like they fish after every fish. Sheefish. I've heard people say regardless they're going fishing. People from other places dictating how they live, we don't tell others, etc.

Benedict Jones – Remind you that this year we have lot of snow and ice on the Yukon. 1937 when we had a record snowfall. That summer there was no salmon of any species in the drainage. Water was high after the ice went out. When I was a kid and my dad and I came out to the village and the village was up on a hill side because the original was under water. That year they had to depend on non-salmon species to survive the winter. Water is going to be high, with a lot of debris and it is going to interfere with your fishing. Might interfere with migration timing too. Don't know what the ocean is going to do.

Richard Burnham – the other thing I'd like to do is take this and move up the river with it, see what people from throughout the river say. Is there anybody in Y-3 or 4 think about as a concept?

Jeffrey Demientieff– look at this as a hard date. June 21 is when the first big pulse hits Holy Cross. Breakup could be different this year. I'm not too enthusiastic about setting a fast date. Managers inform fishers when the first salmon is caught in the test fishery. Make it a true window and follow it up the river.

Mike Peters- A lot of people know when the fish is gonna hit. Date might be pretty early. Talk of high water. Management doesn't really know when the fish is going to hit. The elders know when the fish are going to hit and managers should take that into consideration. When the temperatures are little cooler catch more fish. If you've been born and raised fishing, you know when the fish are going to hit.

Fred Huntington– I fish year after year. I totally disagree when you should start fishing and stop fishing. We get out first king salmon about the 9th of June, not until the 23rd do we start getting a little more. But they're all males. Last summer got 3 females from the 10th or so until the 4th of July. With closures, fish hard when there's open period. Will mean you hit hard on the females. I'd rather see the windows shortened and nothing else.

Mickey Stickman – I agree with Fred. Fishing on the first pulse, the fish tend to be small. Hard to use silver salmon gear to catch fish in the first pulse. The second pulse got a bit bigger and switched back to king gear.

Alexie Walters– What's wrong with the system they're using? We don't know exactly when the fish are going to hit. Some years were early some we're late. Back then they used to rely on the wind. And on the plants to know. Elder told me you might see some bigger kings this year. Might be bigger, but not very many of them.

Frank – no subsistence fishing allowed?

Al Aguchak – don't agree. There aren't going to be any fish during these dates. We have so much ice out there fishermen can't go in their fish camps. We can't fish snow fish even? Where I come from, the people are going to fish when the fish hit. If we wait too long, when the rainy season come we're going to fish and ruin our catch.

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Richard Burnham – the rationale for this is to allow fishers to fish on whitefish and sheefish before the salmon hit.

Alexie Walters– We are anxious to put our nets in the water for the first fish. But we have to think about upriver too. We've got to try to approach this problem with a sensible mind, pick somewhere that everyone is content with.

Benedict Jones – Koyukuk tribal introduced this resolution. Closure on Canadian bound fish. The first pulse only. We're not trying to close the whole king run for the whole summer. Just the first pulse, 3 or 4 days. We're willing to sacrifice that. I don't know if you lower Yukoners use fall chum or not, but we do. We depend on them even more if we can't get the kings.

Mickey Stickman – Makes sense. Opportunity to put fresh fish on the table until the salmon hit and then we lay off of them. Playing with the dates could make things worse.

Alexie Walters– are we talking no gear in the water? Or no king gear? I could use chum?

Bill Alstrom– no gear in the water

Alexie Walters – we're saving these fish, hurting, and the bycatch is just being thrown away. Whole river should put much pressure

Carl Walker – chum salmon – many go by us. Y-5D. Expect more. I don't know what's hurting your catch. I guess it's king you're worried about.

Jan Woodruff– we don't get summer chum in Eagle.

Carl Walker– King?

Jan Woodruff– yeah, king and fall chum.

Felix Walker– In my time there be lots of snows. Right now is worse this year. I bet there will be lots of water coming from the Yukon River and the fish will be scattered all over. Lots of snow, hardly any fish. Too much high water. My people watch the beluga whales. When they come in there are fish. Last year beluga whales in the ocean, swallows flying in the air in town. They knew kings were there. Talking about these dates. We're not controlling the fish. How do we know? Respect the maker. Birds, fish, everything will be shortened. No matter how much you yak about it, it will be slow. Muskrats had been vanished, now they are coming back. Moose are coming down in my area. Beaver are all over. Every animal vanished sometimes, but they come back.

Stan Zuray– this thing with the dates. God controls the dates, the fish control the dates. King salmon have showed up as early as June 6, and as late as July 4. That's almost a month variance. The average is a lot shorter. But last year, these dates – you run the risk of having a complete closure when there's no king salmon to be caught. Or having an opening when there are lots of fish. Why can't you just follow the pulse upriver? Managers only reason is that it is too

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complicated, too hard to get in touch with the fishermen. They want to use a date and want to use a schedule for the pulse moving upriver. Not following the fish. Could be weeks off.

Mickey Stickman – in the beginning of the teleconferences, not much participation until the fish hit then the teleconference booms. It dies off again after the fish leave. People use the teleconferences to know when the fish are coming to their area.

Jason Hale– the calls give managers suggestions on what to do.

Mike Peters – test fishing in Marshall last year. By the numbers they knew when the fish were going to go up to Canada.

Jan Woodruff– a firm date is ridiculous. We've got too many factors, especially this year. They could fax the post office and the stores in each village to get the word out about fishing times in season. By the time the pulse gets to eagle, it's not tight anymore. It's spread out. It hits right around the first week of July, we'll get one or two. But last year they were late.

Victor Lord – Tanana doesn't really affect Canada. But the rest of the Yukon affects us. If we are going to avoid the first pulse of fisheries, it's going to affect us. Tanana gets the 2nd pulse of fish, so close the first, probably fish harder on the 2nd.

Phillip Titus – don't like the idea of dates. Reason's obvious. Ignoring our traditional knowledge about what we know of the fish. What if a lot of fish come in the river this summer? We just stand on the bank? I don't take this low fish returns – ADF&G has never met their predictions. They might just be crying wolf for all we know.

Bill Alstrom– I don't like the idea of dates either. Don't want to be able to look back on this in a few years and wonder what happened. Hate to see us lose our Chinook or get to where we can't make any of the decisions any more, have it go to Tier II. We have to share the resource. We may not like it, but we've never tried it. Maybe it will work. Not fair for one group of fishermen to lay claim to the fish.

Richard Burnham – my only concern about saving a pulse is the quality of the run. Are we going to be saving a bunch of males, because that is the majority of the first pulse. The idea is noble, but maybe not worthwhile.

Resolutions

Hooper Bay Thank you

Stan Zuray: Motion to adopt

Richard Burnham: Second

Ephrim Thompson: question

Motion carries

Stan Zuray: Motion to pass resolutions YRDFA staff drafted [on OCS, hatcheries, Pebble and Donlin Mines]

Jan: Second

Jeffrey called question

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Motion carries

Stan: motion to support federal legislation for creation of RCAC [Regional Citizens Advisory Council] for TAPS.

Jeffrey: second

Ephrim Thompson: Question

Motion carries

[Discussion moves to resolutions about restricting fishing this summer – no fishing first pulse, 50% reduction in time]

Stan Zuray: Possible resolution about not using dates if that sort of restriction is put on. Follow the pulse with the best available science.

Mickey Stickman: All agree to cut our windows in half. Better to go to ADF&G with a plan of what we'll do, rather than wait for them to impose one on us.

Jan Woodruff: Important to leave here agreed on one thing – stand united to ADF&G. In Eagle, we've talked about cutting our fishing in half and trying to target fall chum.

Leroy Peters: Don't know if the 1st pulse passes by – don't know if it's going to Eagle. Need entire enforcement to make sure 1st pulse goes by. Unrealistic to think they could do that.

Alexie Walters: Flies can do damage to our hanging fish. We have to do something to cut back.

Mike Peters: We need to work together. Communication needs to be brought forth. If we could follow the pulse up, something needs to be done.

Bill Alstrom: Leave the 1st pulse alone, or cutbacks on windows. I sense kind of a consensus concern about Chinook salmon.

Benedict Jones: If not going to do anything about first pulse, consider window schedule when the pulse is in the river. If not closed completely, reduce windows.

Stan Zuray: Windowed schedule on dates... If we can restrict fishing on fish and see results, need to find out. Closing the first pulse would only be four days if management does it right and does it entirely on dates.

Jan Woodruff: Follow the fish, not the calendar.

Mickey Stickman: Halving the windows would make it easier on everyone.

Jan Woodruff: Motion to support resolution to reduce windows by half.

Mickey Stickman: 2nd

Ephrim Thompson: Question

Motion carries

Mickey Stickman: Motion to adjourn meeting

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Victor Lord: 2nd.
All in favor
Motion carries.