

## **Yukon River Fishers Will Get the Chance to Provide Input on How the 2010 Chinook Salmon Run Is Managed**

*By Jason Hale, Communications Director*

With growing concerns over the status of Yukon River salmon runs, YRDFA will host spring planning meetings for people from the Yukon River to participate in sustainable fisheries management. As state and federal fisheries managers develop the 2010 management plan for Chinook and chum salmon, it is vital that the knowledge, needs, and opinions of fishers guide the process. The fishing families who live along the Yukon River understand their fishery in ways that no one else can, and it is imperative that they are involved in the management of the annual salmon runs.

**On March 10, 2010, at 1 p.m. YRDFA will host a teleconference to give fishers, Tribal Council representatives, and other stakeholders from the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River drainage the chance to learn about the preseason projection for the 2010 Yukon River salmon runs and discuss the best strategies for managing these runs.** Alaska Department of Fish & Game and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service representatives will be on the line to share information, answer questions, & ask for input on how to best manage the fishery in the summer of 2010. Other topics will include recent [Board of Fisheries](#) actions and a recap of the 2009 season.

**To participate in the teleconference, call (800) 315-6338 and enter the code YUKON# (98566#).**

On April 8, 2010, YRDFA will host an in-person meeting between stakeholders and managers to further discuss and refine management strategies. This meeting, which will be held in Fairbanks, will be open to the public. Representatives from Tribal Councils, Intertribal Consortiums, Advisory Councils to the federal and state regulatory boards, the Yukon River Panel, the YRDFA board of directors, processors, and every fishing district will be specifically sought to participate.

Shortly after the meeting, state and federal fisheries managers will develop a draft management plan using the input provided. YRDFA will host a final teleconference on April 21, 2010, to give fishers advanced notice of what types of management actions might take place in the coming season so they can anticipate and prepare as needed. Again, to participate call (800) 315-6338 and enter the code YUKON# (98566#).

YRDFA provided a similar meeting series in 2009, and there was strong participation throughout the Alaskan portion of the drainage. People from at least 25 communities along the Yukon River dialed in to the teleconference portion of the program, and at least 70 people shared their opinions during the in-person meeting. As a result, fishers had direct input into the 2009 Chinook salmon management plan, fishers had advanced warning of the poor Chinook salmon run, and managers had a clearer picture of the ideas and concerns of stakeholders.

We hope that we will see even greater river-wide representation in the 2010 process. These meetings are open to the public, regardless of affiliation with any agency or association.

Stay tuned for more details, or contact Jason Hale with YRDFA at [jason@yukonsalmon.org](mailto:jason@yukonsalmon.org) or (877) 999-8566 extension 105. This program is funded by the [Yukon River Panel](#).