



YUKON SALMON COMMITTEE UPDATE

Calendar of Events & Public Meetings

- April 21-22, 2004 Porcupine Working Group (Old Crow)
- April 26, 2004 –Alsek WG & Public Meeting (Haines Junction)
- May 11-13, 2004 –Yukon Salmon Committee Meeting (Whitehorse)
- May 12, 2004 –Public Meeting (Whitehorse)
- Summer – Weekly conference call for run update on the Yukon River Drainage Basin (dates TBA)
- August 24-26, 2004 – YSC Meeting (Klukshu)
- November 23-25, 2004 - YSC Meeting (Whitehorse)
- December 8-9 tentative – Yukon River Panel Meeting (Whitehorse)
- February 22-24, 2005 - YSC

Did you know...
Salmon can jump up to 2 meters to cross obstacles in Rivers. That is about as high as a female Olympic athlete can jump!



YSC Members' Corner:

by Carl Sidney

Not so long ago, First Nations people throughout the Yukon relied totally on the land and fresh water not only to survive, but also to use as a means of travel. These people, in those times, did not reside where they presently are; in fact, they lived in family groups or in some cases clan groups. In my case, my ancestors lived in a family group up the Nisutlin River. They used to live, trap and hunt to survive the winter there. Within the family there would be people with special gifts for birthing children, healing people, and spiritual people. Without any form of schooling, they survived. Come the spring, my great-great grandfather would make special offerings
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2004 Youth Contest

The 2004 YSC Youth Contest was a great success this year! We had lots of excellent entries and our new category, collective entry as a group, was a success! This is the 4th annual running of the YSC "Recognizing Youth for Responsible Salmon Fishing and Stewardship" youth contest. Entrants were asked to submit an artistic entry illustrating one of three contest themes regarding responsible salmon fishing or salmon stewardship. The Yukon Salmon Committee would like to extend their thanks to all the participants. All of the entries were excellent which made it difficult to chose a winner from each category. The 2004 Contest Winners are as follows;

6 & under age category:
1st place went to **Olivia Holmes** (Dawson) ; in the

7 to 10 age category:

- 1st place** went to **Annette Kitchen** (Whitehorse),
- 2nd place** went to **Alex Chan** (Whitehorse),
- 3rd place** was a tie between **Brett Ens & Jake Jacobs** (Whitehorse) ; in the

11-14 age category:

- 1st place** went to **Nadea Lemke** (Whitehorse),
- 2nd place** went to **Kala Neumann** (Carcross) and
- 3rd place** went to **Ashlea Lewis** (Whitehorse) ;

Collective Group Entry:

- 1st place** went to **Love to Learn Daycare** (Whitehorse)

A big thank-you to all of our sponsors.

for the fantastic prizes they generously donated!



Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Pêches et Océans Canada

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King Salmon (Ta) a very special diet for First Nations people

back to “mother earth” and “grandfather wild kingdom” for allowing them to take gifts from his creation; thanking the creators for their health and survival through another winter. They would then begin to ready themselves to begin to follow the food. They would travel down the Nisutlin River, hunting and trapping beaver and muskrats. Also, fishing in special known areas that they had discovered throughout their lives and finally arriving in Teslin. No one really lived in Teslin during those times except for a few settlers. My family would visit with other families that had returned from their special places that they had spent the winter in. People would spend the spring and summer together just visiting and having potlatches, basically enjoying everyone’s company. Then would come fall;

Written by Carl Sidney



Water played a vital part in surviving and traveling for First Nations people.

the end of July, and the beginning of August. Along with fall came a very special time. North Winds would come; the lake would become so rough, that it basically became white. The winds would blow from all directions, making the lake virtually impossible to travel on. My people would sense that “they” were here. It was time to put the nets in the river and go to other special areas, in order to “drift”. For one of the main reasons to come to Teslin lake was to harvest the special food that helped them survive the long cold winters. King Salmon was taken in abundance! Most of it was dried, smoked, or packed away in order to journey back to their respected areas to spend yet another winter. Some people would travel by dog teams, others by water; there were no engines (outboards) in those days, so they used oars, wind and poles down the lake, up the river and over the mountain, with their very special food, “King Salmon” to help them survive through another winter.

2003 Fishing Season in Review

*Retained catches, based on recent harvest data, catch card results are incomplete

Canadian Yukon River-Chinook	
Commercial	2,672
Domestic	115
Recreational Fishery	253*
Aboriginal Fishery	6,121
Test Fishery	263
Whitehorse Fishway Count	1,443
Spawning Escapement	48,636
Total Border Passage Estimate	58,082

Canadian Yukon River-Chum	
Commercial	9,030
Domestic	0
Aboriginal Fishery	1,433
Test Fishery (live released)	990
Spawning Escapement	131,138
Total Border Passage Estimate	142,591

Canadian Alsek River-Chinook	
Aboriginal Fishery	90
Recreational Fishery	57*
Spawning Escapement	4,294
Klukshu Weir Count	1,737

Canadian Alsek River-Coho	
Aboriginal Fishery	0
Recreational Fishery	190*
Spawning Escapement	----
Klukshu Weir Count	3,689

Canadian Alsek River-Sockeye	
Aboriginal Fishery	2,734
Recreational Fishery	74*
Spawning Escapement	88,104
Klukshu Weir Count	34,362

Canadian Porcupine River-Chinook	
Aboriginal Fishery	173

Canadian Porcupine River-Chum	
Aboriginal Fishery	63
Test Fishery	319
Fishing Branch River Weir Count	29,519

Canadian Porcupine River-Coho	
Aboriginal Fishery	523

Yukon River Exchange: A Yukoner's Perspective

If Yukoners interested in, and concerned for, the seriously depleted state of Yukon River salmon stocks take advantage of the educational exchange offered by the Yukon River Panel, they will be able to see for themselves the immense disparity between the Alaskan and Yukon Territory salmon fisheries. The sheer scale of the Alaskan fisheries cannot fail to impress. They will probably agree with Panel co-chair Mary Pete that, "In Alaska, fish rule!"

In Alaska, fish are a form of currency, a surrogate for cash. And in the interior of the state, in particular along the Yukon River, a unique culture has evolved that is centered around sled-dogs, and has for many years been entirely supported by a once incredible abundance of free fish. While that abundance is a thing of the past, the dogs and the attendant cultural attitudes are not.

The Alaskan 'Subsistence' fishery is the highest priority fishery in the state, the means by which fish are provided as dog-food and/or cash, and consequently the mechanism by which this culture continues to be maintained. The fish/sled-dog culture is a rich and colorful one to be sure, full of romantic residues from the past that carry over into the present and, given the conditions of life in rural Alaska, has many indisputably essential elements, including cash income. The pivotal commodity upon which this cultural edifice is built is free for the taking ---- great work if you can get it!

"In Alaska, fish are a form of currency, a surrogate for cash."

The Alaskan Subsistence fishery for Chinook has nearly tripled in size since 1970. Prior to that time average catches were below 20,000, by the 1980's they had more than doubled, in recent years they are estimated (that is to say, *not counted*) by post-season questionnaires to be something in excess of 50,000. The total Canadian catch of Chinook for 2003 was fewer than 9,000.

A not insignificant portion of the Alaskan Subsistence fishery for Chinook is, by virtue of the provisions of "**Customary Trade**" (a 'Federal Subsistence Management Program' permitting "*cash sales of subsistence fish*"), a second order or value-added **commercial** fishery. During the Chinook run the scale of the Subsistence fishery and the smoking/drying operations or "camps" along the River, make it hard to be convinced that this is other than their principle economic activity when fishermen are not actually fishing commercially. It seems likely that the number of Chinook which are transformed into marketable commodities by this means would easily exceed the entire Canadian catch of Chinook.

According to Alaska Department of Fish and Game reports the number of dogs on the Yukon River which are fed "small salmon" (summer and fall chum, and Coho) numbered more than 9,000 in the early '90's, and averaged about 7,500 for the years 1990-1997. The number of salmon fed to these dogs averaged 230,800 *per year* for the same period, with a high of 336,880 in 1995.

But, there is no free lunch; the cost of this lifestyle is borne upon the backs of the fish, a good many of which might otherwise swim into Yukon spawning streams or Yukon First Nations' nets, rather than into the mouths of dogs or sold on the market. Yukon spawning, rearing, and riparian ecology and the stocks themselves have suffered serious decline; while numbers have recently improved somewhat, should they begin to fall again, Yukon First Nations may be like the grizzlies on Bear Cave Mountain: starved for fish.

Written by Dick Mahoney, Fish and Wildlife Management Officer, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun

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From the Salmon Committee Kitchen...

Alaskan Salmon a La Rainier

- 6 (4 to 6 oz each) Salmon fillets, thawed
- 1 can (16 oz) whole berry cranberry sauce
- ½ can cranberry juice cocktail
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- ¼ cup dry vermouth
- 1 tbs minced garlic
- 1 tbs brown sugar
- 1 ½ tbs grated fresh ginger root
- 1 tbs Asian sesame oil (or vegetable oil)



Place Salmon in a non-reactive pan or dish.

Combine remaining ingredients except Asian sesame oil (or vegetable oil). Pour marinade over salmon, turning to coat both sides. Cover and marinate in the refrigerator for 1 hour.

To cook, remove salmon from marinade, reserving marinade. Pat salmon dry with a paper towel.

Heat 1 tbsp of oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat.

Cook salmon, working in batches if necessary, for 10 minutes per inch of thickness, measured at the thickest part, or until salmon just flakes when tested with a fork.

Remove salmon from pan and keep warm



Discard oil from pan. Add reserved marinade. Cook stirring occasionally, until sauce is thickened, 8-10 minutes. Serve salmon fillets with approximately ¼ cup sauce per serving or to taste.

Please send us your favorite salmon recipe to have it published in one of our newsletters!!

New **SALMON** inseason information telephone number for up to date openings and closures.



(867)393-3133 or

1-877-725-6662 (1-877-SALMON2)



Contact Us

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us!

Steve Taylor -Chair	Dawson City	393-6725
Lorelei Smith -Vice	Whitehorse	333-5017
Gerry Couture	Dawson City	993-6487
Chuck Hume	Haines Junction	634-2288
Vicki Josie	Old Crow	966-3312
Joe Johnson	Burwash Landing	841-4311
Craig McKinnon	Haines Junction	634-2329 ext. 272
Stanley Njootli	Old Crow	966-3034
Hardy Ruf	Haines Junction	634-2099
Carl Sidney	Teslin	390-2845

Yukon Salmon Committee Mandate

"A Sub-Committee of the Board shall be established as the main instrument of Salmon management in the Yukon (UFA 16.7.17)."

Fisheries and Oceans Canada provides technical and administrative support for the Yukon Salmon Committee but has no direct influence on our actions as a Committee. The Yukon Salmon Committee makes recommendations to the Minister and to Yukon First Nations.

YSC ISSUES

Salmon Net-cage Farming

- The Yukon Salmon Committee would like to you hear your comments regarding salmon net-cage farming.
- For More information visit our website at [www:YukonSalmonCommittee.ca](http://www.YukonSalmonCommittee.ca)

Or pick up a copy of "Benefits and Impacts of Net-cage Salmon farming: An Internet Literature Review"

The Yukon Salmon Committee

100-419 Range Road
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 3V1

Phone: 867-393-6725
Fax: 867-393-6738

Email: salmon@yukonsalmoncommittee.ca

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.YUKONSALMONCOMMITTEE.COM