

UKSUARNAM Upyutai

Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association

YUKON DRIFTER

preparing for fall

COMMERCIAL FISHING

"Better than last year..."

After two stalled attempts by ADF&G, commercial fishing was eventually permitted to take place on the Lower Yukon with the first opener in Y-1 on June 28th. Fishermen landed 30,000 plus chum salmon in the biggest opening of the summer season. With prices up at 70 cents a pound for chums and fishermen being able to sell incidentally caught kings, well over 200 permit holder participated in the opening.

ADF&G managers purposely held the fishery off until the majority of Canadian bound king salmon had worked their way through the lower river districts. It was estimated by officials that over 75% of the king run had passed by before commercial fishing took place.

Although there was not a directed king salmon fishery, fishermen for the most part were glad to be fishing. The ex-vessel price for chums was the highest paid since the late 70's and considering that just five years ago buyers were offering 5 to 10 cents a pound for chums it was clearly worthwhile to the fleet. The high price of chums was the direct result of our fishermen's quality/handling efforts that has produced a high grade product combined with the marketing strategy developed by the company.

Overall, Y-1 and Y-2 fishermen, landed close to 1.3 million pounds of salmon. This season was the first time in several years that every village on the lower river was provided with a secure market throughout the season. From Black River on the coast, which had tender service delivering ice, fuel, and supplies, to all of the in-river villages up through Marshall were serviced with reliable tenders. A total of 436 Lower Yukon fishermen earned nearly 1.5 million dollars. Although the 2010 ex-vessel value is considerably less than the historic average of the Yukon fishery, it was significantly higher than the all time low incurred during last season's fishery. On average permit holders earned \$3,300.

The sales of Yukon salmon caught by our fishermen were again brisk, with demand far outweighing supply.



Kwikpak product is being sold throughout the Lower 48 and overseas. Several customers made the effort to visit our company this year including those from as far away as Europe.

HARVEST REPORT

Pollock, Cod, Halibut & more

Regarding Pollock virtually all of our 11,382 MT quota was harvested (all but 1.739 MTs). The Chinook Salmon that was caught in our Pollock fishery was 46 salmon, which is roughly equal to 1 salmon per 250 MTs. If the pending Chinook hard cap was in place YD's hard cap would have been 686 salmon and the Performance Standard cap would have been 544 salmon.

In the Pacific Cod long line target fishery four vessels have harvested approximately 2,000 MTs, the majority of which was caught in the A Season. B Season harvest have recently begun this August.

For the Halibut fishery, the F/V Lisa Marie harvested 100% of our 97,500 Area 4D CDQ Allocation. On the IFQ side, the F/V Lisa Marie harvested all of our 4D (12,379 lbs) and 4A (31,587 lbs) IFQ quotas. To date none of our 4B IFQ (11,310) has been harvested.

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HIGHLIGHTS

Employment Programs
Boys & Girls Club Project
Fish Wheel
Cisco buying
Model Log Cabin

HIGH SCHOOL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

"Students Taking Initiative..."

Kwik'Pak has developed an opportunity for the youth in our region. The company established a High School Employment Program that is based on several objectives. These objectives include: instilling responsible work ethic, learning how to manage responsibilities, finding out the value of hard earned money, building professional relationships, seeking career choices and encouragement to further education.

During the 2010 season, Kwik'Pak Fisheries employed about 100 students in the High School Employment Program. Students came from four of the communities that Kwik'Pak serves: Alakanak, Emmonak, Kotlik and Mountain Village. There were two groups of students separated by age group. The 14-15 year old employees were designated to the administrative, customer service and custodial jobs around the work site, while the 16-17 year olds were assigned to the box loft, packing room and the egg house. In order to open positions for the high volume of student applicants, there were rotations for each age group. This gave the student employees a chance to gain experience and earn extra funding throughout the summer.

Kwik'Pak held employee meetings so that employees stayed informed and the initial employee-management relationship was pro-active. There were several meetings held with the student employees throughout the season. One of the staff meetings involved some of the elders and organizations of Emmonak in response to the devastating high suicide rate in our region this year. Elders and various organizations of Emmonak were happy and proud to share wisdom and knowledge with the target age group employed at Kwik'Pak.

Considering the student program was a great success, the company plans on continuing the program next year. The positive response of the program was observed in numerous ways. Those who had a hard time meeting new people became excellent receptionists; students from rivaling villages found reliability and friendship in one another; and lastly, independent students got to explore the value of teamwork. Toward the end of the program, a lot of students felt accomplished after spending their summer productively working in the Kwik'Pak High School Employment Program.

"The youth are our hope for the future." – Dave Barry.



THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

"In with the new"

Over the years, teens in Emmonak have had no safe or permanent place to call their own. Usually what happens is once the teens cleaned out a building and make it functional, other entities would take over the building because of the limited facilities available in Emmonak.

The previous building that was available for the children to gather in was the old Head Start building that was already falling apart and was getting too dangerous for occupancy. The Boys and Girls Club Of America is willing to provide insurance and partner with Kwikpak for a new building. Kwikpak agreed to prepare the site and provide materials, and room and board for the volunteers to build a new center for our community.

This building will not be like any another building here in the community, it is going to be constructed of logs that are gathered by the local people in the region. The Kwikpak Sawmill Crew cuts logs year round so that there will be logs available for projects like this one.

Robert Spaulding, Executive Chef, presented a generous donation of \$7,000 from Elliott's Oyster House. Taking a percentage of the house special, which was the salmon dish featuring Yukon Keta (Chum) bought from Kwikpak Fisheries created the donation. Spaulding wanted to support a project where the children would be beneficiaries.

Boys and Girls Club provides a safe place to learn and grow, ongoing relationships with caring, adult professionals, life enhancing programs and character development experiences, hope and opportunity. The

Pictured: Fransisca Agayar and Nicole Moses

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children will have a warm, safe place to hang out as well as a place to learn and grow. There is always something productive the children can be doing while hanging out in the center. There will always be an adult to supervise and to show that there are people who care about the children and their safety. The center keeps children out of the "streets".

KWIK-PAK EMPLOYMENT

"Building a Skilled Workforce..."

Kwik'Pak Fisheries is a subsidiary of YDFDA established with one of its main focuses being to create jobs for the residents of the region. YDFDA and their subsidiaries have a regional preference hiring policy in place. There were a total of 351 employees hired, including those employed with YRT, in the season of 2010. 96% of the employees were local hires, with the remainder 4% being non-regional employees skilled & licensed in trades needed to operate the companies, for example: licensed marine engineers & licensed tugboat operators.

Housing was provided for employees flown in from surrounding villages. The Kwik'Pak bunkhouse underwent a remodel to house more seasonal employees. Their stay included three meals a day, some of which prepared traditionally by Frannie Leopold who runs the bunkhouse and takes care of our residing employees.

Various job opportunities were provided throughout Kwik'Pak. Younger employees in the Fishermen Store had an opportunity to find out how a retail business is operated. Local journeymen/electricians, carpenter apprentices and plumbers were hired in the construction of the new buildings which were: the model home, Peter's Woodshop, the new employee break room and the bunkhouse remodel project. Kwik'Pak also hired local tugboat operators, seafood processors, retail workers and administrative employees. With more positions open, carpentry students from Job Corp., electrician apprentices and administrative interns pursuing a secondary education were given a chance to work in their trade while on break from school.

Every Sunday, Kwik'Pak held cookouts in the new employee break room to show appreciation to the staff. As a result, the Sunday cookouts unified workers from worksites throughout the company. The main intention of Kwik'Pak is to build a reliable & skilled workforce in regards to community development. Kwik'Pak's



success in all accomplishments of 2010 was made possible by the entire staff as a whole. Thank you to all who participated and the company looks forward to your employment in the years to come.

Pictured: Top: Workers with KwikPak working hard
Middle: Suicide Prevention with Elders and Employees
Bottom: John Prince of Emmonak & Cornelius Benedict Sr.

LOGGING

OVER 8000 ft of Logs Hauled

Local area river loggers have hauled in and sold over 8,000 feet of suitable timber to the Kwikpak sawmill so far this season. Loggers participated from just about every village on the lower river. The volume of logs have kept the sawmill crew busy throughout the summer and based on current production capacity the mill will produce enough house logs to build a minimum of five houses.

The company plans to keep buying logs until October 1st.

LOG HOMES

"UNDER CONSTRUCTION"

Kwikpak's log house project is well under construction and expected to be complete and ready to move in by October 1st. The house is being built at Emmonak adjacent to the Chuloonawick Tribal offices.

The main structure is built of logs, requiring over 1,700 feet of logs milled at the Kwikpak sawmill. The house was designed with local needs in mind, and among other features includes an Arctic entry way, utility room, both wood and oil heat, and will carry a very high energy rating for Arctic conditions. It total there is over 1,500 square feet of living space, three bedrooms, including a master bedroom with bathroom up stairs, and two large bedroom downstairs providing for family needs.

The project has been worked on and built by utilizing local workers and tradesmen. Electricians, plumbers, and carpenters from our region built the house. Several apprentices from the Job Core program have also worked on the project throughout the summer.

Once finished, the company will use the house as a demonstration model to show the capabilities of using local materials and a regional workforce. A open house is being planned with Federal, State, and Regional housing authorities attending.

FISH WHEEL

It is true, we have a fish wheel being put into operation here on the Lower Yukon. Built in and brought down from our CDQ village of Grayling, YDFDA is working on setting up the fish wheel to provide a data base for test fisheries. At the same time, once a reliable spot is secured for it's operating, it will be utilized as a community fish wheel to provide subsistence fish to our elders in the villages. Local fish wheel workers include Herman Hootch, Patrick Wasky, and Morris Kameroff. And just a side note, they have indeed caught fish with it already!





KWIK-PAK SAFETY

Serious About Water Safety

Kwik'pak Fisheries sincerely cares about the safety of all our employees as well as the fisherman and visitors at our locations in Emmonak, Kotlik and Mountain Village. Water and vessel safety is our highest priority. Kwik'pak provides Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) for every person that is on any of our processing barges, tenders, company shuttles, fuel docks and now our fish wheel. Our Quality Control and Safety Officers will ask everyone on board to put on their PFD when tied up to any of our vessels or on the fueling dock, so please do not be offended. We are trying to prevent an injury or serious accident. We would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding as we enforce this policy.

FISHERMAN GUIDELINES

Update

Fishermen meetings were held in Kotlik and Mountain Village to discuss the Fishermen Quality and Handling Guidelines emphasizing that the fishermen and the company need to work together to keep the fish

Pictured on top: Freddie Edmund, Maggie Isadore, and Axle

quality at its best. As a result of the guidelines, we had a fantastic turnout from the fishermen. Most of the fishermen were getting ice, bleeding, and properly handling the fish. The average temperature of the fish that were spot-checked was 43.2 degrees, which is below the 48 degree cut off for rejecting warm fish.

Kwikpak Fisheries has worked hard to build an exceptional reputation in the seafood markets. To keep this reputation the fishermen as well as the company have been working together by remembering fish need to be iced and bled. As a reminder, ice is available before and during the openings at the following locations: Emmonak, Mountain Village, Kotlik, Boreal, Marshall stations along with all the tender boats.

DISASTER FUNDING

Payments to Go Direct to Fishermen

The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) and YDFDA petitioned the U.S. Congress to appropriate disaster funds to be paid directly to the people of the Yukon River who have been severely impacted by the failure of the Yukon Chinook salmon runs in 2008 and 09. U.S. Congress appropriated \$5.0M of disaster relief funds, specifically to aid the commercial fishermen on the Yukon River. While commercial fishermen will receive direct cash payments from this fund, replacement gillnets will also be provided to every commercial fishery permit holder and subsistence fishing family within the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River drainage.

Pacific States Fisheries Marine Commission (PSFMC) will administer the grant. The final agreement on the specific distribution of disaster funds follows:

Each Lower Yukon commercial permit holder who made at least one delivery during the 2007, 2008 or 2009 fishing season will receive a one-time payment dependent on the final number of eligible commercial fishermen.

Applications for direct payments will be mailed to qualified commercial fishermen. Completed and signed applications must be submitted to PSMFC, Postmarked no later than January 31, 2011. We anticipate the checks to be paid to each qualified fishermen early next year..

Purchase and replace unrestricted mesh gillnets with 7.5 in stretch mesh gillnets to comply with newly establish regulations enacted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries

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Each Yukon Area fishermen holding a current commercial fishing permit and all subsistence fishing households throughout the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River drainage will receive a gillnet of 7.5:inch stretch mesh for use in next year subsistence and directed Chinook salmon to replace the unrestricted mesh size nets currently used to harvest Chinook salmon. During the 2009 January Alaska Board of Fisheries passed a regulation for the Yukon Area that limited the maximum stretch mesh of gillnets used to harvest salmon to 7.5 inch stretch mesh. The use of gillnets with stretch mesh greater than 7.5 inch will be prohibited starting with the 2011 fishing season. We anticipate gillnets will be available for distribution in late April or early May, 2011.

BUYING CISCOES THIS FALL

Cisco Season On Again

Kwikpak will again be buying ciscoes this fall. The little white fish have become quite the rage in the New York City smoked fish markets and our customers are eager to get their annual supply. We are again requesting the Department of Fish and Game to increase the allowable harvest quota to provide more available income to the families on the Delta. Hopefully we will get an increase in the harvest.

Those fishermen who intend to go after cisco this season should get their fresh water permit applications in and register with Kwikpak at the Emmonak office. We expect to start buying around late September when the ciscoes start running.

HUNTING LICENSES

Available in Emmonak

Kwikpak Fisheries - Emmonak is now selling hunting licenses and harvest tickets. Please bring your ID when coming to purchase them. Alaska resident price is \$25. Residents with a yearly income below \$8200 or if you are on any state or federal welfare program need only to pay \$5. Residents over 60 may obtain a free permanent identification card. We have the applications at the Emmonak office or you can get them on the ADF&G website. Applications must be mailed in. Residents 15 and under do not need a license to hunt.

TRAPPING SEASON

Season Opens November 10th

Local trappers should take note that the trapping season for Game Management Unit 18 is set to open

November 10 this year. Kwikpak will be actively promoting the fur business this season due to the level of interest from local trappers last season. The company head quarters for the fur business will be at Mountain Village. Jeff Sutter will be the regional fur buyer and he will service the villages within our region. There will be planned trapping and fur handling workshops conducted by Jeff in the villages. He will also be making scheduled fur buying trips throughout the winter as well as stocking traps and supplies for re-sale to area trappers.

Market conditions are encouraging for the upcoming season. The company is looking forward to re-establishing this traditional business here on the delta. For further information contact our Emmonak office or call Jeff directly in Mountain Village at 591-6465.



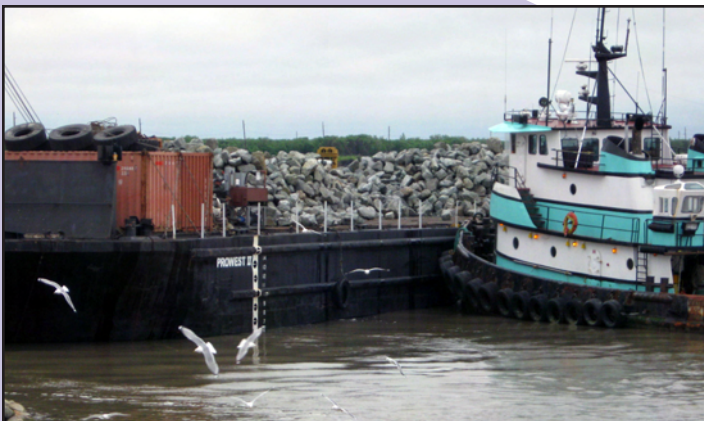
IN-REGION PROJECTS

Alakanuk

YDFDA is working in partnership with the Alakanuk Native Corporation to complete an Addendum to a Conceptual Design Report (CDR) for a bulk fuel farm upgrade for the community. Once this report is completed by early fall, it will allow the village to seek construction funding to upgrade the fuel farm in Alakanuk.

Mountain Village

The Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska is pleased to report that the Mooring Project for Mountain Village is progressing. The design for the three mooring points is complete and the process of obtaining the environmental permits has started. It is anticipated that the construction package will go out to bid by the end of the summer. The mooring points will allow barges to safely tie down while unloading freight and fuel for the community.



YUKON RIVER TOWING



Yukon River Towing, had its inception in the spring of 2010. Originally, it was envisioned as a way to provide further employment opportunities within the region between summer & fall fishing seasons. Due to reduced fishing in 2008 and 2009, Kwikpak branched out and began hauling gravel from St. Mary's to Emmonak. The aggregate has multiple uses not the least of which in improving the infrastructure in Emmonak and the Kwikpak facilities.

The use of the six LCM's, which are historically used as tenders during the fish season, are used to haul the gravel from St. Mary's dock on the Andreafski River to Emmonak. The LCM's push the barge South Pacific, as "push" boats during the gravel hauling process, is exceptionally cost effective since they can be used in their original configuration with no major modifications for the "pushing mode". With three vessels and crews working as a team to complete one voyage, ample work is achieved. The management of the vessels, crews, safety, and administrative duties associated with this venture fall under the auspices of Yukon River Towing.

The crews of the LCM's comprise of mariners from Emmonak, Alakanuk and Kotlik primarily. One of the goals for Yukon River Towing is to document the time for captains and deckhands to obtain crew licenses from the Coast Guard. This documentation will allow those who want to pursue work on a year round basis rather than seasonally. Yukon River Towing employs approximately 30 personnel which is comprised of captains, deckhands and support .

To date, there has been delivered to Emmonak from St. Mary's upwards of 7,500 cubic yards of aggregate employing our LCM's and barge South Pacific. The gravel hauling will continue until around the end of September. In addition to gravel haul and fish tendering, YRT was integral to the delivery of 10,000+ tons of core and armor rock to be used in the rebuilding of the Emmonak dock which washed away during the 2009 ice break up.

Lastly, Yukon River Towing provides piloting services for bar crossings and river navigation on an as needed basis.

COMMUNITY

Face Lift

The Saint Ignatius Catholic Church in Alakanuk was built in the early 1970's. Kwik'pak Fisheries along with the church have started a community project to do needed upgrades. Approximately 23 employees and local volunteers worked at prepping and painting the exterior walls of St. Ignatius. This is just one of Kwik'Pak Fisheries many community upgrade projects. We hope, in the future, to have volunteers and to work on the interior of the church this winter. If you have any carpentry skills and would like to volunteer your time, please contact the church so that we can discuss all options.

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Yukon Delta's flatfish quotas are harvested in a pool with BBEDC. This various species in this grouping have been harvested at different levels throughout the year and a full report will come later on.

With respect to crab YDFDA's CDQ and IFQ species will be harvested this fall and winter. We have a brown crab fishery that will begin this August. And our Red King and Opilio fisheries begin in October and continue on into the beginning of the 2011.



YUKON MARINE MANUFACTURING

This summer, Yukon Marine Manufacturing (YMM), along with normal boat sales, worked mostly on boat repairs. Boats came from villages upriver such as Russian Mission, Pilot Station, St Mary's, and Mountain Village as well as from closer villages such as Alakanuk, Nunam Iqua and Kotlik. The welder & welder helpers repaired about sixty or more boats from the first week of June to August. YMM ordered twenty four skiffs kits this past spring and will start constructing them the 1st week of October and will continue until May 2011. YMM also purchased a new boat model that consists of a five inch deep "v" skiff with dimensions of twenty feet long by seven feet wide. Contact Robert Andrews at 907-949-1204 or Robert@ydfda.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you would like to make a comment about any of the articles published in this newsletter, please send a letter to:

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Letters may be published in the next newsletter.

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