



address chum salmon by-catch. From status quo, which would leave current chum measures in place, to a hard cap range of 25,000 to 353,000 fish. Also being considered are time and area closures based on historical by-catch of chums with a range of 25,000 to 200,000 fish and an exempted area closure system, which would allow the fleet to manage their by-catch. (More information on these alternatives and current analysis of them can be found at: <http://alaska-fisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/>) At the meeting in Nome, the Council may choose to modify the suite of Chum alternatives or may choose a preliminary alternative. The tentative schedule for final action by the Council will be in October or December of 2011.

THE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

The Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) met at the Egan Center in Anchorage from January 18-21, 2011 to deliberated on proposals pertaining to the Yukon-Northern, Chignik, Kodiak, and Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Management Areas. Additionally, the last day of the meeting, January 21, was dedicated to explore the procedures in the development of tribal consultations with the FSB with tribal leaders.

A total of 9 proposals pertaining to the Yukon Management Area were submitted for consideration by the FSB. Table 1 summarizes these proposals and the action taken by the FSB. At the beginning of public testimony, the chair of the Mountain Village Working Group requested that the four proposals submitted by their working group be "pulled" or withdrawn from consideration by the FSB. The FSB complied with the request and took no action on these proposals. The request and subsequent FSB action greatly eased and diffused tensions between the Upper River and Lower River fishers at this meeting.

After much discussion regarding customary trade, the FSB deferred FP11-08 and requested that the 3 affected Yukon River RACs form a subcommittee to reach a consensus regarding the definition of "significant commercial enterprise" and to also provide recommendations (CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE...)

NORTH PACIFIC COUNCIL IS COMING TO NOME.

"First Meeting Ever in Western AK!"

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council, which manages federal off shore fisheries, will meet in Nome this coming June. This will be the first time for the Council to hold a meeting in Western Alaska. The NPFMC was formed in 1976 to oversee and manage fisheries that take place in waters from 3 to 200 miles off the coast of Alaska. Among others, the Council oversees the Bering Sea Pollock fishery.

Of particular interest, the Council is currently contemplating Chum Salmon by-catch management measures in the Pollock fishery. Chum salmon by-catch in the Pollock fishery since 1994 has ranged from a high of 704,586 in 2005 to a low in 2010 of 13,306. It is estimated in the Council's analytical documents that 17 % of that by-catch would return to Western Alaska Rivers. The other portions of the by-catch are estimated to be largely from Asian hatchery production.

The Council is currently looking at four alternatives to

BUYING FURS!

"Second season beginnings..."

Kwik'pak is into our second fur-buying season with noticeable increases over last year. We now have fathers and sons once again trapping together. The region has a total of 78 trappers with hopes to increase that number. So far this year, Kwik'pak has paid out \$55,953 directly to trappers.

Some hard working trappers have made up to \$4,000. Many of whom attended our workshops last fall gaining valuable knowledge in trapping techniques and fur handling. We encourage anyone interested in getting started to contact us here in our Mountain Village Office or calling Jeff Sutter at (907) 591-6465.



TANNED FUR PROJECT:

Last season's beaver, fox, and otter were tanned and returned for resale in the villages. To date, we have sold over \$5,600 in tanned fur. Most were sold to skin sewers who made fur products for resale, boosting the village economy.

We still have a fair amount of tanned fur for sale at the most affordable prices, including tanned beaver, fox, and wolves. We have more fur at the tannery that will be for sale next fall. Check us out in Mountain Village or call Jeff Sutter at (907) 591-6465.

FUR REPORT:

Wild fur is in demand and prices are on the rise. We are currently paying good prices for well-handled fur. March 31st is the closing date of trapping season for most species, except beaver and muskrat. We will

continue buying them up until breakup sometime in mid May.

Red Fox	\$20-\$50	Wolf	\$300-\$500
Otter	\$60-\$75	Weasel	\$4-\$5
Lynx	\$80-\$200	Wolverine	\$300-\$450
Mink	\$20-\$30	Marten	\$60-\$100
Muskrat	\$5-\$7		

Beaver \$25-\$50 (beaver castor) \$50. lb

Contact us at (907) 591-6465, we will come to you.

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Alakanuk – Max Agayar, Frank Alstrom, Jr., Emmonak – Tillie Oktoyak, Dominic Hunt, Grayling – David Maillelle, Margie Waker, Thomas Maillelle, Kotlik – Benjamin Kamkoff, Laurentia Mike, Mountain Village – Simon Andrews, Alexie Walters, Sr., Nunam Iqaa – Paul Manumik, Sr., Paul Manumick, Jr.

YDFDA HARVESTING ACTIVITY

This year, YDFDA contracted with Coastal Villages Region Fund to harvest 100% of our Pollock CDQ allocation on their vessel the Northern Hawk. This partnership between the communities of the Yukon and the Kuskokwim represents the first time that a 100% Alaskan owned vessel is harvesting Pollock CDQ allocations. As of this notice, about two-thirds of the combined A Season Quota for YDFDA and CVRF has been harvested; 12,907.888 MTS. Along with this salmon, 81 Chinook salmon have been observed which equals a rate of roughly one Chinook for every for 350,000 pounds of Pollock.

YDFDA's CDQ and IFQ quotas for Opilio (Snow) Crab have been fully harvested. Two vessels, the Kiska Sea and the Baranof each harvested of our CDQ and the Kiska Sea harvested all of the IFQ. With respect to Pacific Cod CDQ, that fishery is just beginning for YDFDA and we have about 135 MTs caught. Sablefish in the Bering Sea has also just started, and the Ballyhoo has caught almost 18 MTs.

Regarding flatfish, YDFDA partnered with Glacier Fish Company (owned in part with NSEDC) to harvest a portion of our flatfish CDQ allocations. In addition YDFDA, United States Seafood's will also harvest a portion of our flatfish and Atka Mackerel CDQ. This fishery has begun and more detailed catch information will be provided in the next newsletter.

NEW PRODUCT:

"Ruby Bay™ Yukon Keta Candy "



On March 16, 2011 we introduced Ruby Bay™ Yukon Keta Candy, an all-natural, gluten-free, fully traceable smoked salmon, will be making its debut at this year's International Boston Seafood Show—where it will be on display at the Acme Smoked Fish Company, at Booth #718.

Ruby Bay Yukon Keta Candy is a joint venture between Acme Smoked Fish of Brooklyn, NY (www.acmesmokedfish.com) and Kwik'pak Fisheries of Emmonak, AK (www.kwikpakfisheries.com). This is not the first time the two companies have partnered to promote smoked seafood, but it is the first time they have worked together to create a branded, value-added product for retail and foodservice.

"We're really excited about this product and this partnership," says Acme's Vice President of Sales, Buzz Billik. "Imagine the oldest smokehouse in America having the opportunity to work with one of the oldest active fisheries in the world. We not only have a great product to sell; we have a great story behind it."

"This is really special fish," Ruth Carter of Kwik'pak Fisheries says. "It maintains its high oil content and Omega 3s even though it has gone through the smoking process." She adds, "The Yupik fishing families of the Lower Yukon are thrilled to see their fish reach new markets, and we are pleased that through this partnership, our fishing families can benefit from selling a higher-value product under the Ruby Bay™ brand."

Acme Smoked Fish is recognized for its New York-style Kosher smoked fish and pickled herring products. Based in Brooklyn, the widely recognized brand is committed to providing a superior quality product. The company's Ruby Bay Brand is recognized for products that mix tradition with innovation.

YDFDA SMALL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM

YDFDA Small Business Loan Program is intended to diversify the local economy and create jobs by providing start-up funds for local businesses. The Program gives individual loans up to \$25,000 and lasting 7 years. The loan accrues no interest the first year and there are no penalties for early pay-off.

This is a great opportunity for you entrepreneurs!

For an application or more information, contact Deborah Vo at 877-644-0326



THE YUKON MARINE MANUFACTURING

The Yukon Marine Manufacturing shop in Emmonak was consumed by fire earlier this winter on January 8th. Due to this unfortunate event welders were unable to build any skiffs until March.

At this time, welders Harold Kameronoff and Fred Moore along with assistants Louie Lee and Richard Agayar are happily building skiffs in the Kwik'pak Fisheries packing room temporarily until another welding shop is built this summer. YMM still has 16 brand-new skiff previously built that were at another location and not affected by the fire.

If you are interested in purchasing a Yukon Marine skiff please call Robert Andrews or his new assistant Antonia Kameronoff at 949-1204/1202.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

"SPRING INTO WORK!"

Spring is HERE! We hope your school year is going smoothly; education is your key to success. As the school year wraps up, keep in mind that we will start accepting applications in early May for the Youth Employment Project at Kwik'Pak Fisheries. We would like to see our youth employees make honor roll. If you make honor roll by the end of this school year, turn your transcripts in with your application & guardian signed work permit and Kwik'pak Fisheries will award you \$50 in Fishermen Store credit. In order to qualify for this, you must be a Kwik'pak youth employee.

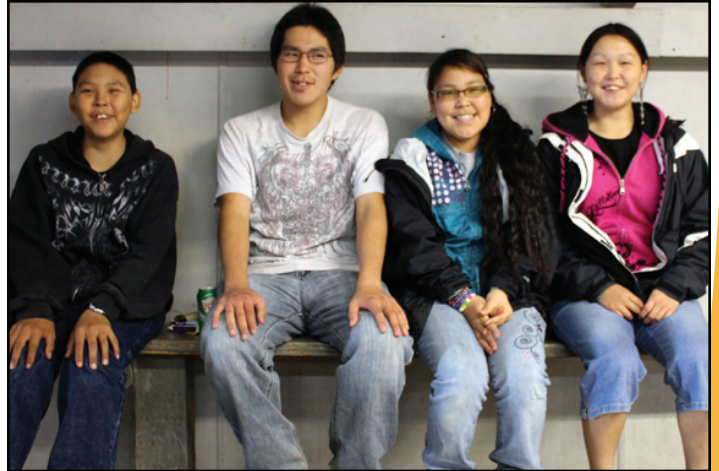
Please have your applications and work permits turned into us between in early May. We would like to get your work permits processed as soon as possible, so we can get you onto the schedule. Kwik'pak Fisheries is a drug free workplace and drug tests will be performed on your start date, and randomly throughout the season.

Last year 103 regional youth between the ages of 14-17 were employed with Kwik'pak Fisheries. Youth were shown the importance of many skills in their work performance. First and foremost, it is important to be at work promptly and well rested. Last year students who showed great work ethic throughout the season stood out among their peers and will be first to get onto the youth employment rotation. The beginning of the season is a very busy with many duties to be accomplished before fishing begins.

Just like season 2010, youth will be split into two different age groups, 14-15 year olds & 16-17 year olds. The younger group will be working in the Office, Break Room, and Kwik'pak Fishermen Store. The older group will be assigned to Marlene & Chiefs crew and The Roe House. Each of these positions is very dependent on you, and your attendance according to the schedule is vital.

Our program is expanding. If you want to participate in The YDFDA Youth Employment Project and do not live in Emmonak- you will need a place to stay, with a relative or a friend, and we will get you

onto the rotation. Please call us at 907-949-1120 or the Anchorage office at 907-644-0326 if you have any questions regarding employment.



FEDERAL FISHERY DISASTER UPDATES

"NET REPLACEMENTS!"

Under the Federal Fishery Disaster declaration, fishermen will be soon receiving notice of the gear replacement phase of the declaration. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, the entity in charge of dispersing disaster assistance, will be notifying Lower Yukon fishermen of the net replacement program funded under the disaster declaration.

Under the program, all documented commercial and subsistence fishermen will be provided with new webbing. 2011 will be the first year that the Yukon River will have mesh size restrictions. 7 1/2 inch gear is now the maximum allowed to harvest king salmon for commercial and subsistence. The Alaska Board of Fisheries passed this regulation in 2010.

Kwik'pak Fisheries will be facilitating the exchange program, working in conjunction with Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. It is anticipated the new webbing will be available in mid-April. Fishermen will be notified by mail of the when the program will begin and the contact point for each village in the Lower Yukon district.

LOWER YUKON RIVER TEST FISHERY (LYTF) HISTORY

The Lower Yukon River Test Fishery is operated by ADF&G with assistance provided by Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA). YDFDA provides two technicians for the summer and fall season's test fish projects. In 2010, YDFDA operated the fall season test fishery from August 29 through September 15 to determine the relative abundance of fall chum and coho salmon passing into the river after the traditional end date of ADF&G test fish operations. This project verified that few fall chum salmon entered the river after August, but did monitor a coho salmon pulse that resulted in a directed coho salmon commercial period being allowed. Note that Pilot Station sonar ceased operations on September 7.

OPENING IN MAY!!!



LOTS OF NEW ITEMS!!!

with fishing and logging supplies, equipment
and gear, motor oil, lube, filters and fuel!!!
Come check us out!!!

MOUNTAIN VILLAGE TEST FISHERY

A king salmon test fishery using 7.5-inch stretch mesh drift gillnets was conducted near Mountain Village, Alaska, from June 2 through July 17, 2010. This project was funded by the U.S/Canada Restoration and Enhancement Fund and supervised and reported by Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA). Expert fishermen were hired to conduct the test fishing and the sampling. Local hiring of expert fishermen was accomplished through Asa'carsarmiut Tribal Council.

The 2010 Mountain Village Test Fishery (MVTF) project for Yukon king salmon operated successfully during its first season of operation. Information from this project provided valuable season and post-season insight into the relative abundance and timing of the total Yukon River king salmon run. This information,

in conjunction with information from the Lower Yukon Test Fish (LYTF) and the Pilot Station sonar projects provided managers and research biologists with a better understanding of the entire king salmon run. During the testing, 179 test fishing drifts were conducted and 476 king salmon were captured and retained for sampling. Additionally, 8 king salmon were observed to drop out of the net when the net was being pulled into the boat. These 8 King salmon were included in the catch per effort (CPUE) calculations. This total also includes 2 king salmon that originated from the Canadian hatchery in Whitehorse, YT. In addition to the sampling for age, sex, and size of each king salmon captured and retained, a genetic sample was also collected from each fish.

DALL POINT TEST FISHERY

Beginning in 2009, a pilot test gillnet drift fishery was operated in ocean waters near the Yukon River in the vicinity of Dall Point. The primary objective of this project was to determine the feasibility of indexing Chinook and summer chum salmon abundance and run timing prior to migration into the Yukon River. A coastal test fishery could improve stock management by providing information regarding incoming fish approximately one week before fish enter the fishing districts. This test fishery targeted Chinook and summer chum salmon from early June to mid July.

The department operated the Dall Point test fishery with assistance from Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA). ADF&G provided oversight and supervision in data collection, analysis, and reporting. YDFDA provided the operational assistance, including the fishing boat, gillnets, fuel, and technician salary.

In 2010, the timing of Chinook salmon catch pulses in the Dall Point test fishery tracked with daily catch and catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) at Middle Mouth and Big Eddy using a transit time of three and four days, respectfully. The Chinook salmon catch rates also followed trends of passage estimates recorded at the Pilot Station sonar using an eight day lag time.

The timing of summer chum salmon pulses tracked with daily catch and CPUE at Middle Mouth and Big Eddy using a transit time of four and five days to the respective locations. The catch rates also tracked with passage estimate trends for summer chum salmon at the Pilot Station sonar using an eight-day transit time.

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE...)

on limitations on sales between rural and rural and rural to others for the entire Yukon Management Area. All affected RAC chairs agreed to have their RAC participate in this subcommittee. This subcommittee will consist of 3 members for each of the affected RACs. The targeted date for the FSB to consider this deferred proposal is January 2012, during the scheduled FSB meeting. Based on the action taken on FP11-08, no action was taken on FP11-09.

In conclusion, the FSB took no affirmative action on any Yukon Management Area proposals. The final action on FP11-08 may result in the prohibition of selling large amounts of subsistence-caught salmon under the guise of customary trade.

On January 21, the FSB had an open forum on Tribal Consultations. The stated intent of the discussion was to start the process of developing a tribal consultation protocol for the purpose of ensuring more comprehensive and effective future tribal involvement in the federal subsistence management program. A draft protocol will be circulated based on discussions during this forum.



YUKON
Delta Fisheries
Development Association

YDFDA Corporate Office
1016 West Sixth Ave, Suite 301
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 644-0326

YDFDA Emmonak Office
P.O. Box 210 Emmonak, AK 99581
Phone (907)949-1202

Employment and Education Coordinator
Doug Redfox
dredfox@ydfda.org
Emmonak 949-1202 or toll free 1-877-985-6625

Kwikipak Fisheries
Jack Schultheis, General Manager
schultheis@kwikipakfisheries.com
Anchorage 644-0326 or toll free 1-877-644-0326
Emmonak 949-1120 or toll free 1-877-985-6625

Ragnar Alstrom, YDFDA Executive Director
ragnaraydf@aol.com, (907) 644-0326 or toll free 1-877-644-0326

Debra Vo, Rural Development Specialist
dvo@ydfda.org, (907) 644-0326

Thomas Link, Yukon River Towing Manager
(907) 444-8996

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:

Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association
c/o The Yukon Drifter
1016 West 6th Avenue, Suite 301
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Letters may be published in the next newsletter.

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inu_girl@yahoo.com