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Governor Sean Parnell  
STATE OF ALASKA

August 7, 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke  
Secretary  
United States Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Yukon Chinook Federal Fishery Disaster

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter requests that you declare a fishery disaster under Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) for Yukon River Chinook salmon fisheries. MSA § 312(a) authorizes various forms of federal assistance through the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) when the Secretary of Commerce finds a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster. I ask that you make such a determination for Yukon River Chinook salmon fisheries and enable those affected by this significant resource disaster to access federal assistance. I understand that the Association of Village Council Presidents and Alaska Federation of Natives have made similar requests and I fully support their efforts in this regard.

The 2009 total Chinook salmon run projection is approximately 140,000 fish, which is insufficient to support adequate escapement, normal subsistence harvests, and Canadian border passage requirements, much less allow for a targeted commercial fishery. This is well below the previous five-year average of 199,700 fish. The cause of this decline is undetermined and could include a variety of factors including ocean survival, disease, bycatch, or other unknown factors. Because run sizes in consecutive years tend to be correlated, we expect several additional years of low returns.

Our analysis indicates that the decline in the Yukon Chinook fishery meets the standards in the 2007 NMFS policy document for disaster declarations as well as the criteria outlined in the 2009 proposed rule on standards and procedures for disaster determinations. In 2008, the commercial Chinook harvest volume totaled 4,641 fish, an 89 percent decline from the five-year average of 41,618 fish. The Chinook salmon harvest value fell dramatically in 2008, declining 87 percent from the five-year average. As of July 15, the 2009 commercial Chinook harvest was zero fish, a 100 percent decline in volume and value from the five-year average. The total value of the 2009 commercial Chinook fishery is likely to be negligible. We also compared the recent decline to the conditions which merited previous fishery disaster declarations for Alaska and West Coast salmon fisheries. The current situation is similar to or more severe than those situations, supporting our conclusion that this decline meets federal fishery disaster criteria.

Although we have compared the current conditions to the recent five-year average as that is the standard proposed by NMFS, this comparison does not truly describe the decline in the Yukon commercial Chinook fishery. Yukon salmon runs are still recovering from unexplained declines in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Average harvest in the fisheries from 1985-1994 was 123,000 Chinook salmon, which more accurately reflects the fishery's historic numbers.

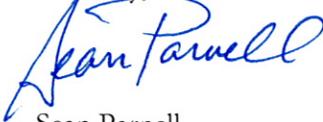
The Honorable Gary Locke  
August 7, 2009  
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Residents of rural communities along the river rely heavily on income from fishing and have few alternate income sources. These residents struggle with a high cost of living and limited employment opportunities, and this year they are struggling to rebuild after devastating flooding. This combination of factors makes the loss of income from the commercial fishery critical. The estimated average household income in the area for 2008 was \$31,866, a level approaching the federal poverty line even before adjusting for the high cost of living in the area. Commercial fishing is the only identified industry in the region that brings new money into the economy. Over 800 Alaskan permit holders are directly affected, along with crewmen, processing employees, and those who provide support services.

I have enclosed a memo from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game providing data about the run conditions and a memo from the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development documenting declining commercial fisheries income in the region. I hope these provide the information you need to make a determination on this request. We have been providing run assessment updates and technical information to assist National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Region in their analysis of the situation. We are committed to providing any additional information you may require. I urge you to make a prompt and favorable determination on this disaster request.

If we can provide further information, please contact my fisheries policy advisor, Cora Crome, at 907-465-3500.

Sincerely,



Sean Parnell  
Governor

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate  
The Honorable Mark Begich, United States Senate  
The Honorable Don Young, United States Congress  
The Honorable Donald Olson, Alaska State Senate  
The Honorable Richard Foster, Alaska State House of Representatives  
The Honorable Bob Herron, Alaska State House of Representatives  
The Honorable Reggie Joule, Alaska State House of Representatives  
The Honorable Woodie Salmon, Alaska State House of Representatives  
John W. Katz, Director of State/Federal Relations and Special Counsel, Alaska  
Office of the Governor  
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Emil Notti, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic  
Development  
Doug Mecum, Alaska Region Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Myron Naneng Sr., President, Association of Village Council Presidents  
Julie Kitka, President, Alaska Federation of Natives

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

*Division of Commercial Fisheries*

**SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR**

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PHONE: (907) 465-4210  
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**TO:** Denby Lloyd, Commissioner  
Department Fish and Game

**Date:** July 10, 2009

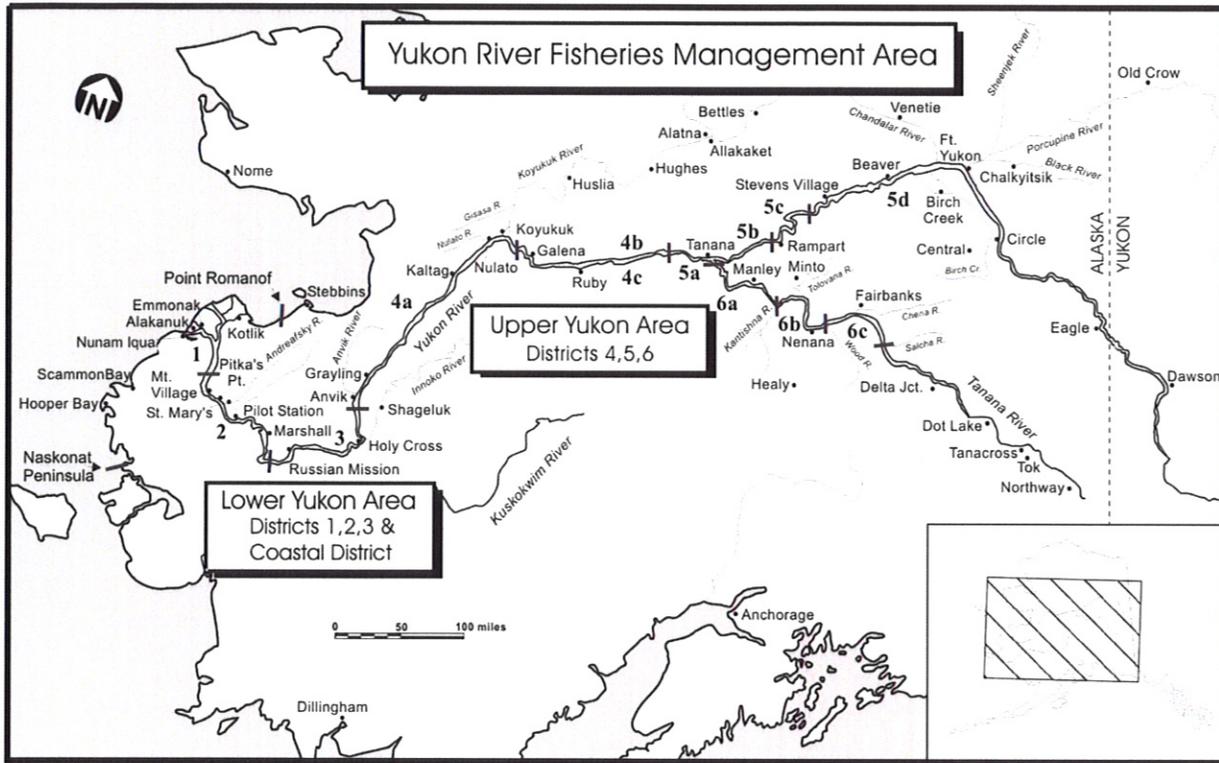
**FROM** John Hilsinger, Director  
Commercial Fisheries

**Subject:** Status of 2009 Yukon River  
Summer Season Salmon Fisheries

John Linderman  
AYK Regional Supervisor  
Commercial Fisheries

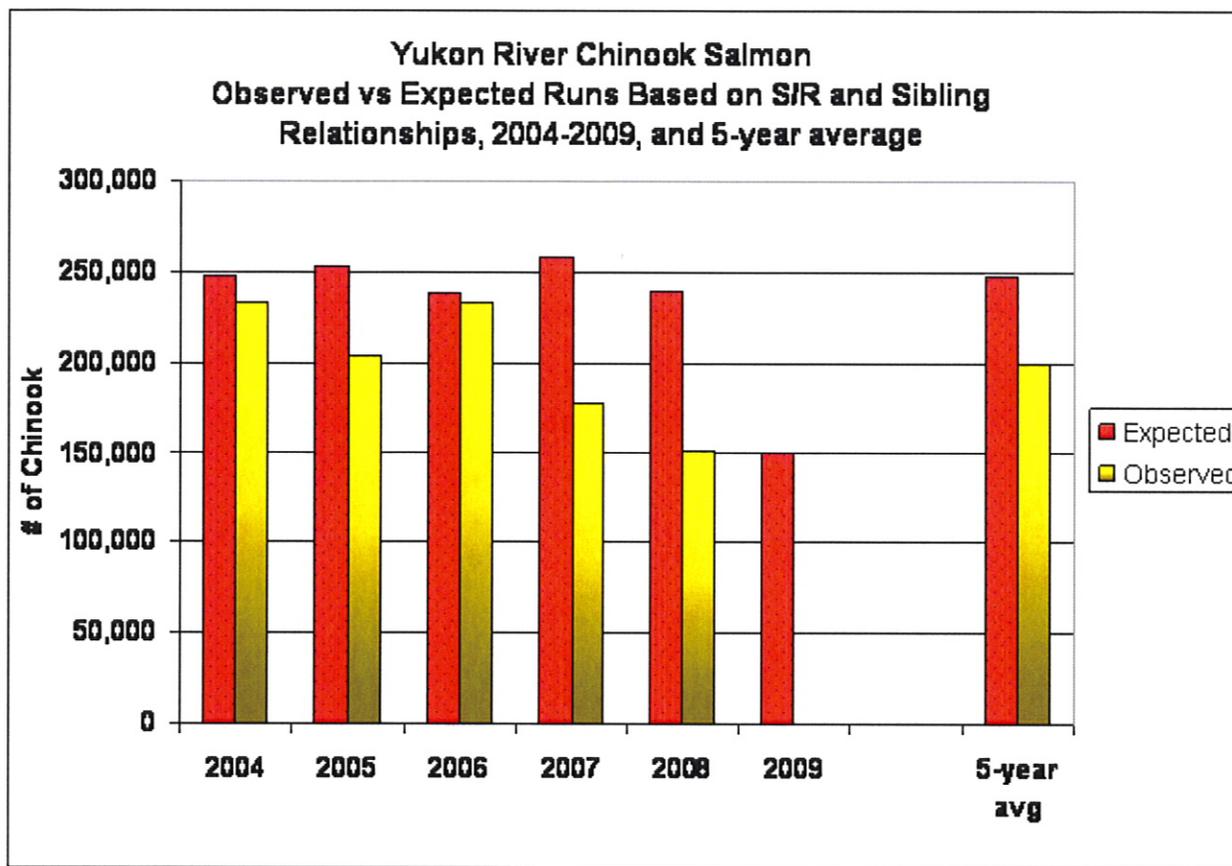
This memo provides information on the current status of the 2009 Yukon River salmon fisheries for discussion of a potential fisheries disaster declaration. This information includes a summary of the pre-season management strategy, run assessment, management actions, and harvest assessment to date. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Management of the Yukon River salmon fishery is made difficult and complex by a number of factors, including the frequent inability to determine stock specific abundance and timing, overlapping multi-species salmon runs, the gauntlet nature of Yukon River fisheries, allocation issues between lower river and upper river Alaskan fishermen, allocation and conservation issues between Alaska and Canada, and the immense size of the drainage. Salmon fisheries within the Yukon River may harvest stocks that are up to several weeks and over a thousand miles from their spawning grounds. Since harvest is taken largely from mixed stocks, some tributary populations may be under or over exploited in relation to abundance. It is not possible to manage for individual stocks in most areas where commercial and subsistence fisheries occur. The following map provides an indication of the size of the drainage and organization of the fishing districts along its length.



### Forecast and Management Strategy

*Chinook Salmon:* The Yukon River Chinook salmon stock was designated as a stock of yield concern in 2001. Exact causes for recent poor production are unknown, but may involve a suite of factors including unfavorable ocean conditions, freshwater environmental factors, and bycatch from the Bering Sea pollock fishery. The total 2009 Chinook salmon run was forecast to be 149,000 - 166,000 fish. Canadian-origin stocks were forecast to be 60,700 - 71,600 fish. The Yukon River Chinook salmon run was forecast by applying recent proportions of Canadian-origin fish in the total run to the outlook estimated for the Canadian component of the run. The 2007 and 2008 proportions of Canadian-origin fish in the total run were 37% and 36%, respectively, which is below the average of approximately 50%. Since recent run sizes are considered the best indicators of upcoming run size, the 2009 run outlook estimate is based on the 2007 and 2008 proportions. Using this method, the expected total Yukon River run size ranges from 149,000 - 166,000 based on sibling relationships and the Ricker models. Thus, the 2009 Yukon River Chinook salmon run was expected to be below average to poor with the primary concern being for a poor run of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon. The following figure shows performance of predictions vs. realized run size for Yukon River Chinook salmon from 2004-2008, and the outlook for 2009.

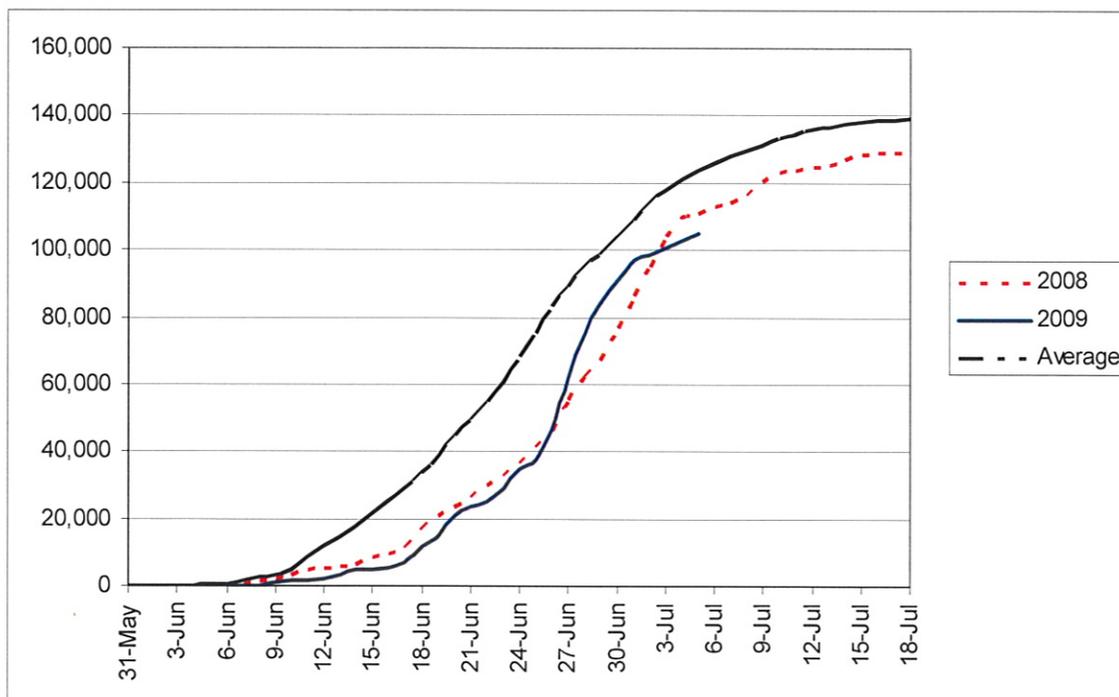


Given this forecast, it was therefore prudent to enter the 2009 season with the expectation that conservation measures beyond those used in 2008 would be required. It was unlikely that there would be a directed Chinook salmon commercial fishery in 2009 on the mainstem Yukon River. The subsistence fishing schedule would be implemented in early June with 50% reduction in subsistence fishing period duration for each district. Additionally, subsistence fishing would be closed on the first pulse of Chinook salmon, which is dominated by Canadian-origin stocks, as it migrated through each district. Federal managers intended to implement a special action limiting subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon to federally qualified users within federal public waters.

*Summer Chum Salmon:* The total run of summer chum salmon in the Yukon River was forecast to be approximately 1.5–2.0 million for 2009, which constitutes an average run. The summer chum salmon run was expected to provide for escapements, a normal subsistence harvest, and a surplus for commercial harvest. If inseason indicators of run strength developed as anticipated, the commercially harvestable surplus in Alaska would range from 500,000 to 900,000 summer chum salmon. However, the actual commercial harvest of summer chum salmon in 2009 would likely be affected by the forecasted poor Chinook salmon run, as Chinook salmon are incidentally harvested in chum salmon-directed fisheries. Given a surplus of summer chum salmon was identified, initiation of summer chum salmon directed commercial fishing would be contingent on the impact to the Chinook salmon run.

## Inseason Run Assessment

*Chinook Salmon:* The lower river test fishery was hampered by high water and debris caused by flooding. The estimates provided early in the run by Pilot Station sonar are considered to be conservative because high water conditions and turbidity made assessment of the run through the first three weeks of June challenging. Best available data indicate the 2009 Yukon River Chinook salmon run is similar in timing and abundance to the 2008 run, with the primary concern being for a poor run of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon. The Pilot Station Sonar passage estimate for Chinook salmon through July 6 is approximately 108,000 fish, which is below the average of 123,530 and the median of 120,853 for this date. When making comparisons with 2009 data, it is important to note that historical averages are reflective of commercial harvests occurring within the 123 miles downstream of Pilot Station Sonar; hence, the total run estimate will likely be lower than previous years with similar passage estimates. The current projection is for 120,000 to 125,000 fish to pass Pilot Station Sonar this season. Accounting for harvest and escapement downstream of Pilot Station Sonar the 2009 total Chinook salmon run projection is approximately 140,000 fish which would be insufficient to support adequate escapement, normal subsistence harvests, and Canadian border passage requirements. The Chinook salmon run is later than average and it is estimated that approximately 25% of the run passed Pilot Station as of June 23, 50% as of June 27, and 75% as of June 30. The following figure shows estimated Chinook salmon passage at Pilot Station sonar in 2008 and 2009 compared to the historical average (1995, 1997-1999, 2001-2002, and 2004- 2008).



*Chum Salmon:* The Pilot Station sonar passage estimate for summer chum salmon through July 6 is approximately 1,069,000 fish and the current inseason projection is for 1.3 to 1.4 million to pass upstream of Pilot Station Sonar. Accounting for harvest and escapement downstream of

Pilot station Sonar, the total 2009 summer chum salmon run is projected to be approximately 1.5 million fish. The summer chum salmon run appears to be slightly later than average run timing, and it is estimated that 25% of the run passed Pilot Station Sonar on June 26 and the midpoint of the run passed as of June 29.

At this point in the 2009 summer season, both the Chinook salmon and the summer chum salmon runs appear to be at lower end of the preseason forecast ranges.

### **Inseason Management**

Through July 7, the following management actions have been taken:

- The subsistence fishing schedule was implemented on June 8 in District 1 with a 50% reduction in fishing period duration, while the Coastal District (Bering Sea coast) was open to subsistence fishing seven days per week with gillnet mesh size restricted to 6-inches or less. The reduced subsistence fishing schedule was implemented in subsequent Yukon River fishing districts following Chinook salmon run timing.
  - *Justification:* Consistent with the 2009 run forecast and pre-season management strategy, developed with input from fishermen throughout the drainage, this action was taken in response to the projected poor Chinook salmon return for 2009.
- Effective June 15, subsistence fishing was closed in District 1 for two subsistence fishing periods as the first pulse of Chinook salmon began entering the river. Subsistence fishing periods were closed in subsequent Yukon River fishing districts following run timing of the first pulse as it migrated upriver. Subsistence fishing periods returned to the reduced schedule (50% reduction in period duration) once the first pulse had passed through each district.
  - *Justification:* Consistent with the 2009 run forecast and pre-season management strategy, this action was taken in an effort to conserve Canadian-origin Chinook salmon that dominate in the first pulse.
- Starting June 22, gillnet mesh size was restricted to 6-inches or less in District 1. Mesh size was subsequently restricted to 6-inches or less in District 2 (June 24) and District 3 (June 28)
  - *Justification:* Given current Chinook salmon run assessment, additional subsistence fishing period closures would have been implemented if mesh size was left unrestricted to target Chinook salmon. This action was taken to allow for subsistence opportunity on chum salmon while reducing subsistence harvest pressure on early running Chinook salmon.
- The commercial chum salmon fishing season was opened on June 29. Commercial fishing was initiated in District 2 on June 29 with a 3-hour period followed by a 4-hour commercial fishing period in District 1 on June 30. To date there have been three chum salmon directed commercial fishing periods in District 1 ranging from 3- to 9-hours in duration, four commercial fishing periods in District 2 ranging from 3- to 6-hours in duration, and one 36-hour commercial fishing period in Subdistrict 4A. All commercial periods have been restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size in order to minimize harvest of Chinook salmon. Period duration and timing was scheduled to coincide with low Chinook salmon density in each district. Additional commercial fishing periods are anticipated through mid-July.

- *Justification:* Run assessment information on summer chum salmon indicated adequate abundance to allow for chum directed commercial fishing by June 27; however, concern remained that commercial fishermen would target more valuable Chinook salmon even though no surplus was available for commercial use. In an unprecedented step, the majority of commercial salmon buyers operating in the lower river voluntarily agreed to not purchase Chinook salmon harvested incidentally. Incidentally harvested Chinook salmon could be retained for subsistence use, thereby removing any monetary incentive for fishermen to actively target Chinook salmon.
- Effective July 1, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) adopted an Emergency Regulation prohibiting the commercial sale of Chinook salmon in the Yukon River while allowing Chinook salmon harvested in the commercial chum salmon fishery to be retained for subsistence use.
  - *Justification:* In an effort to ensure Chinook salmon would not be targeted by commercial fishermen, ADF&G petitioned the board to pass an Emergency Regulation prohibiting the commercial sale of Chinook salmon while allowing for the retention of incidentally caught Chinook salmon for subsistence use. The board adopted the proposed Emergency Regulation unanimously on June 29 and it went into effect July 1.
- The 6-inch or smaller mesh size restriction in the subsistence fishery was rescinded in District 3 (July 1), District 1 (July 2), and District 2 (July 5).
  - *Justification:* Given an increase in Chinook salmon abundance during the second pulse concurrent with inseason genetic analysis information showing a decrease in the proportion of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon, it was warranted to allow for unrestricted mesh size in the subsistence fishery to allow fishermen to actively target Chinook salmon.

## **Harvest Assessment**

*Subsistence Fishery:* Little quantitative information is available inseason to assess Yukon River subsistence harvests. ADF&G, along with other agencies and local organizations, collects qualitative subsistence harvest information inseason in the form of verbal reports and community surveys. As would be expected given the poor Chinook salmon run and management actions taken, inseason information indicates subsistence fisherman have been having difficulties completing their Chinook salmon harvests this year. Earlier in the run, several lower river fishermen had reported completing their Chinook salmon harvests; many had just initiated subsistence fishing or were in the midst of subsistence fishing activities, while many others had not yet begun fishing. More recent surveys of subsistence fishermen indicated most families in lower river communities have completed their Chinook salmon harvest for the season. Fishermen in the middle and upper river have only recently begun their subsistence salmon fishing activities as Chinook salmon have begun arriving in their respective districts.

Over the last ten years, Chinook salmon subsistence harvest has ranged from 36,404 to 56,959 fish. As established by the board, the Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) for Yukon River Chinook salmon is 45,500-66,704 fish. Collection of quantitative subsistence harvest data occurs during post-season surveys conducted each fall. Quantitative assessment of subsistence

salmon harvest in 2009 would not be available until spring of 2010. Any comparison to recent year averages or to the Chinook salmon ANS would not be available until that time.

*Commercial Fishery:* Performance of the Yukon River commercial fishery has varied over the years with the general magnitude of commercial harvest and exvessel value of the fishery decreasing from its peak in the 1980s, particularly in the last 10-15 years. Total harvest of Chinook and summer chum salmon has decreased from average highs of approximately 123,000 Chinook and 800,000 summer chum salmon from 1985-1994 to more recent 10-year average harvests of approximately 31,500 Chinook and 57,000 summer chum salmon from 1999-2008. There have been no commercial Chinook salmon sales to date in 2009 and 112,000 summer chum salmon have been harvested through the District 2 commercial period on July 6.

Of the total Yukon River commercial fishery exvessel value, Chinook salmon have been the primary contributor both historically and in recent years. Price paid per pound by species has averaged \$3.67 for Chinook, \$0.12 for summer chum, \$0.28 for fall chum, and \$0.39 for coho salmon from 1999-2008 in the Lower Yukon Area, Districts 1-3. The recent 10- year average exvessel value has been \$2,087,000 for Chinook salmon and \$81,000 for summer chum salmon. Chinook salmon has represented 88% of the average total exvessel value for all species from 1999-2008. With the absence of any commercial Chinook salmon sales to date this year, it would be expected that total exvessel value of the commercial fishery would be near an all time low. Although summer chum salmon price has been increasing in recent years and is currently at \$0.50 per pound, the combined total value of summer chum, fall chum, and coho salmon harvest is unlikely to compensate for the much higher value that Chinook salmon would have contributed to the fishery. The following tables include details of commercial Chinook salmon harvest by district and exvessel value by river area and species from 1999 through 2008.

Commercial Chinook salmon harvest by area and district, Yukon River Drainage, 1999-2008.

Year	Lower Yukon Area			Upper Yukon Area			Total Harvest		
	District 1	District 2	District 3	Subtotal	District 4	District 5		District 6	Subtotal
1999	37,161	27,133	538	64,832	1,437	2,604	680	4,721	69,553
2000	4,735	3,783	0	8,518	0	0	0	0	8,518
2001 <sup>a</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2002	11,087	11,434	0	22,521	0	771	836	1,607	24,128
2003	22,709	14,220	0	36,929	562	1,134	1,813	3,509	40,438
2004	28,403	24,145	0	52,548	0	1,546	2,057	3,603	56,151
2005	16,694	13,413	0	30,107	0	1,469	453	1,922	32,029
2006	23,748	19,843	315	43,906	0	1,839	84	1,923	45,829
2007	18,616	13,306	190	32,112	0	1,241	281	1,522	33,634
2008	2,530	2,111	0	4,641	0	0	0	0	4,641
<b>1999-2008</b>									
Average	16,568	12,939	104	29,611	200	1,060	620	1,881	31,492

<sup>a</sup>No commercial fishing in 2001.

Value of the commercial fishery to Yukon Area fishermen, 1999 through 2008.

Year	Chinook			Summer Chum			Fall Chum			Coho			Total
	Lower Yukon	Upper Yukon	Subtotal	Lower Yukon	Upper Yukon	Subtotal	Lower Yukon	Upper Yukon	Subtotal	Lower Yukon	Upper Yukon	Subtotal	
1999	4,950,522	74,475	5,024,997	19,687	1,720	21,407	35,639	876	36,515	3,620	0	3,620	5,086,539
2000	725,606	0	725,606	8,633	0	8,633	0	0	0	0	0	0	734,239
2001 <sup>a</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2002	1,691,105	20,744	1,711,849	4,342	6,176	10,518	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,722,367
2003	1,871,202	40,957	1,912,159	1,585	6,879	8,464	5,993	3,398	9,391	18,168	5,095	23,263	1,953,277
2004	3,063,667	38,290	3,101,957	8,884	9,645	18,529	1,126	848	1,974	2,774	6,372	9,146	3,131,606
2005	1,952,109	24,415	1,976,524	11,004	13,479	24,483	316,698	48,159	364,857	83,793	19,182	102,975	2,468,839
2006	3,290,367	32,631	3,322,998	23,862	42,988	66,850	202,637	33,806	236,443	50,299	11,137	61,436	3,687,727
2007	1,939,114	27,190	1,966,304	220,715	34,421	255,136	144,256	16,907	161,163	127,869	1,368	129,237	2,511,840
2008	325,470	0	325,470	326,930	65,840	392,770 <sup>b</sup>	429,750	20,842	450,592	216,088	6,225	222,313	1,391,145
Average (99-08)	1,980,916	25,870	2,006,786	62,564	18,115	80,679	113,610	12,484	126,094	50,261	4,938	55,199	2,268,758

<sup>a</sup> No commercial salmon fisheries occurred in the Yukon River in 2001.

<sup>b</sup> Includes \$4,656 in sales of pink salmon in Districts 1 and 2.



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 22, 2009  
TO: Emil Notti, Commissioner DCCED  
FROM: Casey Campbell, Economic Advisor, DCCED Office of Economic Development  
RE: Yukon River Salmon Fishery Disaster Declaration Analysis  
CC:

The Yukon Chinook fishery has suffered in recent years from low returns, causing economic hardship in the region. This analysis provides data on fishery participation, earnings, and harvest for both the Chinook fishery and the Yukon salmon fisheries overall. The decline in the Chinook fishery meets the standards in the 2007 National Marine Fisheries Service policy document for disaster declarations as well as the criteria outlined in the 2009 proposed rule on standards and procedures for disaster determinations.

- In 2008, the Chinook harvest volume totaled 4,641 fish, an 89 percent decline from the five year average of 41,618 fish. The Chinook salmon harvest value fell dramatically in 2008; declining 87 percent from the five year average.
- 2009 commercial Chinook harvest to date has been zero fish, a 100 percent decline in volume and value from the 5 year average. The value of the 2009 commercial Chinook fishery is likely to be negligible.
- The recent five year average is considerably lower than historic fishery volumes and values. Yukon salmon runs have been recovering from unexplained declines in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Average harvest in the fisheries from 1985-1994 was 123,000 Chinook salmon.
- Residents of rural communities along the river rely heavily on income from fishing and have few alternate employment opportunities. The estimated average household income in the area for 2008 was \$31,866, a level approaching the federal poverty line even before adjusting for the high cost of living in the area. Commercial fishing is the only identified industry in the region that brings new money into the economy.

### **Fishery Participation**

Participation in the 2008 Lower Yukon commercial salmon fishery was down 16 percent from the five year average, with a total of 473 permits fished on the Lower Yukon. On the Upper Yukon, participation declined 74 percent from the five year average with two permits fished. Participation in the Upper Yukon fish wheel fishery remained consistent with the five year average, with 20 permits fished. 2009 data is incomplete.

### **Fishery Earnings**

In total, revenue from the 2008 Yukon fishery declined 49 percent from the five year average for all species and gear groups. The Chinook salmon harvest value fell dramatically in 2008; declining 87 percent from the five year average. Over the preceding 5 years, Chinook salmon have accounted for 89 percent of the total Yukon salmon fishery value. In 2008, Chinook accounted for only 23 percent of the total harvest value. While 2009 data is incomplete, there have been no commercial sales of Chinook to date, an absence of directed openings for Chinook and a prohibition on the sale of Chinook incidentally harvested in the chum fishery. The value of the 2009 commercial Chinook fishery is likely to be negligible.

While Chinook harvests were down substantially in 2008, chum salmon harvest rebounded from the historically low levels which resulted in a 2000 disaster declaration. As chum harvest volumes increased, the value of chum salmon also increased from a low

of \$0.05 per pound in 2003 to \$0.40 per pound in 2008. Although summer chum salmon runs have allowed for some commercial harvest in 2009, openings have been restricted to minimize incidental catch of Chinook. Additionally, due to value differences between Chinook and chum salmon, increased chum salmon harvest and value does not adequately compensate for the decline in the Chinook fishery.

**Fishery Harvest**

In 2008, the Chinook harvest volume totaled 4,641 fish, an 89 percent decline from the five year average of 41,618 fish. The chum salmon harvest totaled 151,786 fish, an increase of 106 percent over the five year average of 73,735 fish. 2009 commercial Chinook harvest to date has been zero fish, a 100 percent decline from the 5 year average. The chum salmon fishery is ongoing.

It is important to note that the recent five year average is not representative of historic fishery volumes and values. Yukon salmon runs have been recovering from unexplained declines in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Average harvest in the fisheries from 1985-1994 was 123,000 Chinook salmon and 800,000 summer chum salmon.

**Importance of Fisheries to the Region**

While no official statistics are readily available to identify the importance of commercial fishing to the economy on the Yukon River, it is clear that residents of rural communities along the river rely heavily on income from fishing and have few alternate employment opportunities. It is reasonable to assume that most fisheries revenue goes to residents in the Wade Hampton Census area, since the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission classifies 86 percent of permit holders in the Lower Yukon fishery as “local”. The estimated average household income in the area for 2008 was \$31,866, meaning that the average household income in the area approaches the federal poverty line, even before adjusting for the high cost of living in the area. Describing the decline in ex-vessel value does not address the multiplier effect of commercial fishing activity as revenue generated flows through the community, the secondary jobs created in processing and other support services, or the social and cultural benefits local residents derive from fishing.

Government is a primary employer for residents of the Wade Hampton Census area; in 2008 it accounted for 66 percent of the wage and salary income in the area. Since 2003, government employment has accounted for between 60 and 69 percent of all wage and salary income. Local government employment is the largest component of government employment accounting for 93 percent of all government wage and salary income. Local government jobs are typically with the schools and health clinics.

Based on job classification data from the Department of Labor, commercial fishing is the only identified basic sector industry in the region. A basic sector industry is an industry that brings new money into the economy for recirculation. In rural Alaska, government employment and spending brings new money comes into the local economy. However, government is not typically considered a basic sector since government spending is tax revenue from business activity and resident income. Alaska’s other basic sectors are mining, tourism, timber, international cargo, oil and gas, manufacturing and agriculture. The Wade Hampton area has no jobs associated with those sectors, indicating commercial fishing is the only basic sector.

**FISHERY TABLES**

**Permits and Earnings by Year and Gear Type: Lower Yukon, Gillnet**

	Permits Fished	Total Gross Earnings	Average Gross Earnings
2003	557	\$ 1,940,035	\$ 3,483
2004	551	2,919,381	5,298
2005	579	2,425,264	4,189
2006	574	3,712,163	6,467
2007	565	2,534,236	4,485
2008	473	1,276,345	2,698
<b>5 Yr Avg</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>\$ 2,706,216</b>	<b>\$ 4,784</b>

Source: CFEC

**Permits and Earnings by Year and Gear Type: Upper Yukon, Gillnet**

	Permits Fished	Total Gross Earnings	Average Gross Earnings
2003	7	\$10,354	\$ 1,479
2004	9	12,768	1,419
2005	6	9,582	1,597
2006	10	12,805	1,281
2007	6	9,403	1,567
2008	2	-	-
<b>5 Yr Avg</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$ 10,982</b>	<b>\$ 1,469</b>

Source: CFEC

**Permits and Earnings by Year and Gear Type: Upper Yukon, Fish Wheel**

	Permits Fished	Total Gross Earnings	Average Gross Earnings
2003	20	\$ 47,179	\$ 2,359
2004	14	38,941	2,782
2005	15	94,533	6,302
2006	26	104,645	4,025
2007	24	79,365	3,307
2008	20	151,684	7,584
<b>5 Yr Avg</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$ 72,933</b>	<b>\$ 3,755</b>

Source: CFEC

**Harvest Volume (Number of Fish)**

	Chinook	Chum	Total
2003	40,437	10,685	51,122
2004	56,168	26,410	82,578
2005	32,029	41,264	73,293
2006	45,829	92,116	137,945
2007	33,629	198,201	231,830
2008	4,641	151,786	156,427
<i>2003-2007 Avg</i>	<i>41,618</i>	<i>73,735</i>	<i>115,354</i>
<b>2008 % change from 5-year Avg</b>	<b>-89%</b>	<b>106%</b>	<b>36%</b>

Source: ADF&G

**Value of Yukon River Fishery: Chinook**

	Lower Yukon	Upper Yukon	Subtotal
2003	\$ 1,871,202	\$ 40,957	\$ 1,912,159
2004	3,063,667	38,290	3,101,957
2005	1,952,109	24,415	1,976,524
2006	3,290,367	32,631	3,322,998
2007	1,939,114	27,190	1,966,304
2008	325,470	-	325,470
<i>2003-2007 Avg</i>	<i>2,423,292</i>	<i>32,697</i>	<i>2,455,988</i>
<b>2008 % change from 5-year Avg</b>	<b>-87%</b>	<b>-100%</b>	<b>-87%</b>

Source: ADF&G

**Value of Yukon River Fishery: Summer Chum**

	<b>Lower Yukon</b>	<b>Upper Yukon</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
2003	\$ 1,585	\$ 6,879	\$ 8,464
2004	8,884	9,645	18,529
2005	11,004	13,479	24,483
2006	23,862	42,988	66,850
2007	220,715	34,421	255,136
2008	326,930	65,840	392,770
<i>2003-2007 Avg</i>	<i>53,210</i>	<i>21,482</i>	<i>74,692</i>
<b>2008 % change from 5-year Avg</b>	<b>514%</b>	<b>206%</b>	<b>426%</b>

Source: ADF&G

**Value of Yukon River Fishery: Fall Chum**

	<b>Lower Yukon</b>	<b>Upper Yukon</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
2003	\$ 5,993	\$ 3,398	\$ 9,391
2004	1,126	848	1,974
2005	316,698	48,159	364,857
2006	202,637	33,806	236,443
2007	144,256	16,907	161,163
2008	429,750	20,842	450,592
<i>2003-2007 Avg</i>	<i>134,142</i>	<i>20,624</i>	<i>154,766</i>
<b>2008 % change from 5-year Avg</b>	<b>220%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>191%</b>

Source: ADF&G

**Value of Yukon River Fishery: Coho**

	<b>Lower Yukon</b>	<b>Upper Yukon</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
2003	\$ 18,168	\$ 5,095	\$ 23,263
2004	2,774	6,372	9,146
2005	83,793	19,182	102,975
2006	50,299	11,137	61,436
2007	127,869	1,368	129,237
2008	216,088	6,225	222,313
<i>2003-2007 Avg</i>	<i>56,581</i>	<i>8,631</i>	<i>65,211</i>
<b>2008 % change from 5-year Avg</b>	<b>282%</b>	<b>-28%</b>	<b>241%</b>

Source: ADF&G

**Value of Yukon River Fishery: Total**

	<b>Total # of Permits Fished</b>	<b>Total Value</b>	<b>Est. Permit Earnings</b>
2003	584	\$ 1,953,277	\$ 3,345
2004	574	3,131,606	5,456
2005	600	2,468,839	4,115
2006	610	3,687,727	6,045
2007	595	2,511,840	4,222
2008	495	1,391,145	2,810
<i>2003-2007 Avg</i>	<i>593</i>	<i>2,750,658</i>	<i>4,636</i>
<b>2008 % change from 5-year Avg</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>-49%</b>	<b>-39%</b>

Source: Calculations by Office of Economic Development