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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 8, 2020

Yukon River Fall Chum Spawning Goal Unlikely to be Met this Year

In-season estimates made by Alaska Department of Fish and Game at Pilot Sonar, located in Alaska near the mouth of the Yukon River, indicate that it is highly unlikely that the lower end of the Canadian fall chum spawning escapement goals (mainstem: 70,000 to 104,000, Fishing Branch: 22,000 to 49,000) will be met in 2020. The current projections for Canadian-origin Yukon River adult fall chum is 50,500 with an additional 8,000 for the Fishing Branch on the Porcupine River. We expect these projections to change as the fall chum continue to enter and migrate up the river. We will be closely following the estimates from Pilot Sonar and from Eagle Sonar, which is located near the Canadian Border.

Al von Finster, Chair of the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee states, "We have been fortunate for the last decade that the fall chum numbers have allowed for a harvest share on both sides of the border. Fall chum have been an important substitute in redirecting harvest from Yukon River Chinook stocks, especially in Alaska. In 2020 the Alaskans closed their fall chum fisheries due to low numbers of returning adults. We share their concern."

As such, the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee has recommended that First Nations on the Yukon River and its tributaries implement additional measures to conserve fall chum salmon, if they have not already done so.

Should you require further information or clarification please contact Elizabeth MacDonald, Executive Director of the YSSC, at 867- 393- 6725.

Press/Media Contact
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