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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 18, 2020

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

The in-season counts from Pilot Sonar, located in Alaska near the mouth, indicate that it is highly unlikely that the lower end of the fall chum spawning escapement goals (mainstem: 70,000 to 104,000, Fishing Branch: 22,000 to 49,000) will be met this year. Pilot sonar has estimated 189,000 fall chum compared to an average of 894,694. The projections for mainstem Canadian-origin adult fall chum are 47,000 and 7,500 for Fishing Branch.

As such, the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee has recommended that First Nation Governments request their citizens to cease fishing fall chum on the Yukon River and its tributaries in 2020.

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."

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

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