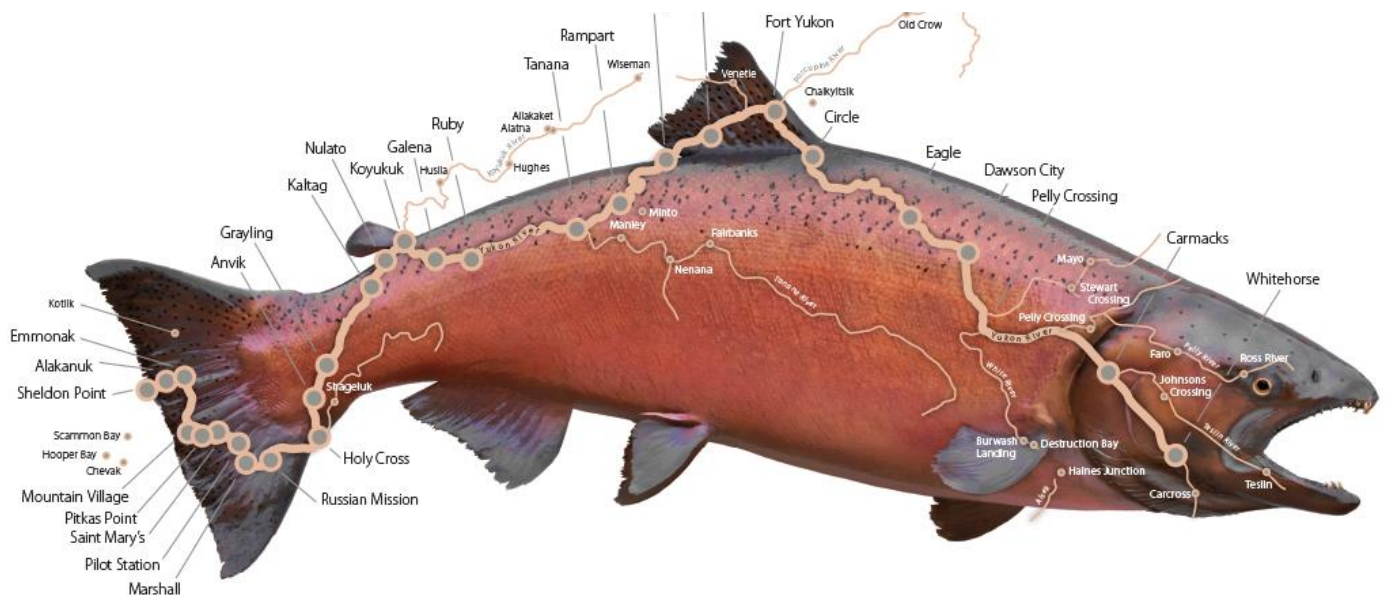


Salmon know no borders



2023 Yukon River Educational Exchange hosted in Alaska!

Call for Applications

Deadline to Apply: June 11, 2023



The Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC), in partnership with Alaska's Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA), are excited to announce the 2023 Yukon River Educational Exchange opportunity. This year's theme is "**Cellangaq**" – it's a Yup'ik word that means to obtain awareness, to have one's first experience(s), or to leave a lasting memory.

We are looking for 6 Yukon residents to journey to the lower Yukon River in Alaska. The trip is currently scheduled for **July 10-20, 2023**. You will share your Yukon River salmon knowledge, experiences, culture, and traditions with Alaskans and learn about theirs in return!

What's this exchange all about? Who's organizing it?

The educational exchanges happen annually with alternating host countries. It's a way for people who live on both sides of the United States/Canada border to increase their understanding of their neighbours' experiences and challenges as they relate to Yukon River salmon fisheries. It's also a way for fisheries management agencies on both sides to discuss Canadian-origin Chinook and fall chum salmon issues directly with the people who rely on them.

The exchanges are funded by the Yukon River Panel (YRP), which was established by the Yukon River Salmon Agreement (2001). The YRP consists of 12 members – 6 from Canada, 6 from the United States – plus alternates. They meet twice a year to make recommendations to management agencies on both sides of the border about the conservation and management of Canadian-origin salmon. YSSC members make up the majority of the Canadian delegation on the YRP. You'll learn more about all of this if you're selected to be one of our travellers!

The Executive Directors of the YSSC (on the Yukon side) and YRDFA (on the Alaska side) oversee the program and coordinate all the trip details – recruiting participants, hosting an orientation session, and making all the arrangements for travel, places to stay, food, safety, and amazing experiences and fun along the way!

When's the exchange happening? Where is it going?

The trip is currently scheduled for July 10-20, 2023. Here's our planned itinerary:

- July 10: Orientation day in Whitehorse – meet fellow travellers, learn some interesting things from people who work in the salmon world, review the trip plan, and get ready to leave
- July 11: Drive Whitehorse to Tok, overnight there (long day of driving)
- July 12: Drive Tok to Fairbanks, meet YRDFA staff and fly in a small plane to our first community of Grayling, stay there for 2 nights
- July 14-19: Travel by small boat down the river, stopping in 3 other communities (Anvik, Holy Cross, and Russian Mission) and staying 2 nights in each one
- July 19: Charter plane flies us from Russian Mission to Fairbanks, then we drive to Tok and spend the night there
- July 20: Drive Tok to Whitehorse (long day of driving)

What else could I expect on this trip?

- You may need an extra travel day on each end if you live in one of the communities outside Whitehorse. There could also be unforeseen delays due to weather, road closures, etc. so you should have a bit of flexibility.
- Travel will be by vehicle, small plane, and small boat. Weather will mostly be cool, wet, and coastal. Accommodations will range from hotels to community hosts' homes and camps. You won't have much, if any, time spent on your own. There will be limited to no internet for the main part of the trip and during the driving days. You should be comfortable with all of that.
- You will be paid \$160/day including travel days. All your transportation, accommodations, and food costs will be covered. We'll make sure you have the proper gear to go on this trip, and if you don't have your own we'll find you some.
- Community visits may include social gatherings like dinners, presentations, or traditional dancing. You may also visit fish camps, schools, or cultural camps and talk with Elders. You'll be encouraged to think about how you can bring everything you're seeing and learning back with you to share with your home community and others.

What else is required if I'm chosen to be one of the travellers?

- You must be a Yukon resident and have a valid passport before departure day.
- You must sign a Participant Agreement before the trip – this outlines what we expect from you before, during, and after the trip and it makes sure you understand what we will provide to you.
- You must commit to reporting back on your experience to your community as well as to YSSC, YRDFA, and the YRP. We can help you with this! And reporting could take many forms – a written summary, a presentation, a photo story, a video, a poster, or anything else creative you would like to do.

This all sounds great, I'm interested! How do I apply?

Share your salmon story with us! Tell us about yourself and why you'd like to participate – here's some ideas:

Where do you live? Have you always lived there? Where's your family from? What are your experiences with and memories of salmon? How far have you travelled on the Yukon River system? What have you seen change over the years? What would you like to see happen in the future?

What do you know about Yukon and/or international salmon management? It's OK if you tell us you know absolutely nothing but would like to learn.

What do you hope to gain from this opportunity? What could you share with the Alaskan people you'll meet? When you come home, how would you share what you've seen and experienced with others?

You can submit your application in writing (1-2 pages is good), but you don't have to! Send us your application by video, or audio, or as a presentation, or a drawing, or whatever format you think best reflects who you are and why you would make an amazing representative for Canada and the Yukon on this exchange.

Make sure to include your full name, address, and the best ways to contact you (phone and/or e-mail).

We will aim to review applications the week of June 12th, and notify all applicants of the results shortly afterwards.

Please submit your application by midnight (Yukon time) on June 11th to:

Monica Krieger, Executive Director
Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee
PO Box 31094 Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5P7
Ph. 867-393-6725 E-mail: ex.dir@yssc.ca

What if I have more questions?

Contact Monica!

Or visit our websites for more information on what we all do:

www.yssc.ca, www.yukonsalmon.org, www.yukonriverpanel.com