

Fairbanks, Alaska.
October, 12, 1936

Commissioner of Fisheries,
Washington, D.C.

Enclosed herewith please find annual report of the Fisheries
for the Yukon River.

Respectfully,

Inspector, Alaska Fisheries.

Washington Office.

Alaska Reindeer Company, Saltery located at head of Kwiklokchun Channel.

2-	Pickup Launches
7-	Dories.
1-	Transporter.
2-	Scows.
24-	Nets. 8- $\frac{1}{2}$ in. mesh - 1,200 fathoms
	Locations shown on marked chart.
1-	Splitter. (White man)
1-	Salter. (White man)
1-	Cooper. (White man)
19-	Slimers. (Natives)
1-	Manager. (White man)
288-	800 # Tierces mild cure kings.
66-	200 # Bbls., hard salt kings
13,387-	Kings.
4,373-	Kings purchased from Indt. fishermen.

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Chris. Lauredsen Saltery located at Ageklarok - tin-can-point.

- 1- Power launch.
- 1- Derris
- 2- Nets. 8- $\frac{1}{2}$ in. mesh- 35- fathoms each.
Did all his own work.
- 12- 800 $\frac{1}{2}$ Tierces wild cure kings.
- 609- Kings.

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Frank Kern, Saltery located on small Barge in Kvikkloshun Channel.

- 1- Pickup launch.
- 6- Dories.
- 2- Transporters.
- 12- Fishermen. (Natives)
- 12- Nets. 8- $\frac{1}{2}$ in mesh- 600 fathoms.
Locations shown on marked chart.
- 1- Splitter. (Native)
- 1- Salter. (Native)
- 8- Slimers. (Natives)
- 1- Foreman. (White man)
- 4,632- Kings.
- 72- Tierces, 800 # each mild cure kings.
- 24- Bbls., 200 # each hard salt kings.

Frank Kern- Cannery located in Kwiguk Slough at Kwiguk.

- 2- Power dories.
- 3- Fish wheels. located in Kwiguk Slough.
- 6- Natives in Hand Cannery and on cutting raft.
- 2,364- Kings.
- 4,000- Chums.
- 19- 200 # Bbls., hard salted king bellies.
- 1- 200 # Bbl., Chum bellies.
- 144- Cases 1 # cans Kings.
- 20- Cases 1 # cans smoked kings.
- 3- Tons dried chums for dog feed.
All caught in Kwiguk Slough

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Run & escapement - 5 - A.

This season the kings were several days late in coming into the river, ice conditions at the mouth was no doubt the reason, from June, 5th. to June, 13th. the catches were light, from June, 14th. there was considerable increase up to the time the Salteries were compelled to close down for lack of tierces and salt, the best catches were made on June, 29th. from observations made at Kwiguk I believe the peak of the run was from June, 29th. to July, 7th. All salmon caught came into the river by the Kutnukauk and Archaron Channels.

The chum run came into the river at the same time the kings did, very little fishing was done for chums until after the Salteries closed as practically all the Natives were at the Salteries working, at Kwiguk and Sun-shine-bay the peak of the run was from June, 28th. to July, 10th, the second run came into the river on July, 29th, and was exceptionally heavy at the mouth and as far up the river as Pilot Station, there is no doubt but what the catch from Pilot Station to Tanana was the lightest in years, with the exception of a few camps and here are the reasons for the light catch, when the first run was on very few of the fish wheels were in the river, practically every Native was in their Village celebrating or as they call it Pot-latching, when they did get their wheels in the river there was high water and plenty of drift wood running and the wheels were stalled with drift wood most of the time, at several of the best locations sand bars had formed below the wheel sites and they were turning over, it is next to impossible to get a Native to move his wheel from where his ancestors fished. all of these things are governed by the medicine men, if he tells them the fish are coming into the river at a certain time and place, that is the time and place they are going and nothing will change them.

At Ruby Alex Brown who has always had the best catches along the river told me he was convinced the fish were in the river, but had followed the deep water out too far for the wheels to catch them.

5- 8- Seasonal history.

Left Nenana with the Launch Coot on May 23, en-route to the mouth of the Yukon River, upon arrival stream markers were put out defining the mouth, one at Nylak on the right limit and the other at Ageklarok- Tin-can-point, during the time the fishermen had their nets out a regular patrol was carried on, there were no violations of the Fishery Laws, but on the morning of June, 5th. a small argument arose between Frak Kern and the Northern Commercial Company's foreman over locations and the time the nets went into the water. The Northern Commercial Co's natives got excited and put their nets in before 6- A.M. This was enough to start an argument as there has always been bad blood between these two outfits. after about one hour of wrangling the nets were placed to the satisfaction of everyone concerned.

The Launch Coot was the only boat used for patrol duty on the Yukon, Stream Guard C. B. Rigsby acted as Engineer and Assistant on the Coot at a salary of \$5.00 per day and a per diem of \$4.00 per day, less .80 per day for lodging while aboard the Coot, started work on May, 15th. services terminated on September 11th. Charles Mc.Gonagall acted as Steam Guard on the Kuskokwim River at a salary of \$5.00 per day and a per diem of \$4.00 per day less .60 per day for lodging while aboard Launch Coot and Marie S. started work on April, 29th. services terminated September, 27th.

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7- 4- Gear operated.

Each out-fit fished with gill nets entirely, using the regulation mesh of 8- $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Total gear used by the four out-fits was 2,240 fathoms, there were two wheels used in the river by Johnson & Jorgensen who fished for the Alaska Reindeer Co., and three by the Akulurak Mission, these five wheels sold to the Alaska Reindeer Co., 2,028 Kings. Nets operated in the river caught 1,188 kings

11-

Cooperative services rendered.

Sam Kendrick -	Department of Interior -	Reindeer Service.	Marshall to Holy Cross.
Nels. Hedlund-	" " "	" " "	" " "
		August, 25 and 26;	towed their poling boat.

13- Recommendations.

Strongly recommend that the present Regulations be left in effect, as there are at least twenty mouths and sloughs at the Delta of the Yukon River that salmon come into and only one of them that is being fished for commercial purposes and that one on a limited scale, it is rumored around here that the Episcopal Missions are very much opposed to having the river open for commercial fishing, why they are opposed no one seems to know but them selves, in the past twenty three years I have never known of any Native suffering for want of salmon if they had even made an effort to get them when the runs were on.

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F. Salteries.

There were four Salteries operating, all putting up mild cure kings, the small and broken up kings were hard salted. The Northern Commercial Company, Frank Kern and Chris. Lauredson had holes dug in the Tundra last fall which were covered with pees and moss during the winter the high tides filled these with water which froze solid, as soon a tierces was filled with fish they were rolled into these dug-outs which kept them at nearly the freezing point until ready for shipment.

The Alaska Reindeer Company planned to use a Cold Storage Barge, but owing to trouble with their Tug Meteor the Barge did not arrive until they had quit fishing, consequently their pack was on the Tundra exposed to the sun and warm weather until July, 14th. from reports we have had in here their pack arrived in Seattle in bad shape, which no doubt was caused from lack of Cold Storage facilities.

Owing to the Longshoremens strike on the Pacific coast this spring all four of these out-fits were short of tierces and salt, which was the cause of the short pack and not from lack of fish.

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A. 10- Condition of whites and natives on lower Yukon.

A fair estimate of the earnings of the natives at the Northern Commercial Co's Saltery and for the fishermen would be \$125.00 for the season, the agreement at the beginning of the season was that they would receive \$5.00 per day and .80 each for large kings and .60 for the small ones, as near as I could find out the \$5.00 per day was not paid, they were just paid for the fish they caught. \$4.00 per day was the wage paid at the Saltery.

The Alaska Reindeer Co. used all white fishermen furnishing all gear and food, to these men they paid .80 each for large kings and .60 for small ones. This Company paid Indt., fishermen \$1.00 each for large kings and .80 for small ones delivered at the Saltery.

B. Unemployment, if any; cause and effect.

✓ Since the closing of the Cannery at the mouth of the Yukon there has been no work of any kind, except the natives Earn has employed in his hand Cannery, the only means of making a livelihood is trapping, it would be hard to find a more poverty stricken people than is on the Tundra at the mouth of the Yukon River, they few dollars they picked up this summer was the first real money they have had since the Cannery left.

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Fairbanks, Alaska,
October, 22, 1934.

Commissioner of Fisheries,
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Seasons report of the Fisheries on the Kuskokwim River, 1934 by
Charles Mc. Gonagall, Stream Guard.

Left Launch Coot at Russian Mission on May, 29th. proceeded across
the Portage to Bethel with the Bureau's canoe and out-board motor, arrived at
Bethel on June, 2nd. found extremely low water in the lakes and creeks crossing
the Portage, from the mouth of Md Creek to Bethel the river was deserted, all
natives and whites were out on the tundra hunting musk-rats.

There was no commercial fishing for export on the Kuskokwim this
summer, Waechter Bros., fished on the Yukon and none of the other out-fits from
the states showed up, there were several of the local inhabitants that had intended
to mild cure and hard salt for export on a small scale, but the Steamer from
Seattle having aboard salt, trowsers and Eids., was over thirty days late arriving
at Bethel, as the best of the king run was over all of the trowsers and salt was
stered until next season.

Conditions were ideal for fishing at the mouth this summer as very
few storms were on during the runs, especially the king run.

Both natives and whites had their catches in their fish houses
by the middle of July.

The first kings were caught on May, 24th. the peak of the king
run was from June, 15th. to June, 20th. But the run from June, 7th. to July, 10th.
as a whole was heavier than any in the past eight years.

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The chum and red runs started on June, 9th. and continued through to July, 25th. the peak of the runs of both chums and reds was from June, 20th. to July, 1st. The silver run came into the river on July, 28th. very few being caught as everyone had all of the fish they needed, prices being paid for dried dog fish was 9 & 10 ¢ per ¢ with practically no market, nearly all mail will be carried by airplane this winter, several new contracts having been let this past summer for routes that had formally been carried by dogs.

The condition of the natives on the Kuskokwim River this spring was good, last winter the Government allotted \$3,000.00 of C.W.A. funds of which over two thirds went to natives for work, also their fur catch was above the average last winter. There was around 370- tons of dried fish put up this summer which will leave everyone well provided with fish for the winter.

Left Samuelsons on August, 16th. with canoe and out-board motor for the Yukon River, arrived at Marshall, August, 20th. where I boarded the Launch Coot en-route to Fairbanks.

Respectfully,

/by/ Charles McGonagall,
Stream Guard.

/signed by/ Calvin F. Townsend.
Inspector, Alaska Fisheries.

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