

Subject: Annual report Yukon River 1939.

Commissioner of Fisheries.
Washington, B. C.

Annual report of the commercial fishing for export inside and outside the mouth of the Yukon River for the season 1939.

1- Index	Page - 1
2- Introduction	" 1- 2
3- Fisheries Operations	" 2
4- Gear Operated	" 2
5- Run and escapement of salmon	" 3
6- Stream marking	" 3
7- Patrol, season history	" 3
8- Complaints and prosecutions	" 4
9- Conditions of local white and natives	" 4
10- Labor conditions and union activities, wages, etc.	" 4
11- Cooperative services rendered to other branches of the govt.	
12- Unusual occurrences noted through the season pertinent to the fisheries, including tagging operations, also developments of any kind that might affect the salmon run, including the pollution of streams.	" 4
14- Recommendations.	" 4-5
15- Remarks	" 5

Hamilton, Alaska
August 19, 1939

Subject: Annual report Yukon River.

Commissioner of Fisheries,
Washington, D.C.

Annual report of Fisheries operations inside and outside the mouth of the Yukon River, for export for the season of 1939.

2- Introduction.

All commercial fishing here is done on a small scale and only natives are employed, there are very few whites in this section and these men fish for themselves, all their fish is sold locally, the natives employed here all come from the surrounding villages and bring their families with them, after the fishing season is over some of them remain at the saltery while others go to Milak, Kwiguk and other fish camps to do their winter fishing.

The Northern Commercial Co. was the only outfit fishing for export outside the mouth of the River, they used a barge anchored out in the stream for a saltery, as each tierce is filled with salmon, it is rolled into a home-made cold storage where it keeps in perfect shape until such time as it is picked up and taken into St. Michael for shipment to Seattle, this cold storage is surely a crude affair, it consists of a large hole in the tundra which is allowed to fill up with snow during the winter months, by spring this snow turns to ice, it is then covered with planks and several layers of moss are put on top of the planks, this makes a perfect cold storage the fish keeps in perfect shape all during the fishing season, to my knowledge no fish has ever spoiled in this type of cold storage, all the fishermen in this section use this type of storage.

All the King salmon used by the Northern Commercial Co. were caught outside the mouth of the river stakes, by native fishermen using gill nets, all fishing gear, including gill nets, boats and camp equipment is furnished by the company and the natives are paid forty cents for each fish caught, these fish are all picked up by the company boats, there are no independent fishermen fishing here, the whites will not sell their fish as they use all the Kings they catch for salt bellies and strips which are all sold locally as there is always a ready market for Yukon King bellies and strips all along the Yukon and at most of the Interior points.

The King salmon were late in getting into the river this year, I would say this condition was due the late break up at the mouth, the ice was solid at the mouth on June seventh, and did not go out until several days later, the first Kings were caught on June sixteenth, which was ten days later than in former years.

COPY

Subject: Annual report Yukon River.

2- Introduction - cont'd.

The Northern Commercial Co. stopped fishing on July fifteenth, with a total catch of 8,465 Kings, this years pack for export shows a decrease of thirty three percent over last years pack for export.

Practically all fishing was done at the same locations as last year, as in past years, St. Mary's Mission put up mild cure Kings for export on a small scale, the fish camp is located at the head of Sunshine Bay in the Acropok Slough, all fish are caught inside the mouth, using fish wheels locations shown on marked chart, all the work here was done by eleven native boys from the mission, under the supervision of one white lay Brother from the Mission, their total pack for export was sixteen-eight hundred pound tierces of mild cure Kings.

Chris Lauridsen fished at Kwiguk this year using gill nets, all his fish were caught inside the mouth, his total pack was six, eight hundred pound tierces of mild cure Kings.

On July twenty second, the Northern Commercial Co. boat "Ensee" Made a trip into the south mouth and picked up their own fish, Lauridsens and St. Mary's Mission fish, which was all taken into St. Michael where it was transferred to the south bound freighter and taken to Seattle.

3- Fisheries Operations.

A- Canneries operated.

Northern Commercial Co. hand cannery located in Acheron Channel outside the mouth of the river - 152,400# flat cans Kings*

- B- None.
- C- None
- D- None
- E- None
- F- Salteries

Northern Commercial Co. - 144,800# tierces mild cure King salmon.
 Northern Commercial Co. 18,400# barrals hard salted sides.
 St. Mary's Mission 15,800# tierces mild cured salmon.
 Chris M. Lauridsen 6,800# tierces mild cured King salmon

- G- None
- H- None

4- Gear operated

A- Gear report of companies.

Northern Commercial Co. used a total of 500 fathoms gill nets.
 St. Mary's Mission used 4 fish wheels.
 Chris M. Lauridsen used 34 fathoms of gill nets.

- B- None
- C- None

* (Note by typist) Original copy badly mixed up right here. Cannot be sure of accuracy of 152,400#

Subject: Annual report Yukon River-1939.

5-Run and escapement of salmon.

A- The King salmon run started on June 1y, and increased each day until June 22, when the largest number were caught, they gradually started to decrease so that by June 28, less than one hundred fish were being caught each day, the Kings continued to run during July, but no heavy runs were noticeable, July fifth being the only day there was a catch of any size when 369 were caught, they continued to drop off so that by July 15, only a few straglers were being caught each day. The Kings were unusually large this year, averaging about fifty five to the tierce.

The Chum salmon commenced to run along with the Kings and continued to run good, the heaviest runs were reported on July 9, after this date they started to decrease so that by July 29, no Chums were being caught, all Chums caught here are used locally, all reports on Chums are to the effect that they are exceptionally large this year, but very poor quality as they are lacking in oil and after drying they shrivel up to less than a pound.

The Silver salmon commenced to run August 10, but no heavy runs here noticed except for a few days when several fishermen had good catches but I would say there has not been any good Silver runs, however the Silvers often come late in September but by that time most of the people have quit fishing. All Silvers coming in this year are in good shape about the usual size but very fat.

The inward migration of these fish is up the Acheron Channel into the Kwikluak mouth up the Yukon River, of course the fish come in the many mouths and channels but this mouth is the only one where fishing is done to any extent.

B- None

6- Stream marking

Markers were put up at Ageklarok (Tin Can Point) and Mialak.

7- Stream improvement and predatory control- None.

8- Patrol, seasonal history.

The USFS Coot was used, The Coot departed from Nenana on May 25, 1939 for the south mouth of the Yukon, to remain in that district during the commercial fishing season and see that all the Fisheries Laws were enforced and check on the catch of salmon.

B-C.H. Code was employed at Nones for two days each month, during the months of June, July and August at \$5.00 per day, he furnished his own boat.

C.- None.

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Subject: Annual Report of Yukon River - 1939

9- Complaints and prosecutions - None

10- Condition of local whites and natives

Both the natives and whites in this section are very poor, the only money earned by them is from their fishing and a little trapping in the winter.

A- The approximate earnings of those engaged in the fisheries is \$9,536.00, the natives are paid forty cents per fish for King Salmon and the company furnishes all gear.

B- There was some unemployment in this section, part of it was due to the fact that there were more natives here this year than formerly and as this is only a small Saltery there is only room for limited number of men to work.

C- Fishing is the only gainful occupation at the mouth of the river in the summer and trapping in the winter time, of course at Marshall and points farther up the river there is more mining and wood cutting going on so that a great many of the natives have other work to do during the summer months.

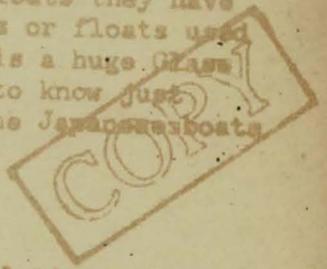
11- There are no union activities of any kind here, any labor used in this section is paid at the rate of fifty cents per hour and this is generally paid in trade.

12- Charles G. Burdick, acting director, Alaska CCC made the trip from Nenana, Alaska to Akularah, Alaska. STcps were made at towns and camps along the Tanana and Yukon rivers. Mr. Burdick was organizing CCC work at all these places.

13- There were no unusual occurrences noted through the season pertinent to fisheries only that the fish were very late in coming into the river and was due to the late ice breakup. No tagging operations of any kind here except that a native at Holy Cross caught a Chum or dog salmon as they are generally called here, with a tag on it, it was given to me and is being mailed under separate cover to the office, from time to time the natives coming up to the mouth from Black river have been telling me about the floats they have been picking up and they are sure they are Japanese fish floats or floats used on the nets, they found one this summer and sent it to me, it is a huge glass ball about twelve inches in diameter, it would be interesting to know just how far this ball really traveled or if it came from some of the Japanese boats that were fishing in Alaska waters last summer.

14- Recommendations.

I would like to recommend that the present regulations of a limited pack remain the same as they are, for I do not feel that the small amount of King salmon taken at the mouth really does any harm or cause any shortage of King salmon up the river. From time to time I hear protests from people along the river about the shortage of King salmon but in most cases these same people are never ready for the King salmon while the run is on. This small fishing industry at the mouth really means a great deal to the natives in this section for it gives them a chance to earn a little money and get a



Subject: Annual report Yukon River-1939

few necessities they would not have otherwise.

This year there were forty seven natives employed by the Northern commercial co. outside the mouth and the average earned by each was \$141.00. While this amount really seems small to us, it is quite a bit of money to these natives living down here on the flats for many of them live almost entirely off the country and this is the only money they earn.

Chris Lauridsen, a white man living here puts up a very small pack every year and he claims that with the little commercial fishing he does it brings him in what little cash he gets, of course the other white men living in this lower Yukon district prefer to sell all their fish locally.

The Mission people are really benefited considerably by the commercial fishing also, last year their total pack was 17 tierces and the Brother told me they cleared \$1,800.00 (? because number not clear on original) on their fish which means a lot to these people.

While all commercial fishing in this district is done on a very small scale it really helps all the people in this section so I sincerely hope the Bureau will see fit to keep the present regulations in force.

15- Remarks

As all commercial fishing for export stopped on July 15, I am completing this report which is based entirely on the commercial fishing for export at the mouth of the Yukon river both inside and outside, my annual report of activities and fishing along the Yukon and Tanana Rivers will be completed upon my arrival at Nenana and will be forwarded from that point.

Marked charts are being mailed under separate cover also statistical reports from Lauridsen and Northern Commercial Co., blanks are being forwarded to St. Mary's Mission.

Respectfully submitted,

/by/ Calvin F. Townsend
Inspector, Alaska Fisheries

COPY

Nenana, Alaska
September 25, 1939

Subject: Annual report of Fisheries operations in the Yukon and Tanana River Districts for the season of 1939.

Commissioner of Fisheries,
Washington D.C.

The Coot departed from Nenana on May 25, 1939 for the mouth of the Yukon River, to remain in that section during the commercial fishing season to see that the Fisheries laws were enforced and check on the salmon runs during the fishing season.

Leo N. Keogh of Nenana was employed as Engineer and Pilot on the Coot for the season and was paid \$8.00 per day as skilled laborer. C.H. Code of Nome was employed two days a month in that section to see that there was no waste of salmon, he was employed at \$5.00 per day as a laborer.

Mr. Charles G. Burdick, acting director of the Alaska CCC came aboard the Coot at Nenana and made the trip as far as Akulurak Mission with us. As I have always stopped in at most of the camps and towns en-route down stream in the spring, it worked out very well for both of us. Mr. Burdick was able to outline most of his work at the various places.

Rev. Father McElmeel S.F. superior in charge of the Alaska Catholic Missions, also made the trip from Nenana to Nulato with us, as he was in a hurry to get to Nulato and we were one of the first boats down river he traveled with us, here on the Yukon it has always been customary to extend any courtesies possible to these people connected with the Missions, when the Father found out we would be in Nulato ahead of the steamer, he asked if he could travel with us.

The Tanana River had a good stage of water, it was not very high but the Channels were well defined so that very little trouble was encountered at any of the crossings.

The Yukon River was very high and plenty of drift wood was running the people at Ruby, Galena, Nulato and Kaltag, mostly whites were getting their gear in shape for the seasons fishing, practically all the natives were still out trapping Rats and Beaver.

At Anvik the people complained of having had plenty of sickness during the early spring and very little activity of any kind was going on here, most of the natives were still out trapping.

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Annual report Yukon and Tanana River - 1939

At Holy Cross everyone was busy getting ready for the seasons fishing but from Holy Cross to Marshall everything was at a standstill, it was very cold at all these places and very few of the natives had returned from the winters trapping and hunting.

All the way down from Marshall to Hamilton there were signs of winter every place, at Hamilton the banks were all covered with snow and ice and there was plenty of ice running in the river, I believe this to be one of the latest springs I have ever known down here, a trip was made to Kotlik and the same cold weather and winter conditions prevailed here.

After leaving Kotlik, a trip was made to the Akulurak Mission, here the people were all busy getting their fishing gear in shape for the coming fishing season, we left Akulurak via the lower entrance and made a trip to the Saltery but every thing was at a standstill here, the ice was still solid at the mouth and did not go out until June 10. A trip was made to Kwiguk from the Saltery but very few of the people here were ready to start fishing and none of the fish wheels or other gear was in shape.

The first King salmon were caught on June 16, the Kings coming into the river this year were exceptionally large, averaging fifty five to the tierce, They continued to run good until June 22, when they started to decrease so that by June 28, very few were being caught, they picked up a little after this date and on July 5, a fair catch was reported, after this date they started to decline so that by July 18 just a few straglers were being caught, all commercial fishing for export stopped on this date.

The only outfit fishing for export outside the stakes was the Northern Commercial Co., they used a barge for a Saltery and it was located in Acheron Channel, all native help was employed, they used 16 fishermen, 12 slimers, 2 headers, 1 salter, 2 transport men and 14 shoremans, the total wages paid these men was \$6,656.00, the total catch of King salmon for export caught outside the mouth stakes was ~~8,466~~ Kings, just a little bit over one third of the limit allowed outside the mouth. The total pack for export this year was far below last years pack, this was partly due to the fact that the fish were very late in coming into the river and the fishermen were using only twenty five fathom nets, A small hand cannery was operated by the Northern Commercial Co., outside the mouth, this canned fish is all sold locally, the total pack of canned salmon was only 152-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ flat cans, all Kings not suitable for ~~wild~~ curing are used for hard salted sides, 18-400# barrels were packed.

This small fishing industry at the mouth of the River is all done on a very small scale but is certainly a good thing for these people as it gives them a chance to earn a little money which enables them to buy a few necessities which they would not have otherwise, as the fish are taken from only one mouth I can not see where it really does any harm to the fishing up-river, the men coming to the Saltery to work all bring their families with them, the wives and children of these men all gather all the backbones, heads and eggs of the fish and dry them for winter food.

At Kwiguk, Chris Lauridsen was the only one putting up fish for export his plant was a very small one, his total pack was only 6-880 # tierces of mild cured salmon, but as he does practically all his own work he is under very little expense, all his fish were caught inside the mouth using 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms of gill nets, his fish were handled by Erickson and Bye, Smith Tower, Seattle. There were

Annual report Yukon and Tanana River - 1939

three other white men fishing in Kwiguk, all their fish is sold locally. Pete Jorgenson had only 400 Kings this year compared to 2,000 last year. He was not ready for the kings when they were running and just got in on the end of the run, his King salmon were all used for hard salt bellies, he sold 10-200# barrels @ \$25.00 per barrel, he had 5,000 Chums which were dried and sold at 7¢ per pound, he also put up 3-200# barrels of Silver bellies his total earnings from fish were \$587.50.

S.F. O'Conner, Kwiguk, a white man put up hard salt King bellies and smoked strips, he sold 10-200# barrels hard salt bellies at \$25.00 per barrel, 800# smoked strips which sell for 22¢ per pound, he also sold 1 ton dried Chums making his total earnings from fish \$570.00.

Axel Alstrom, Kwiguk, a white man who has a trading post purchased 11-200# barrels of hard salt bellies from the Kwiguk natives at \$25.00 per barrel in trade, he also purchased 5,000 dried Chums from the natives at 7¢ per pound, making a total of \$537.00 paid out to the natives for fish, all the above fish is sold in Alaska.

The Northern Commercial Co., native trading post also located in Kwiguk purchased 10-200# barrels of King Salmon bellies from the natives and 5,000 dried Chums at 7¢ per pound, the total earnings of both natives and whites at Kwiguk amounted to \$3,184 including Lauridsens pack for export. during the early part of the season when the King salmon were running good a boat came into the river from Nome and purchased fresh King salmon to take into Nome for local sale, 200 fish were purchased at 50¢ per salmon.

There were 20 native families at Kwiguk and vicinity, they had about 1,000 Kings altogether and 12,000 Chums all caught in wheels, 5,000 silvers were caught in small nets, about 2/3 of all the fish caught by the natives is dried and sold to the local traders for 7¢ per pound the rest of it is put into Chemuk holes and allowed to rot, this is the way these natives fish, the local white men around here tell us that these people will pay each other as high as 10¢ per fish for this Chemuk during the winter.

Jack LaMont a white man located in Solmagrens Slough, which is at the foot of Sunshine Bay, has about the finest looking fish I have ever seen, he takes good care of his fish, his catch of Kings was light but according to his own story he did not start fishing until the best runs of Kings were over, all his Kings were used for smoked strips and salt bellies, he also uses all his Silver salmon for smoked strips and bellies, his total earnings from fish were \$600.00.

At Bugamavik which is strictly a native fish camp used only in summer, there were six families using one wheel and 5-7 fathom nets, this camp had no Kings but xxx 1,200 chums and 250 silvers.

St. Mary's Mission fished at the head of Sunshine Bay using four wheels their total catch of Kings for export was only 880 fish making 16-800# tierces of mild cured salmon. These people had 3,085 small kings used for their own food they had 16,500 chums which were dried and cured in various ways for winter food they also had 2,000 silvers, these people were complaining of a shortage of small fish. In the past they have been selling quite a bit of dried fish this year after saving enough for their own winter needs there will be very little fish left to sell, however I consider 18,000 fish a good catch, their catch last year was over 30,000. There are three Priests, six Nuns, three lay Brothers and about ninety Eskimo children at this Mission and most of their diet consists of dry fish and seal oil.

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Annual report Yukon and Tanana River-1939

There were ten native families located at the Mission Fish camp, they had 400 King salmon, 6,000 Chums and 2,000 Silvers, all their fish was caught in the Mission wheels.

There were several natives families scattered all through this district all through the summer, some of them had fairly good catches of Chums while others had very few.

At Hamilton which is located in the APOON mouth and right on the main steam-boat channel, there were two families fishing, using one wheel their total catch was 1,000 Chums and 200 Silvers.

At Bill Moores camp which is located nine miles below Hamilton, there were more natives fishing than in the past, most of these people come up from Cheneliak, which is thirty miles below Hamilton, there were ten families fishing here and all reported a good catch, each family averaged 1,200 fish.

The natives at Phillip Foxys camp had 1,000 Chums, there were two families here using one wheel, very few Kings were caught here.

At Keechuks camp there were seven native families fishing, they were using three wheels, their catch of Kings was only 50 while their catch of Chums was 4,500, this catch was far below average for this camp.

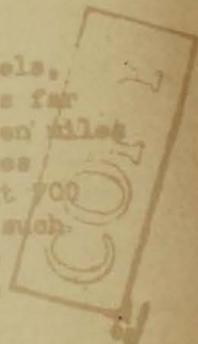
There were fifteen families at Mt. Village, they were using three wheels, their catch of Kings was better than last year but their catch of Chums was far below average, at Pitka Point and Andreafsky which is a distance of nineteen miles from Mt. Village they had a good catch of fish, there were fourteen families fishing at these points using one wheel and 14-7 fathom nets they had about 700 Kings and 17,000 Chums, one man caught 12,000 of this number, he reported such heavy runs of Chums that the wheel had to be stopped in order to take care of the fish, this man had more fish than he could care for and offered the natives all the fish they could use but they just could not be bothered with them.

At Pilot Station there were more people fishing here and in this vicinity than I have ever seen here before, many of them coming from the Kutchuk country, there were forty two families scattered through here, they were using three wheels and twenty small nets, their combined catch of Kings was only 200 and about 2,000 Chums, very few Silvers were being caught here, this group of people were really working hard to catch fish but for some reason or other the fish were not hitting in at this point.

At all the camps below and above Marshall which is a distance of about eighty miles, the catch was about one third below average, more Kings were here this year than last, very few Silvers were being caught at any of these points.

There are nine native families at Russian Mission, one wheel and 20 fathoms of nets were being used, only 1,200 Chums were caught here.

There was only one camp between this point and Fifteen Mile Bluff which is a distance of sixty miles, there was one white man and two native families fishing here, they reported a poor catch with only 1,000 Chums.



Annual report Yukon and Tanana River - 1939

At Fifteen Mile Bluff, Pimute, Holy Cross and Bonazella they all reported the heaviest catches of salmon in years, at Fifteen Mile Bluff there were seven native families fishing they reported a combined catch of 1,000 Kings and a total catch of 15,000 Chums. At Pimute a distance of seven miles there six families fishing, the combined catch of Kings here was 500 and 9,500 Chums. At Holy Cross they all reported the heaviest catch in years, after the Catholic Mission had all the fish they wanted, they turned their wheels over to the natives. At Bonazella which is a native fish camp located forty five miles above Holy Cross they reported a fine catch of Chums but very few Kings, at all the above points from Fifteen Mile Bluff to and including Bonazella a distance of sixty miles, the catch of Chums was exceptionally heavy, a total of 78,500 fish taken in this district, 2,500 Kings were taken in this district also, all the above fish were taken in July, the weather was fine for drying fish as the rains did not start in until August, very few Silvers were being caught at any of these points, all these people had all the dry fish they wanted and a few of them were getting a few Silvers for daily fresh fish and dog food, all dry fish was selling for 7¢ and 8¢ per pound.

Anvik which is usually a fine place for fish had only two thirds of the normal catch this year, there were six families here using six wheels, as near as I could find out, the total catch of Chums was around 8,000 no Kings were caught here, the price being paid for dry fish at Anvik was 9¢, several of the natives had sold their fish to itinerant traders who were taking the fish to Fairbanks to sell, these itinerant traders buy the fish down river for 7¢ and 8¢ per pound and take it up to Fairbanks where they sell it for 15 and 20¢ per pound, other natives here were taking their fish up river to Kuyukuk Station a distance of 229 miles where they claimed they were being paid 12¢ per pound for it. As most of the fish here had been sold it was hard to get an accurate check on it but from information received from the store keeper and the Minister here 8,000 seemed to be the catch of Chums.

There were three native fish camps scattered about five miles apart in through the district above Anvik there were a total of ten families using three wheels, they had a combined catch of 7,000 Chums but no Kings or Silvers.

The people at Halls Rapids reported a fairly good catch of Chums but no Kings were caught here six families fishing here using 5 wheels reported a catch of 16,000 Chums, at the Bluffs a few Miles from here 6 families had been fishing during the summer but all the camps were deserted at this time.

At Fred Caros, a native fish camp there were three native families using three wheels, they had a combined catch of 14,000 dried Chums.

At Blackburn there was only one family fishing using one wheel the catch of Chums was 4,000, this is the last camp until Kaltag is reached, a distance of around 100 miles, there is not a living soul and not a single camp to be seen.

There were thirty families located in Kaltag, using ten wheels they had a total catch of 12,000 Chums and no Kings, this is a light catch for here. the traders were paying 12¢ for smoked dried fish and 10¢ for sun cured fish no liquor was being sold here this year, every other year there were two liquor stores here and most of the fish was traded for liquor.

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Annual report Yukon and Tanana River - 1939

There were around fifty families in Nulato, they were using 15 wheels the catch was very light here, the people reported the catch as only one third of their normal catch, very few Kings were caught here and around 9,000 Chums.

At Kuyukuk Station the catch of Kings and Chums was very light, the traders had purchased nine tons of dried Chums brought up river from Anvik and Halls Rapids and other fish camps in that vicinity, they were paying 12¢ per pound. At all points from Kaltag to and including Kuyukuk Station the catch of all fish was very light, no Silvers were being caught at any of these places but the white fish were running heavily, all the natives seemed to be getting plenty of them.

Galena reported a very light catch of fish, at Ruby where there were five white men fishing they reported a very fine catch of King salmon this year, the combined catch was 6,000 Kings, all this fish is sold locally, the catch of chums was light but they all seemed to be getting plenty of Silver and salmon in September, more Kings were caught here than at any other place along the river, this was also the first place where any number of Silvers were being caught along the river, while the whites fishing here all had good catches of Kings the natives had very few but this was because they did not start fishing when the big runs were on but waited until late in July to get their wheels in the water.

From Ruby to Kokrines there were seven families scattered along in through here they were using three wheels but reported a very light catch of fish.

Most of the camps from Kokrines to Tanana were deserted but the few people remaining at the camps reported light catches of fish.

The Chums this year were very large but lacking in oil and after being dried weighed only around $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pound compared to the dried weight of other years which usually averages from 1 pound to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ pounds.

Practically all the King salmon caught along the river was caught in wheels, the Chums were also caught in wheels while the Silvers were all being caught in nets.

Tanana River.

The Tanana River was at a very low stage of water, at some of the crossings there was just enough water for the Coot to drag over, I employed an extra man at Tanana to help sound out at the crossings, when the Tanana River is real low one is apt to have trouble, however no trouble was encountered.

The catch of fish all along the Tanana was very light, there were some Kings caught during July and a light catch of Chums, some Silvers were being caught late in September, all reported this years catch lighter than last.

The Coot arrived at Nenana on September 26, where she was put in winter quarters, the total mileage of the Coot for the season of 1939 was 4,328 miles.

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Annual report Yukon and Tanana River - 1939

As there was no patrol on the Kuskokwim River this year all my reports on fishing there are from letters and wire, they reported the catch of King salmon as normal but that there was a great shortage of all other fish in that district, the catch this year was only one third of last years catch, there was no Commercial fishing there, the only one who said he might put up fish for export was Robert Gerkie, statistical blanks were mailed to him.

The list of operators in this district for 1939:

Northern Commercial Co., 419 Colman Bldg. Seattle, Washington mild cured salmon hard salt bellies and canned salmon.

Chris Lauridsen, Kwiguk, Alaska Mild cured salmon.

St. Mary's Mission, Akulurak, Alaska Mild cured salmon.

Statistical blanks were given to each of the above and blanks were mailed to Robert Gerkie at Bethel, Alaska

This concludes the annual report of the Yukon, Tanana and Kuskokwim Districts for the season of 1939.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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Menana, Alaska
September 25, 1939

Subject: Reports of fishery operations in Alaska - re file 560

Commissioner of Fisheries,
Washington, D.C.

The total catch of salmon on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers for the season of 1939, showing the number and species taken outside and inside the mouth of the river for export and local sale, those taken for human consumption and dog feed and the kind of gear used.

8,465- Kings taken outside mouth by gill nets for export
369 " " inside " " " " " "
18,050 " " along river by wheels for local use and sale
26,884 Total number Kings.

30% Kings taken by gill nets
70% " " " wheels

313,400 Chums taken along river for human consumption and dog feed

Approximately 85% caught in wheels and 15% caught with nets

14,250 Silvers taken along river

Approximately 90% caught in nets and 10% caught in wheels.

26,884 - Total number of Kings
313,400 " " " Chums
14,250 " " " Silvers
371 " " " Families
166 " " " Fish wheels
1,244 Fathoms Nets.

Products prepared from the above fish and the approximate value of same.

166-800# tierces mild cured King salmon -----	Value - \$17,200.00
152-cases 1# flat cans King salmon -----	" 1,368.00
17,800 # hard salted bellies, local sale -----	2,170.00
2 Ton smoked strips sold locally -----	1,000.00
Approximately 126 tons dried Chums average 8¢ per # -----	<u>20,000.00</u>

Total earnings from fishery operations -- \$41,738.00

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As there was no patrol on the Kuskokwim this year all my information was gained from letters and wires from that district, all reports from there state that the King salmon catch was about the same as last year but there is a shortage on all other fish all along the river and at the mouth. They claim the catch this year is only one third of last years catch with the exception of the Kings, the figures below were taken from last years figures.

14,000 Kings dried
100,000 Chums, dried
10,000 Rds, dried (Reds)

There was no Commercial fishing for export.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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Subject: Yukon and Tanana River catch of fish, showing number of families, species of fish caught and gear used season-1939.

Kwiguk Slough - Jorgensen-white
 Kings ----- 400
 Chums ----- 5,000
 Silvers ----- 4,000
 Wheels ----- 2
 Nets ----- 50 Ftms.

Kwiguk Slough-W.F.O'Connor-white
 Kings ----- 350
 Chums ----- 1,500
 Silvers ----- 250
 Wheel ----- 1
 Nets ----- 100 Ftms.

Axel Alstrom-Kwiguk-white
 Chums ----- 1,000
 Silvers ----- 250
 Wheel ----- 1
 Nets ----- 20 Ftms.

Kwiguk Slough-Ted O'Connor
 Kings ----- 75
 Chums ----- 1,500
 Wheel ----- 1

Kwiguk Slough-N.C.Co., - natives
 Kings ----- 350
 Chums ----- 5,000
 Wheels ----- 2

Kwiguk & Vicinity Natives
 Kings ----- 1,000
 Chums ----- 12,000
 Silver ----- 5,000
 Wheels ----- 8

Nets ----- 35 Ftms.
 Families ----- 20

LaMont-Foot Sunshine Bay-white
 Kings ----- 300
 Chums ----- 6,000
 Silvers ----- 300
 Wheel ----- 1

Bugamavik-Natives
 Kings ----- None
 Chums ----- 1,200
 Silvers ----- 250
 Wheels ----- 1
 Nets ----- 50 Ftms.
 Families ----- 6

St. Mary's Mission - Sunshine Bay
 Kings ----- 3,935
 Chums ----- 15,500
 Silvers ----- 2,000
 Wheels ----- 4

Acropok Fish Camp - natives
 Kings ----- 200
 Chums ----- 8,000
 Wheels ----- 4
 Families ----- 10

Natives between Kwiguk and Hamilton
 Chums ----- 2,000
 Silvers ----- 250
 wheel ----- 1
 Nets ----- 20 Ftms.
 Families ----- 6

Bill Moores camp - natives - Apoon mouth
 Chums ----- 12,000
 Wheel ----- 1
 Nets ----- 100 Ftms.
 Families ----- 10

Hamilton - Natives
 Chums ----- 1,000
 Silvers ----- 200
 Wheel ----- 1
 Nets ----- 25 Ftms.
 Families ----- 2

Phillip Foxys - native camp
 Kings ----- 50
 Chums ----- 1,000
 Wheel ----- 1
 Families ----- 2

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Leechuks - Natives

Kings	50
Chums	4,500
Wheels	3
Families	7

Mt. Village - Natives

Kings	600
Chums	2,000
Wheels	3
Families	15

Pitka Point and Andrafsky

Kings	700
Chums	17,000
Silvers	400
Wheel	1
Nets	100 Ftms.
Families	14

Pilot Station and Vicinity - natives

Kings	200
Chums	2,000
Wheels	3
Nets	140 Ftms.
Families	42

Marshall and Vicinity - natives

Kings	700
Chums	10,000
Wheels	8
Nets	50 Ftms.
Families	36

Russian Mission-natives

Chums	1,200
Wheel	1
Nets	20 Ftms.
Families	9

Tuckers - white

Chums	1,000
Wheel	1
Families	3

15 Mile Bluff - Natives

Kings	1,000
Chums	15,000
Wheels	11
Families	7

Pimute ---Natives

Kings	500
Chums	9,500
Wheels	4
Families	6

Holy Cross Mission

Kings	500
Chums	6,000
Wheels	4

Holy Cross - Natives

Kings	500
Chums	29,000
Wheels	5
Families	6

Bonazella - Natives

Kings	50
Chums	25,000
Wheels	8
Families	6

Anvik-Natives

Kings	None
Chums	8,000
Wheels	6
Families	6

3-Native camps above Anvik

Kings	None
Chums	7,000
Wheels	3
Families	10

Ed Robinsons camp-white

Chums	4,500
Wheel	1

Halls Rapids - Natives

Kings	None
Chums	18,000
Wheels	5
Families	6

Bluff-Natives

Chums	3,000
Wheels	3
Families	6

Fred Caros - Natives

Chums	14,000
Wheels	3
Families	3

Blackburn-Natives

Chums	4,000
Wheel	1
Family	1

Kaltag - Natives

Kings	100
Wheels	10
Chums	12,000
Families	2

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Mulato and Vicinity - natives

Kings -----	None
Chums -----	9,000
Wheels -----	15
Families -----	50

Phillips -----	White
Kings -----	50
Chums -----	1,800
Wheel -----	1
Family -----	1

Kuyukuk Station - Natives

Kings -----	None
Chums -----	1,000
Wheels -----	11
Families -----	30

Andy Haig - Ruby - white

Kings -----	1,000
Chums -----	500
Wheel -----	1
Family -----	1

Alec Brown - Ruby - white

Kings -----	3,500
Chums -----	3,000
Silvers -----	1,500
Wheels -----	4
Families -----	2

Red Allen - Ruby - white

Kings -----	750
Chums -----	750
Wheel -----	1
Family -----	1

George Clark - Ruby - white

Kings -----	1,200
Chums -----	500
Silvers -----	1,700
Wheels -----	2
Family -----	1

Chas. Knox - Ruby - white

Kings -----	None
Chums -----	750
Silvers -----	750
Wheels -----	1
Family -----	1

Ruby Natives

Kings -----	None
Chums -----	1,750
Silvers -----	1,000
Wheels -----	7
Families -----	8

Kokrines - Natives

Chums -----	1,000
Wheels -----	3
Families -----	7

Kokrines to Tanana

Camps -----	7
Families -----	7
Chums -----	3,000
Wheels -----	7

Most of the people had left these camps so this is just an approximate count.

Tanana - Natives & Vicinity.

Kings -----	500
Chums -----	10,000
Silvers -----	2,000
Wheels -----	20
Families -----	19

Tanana to Nenana

Kings -----	500
Chums -----	5,000
Wheels -----	20
Families -----	20

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