

ANNUAL REPORTS
YUKON - KUSKOKWIM -
ARCTIC AREA DISTRICT

Manana, Alaska
September 11, 1941

Subject: Report of Fishery Operations in Alaska-Yukon District-1941

The total catch of salmon in the Yukon District for the season 1941, that which was taken both outside and inside the mouth of the river for Commercial export and that taken along the river for local use, sale and dog food.

12,274-Kings taken outside for Commercial export by gill nets
15,012 " " Inside " " " " Fish wheels
~~2,628~~ " " " " " " " " " " " "
29,905 " " " " " " " " " " " "
10% taken by fishwheels
90% " " Gill nets

17,703-Kings taken along river for local sale and use
Approximately 75% taken by fishwheels
" 25% " " gill nets

383,000-Chums Taken at mouth and along river for local use and sale
100% Fishwheels used.

55,000-Silvers Taken at mouth and along river for local use and sale
60% caught in gill nets
40% " " Fishwheels

47,608-Total number of Kings taken
383,000 " " " Chums "
55,000 " " " Silvers "
301 " " " Families "
141 " " " Fishwheels "
3,110 " " " Fathoms gill nets used.

Products prepared from the above fish and approximate value.

3,094-cases 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ flat cans King salmon	\$ 43,560.00
229- 800 $\frac{1}{2}$ tierces mild cure King salmon	24,100.00
6,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ Dry salted sides King salmon	480.00
4,350 $\frac{1}{2}$ Hard salted Bellies King salmon	652.00
15,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " " " (local sale)	2,250.00
5,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ Smoked Strips	1,250.00
256 Tons dry fish @ 6 1/2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per $\frac{1}{2}$	33,280.00
	<u>\$105,572.00</u>

The above figures on dry fish is the estimated catch but underestimated, all fry fish this season is saleable.

COPY

Yukon and Tanana River catches of fish showing the number of families,
fish caught and gear used, all fish used and sold locally.

Kwiguk Slough-Jorgenson-white
Kings 200
Chums 10,000
Wheels 3
Nets-gill 425 fms.

Kwiguk Slough-O'Connor-white
Kings 900
Chums 2,000
Silvers 2,000
Wheels 3
Nets-gill 50 fms.

Kwiguk Slough-& Vicinity-Natives
Kings 3,000
Chums 20,000
Silvers 5,000
Wheels 15
Nets 150 fms.
Families 50

LaMont-Sunshine Bay-white
Kings 500
Chums 9,000
Silvers 5,000
Wheel 1
Oill nets 50 fms.
Family 1

Sunshine Bay-Natives
Kings 200
Chums 7,000
Silvers 5,000
Wheel 1
Families 3

Natives between Kwiguk & Hamilton
Kings 250
Chums 10,000
Silvers 2,000
Wheels 2
Nets 60 fms.
Families 3

St. Mary's Mission-Sunshine Bay
Kings 1,052
Chums 11,000
Silvers 3,000
Wheels 3
Nets-Gill 100 fms.

Acropok-Natives
Kings 300
Chums 25,000
Wheels 3
Families 10

Bill Moore's camp Natives-Apoon Mouth
Kings 200
Chums 5,000
Wheels 3
Families 10

Hamilton to Keechuks-Natives
Kings None
Chums 8,000
Wheels 3
Families 5

Mt. Village - Natives
Kings 1,000
Chums 15,000
Wheels 5
Nets 200 Fms.
Families 25

Between Mt. Village & Andraefsky-natives
Kings 250
Chums 10,000
Wheels 7
Families 10

George Peterson - Andraefsky
Kings 250
Chums 10,000
Wheels 1
Family 1

Andraefsky - Natives
Kings None
Chums 5,000
Wheels 2
Families 11

Pilot Station - Natives
Kings 300
Chums 10,000
Wheels 6
Nets 125 fms.
Families 17

COPY

Natives between Pilot Station & Marshall

Kings 1,000
 Chums 35,000
 Wheels 10
 Families 35
 Camps 10

of all, Russian Mission & Natives

None
 Chums 10,000
 Wheels 7
 Camps 7
 Families 15

Pimute - - - - - Natives

Kings 900
 Chums 20,000
 Silvers 10,000
 Wheels 3
 Nets 100 ftms.
 Families 9

Between Pimute & Holy Cross-Natives

Kings 1,000
 Chums 20,000
 Silvers 2,000
 Wheels 2
 Nets-Gill: 100 ftms.
 Families 6

Holy Cross - Mission

Kings 500
 Chums 5,000
 Wheels 2
 Nets-Gill 50 ftms.

Holy Cross - Natives

Kings 2,000
 Chums 20,000
 Silvers 10,000
 Nets 50 ftms.
 Wheels 6
 Families 10

Bonazella - Natives

Kings 200
 Chums 20,000
 Wheels 6
 Families 15

Anvik - Natives

Kings None
 Chums 20,000
 Wheels 6
 Families 8

Blackburn - Natives

Kings None
 Chums 8,000
 Wheel 1
 Family 1

Between Blackburn & Kaltag - Natives

Kings None
 Chums 5,000
 Wheels 7
 Families 10

Mulato - Natives

Kings 100
 Chums 5,000
 Wheels 10
 Families 10

Koyukuk Station - Natives

Kings None
 Chums 2,000
 Wheels 2
 Families 5

Ruby 3-whites

Kings 3,000
 Chums 30,000
 Silvers 10,000
 Wheels 3

Ruby - Natives

Kings 200
 Chums 5,000
 Silvers 1,000
 Wheels 3
 Families 8

Kokrines - Natives

Kings 100
 Chums 2,000
 Wheels 6
 Families 8

Kokrines to Tanana - Natives

Kings 300
 Chums 20,000
 Wheels 10
 Camps 7
 Families 15

Tanana to Nenana - Natives

Kings 1,000
 Chums 50,000
 Wheels 23
 Families 35
 Camps 25



U.S. Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

Nenana, Alaska
Sept. 17, 1940

Mr. Clarence L. Olson,
Fishery Management Supervisor,
Fish and Wildlife Service,
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Olson:

Enclosed herewith please find three copies of Annual river report and fish catch along Yukon river also three copies of report of survey of spawning grounds for the season 1940.

Yours very truly,

/sgc/ Calvin F. Townsend

Fishery Management Agent

Wash DC
Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington
D.C.

Subject: Annual report of Fishery Operations along the Yukon and
Tanana Rivers, in the Yukon District for the season 1940.

Director,
Fish and Wildlife Service,
Washington, D.C.

This season Leo N. Keogh started to work on April 1, as there was a great deal of extra work to be done on the Coot's hull and motor, the Coot was launched on May 13, and we departed from Nenana on May 19, the water was very low and a great deal of trouble was encountered at all crossings, we had trouble on several bars and much time was spent helping other boats off bars.

Very few natives had returned to their summer camps at this time, there were only three wheels the entire length of the Tanana and these had all been put in the water by white men.

Quite a few whites and natives along the Yukon had small nets out and were catching quite a few white fish for their daily needs and dog food, all the people at Holy Cross still had dry fish left from last season, due to the early spring this season everyone was ready to put their wheels in the water.

There were several new fish camps between Marshall and Pilot Station and all the old camps were occupied, at Pilot Station and Marshall they reported catching their first King salmon on May 27, at all camps from Mt. Village down a few kings were being caught but no big runs were reported.

All the people at Kwiguk and vicinity had their gear in shape and were ready to get an early start, from Kwiguk a trip was made to Saltery, everyone here was busy getting ready for the season's fishing natives from all around the Flats come here to work, most of them bring their families with them, the families all fish for small fish while the husbands are employed, due to the early breakup and early spring this season, everyone was ready to fish when the season opened.

The Coot remained in this lower section all during the fishing season, On August 5, we left this section of the river for up river points to make surveys of the spawning streams and check on the catches of salmon.

COPY

Annual report-Takuu District-1942

At Kwiguk and vicinity there were 2 white men fishing for their own use and local sale, Wm. O'Connor had 900 Kings which he made into smoked strips and salt bellies, Pete Jergensen had 400 Kings which he made into salt bellies and strips, there were 41 native families fishing here using ten wheels, they had approximately 27,000 Chums and I would say they had around 20,000 fish in Chemuk holes.

Akularak Mission fish camp which is located in Sunshine Bay had a total catch of 30,000 Chums and 2,200 Kings, part of these kings were used for mild cure, all this fish was caught up to June 24, this fish is used during the winter months at the Mission for food for the native children, these people were catching far more fish than they could take care of and were supplying around ten native families with fish.

Jack LaMont and his son were located in Sunshine Bay using one wheel they caught 500 kings which were used for bellies and strips, they also had 11,000 Chums which were dried, this one wheel was also supplying 3 other native families, at all times the wheel had to be stopped so that the fish could be taken care of.

At all the camps between here and Hamilton, every camp reported the heaviest catch of Chums in history, at Hamilton quite a few Humpbacks were caught but they were in very poor shape, all came up the Apoen mouth.

There were 5 families located at Bill Moore's camp in the Apoen mouth, using 6 small nets and 1 wheel they had a total catch of 200 Kings and 7,500 Chums, from Hamilton to Keechuks there were 7 families located they reported a fair catch of kings and heavy catch of Chums.

At Mt. Village there were 25 families fishing, they were using 10-20 fathom nets and 1 wheel and had a total catch of 2,000 Kings and 25,000 Chums, they all reported this fish is being in the finest shape they had ever seen Chums.

Between Mt. Village and Old Andrafsky there were 10 native families using 9 wheels they had a total catch of 45,000 Chums.

At Andrafsky, Pilot Station and all points in through here they reported fair catches of Kings and the heaviest catch of Chums ever.

At all camps between Pilot Station, Marshall and up to Pimite they had fairly good catches of Kings and heavy catches of Chums.

Pimite where they usually have fine catches of Kings, very few were caught this season, the people here said that due to the low water the fish stayed too far out in the river and would not go into the wheels, the catch of Chums here was a very heavy one, the silvers started to run here during the later part of August and the people were catching around 70 and 80 daily.

COPY

Annual report-Tukon District-1940

Between Pimute and Holy Cross there were 6 native camps, they averaged 100 kings at each and had a total catch of 30,000 Chums, all reported the Chums as being the largest and fattest they had every seen.

Holy Cross Mission reported a very heavy catch of Chums which they dried for winter use, they had 200 Kings which they canned in one gallon cans for winter use and made into salt bellies, the Walker family at Holy Cross had a fair catch of Kings and 20,000 Chums, all these people here were getting around 70 to 80 Silvers a day.

There were 15 families between Holy Cross and Anvik using 8 wheels they reported a total catch of 45,000 Chums.

At Anvik they reported a catch of 40,000 Chums with very few Kings they said they had too much fish here this season and there was no sale for it, here they said the reason they caught so few Kings was because of the low water and the fish were too far out in the river and would not go into the wheels.

Between Anvik and Blackburn a distance of 125 miles, there were 15 camps scattered along through here using a total of 13 wheels they had a total catch of 51,700 Chums, very few Kings were caught here.

Between Blackburn and Kaltag the same heavy catches of Chums were reported by all, there were 28 different outfits fishing with an average of 2,500 Chums per outfit, few Kings were caught here until some of the natives changed their wheels and put them on the opposite side of the river, then they averaged between 75 and 100 a day. At Kaltag there was a great change in the town since no liquor is being sold, all the natives fished this season and have plenty of fish to see them through the winter, with C.C.C. funds the past two seasons they have been able to clean up their town and make many improvements, this certainly was something unheard of when these people had liquor stores for it was seldom they ever had enough fish to last them more than a month.

At Nulato, Koyukuk Station, Galea and all camps in this section each family averaged between 3 and 4 thousand Chums, not many Kings were caught, the Silvers were running steady in through here but no heavy runs were noticed as very few people were fishing for them as there was plenty of C.C.C. work going on for anyone who wanted it.

Four white men were fishing at Ruby this season and they all reported fairly good catches of Kings and extra heavy catches of Chums, quite a few Silvers were being caught in through here.

At Kokrines where they very seldom get many fish of any species they reported very heavy catches of Chums and some Kings.

From Kokrines to Tanana everyone reported very heavy catches of Chums.

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Annual report-Yukon District-1

The Kings coming into the river this season were very small but plentiful at the mouth, while along the river they were scattered and harder to get, this condition was probably caused by extremely low water, during the early part of the season the water was very clear and nearly everyone fishing for Kings with fishwheels reported that the fish would not go into the wheels.

The Chums, or dogs as they are locally called were the largest and fattest I have ever seen them, most of them as large and fat as the Kings this season, I would say that the catch of Chums this season was the greatest in the history of the Yukon, every native family, the entire length of the Yukon has far more fish than they know what to do with, the traders are buying only enough to give each family a few of the necessary things such as flour, tea and etc., if the natives only knew it they are far better off by having to keep their fish for practically every family has enough fish to last them all through the winter and far into next summer, all fish this season is in perfect condition, for drying conditions were ideal all through the month of June when most of their fish was caught.

Very few Silvers were caught except for daily use, from Hely Cross on up the river there was C.C.C. work going on at all the towns and the men were all working on these projects, this C.C.C. work does not start until August so as not to interfere with the fishing.

From four to six cents was the price being paid for the dry fish that was being purchased, tow itinerant trading boats were along the river buying dry fish at fourcents per pound, this fish was all taken to Fairbanks, but from all reports the Nenana and Fairbanks markets are flooded and it is doubtful if there will be much sale for it.

From Tanana to Nenana there were between 20 and 25 camps using 39 wheels and everyone had the heaviest catch of fish in years.

We did not have a man on the Kuskokwim River this season but from all reports coming from there they had heavy catches of all species of salmon, there was no commercial fishing going on there this season.

The Coot arrived at Nenana on September 13, with a total mileage of 3,474 miles for the season.

This concludes the river report for the season 1940 in the Yukon District.

Respectfully submitted,
/sgd./ Calvin F. Townsend
Fishery Management Agent.

COPY

Yukon and Tuleen River catch of fish showing the number of
 families, fish caught and gear used, all fish used locally. 1940

Kwiguk Slough-Jorgensen-white	
Kings	400
Chums	12,000
Wheels	3
Gill, nets	112 fms.
Kwiguk Slough-O'Connor-white	
Kings	900
Chums	2,000
Silvers	1,000
Wheels	2
Gill nets	50 fms.
Kwiguk Slough & vicinity-natives	
Kings	1,000
Chums	27,000
Wheels	10
Gill nets	120 fms.
Families	41
Fish in Chenuk Holes	15,000
Kwiguk Slough—W.C. Co.,	
Kings	400
Chums	8,000
Wheels	3
Gill nets	75 fms.
LaMont-Sunshine Bay-white	
Kings	500
Chums	11,000
Wheel	1
Natives Sunshine Bay	
Kings	100
Chums	15,000
Wheel	1
Families	3
Natives between Kwiguk & Hamilton	
Kings	300
Chums	18,000
Families	6
Wheels	3
St. Mary's Mission-Sunshine Bay	
Kings	400
Chums	30,000
Wheels	3
Nets	80 fms.

Aeropak-Natives	
Chums	50,000
Wheels	3
Families	10
Bill Meeres Camp-Natives-Apoon mouth	
Kings	300
Chums	7,500
Wheel	1
Gill nets	35 fms.
Families	5
Hamilton to Ischuku-Natives	
Kings	200
Chums	22,500
Wheels	3
Families	7
Mt. Village-Natives	
Kings	2,000
Chums	25,000
Wheel	1
Gill nets	200 fms.
Families	25
Between Mt. Village & Old Andreafsky	
Chums	45,000
Wheels	9
Families	10
George Peterson-Andreafsky-native	
Kings	1,000
Chums	12,000
Wheels	2
Andreafsky-Natives	
Kings	200
Chums	5,000
Wheels	2
Families	11
Pilot Station-Natives	
Kings	200
Chums	17,500
Wheels	2
Gill nets	35 fms.
Families	10
Between Pilot Station & Marshall	
Chums	30,000
Cams	10
Wheels	10
Families	35

Between Marshall & Russian Mission

Kings-----25,000
 Chums-----7
 Camps-----7
 Families-----15

Pimite Natives

Kings-----200
 Chums-----17,000
 Wheels-----2
 Gill nets-----25 ftms.
 Families-----4

Between Pimite & Holy Cross

Kings-----600
 Chums-----30,000
 Camps-----6
 Families-----6
 Wheels-----2

Holy Cross Mission

Kings-----200
 Chums-----18,000
 Wheels-----2

Walker-Holy Cross-Native

Kings-----150
 Chums-----20,000
 Silvers-----2,000
 Wheels-----2

Between Holy Cross & Anvik-natives

Chums-----41,000
 Wheels-----8
 Families-----15

Anvik-----Natives

Kings-----200
 Chums-----40,000
 Wheels-----2
 Families-----6

Between Anvik & Blackburn-Natives

Chums-----51,700
 Wheels-----13
 Camps-----15
 Families-----26

Between Blackburn & Kaltag-Natives

Kings-----500
 Chums-----70,000
 Wheels-----14
 Families-----28

Quilto-----Natives

Chums-----77,000
 Wheels-----12
 Families-----25

Koyukuk Station-----Natives

Chums-----30,000
 Wheels-----5
 Families-----15

Galena-----Natives

Kings-----100
 Chums-----39,000
 Wheels-----2
 Families-----12

Ruby-----4 whites

Kings-----3,000
 Chums-----30,000
 Wheels-----8

Ruby-----Natives

Chums-----20,000
 Wheels-----7
 Families-----8

Kokrine-----Natives

Kings-----200
 Chums-----20,000
 Wheels-----8
 Families-----6

Kokrine to Tanana-Natives

Kings-----300
 Chums-----80,000
 Wheels-----30
 Camps-----7
 Families-----30

Tanana to Nerana

Chums-----50,000
 Wheels-----39
 Camps-----25
 Families-----30

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Fish and Wildlife Service

Annual report of commercial fisheries operations outside and
inside the mouth of the Yukon River for the season 1940.

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2-INTRODUCTION

Commercial fishing for export in this district this season was done on a very small scale as in previous years.

The only outfit operating outside the mouth of the river was the Northern Commercial Company, they had sixteen fishermen fishing in Acherson Channel using a total of four hundred fathoms of Gill nets and six fishermen located in Casey Channel using a total of one hundred fifty fathoms of Gill nets, all gear and equipment was furnished by the company, all fish is picked up by company boats and the fishermen are paid forty cents per fish, a total of fifty two shoremen were employed by the company, they included slimers, headers, splitter, salters and men used for general work around the plant, these men are all paid fifty cents an hour with the exception of the splitter who receives eight dollars per day, all wages are paid in trade checks and these are redeemable at all trading posts, local natives and natives from the surrounding flats are employed by this company, Mr. Butler is the only white man with the outfit, he has charge of all the company's posts in the section and is also in charge of all fishing, he claims these natives will not use a net longer than twenty-five fathoms for the longer nets are too hard to care for and that even these ~~short~~ nets are not properly cared for causing the company added expense so that the fish actually cost them seventy cents. the company will purchase fish from any of the natives who bring it to the saltery, this season twelve hundred and five kings were purchased from the Nilak natives at fifty cents each, these Nilak natives seldom bother with King salmon but this season the kings were plentiful at that point and they made some effort to catch them.

This company started fishing on June 2, and stopped on July 8, a total of ten thousand two hundred and forty-four kings were taken, this amount and those purchased from the Nilak natives made a total of eleven thousand four hundred and forty nine kings, the entire catch taken outside the mouth, these fish were all mild cured and those not suitable for mild curing were dry salted.

At Kwiguk, this outfit had their small hand cannery, they were using three fishwheels in Kwiguk Slough and two gill nets also located in Kwiguk Slough, nine hundred and sixty two kings were caught here by the company and five hundred and sixty three were purchased from the natives at fifty cents each, all the above fish was used for canning and hard salted bellies, the part of the fish not used for bellies was used for smoked strips, all the fish packed at Kwiguk is sold in the Territory.

Chris Lauridsen, who was formerly located at Kwiguk had his small saltery about a mile inside the mouth near Ageklarok (locally known as Tin Can point) this season, he had two natives helping him with sliming and other work, his nets were right in front of his camp he caught nine hundred and fifty six kings and paid out a total of one hundred ninety dollars, this small fishing industry of his is his only source of income.

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3-INTRODUCTION-cont'd.

The Bering Trading Company, owned and operated by Jack Emsel Jr. and his cousin Russell Emsel, both formerly of Seattle, Washington, was located at Kwiguk this season, their outfit consisted of a barge about 50x14 and was equipped with a small hand sawing outfit, all their fish was purchased from local natives and one local white man, fifty cents each was the price paid for king salmon, from twelve to sixteen natives were employed during the season at the rate of fifty cents per hour, a total of two thousand six hundred and fifty four dollars were paid to shoremen and fishermen which was a great help to all concerned, 3,248 kings was the total number of fish used by this outfit, after the fishing season was over this outfit moved to the small village of Alakanak, located eight miles below Kwiguk, here there is a large Lake of clear water they plan to build a small cannery building on shore and hope to have it ready for next season's operations, all help was paid with trade checks, the boys claim the natives want to be paid each day and it would be impossible to keep enough cash on hand.

Axel Alstrom, a white trader located at Kwiguk, purchased 12-200# barrels of hard salt king bellies from various natives at \$25.00 per barrel, as the local market was over stocked with salt bellies, he was shipping the fish to Seattle.

St. Mary's Mission put up wild cured kings for export as in past seasons, they started fishing on June 5, and stopped on June 13, with a total of 1,800 kings for export they were at the same locations as usual, the large girls from the mission do all the skinning and seven native shoremen were employed this season, all work was under the supervision of one Priest and one lay Brother, their total pack was 31-800 # tierses of wild cure.

Every outfit fishing this season was pleased with their catch of kings and every native who wanted to work during the fishing season could.

The total catch of king salmon taken both inside and outside the mouth of the river for the season was 12,055 a total of 103 natives were employed by the different outfits during the season, the total wages paid these men was \$10,065 and that paid to one white fisherman and 19 independent native fishermen \$ 2,508.00 thus making a total of \$12,573.00 paid to fishermen and shoremen during the season.

On July 18, the Northern Commercial boat "Ensee" came into the south mouth and picked up all canned and wild cured fish and took it into St. Michaels where it was transferred to the Alaska Steamship Co. boat and shipped to Seattle.

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3- CANNING OPERATIONS

- A. Northern Commercial Co.-hand cannery Kwiguk
267-cases 1/2 flat cans king salmon

Bering Trading Co.-hand cannery Kwiguk, Alaska
802-cases 1/2 flat cans king salmon
- B. Bering Trading Co. located at Kwiguk, a small hand canning outfit
on barge 50x14, no building were used, everything was stored in tents.
- C. None
- D. None
- E. None
- F. Northern Commercial Co. saltery
181-800# tiers-mild cure king salmon
3,500 # hard salt bellies
7,800 # dry salted sides

St. Mary's Mission saltery
31-800# tiers mild cure

Chris Lauridsen saltery
17-800# tiers mild cure

Axel Alstrom-storekeeper Kwiguk
12-200# barrels Hard salt bellies
- G. None
- H. None

4- GEAR OPERATED

- A. Northern Commercial Co.
700 fathoms gill nets
3-fishwheels

Chris Lauridsen
50 fathoms gill nets

St. Mary's Mission
80 fathoms gill nets
3 fishwheels
- B. Pete Jorgenson
112 fathoms gill nets
3 fishwheels

Kwiguk Natives-6
75 fathoms gill nets

Kilak natives-6
120 fathoms gill nets

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4-GEAR OPERATED--cont'd.

B. Johnny Sennyboy
25 fathoms gill nets

Natives around south mouth-6
36 fathoms gill nets

Total fathoms of gill nets for Yukon District-1,188 fathoms king
salmon gill nets
total number fishwheels 9.
Independent native fishermen-19
White fishermen 1

C. None

5-RUN AND ESCAPEMENT OF SALMON.

A. The king salmon started to run on May 28, but no commercial fishing for export was started until June 2, the number continued to increase until June 9, when a total catch of 1,125 was reported, from June 9, to June 15, inc., they continued to run good, the heaviest catch of the season was reported on June 13, when a total of 1,658 were caught, from June 13, to June 30 they gradually decreased each day very few kings were running during July.

The king salmon were very small this season averaging 3.9 to the case for canning and averaging between 55 and 60 to the tierce for mild curing.

The inward migration of the Kings caught here was up the Acheron Channel and Kwiguk Slough from Bering Sea, these were the only places where fishing was done to any extent, the fish come in and up all the mouths including the Apeem or north mouth, the Kwikpak and Kawanak at middle mouths and the Kwikluak mouth or south mouth.

The Chums (locally called dogs) started to run June 5, and continued to run heavy all through the month of June and up until July 10. However towards the end of this period many of them were in poor shape and ready to spawn, on about July 12 a new run came into the river and this run lasted all through the month of July, these fish were all very large and fat, most of them almost as large and fat as the kings this season, the run of Chums at the mouths and the entire length of the Yukon River, this season was the heaviest in history.

The inward migration of Chums was up all mouths of the river and the escapement of all fish was good, everyone fishing for Chums had their wheels stopped most of the day for they were getting far more fish than they could take care of. The escapement of Kings was also very good for only one mouth is fished.

5-RUN AND ESCAPEMENT*CONT'D.

- A. Quite a few Humpbacks were noticed this season but they were all caught in the Apoon or north mouth and the inward migration was up the Apoon mouth from Bering Sea, these fish were all in very poor shape.

The Silvers started to run around August 12, these fish were of average size and in excellent shape, no large runs were noticed but very few people were fishing for them except for their daily needs, these fish usually run until a short time before the freeze-up.

- B. None

6-STREAM MARKING

Markers were put up at Milak and Ageklarok to mark the mouth of the river.

7-STREAM IMPROVEMENT AND PREDATORY CONTROL

None

8-PATROL SEASONAL HISTORY

- A. USFS Coot

The Coot departed from Nenana, Alaska on May 19, traveled down the Tanana River and Yukon River arriving in the lower river district on May 31, to remain in this section during the fishing season, on August 4, the Coot departed from Kwiguk enroute upstream, stops to be made at all camps and towns and all spawning streams were visited and the runs of fish checked at all the points between Kwiguk and Tanana.

- B. Charles H. Code of Nome, Alaska was employed two days each month, during the months of July, August and September at \$5.00 per day, this man furnishes his own boat, his services have always been satisfactory.

Leo H. Keogh is employed on the Coot as Engineer and Pilot at \$8.00 per day, he is hired at Nenana and works on the Coot during the early spring, his services are satisfactory and he is a good dependable man.

As there has not been any commercial fishing going on in the Kuskokwim section there has not been a stream gage located there for the past two seasons.

9-COMPLAINTS AND PROSECUTIONS

There are usually a few minor complaints from the few whites fishing along the river, they claim the natives are crowding their nets and wheels but usually after investigating these complaints find they do not amount to anything very serious and in most cases find the nets and wheels are the proper distance apart.

10-CONDITION OF LOCAL NATIVES AND WHITES.

The condition of both local whites and natives in the lower river section is deplorable, they are the most poverty stricken lot I have ever seen.

- A. The approximate earnings of those engaged in the Fisheries \$ 12,573.00.

The average price paid for each king salmon to independent fishermen was 50¢ each.

The price paid for salmon when the company furnished gear was 40¢ per salmon.

- B. There is very little unemployment during the fishing season, all natives who want to work are hired during the fishing season.
- C. A little trapping in the winter time is the only possibility of a gainful occupation other than fishing in the lower river section. At Marshall and at most of the points up river from there, there is quite a bit of mining, wood cutting the the Alaska Railroad steamers and other work to do, at all points from Holy Cross on up the river there has been C.C.C. work going on the past two seasons. But in this lower section there is absolutely nothing but fishing.

11-LABOR CONDITIONS: UNION ACTIVITIES, WAGES PAID, ETC.

There are no union activities of any kind here and the going wage is 50¢ per hour and this is always paid in trade.

12-COOPERATIVE SERVICES RENDERED OTHER BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Alma Carlson, Travel nurse with the office of Indian Affairs traveled from Kwiguk to Saltery on June 8, and returned to Kwiguk June 11.

- 13- The only unusual occurrences in this district this season was the very heavy run of Chums, without a doubt this seasons was the heaviest run in history and the water this season is the lowest anyone has ever seen it in the Yukon River.

14-RECOMMENDATIONS

As in previous years, I still recommend that the present regulations for a limited pack of King salmon inside and outside the mouth of the Yukon remain as they are for the few fish taken at the mouth of the river really benefit so many people where they have no other way of earning a few dollars and I know the fishing up river is not being harmed in any way, the average native up river salmon wants to bother with king salmon for in the first place the kings run too early and the average up river salmon starts fishing until after the king runs are over and in the second place they are too hard to cure, this little industry at the mouth not only helped the Kwiguk people and people in this vicinity but natives from Pilot Station, Mt. Village and Fish Village all came to the mouth of the river this season and all were given employment.

14- Recommendations-cont'd.

This season a total of 18,053 King salmon were taken and 103 natives were employed by the different outfits there were also 19 independent native fishermen selling fish so you see it is a great help to all the people in this section and I would like to see the present regulations remain in force.

Respectfully submitted,

/sgd./ Calvin F. Townsend

Fishery Management Agent

COPY

Copy to:
Washington
Juneau
Seattle

Subject: Reports of fishery operations in Alaska re-file 560-Yukon
District-1940

Director,
Fish and Wildlife Service,
Washington, D.C.

The total catch of salmon in the Yukon District for the season of 1940, that taken both outside and inside the mouth of the river for commercial export and that taken along the river for local sale, food and dog food.

11,449	kings	taken	outside	the	mouth	for	export	by	gill	nets
4,204	"	"	inside	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2,400	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Fishwheels
11,400	"	"	along	river	for	local	use	by	fish	wheels
3,000	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	gill nets
<hr/>										
32,453	"	Total	number	of	kings	taken				
		56%	taken	by	gill	nets				
		44%	"	"	fish	wheels				

1,024,200 Chums taken along river, this is the approximate amount and is under estimated.

100% fish wheels were used for the catch of chums this season.

Approximately 5,000 Silvers taken

100% fish wheels were used for the catch silvers

32,453	-total	number	kings		
1,024,200	chums	-total	number		
5,000	total	number	of	silvers	
370	total	number	of	families	
187	total	number	fish	wheels	
1,798	fathoms	gill	nets	total	number

Products prepared from above fish and approximate value

229-800# tierces mild cure	\$24,400.00
1,191 cases-1/2 flat cans king salmon	14,633.00
7,800# dry salted kings	450.00
12,300 # pickled bellies-local sale	1,420.00
4000# smoked strips-local sale	1,000.00
Approximately 682 tons dry fish, very little sale, estimated 50 ton purchased @ 45¢	4,500.00

\$ 46,403.00

More dry fish may be purchased later on but to date very little has been purchased by the local traders.

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List of operators in the Yukon District for 1940.

Northern Commercial Co.,	Pastolie, Alaska	Mild cure & etc.,
St. Mary's Mission	Akularak, Alaska	" "
C. M. Lauridsen	Kwiguk, Alaska	" "
Bering Trading Co.,	Kwiguk, Alaska	Canned salmon

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