

Rosebute Creek

63°30' Lat., 139°42' Long.

Hunka, Robbin L. and D.J. Schuler. *Abundance, Distribution, Habitat Utilization and Habitat Preference of Juvenile Chinook Salmon (Oncorhynchus Tshawytscha) in Three Study Areas of the Upper Yukon River Basin, 1988*. Economic Development Agreement. 1988.

33) Six minnow traps were set in the upper stream 1988 and no juvenile chinook salmon were captured.

36) Fifty-two juveniles were captured near the mouth.

Seventymile River

Scott, Elva. "Historic Eagle and it's People." Eagle City, Alaska: June 1992.

62) Erwin A. Nimrod Robertson mined on Flume Creek, a tributary of the Seventymile River. His mining ditch was used more as a fish preserve than a mining devise. Grayling ran up the stream from the river in the spring. Nimrod sip netted them and put them into his ditch which ran by his door. He fed the fish raw caribou meat chopped up fine, always assuring fresh fish to eat. One year he caught and transplanted 385 grayling, always recording the accurate number remaining in his ditch in his diary.

Shade Creek

Scott, Elva. "Historic Eagle and it's People." Eagle City, Alaska: June 1992.

120) Sarah Malcolm was born in Eagle in 1905. During the summers, her family fished for King Salmon on Shade Creek. They stayed there about a month and made their own dip nets out of 13 ply twine. They used to use babishe. They traded the salmon to the mission for clothing.

Duncan, Jake, Percy Henry, Mabel Henry, Gerry Couture, Sally Robinson. Interview, October 10, 1997.

SR: Do you remember I mentioned Shade Creek before. It was Sarah Malcolm's family, from Eagle, that fished on Shade Creek for king salmon and they used dip nets. They stayed there for a month.

CG: Did they fish in the creek or at the mouth?

PH: The family used to fish below and up to the boundary. We interviewed Matthew Malcom this fall. He was talking about dip nets. That was fishing in the main stem river.

CG: That reference is probably about fishing in the mouth of the river.

Sixty Mile River or Ghël dëk meaning brown water creek.

63°34' Lat., 139°46' Long.

1909

Canadian Government, Forty-third Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, 1909-10. Ottawa: 1910.

236) 500 lbs. salmon, 1000 lbs. of smoked salmon, 500 lbs. of whitefish, 240 lbs. trout,

4000 lbs. grayling, 350 lbs. pickerel, 200 lbs. pike, 600 lbs. ling cod, 550 lbs. tullibee, 200 lbs. mixed and coarse fish.

1910

Canadian Government, Forty-fourth Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, 1910-11. Ottawa: 1911.

304) Sixtymile, fish caught by whites: 28 cwts. salmon, 2 cwts trout, 10 cwts whitefish, 10 cwts. pickerel, 1 cwts. pike, 8 cwts. tullibee, 40 cwts. grayling, 8 cwts. mixed fish.

1939-1969

Bobillier, Marcel. "Journal d'un Missionnaire au Yukon: 1939-1969"

1014) Visits cabin of old Charlie Evangelisto who has many nets and hooks strung out in the river. He now feeds two dogs, Minnie and Tommy.

1975

"f. Annual Narrative Reports 1971 -"

- 1975 reports Cogasa Mining Corp. diverted the whole Sixtymile River and used it for major ground sluicing, contrary to all legislation and without permission from any government agency.

1977

Sixty Mile River, FISS Support Files, February 1985. Government of Canada.

- From "A Collection of Fisheries Information from Water Bodies Associated with Pipeline Routes in the Yukon Territory from Dawson to Watson Lake. Sept. 1, 1977." Prepared by Northern Natural Resource Services Ltd. July 28 to August 31, 1977. No salmon were caught. No critical areas for fish survival were found. Moving water under ice had too low oxygen content for fish life being 5 ppm.

Duncan, Jake Percy Henry, Mabel Henry, Gerry Couture, Sally Robinson. Interview, October 10, 1997.

CG: Log Cabin slough at the Sixtymile. The water is about 18" deep and you can see the fins as the fish go over the shallows. You could fish there easily with a spear or a dip net.

SR: Charlie Evangelisto was at Sixtymile fishing. Would he have been in the Sixtymile or at the mouth.

PH: Probably at the mouth. His cabin was not very far up.

CG: The nets would be for some fish and set hooks for others. He might have been fishing for ling cod, whitefish or grayling. If the net was small, he would have been after grayling.

CG: There has been rearing salmon on the Sixtymile for a long time. I have flown that river. There was a lot of mining on it in 1969 to '71 and the late 1970s and early 1980s.

JD: We should ask Al. I am sure there is spawning salmon in there.

SR: I have reference to fish caught.

CG: I would think that would be at Ogilvie post. This reference is also to trout. There is no trout. The grayling came from the Sixtymile. In the spring when they coming down and fall they are coming down. You put in a net.

PH: Marsdon was the last person there. He was there trapping and had a garden in the 1940s.

CG: You would have had to work hard to get 1500 pounds of salmon. We get 15,000 but we have it easy.

MH: It happened.

Stewart River - Nän Tr'dëk

63'19' Lat., 139'24' Long.

1889

Ogilvie, William, DLS. "Exploratory Survey of part of the Lewes, Tat-on-duc, Porcupine, Bell, Trout, Peel and Mackenzie rivers, 1887-88" Part VIII in *Annual Report of the Department of the Interior for the Year 1889*, Ottawa: Department of the Interior, 1890. [354.710 03 CDI 1889]

48) An informant told Ogilvie: there were about thirty families of Indians up river about 20 or 30 miles or about one day's travel. They were living on salmon, and had no trouble in catching all they required.

Henry, Percy and Mabel. Interviewed by Sally Robinson. October 20, 1997.

SR: Do you think Ogilvie meant 30 miles up the McQuesten? Was there people way up there?

PH: Yes. There used to be, but they are trappers. There would be fish right up to the dam. But Clear Creek must be the place they trapped fish. It is the right size.

1898

Baechtel, William H. *Diary of William H. Baechtel: 1898-1899*. Collection of the Mendocino County Museum, Gift of Milene Baechtel.

July 21, 1898. On the Stewart River, about 4 miles above the Mayo River. Saw some large fish in a slough. They would not bite but they fixed up a burlap seine and after hard work got 2 large fish.

July 27, 1898. At mouth of Fraser Falls. Saw salmon jumping the falls. 6 out of 25 were successful.

August 14, 1898. When we got to our camp at [Fraser] Falls the boys had a rack of salmon smoking. They caught 38 while we were gone, with tackle of miners picks and pike hooks. Fred caught two very fine salmon this p.m. the two weighing about 40#. We cannot catch fish in river with hook and line.

August 15, 1898. A party across the river from us went up a small stream on our side of the river and caught 18 salmon, but they were nearly all spoiled.

August 4, 1899. Went fishing up the Klondike and brought home 6 small grayling.

1898

Boldrick, Tom. "His Diary of the Klondike: 1898." Ralph Boldrick Collection, Dawson City Museum and Historical Society."

July 6, 1898. Ten or 12 miles up Black Hills Creek, one of the boys caught about a dozen fish something like trout. They eat fine but was only a taste for a lot of hungry men. 23)

1898

Cresswell, R.H.S. "Diary of R.H. S. Cresswell Recounting his Journey in to the Klondike from Edmonton, Alberta to Dawson City: May 1898 to October 1899."

92) Camped at the bottom of the Falls on the Stewart River. "Mike caught 3 big Tom cods on line. Fox set net and gave us a mess of fish."

1898

Steiner, C.O. "A Journey to Dawson (in 1898)", Written in 1925 from notes made during, and recollections of, the trip. Dawson City Museum and Historical Society.

69) Steiner's party camped on a stream about 100 miles up from the mouth. They were up the stream about 5 miles.

70) Once while poling up stream, they saw a mother bear catching salmon for her young. The cubs were on the shore and the mother out in the stream, on a riffle. She would grab a fish, throw it ashore and the young ones would devour it. She would wade back and forth along the shallow waters, gaffing here and there, catch another and fling it out.

71) Just across the Stewart River from our camp was a small stream whose waters were clear and an excellent place for fish.

74-79) In early September, they started downstream stopping at a stream called Fish Creek.

"The Salmon run was on, we decided to catch a supply, smoke and dry them for our winter use. We went up the stream about half a mile, here we found a riffle, the stream about 200 feet wide, and the salmon going up this riffle by the thousands, the water was 'alive' with fish, upstream some 4 or 5 miles was Salmon Lake where the salmon 'spawned'."

"We built a fish trap, drove stakes into the gravel across the stream, placing the poles about 2 inches apart thus making up a 'dam' thru which the fish could not pass but instead of going into our trap they commenced to spawn just below our obstruction."

"Here we observed another of Nature's ways of perpetuating its kind."

"The stream was some 400 ft. wide, about 8 feet deep, not much current, small gravelly bottom and perfectly clear."

"The fish would segregate into small 'families' of about 12. This family would consist of one male and 10 or 12 females. The male would take up a position about 10 feet behind or down stream from the females, hold himself perfectly still, just wiggling his tail enough to affect the force of the current."

"The females would commence to 'dig' holes in the bed of the stream for the deposit of their eggs, they would form a circle around the spot, would dive head first against the bottom, push up a little rock or some sand, return, again take the same dive, more sand and pebbles would be pushed away, return again and again at the same task."

"Often a small rock, say the size of a goose egg, would be pushed up the slope of the 'hole' and roll back, again it would be 'buted' by the fish, again and again with the same result, but finally two of the workers would strike the stone from different angles at the same moment and out would go the offender. Whether this 'team' work was a conscious effort, an intelligent action, a mutual understanding between the two workers, it would be hard to say, but it certainly looked like it was."

"After the females had 'dug' a hole about the size of an ordinary wash tub, and about as deep, they would immediately line up in front of the male, who had kept his place the while, and one at a time would swim up over the 'excavation' deposit her eggs, and would then leave downstream, each female would thus leave until the last one had deposited her eggs."

"Sometimes the females would swim up over the hole, shake herself violently but no eggs would fall, she would then leave this 'nest', go to the bank, where a perpendicular rock stood up against the stream, back off some ten feet, take a 'header' against the rock, come 'full steam ahead', but just before striking the solid face would turn her head, and

come up hard against the obstruction with her side. It would give her side an awful 'slap', the fish would return, and repeat this two or three times, then she would return to the 'hole', her eggs would then leave her body, and away she would go, to be followed by the next one."

"While the female was thus bruising her sides, apparently 'jarring' the eggs 'loose' her fellow workers, steadily held their place, and waited until she had completed her task they before they in turn deposited their eggs."

"The male, quietly watching all this work, would now move slowly up the stream, over the pile of eggs, a pile which looked as if it would fill an ordinary wash tub, shake his tail, when a milky fluid would leave his body. Slowly settling down over the eggs, he would then depart, when all at once his 'harem' would again appear and the 'butting' process would commence, only this time the work was more easily done, the sand and gravel lay in a circular ridge around the eggs, and the females would now push this mass down hill over the eggs, they kept it up until every part of the eggs were covered and would then depart."

"While this scene was going on in front of our eyes, and not more than 15 or 20 feet away, dozens of other 'families', all about the same size, were doing likewise at distances of 10 or 15 feet apart, the whole space, say 400 feet wide, and for a distance of [half] or [three-quarters] of a mile up and down stream was litterly alive with these workers, all making 'winter quarters' for their eggs."

"We stayed at this camp about 10 days, and each day would spend hours on the bank watching this scene."

"The females in digging these holes and then covering would wear off their noses, they became an ugly sight. Teeth would show, nose worn off half way to the gills. Some of these would apparently commit suicide. They would back off from the perpendicular wall of the side of the stream, come head on against it, and this time would not turn the head thus bringing their bodies against the wall, but would strike head first. The blow would stun them, some would tremble a moment, turn belly up and float downstream, others, after the first attempt at self destruction, bot deadening the sensations, would return and repeat the act until they too would turn 'belly up'."

"We caught, with a small sciene, what fish we wanted, built a smoke house, on a bar in the river. Smoked and dried about 200 lbs. of fish, picked about 200 lbs. of cranberries and started downstream."

1898

Wilson, Tomas C. 1868-1945. Victoria Mining Prospector Originals, 1897, 1919. B.C. Archives, Add. MSS 1323.

July 14, 1898. Party is mining on Barlow Creek, a trib of the Stewart River. "George catches five small trout."

August 2, 1898. Arrive at Clear Creek, a trib. of the Stewart River. Find the place nearly deserted, McCormack is here and had caught five large salmon, averaging 20 (30?) lbs. in weight.

August 30, 1898. On the Stewart River between Black Hills Creek and Lake Creek (and Independence Creek). "Going up the Stewart River, capture a salmon in shoal water, but find it minus the eyes, the salmon are dying fast now, and one frequently sees them lying dead on the beach."

1906

Keele, Joseph. "The Upper Stewart River Region" [1906] in *Yukon Territory: Selected Field Reports of the Geological Survey of Canada, 1898 to 1933*, edited by H.S. Bostock. Geological Survey of Canada Memoir 284. Ottawa: 1957.

166) Salmon ascend the Stewart in large numbers. Only the most vigorous fish are able to ascend the Fraser Falls but some have been caught at Lancing and they have been seen as high as fifty miles up the Beaver River.

1906

Keele, J. *Report on the Upper Stewart River Region*. Geological Survey of Canada. Ottawa: King's Printer, 1906.

13) The rivers and lakes in the upper Stewart River region are well stocked with salmon... The salmon on their way from the sea to the spawning grounds ascend the Stewart River in large numbers. Only the more vigorous fish as able to ascend Fraser Falls, but several are caught by the Indians at Lancing and salmon were seen as high as fifty miles up the Beaver River. ... Several Indians from Fort Good Hope on the Mackenzie River make regular journeys to the trading post at the mouth of the Lancing River, hunting and trapping along the route.

1944

Leinweber, Martin. "Years on the Yukon" in the *Alaska Sportsman*, April 1944.

25) Leinweber ran the store at Clear Creek and described what he saw in the area.

"After the high water was gone and the salmon were sunning on the rivers, the Indians would build willow baskets, big at one end and small at the other. Then they would build a runway like a maze across the stream, with the baskets fastened at the ends. Every few hours the men would go out and empty the baskets. The women sat on the shores cleaning the fish. They cut the fish in halves, sliced the flesh down to the skin in several places, and hung the halves over the poles. They had smudge fires to keep the flies away from the fish, which was soon dried in the sun. This fish was put away for the dogs and Indians too, to eat during the winter."

Henry, Percy and Mabel. Interviewed by Sally Robinson. October 20, 1997.

PH: The baskets and maze that Leinweber describes have to be on Clear Creek. It would be impossible on the Stewart and even the McQuesten is too deep. Even at lowest water, it wouldn't work. I think they mean they mean a fish trap. That is like a fence. The fish come in but they can't go back out. They use baskets. [Percy draws a fence with a basket incorporated in the length.] They had a walkway on this bridge and they could come and get the fish. They fished during the day and let it open at night.

1946

Bobillier, Marcel. "Journal d'un Missionnaire au Yukon: 1939-1969"

1013) Sept. 1-2, 1946. Visits Belgian Joe who has a net hung across the creek. Does not say what fish is caught by the net.

1956

"Fishery Resources of the Yukon Basin between Eagle, Alaska and Carmacks, Yukon Territory", Progress Report No. III. 1956 Field Investigations, Juneau: US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1958.

25) Crooked Creek was observed at the highway crossing on August 17, and one dead salmon was observed.

28) Chum salmon are not reported present in the Stewart.

1959

Elliot, W.K. Fishery Officer. "Yukon Territory Salmon Spawning Report, 1959. RG 23 vol 523 f. 711-3-24 [1]

Salmon have been observed 120 miles above Mayo YT. There is a medium run into the Mayo River below the dam.

1961

"A Preliminary Assessment of the Possible Effects of the Proposed Rampart Hydroelectric Development on the Salmon Stocks of the Yukon Territory", FISS Support Files. US Department of Fish and Game, Alaska.

4) There was an estimated escapement of 2,000 king salmon in the Stewart River in 1961.

1961

Canadian Government, "Yukon River Basin - Canada, Estimated Total Population of King Salmon, 1961 and 1962". RG 23 Vol 111 f.726-11-7 vol 15.

- Estimated King Salmon Escapement, Stewart River: 2000 in 1961.

1962

Sears, Howard S. *Adult Salmon Migrations through Rampart Canyon on the Yukon River in 1962*. US Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, July 1967.

Subsistence fisheries, 1962: Dawson 2,000 chinook, 3,000 chum. Mayo (Stewart River), 300 kings.

1965

J.A Summer, District Protection Officer. Correspondence to R.I. Regnart, Alaska Fish and Game Dept. 1965. Canadian Department of Fisheries, NAC Pacific Region, RG10 189-90/101, Box 27. file 801/20-2 vol.5.

- Spawning survey and estimates of King Salmon on the Stewart River streams: light to medium, counts impossible.

1974

Sweitzer, Obert. *Distribution of Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and Chum (*Oncorhynchus keta*) Salmon in the Upper Yukon River System in 1973, as determined by a Tagging Program*. Environment Canada: Fisheries and Marine Service, 1974. PAC/2-74-20.

Chinook were caught in significant numbers in the Stewart River but not many chum. Chum spawning probably takes place in the Mayo and McQuesten Rivers where chum spawnings have been previously been reported.

1974

Brock, Dennis. "Distribution and Abundance of Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and Chum (*Oncorhynchus keta*) Salmon in the Upper Yukon River System in 1974, as Determined by a Tagging Program", Environment Canada: Fisheries and Marine Service, 1976. 13) Total chinook salmon catch on the Stewart River was 254.

1975

Walker, C.E. "Studies on the Freshwater and anadromous fishes of the Yukon River within Canada", Environment Canada, Fisheries and Marine Service, 1975.

8) Observed spawning population.

10) Chum spawning in the Stewart is sparse based on 1973 netting results.

1977

"Fisheries Investigations along the Klondike Highway Section of the Prospective Dempster Lateral Pipeline Route, Yukon Territory - Summer and Fall, 1977", February 1978.

16) During the summer, chinook salmon parr was found on Slough Creek (mile 39.2), a tributary of Clear Creek. Fishery potential for this stream was judged as moderate.

17) Only chinook salmon parr was found in Clear Creek. Locals reported that chinook salmon historically spawned in Clear Creek. A minor degree of use by salmon parr and this stream is classed as moderate.

19) The Stewart is an important migration route for spawning chinook salmon. Seen in the river from August 4 to August 21, at the proposed pipeline crossing. A domestic fishery harvested considerable fish upstream from the proposed crossing. One of the spawning areas described by local natives was a slough at the mouth of Clear Creek. If the chum salmon run still occurs, it must be small. None of the local residents fish for chum.

20) Chinook salmon were collected on Crooked Creek. It is a minor spawning area for chinook salmon. Utilized by migrating chinook salmon, and as a nursery and rearing area for chinook. It is likely that one spawning area is a km upstream from the mouth of Crooked Creek.

1982-83

Milligan, P.A. W.O. Rublee, D.D. Cornett and R.A.C. Johnson. "The Distribution and Abundance of Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) in the Upper Yukon River Basin as Determined by a Radio-Tagging and Spaghetti Tagging Program: 1982-1983", Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Technical Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. No. 1352, 1985.

92) Of 46 chinook that migrated into tributaries of the Yukon River, 8 (17.4%) entered the Stewart sub-basin. These fish were tagged between July 8 and July 26 (six after July 18) and entered the Stewart River between July 14 and August 7. Peak spawning occurred in mid-August.

96) Documented spawning areas in the Stewart watershed are located 200 to 600 km above the Stewart-Yukon confluence. Radio tagged chinook were widely distributed in the mainstream and tributaries throughout the watershed. One radio-tagged chinook spawned in Janet Creek, approx. 300 km above the confluence. Another three were tracked to mainstream locations 13, 123, and 253 km above the confluence. Spawning was not confirmed in the mainstream locations. The distribution of chinook salmon within the Stewart sub-basin appears to be more extensive than was indicated by the radio-tracking results. Ennis et al: 1982 reported that spawning occurs Janet Creek among others.

Several spawning areas are located above Fraser Falls. Elson (1974) suggested that Fraser Falls could present a barrier to migrating chinook salmon during years of low water although

this seems unlikely.

Spaghetti-tag returns from the native subsistence fishery suggest that this sub-basin is an important producer of chinook salmon. In terms of importance, the Stewart ranks higher than the White sub-basin but lower than the Pelly.

96) Ennis et al: 1982 reported that chinook spawning occurs in Crooked Creek.

1982-83

Milligan, P.A. W.O. Rublee, D.D. Cornett and R.A.C. Johnson. "The Distribution and Abundance of Chum Salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) in the Upper Yukon River Basin as Determined by a Radio-Tagging and Spaghetti Tagging Program: 1982-1983". Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Technical Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. No. 1351, 1986.

123) Chum production in the Stewart sub-basin appears to be minimal, although further research is needed.

1983

Pendray, T.J. *Stream habitat and evaluation for two study areas within the Yukon River Basin*. Yukon River Basin Study, Fisheries Work Group Project No. 3. Department of Renewable Resources, Government of Yukon, 1983. [SH 224 Y8 P46 1983]

- One area of study on the lower Yukon including Scroggie, Clear and Moose creeks. Another area of study was around the McQuesten River. Maps show details of tribs. sampled, summarizes results of inventory in terms of fish distribution and habitat utilization. Details preferred habitat, reach descriptions and movement of chinooks.

1987

McClellan, Catherine. *Part of the Land, Part of the Water*. Vancouver: 1987.

40) The salmon do not go up river past Fraser Falls.

1993

Buchan, Lesley. "A Local Survey of Historical Knowledge of Salmon in the Mayo Area, Yukon Territory", Mayo Renewable Resource Council. March 1993.

15) Everyone interviewed mentioned Fraser Falls as a major fishing location for chinook salmon. Many referred to the big eddy just below the falls where salmon congregate and are easy to catch. Families would gather in July and August and dry fish together. Mary Hager recalls fishing for chum at the falls in October.

16) Father Huijbers said that people cutting wood for the river boats and trappers along the river caught fish for their own consumption. Whites would also buy salmon from the Indians until this was stopped after WWII. Mary Hager said that people would go and fish at Ethel Lake if there was not enough food to last the winter. Tommy Moses said two nets were set at Fraser Falls every year in the big eddy and there would be enough salmon for the winter after two or three days. This would take up to two weeks to cut and dry. Nets were operated communally and all would share in the catch. Nets were used in other places as well, David Moses remembers four or five nets being put together below the old Indians village.

17) There were two different ways to make fish nets. Women would make nets in the spring with willows. The skin of the branches would be peeled into thin strips and then rolled between the hands to make a type of thread. This would be woven into a net. David Moses remembers his grandfather teaching him how to make a net from moose sinew. It would take 3 or 4 moose to

make a net. As soon as mass produced nets were available, people stopped making their own nets. Salmon were also gaffed at Fraser Falls a very long time ago.

18) All interviewees stated that they were less salmon in the Stewart than in the past. David Moses stated that the eddy would be red with fish. It was also common to see fish that were 40 to 60 pounds and that is rare today. Some noted that the run seems to occur later in the season than it used to.

19) Some blamed the Alaskan fishery and some blamed the Dawson fishery. Both claimed that the fisheries gets the biggest fish and leaves the small ones for the Stewart. Tommy Moses blames pollution. David Moses says the spaghetti tags bother the fish.

Henry, Percy and Mabel, Gerry Couture, Jake Duncan and Sally Robinson. Interview, October 10, 1997.

SR: We have some people from Mayo talking about fishing when they were young. You might know the people and can tell me how old they are, so we will know what years they are talking about.

PH: David Moses is 76 years old. Mary Hager is about 90. I think she was born in 1905.

GC: David Moses is still fishing and hunting as well.

Swede Creek or Chù dhò dèk

60'59' Lat., 131'18' Long.

63'57' Lat., 135'59' Long.

64'02' Lat., 139'34' Long.

1988

Hunka, Robbin L. and D.J. Schuler. *Abundance, Distribution, Habitat Utilization and Habitat Preference of Juvenile Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus Tshawytscha*) in Three Study Areas of the Upper Yukon River Basin, 1988*. Economic Development Agreement. 1988.

34) Nine minnow traps were set in 1988 and four juvenile chinook salmon were captured.

1989

"Chinook Distribution Studies: Stoney and Swede creeks", Al von Finster, Memo to files, November 30, 1989. FISS Support Files, Government of Canada.

Chum salmon spawning has been reported but not documented in the stream. Chinook spawning has been neither.

Traps were set on August 7 and pulled on August 9. Two stations were set. Only the lower traps, some 17 km. in a straight line and 25 by stream bore juvenile chinook salmon. Six fish were caught. Length, weight and condition is recorded. Map included. No chinook were captured at the upper site, 28 km in a straight line from the mouth.

The range of Juvenile chinook was greater than in 1988 but the summer of 1989 was abnormally dry while the river was in flood in 1988. Recommend more study.

Henry, Percy and Mabel. Interviewed by Sally Robinson. October 20, 1997.

SR: Swede Creek.

PH: Lots of grayling. I think it is too small. Maybe at OK Slough at the mouth. The salmon go though a lot of sloughs there.

Tatonduk River (Sheep Creek) or Kl'u dëk meaning Boundary Creek.
65'00' Lat., 141'00' Long.

Henry, Percy. Interviewed by Marilyn Jensen, July 31, 1997.
- Mouth is below Eagle. There is fish there.

"Fishery Resources of the Yukon Basin between Eagle, Alaska and Carmacks, Yukon Territory",
Progress Report No. III. 1956 Field Investigations, Juneau: US Department of the Interior, Fish
and Wildlife Service, 1958.

25) No salmon were observed during a aerial survey, July 17, 1956, but excellent spawning
gravels were observed. King salmon are known to ascend Sheep Creek, which enters the Yukon
30 miles downstream from Eagle.

28) Interviews indicated that chum salmon ascend Sheep Creek. They proceed 12 miles
upstream to Spring Creek and congregate in a deep hole where, in years past, they were speared
by prospectors and miners.

Henry, Percy and Mabel, Jake Duncan, Mabel Henry, Gerry Couture and Sally Robinson.
Interview, October 10, 1997.

PH: This elder said there was a settlement up the Tatonduk. If there was, then there had to be
fish. He didn't say how far up.

Henry, Percy and Mabel. Interviewed by Sally Robinson. October 20, 1997.

PH: I asked to the elder about Sheep Creek. He said there was village up there and there should be
fish. They won't stay up there for nothing. I have been up the Nation River about fifty miles but
I didn't look for fish. The river was good travelling though.

Brown, Randy. E-mail message to Jake Duncan, Nov. 3, 1997.

There are kings and chums on this river, although not very many. Some years he would see one
or two fish as he paddled the river. He would also see a couple of carcasses on the banks.

Thistle Creek

63'04' Lat., 139'30' Long.

1908

Canadian Government, Forty-second Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries,
1908-09. Ottawa: 1909.

248) 4000 lbs of King Salmon, 3000 lbs of grayling and 300 lbs. of mixed and coarse fish.

1909

Canadian Government, Forty-third Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries,
1909-10. Ottawa: 1910.

236) 3000 lbs. of salmon, 500 lbs. of smoked salmon, 300 lbs. of whitefish, 250 lbs. trout,
4500 lbs. grayling, 100 lbs. ling cod, 200 lbs. of mixed and coarse fish.

1911

McKay, H.J., Inspector of Fisheries. Correspondence. RG 23, vol. 280., File 3384, Part 1.
1911. George Saucerman has built a ditch several miles up the creek with no screens over the intake. Mining operation are ongoing at several points along the creek and the water is so muddy that it would be quite impossible for a fish to live in the stream.

1911

Canadian Government, Forty-fourth Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, 1910-11. Ottawa: 1911.

304) Thistle, fish caught by whites: 31 cwts. salmon, 2 cwts trout, 3 cwts whitefish, 3 cwts. pickerel, 1 cwts. pike, 2 cwts. tullibee, 44 cwts. grayling, 5 cwts. mixed fish.

1912

Canadian Government, Forty-sixth Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, 1912-13. Ottawa: 1913.

304) Thistle and Sixtymile fish caught by non-natives: 75 cwts. salmon, 5 cwts. trout, 10 cwts. whitefish, 5 cwts. pickerel, 2 cwts. pike, 4 cwts. maskinonge. 138 cwts. mixed fish.

1914

Canadian Government, Forty-first Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, 1913-14. Ottawa: 1914.

304) Thistle and Sixtymile fish caught by non-natives: 45 cwts. salmon, 5 cwts. trout, 8 cwts. whitefish, 70 cwts. mixed fish.

1914

Canadian Government, Forty-eighth Annual Report of the Fisheries Branch, Department of the Naval Service, 1914-15. Ottawa: 1915.

244) There were 5 boats and 5 fishermen working on the Thistle and Sixtymile with 24 gill nets and 16 lines.

245) Thistle and Sixtymile fish caught and marketed and or consumed locally: 38 cwts. salmon, 5 cwts. trout, 8 cwts. whitefish, 70 cwts. mixed fish (Grayling, bull-heads and ouananiche).

1915

Canadian Government, Forty-ninth Annual Report of the Fisheries Branch, Department of the Naval Service, 1915-16. Ottawa: 1916.

240) There were 3 boats and 4 fishermen with 20 gill nets.

241) Thistle and Sixtymile fish caught by non-natives: 25 cwts. salmon, 5 cwts. trout, 8 cwts. whitefish, 60 cwts. mixed fish.

1917

Canadian Government, Fiftieth Annual Report of the Fisheries Branch, Department of the Naval Service, 1916-17. Ottawa: 1917.

227) There were 3 boats and 4 fishermen working on the Thistle and Sixtymile with 20 gill nets and 16 lines.

228) Thistle and Sixtymile fish caught by non-natives and marketed and or consumed locally: 25 cwts. salmon, 4 cwts. trout, 4 cwts. whitefish, 50 cwts. mixed fish.

Henry Percy and Mabel, Gerry Couture, Jake Duncan and Sally Robinson. Interview, October 10, 1997.

CG: Thistle Creek would produce that many grayling. If you got a net into that creek you could catch 2,000 a day easily.

SR: So you are telling me they are counting Yukon main stem fish and fish caught in the sidestreams. They are all lumped together. They probably let the fishermen fish where they wanted. It says five boats and five fishermen were working on Sixtymile and Thistle. Is there room in Thistle for a boat?

CG: No. In 1914 there was a roadhouse there, to my place. There were miners up the creek in the summer. They mined Kirkman in the winter. They probably fished around the mouth. It is a good place to fish. You can get salmon and grayling. I have fished there.

CG: But no fishing in the creek but for grayling. It used to be a tremendous creek for grayling up to a few years ago when the miners went crazy.

Tulare Creek. (Touleary Creek) 120 miles upriver near Coffee Creek and on the same side as Ballarat.

Barker, Frank N. "Letters from the Klondike Gold Rush: 1898-1918." Donated by Sally Barker Chadwick to the Dawson City Museum and Historical Society.

To Brother from Dawson City, September 17, 1899. "Ira and I thought we could go up to Tulare and get some fish and moose and get our cabin ready for winter."

"...Ira took our gill net and went up to get some fish ready for winter."

To Mother from Dawson City, N.W.T., Sept. 27, 1898. [On Tulare Creek] Arthur puts out our 50 foot gill net and catches about thirty salmon a day. That is an average of 300 lbs. a day. He expects to keep this up for two or three weeks, which means a great help in the winter for provisions...

Henry, Percy and Mabel, Gerry Couture, Jake Duncan and Sally Robinson. Interview, October 10, 1997.

CG: Tuleary Creek is above Kirkman Creek and below Coffee Creek, just in between them. It is a little creek just at the head of an island. Eight miles above Kirkman.

SR> He put out a fifty foot net.

CG: He put a gill net out to the base of that island. It would be a beautiful place to fish.

SR: He again was right in the Yukon.

White River

63°11' Lat., 139°36' Long.

Henry, Percy and Mabel, Gerry Couture, Jake Duncan and Sally Robinson. Interview, October 10, 1997.

PH: There was fish in the Snag River. There was people from Northway coming to fishing there.

SR: Would that have been in the 1900s?

PH: Before the boundary stopped people from travelling easily. The site of the airport was an Indian village. Modern trappers used it.

Henry, Percy and Mabel, Gerry Couture, Jake Duncan and Sally Robinson. Interview, October 10, 1997.

SR: There was a big village at the mouth of the White?

CG: Pretty swampy on one side. It must have been on the flat on the north side or the island in the Yukon. There is a high bank. [After hearing the Pike reference.] They were on the islands. Beautiful islands there. Clear water above the White. Right in the channel. If you walk the bank, you can see the chinook in there. They rise in there. Just below Donahue Creek. Just in this channel in these islands. They were camped on the islands or on the mainland there.

CG: We are certain now that the Nisling has spawning populations of chinook on it. That was the radio-tagging. The Tin Cup is way up the Kluane, a trib of the Kluane. I have observed fish in there. So many fish. I guided people and fished for spawning population in Kluane Lake. Hundreds were visible at the bottom end of the lake. I don't think they would spawn in the lake. They would be in the River. Tin Cup is an important spawning stream.

CG: Both chum and chinook need clear water to spawn. If you get a clear water coming in, chum will go in and spawn there. Jake and I have tried to find fish in the Ladue River, but no luck.

1887

Pike, Warburton. "Through the Subarctic Forest: A Record of a canoe journey from Fort Wrangel to the Pelly Lakes and down the Yukon River to the Behring Sea." New York: 1896. 213-214) July 9, 1887. Just before the White River, on the Yukon, they passed a large encampment of Indians and learned that the first of the salmon had arrived.

215) The salmon are caught from little birch-bark canoes by drifting down stream with the scoop-net held in readiness to strike as soon as the sharp eye of the fisherman detects the first slight wave of the advancing fish, which is soon afterwards in the hands of the women, undergoing preparations for the drying stage.

1892-1898

Cruikshank, Julie. "Historical and Archaeological Site Identification in the Yukon Territory" Council for Yukon Indians' Resource, Research and Mapping Department. nd.

- A geologist noticed a deserted fishing station at the mouth of the Klotassin. (Brooks 1899:490)

- Geologist G.W. Hayes met 50-60 Indian people in the White River basin in 1891, including 6 families on the Nisling River making a fish trap for salmon. (Hayes, 1892: 122)

- In 1896, Pike passed a camp at the mouth of the White River, fishing for salmon. (Pike 1896: 213-15)

1915

Cairnes, D.D. *Upper White River District, Yukon*. Canada Department of Mines, Geological Survey, Memoir 50, No. 51, Geological Series. Ottawa, Government Printing Bureau, 1915.

32) The streams and small lakes in the upper White River district are generally well supplied with fish, chiefly grayling.

1958

"Fishery Resources of the Yukon Basin between Eagle, Alaska and Carmacks, Yukon Territory", Progress Report No. III. 1956 Field Investigations, Juneau: US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1958.

28) Interviews indicate that chum salmon ascend the White River.

1973

Sweitzer, Obert. *Distribution of Chinook (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) and Chum (Oncorhynchus keta) Salmon in the Upper Yukon River System in 1973, as determined by a Tagging Program*. Environment Canada: Fisheries and Marine Service, 1974. PAC/2-74-20.

Chinook were not caught in significant numbers but there are chum spawning ground on the White River system.

1974

Walker, C.E. "Studies on the Freshwater and anadromous fishes of the Yukon River within Canada", Environment Canada, Fisheries and Marine Service, 1975.

10) Sweitzer (1974) netted relatively good numbers of chum in the White River where the only known spawning area is Kluane River.

1982-83

Milligan, P.A. W.O. Rublee, D.D. Cornett and R.A.C. Johnson. "The Distribution and Abundance of Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) in the Upper Yukon River Basin as Determined by a Radio-Tagging and Spaghetti Tagging Program: 1982-1983", Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Technical Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. No. 1352, 1985.

97) It is unlikely that chinook spawning occurred in mainstem of the White because of high levels of suspended solids, unsuitable habitat and they were not observed in the clear side-channels used by the chum. Chinook are probably confined to clear run-off streams. The White sub-basin does not appear to be an important producer of chinook salmon because of a lack of good spawning and rearing habitat.

130) The White tentatively ranks 5th in order of chinook production after the mainstem Yukon (Stewart to Hootalinqua), Teslin, Pelly Stewart and the Upper Yukon mainstem above Hootalinqua. The importance of a sub-basin could vary annually.

1988

"Investigation of the Ladue River, North Ladue River, and Ladue Creek", Al von Finster, Memo to files, November 29, 1988. FISS Support Files, Government of Canada.

Two gillnets were set, one on the Ladue River and one on the north Ladue to attempt to catch chinook juveniles. Very limited work turned up no salmon.

1990

Joint United States/Canada Yukon River Technical Committee, "Yukon River Salmon Season Review for 1990 and Technical Committee Report", Anchorage: 1990.

11) Chinook salmon escapements in most of the major Canadian spawning index areas showed great improvement over 1989 with increases in survey counts noted in all systems except the Tincup, Ross and Little Salmon Rivers.

12) The Tincup River count was down from last year and, similar to 1988, was believed to be affected by the high water levels and turbidity in the White River system which may have hindered migration.

17) In 1990, the DFO fish wheel near the border indicated a chinook salmon run one to two weeks earlier than average with a strong early component that dropped off early and quickly. The peak was around July 20 and the main portion of the run passed between July 7 and August 9.

The first peak of the chums was early and compressed and the late peak was stronger and about average in timing. Peak catches were from Sept. 1-15. The catch was the highest on record. Water levels during the 1990 chum runs were extremely high during most of the chum season with levels equalling July. It may be that the chum were migrating closer to the shore as a result and using the eddies more. This made them more susceptible to the commercial fishery and would make the run appear stronger than it was.

1993

Wilson, Jane. "A Summary of the Aboriginal Fishery Catches of Salmon in District 10, Northern British Columbia and Yukon, 1992", Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Whitehorse: 1993.

7) No salmon fishing was reported by members of the White River First Nation. In the past, some members have fished for chum salmon on the Kluane River.

1997

Henry, Percy and Mabel. Interviewed by Jake Duncan and Sally Robinson. Sept. 5, 1997.

JD: I have never found any fish on the Ladue River and I have looked really hard.

Yukon River

Includes Nuclaco or Chu gla k'ät

1883

Clark, Donald W. *Fort Reliance, Yukon: An Archaeological Assessment*. Ottawa\Canadian Museum of Civilization: Mercury Series, Archaeological Survey of Canada, Paper 150. 1995.

There was a village of "Ayan" or Northern Tutchone, below the mouth of the Pelly River with 20 double brush houses in 1883 (Schwatka 1894:228-229). At Johnny's village, near Eagle, salmon were netted and drying (Schwatka 1894: 251-256).

1900

Adney, Tappan. "Moose Hunting with the Tro-chu-tin" *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, March 1900 No. DXCVIII.

The salmon in the Yukon are abundant.

1900

Craig, Lulu Grace. *Glimpses of Sunshine and Shade in the Far North or My Travels in the Land of the Midnight Sun*. Cincinnati: The Editor Publishing Co., 1900.

84) On the 24th of May, there were two men mending their seines on the river bank.

92) "Fishing is a lucrative business with the Indians as well as others, and it is interesting to see the King Salmon caught, after which they are struck on the head with a club, though the latter seems cruel. Oft we would see a birch canoe, 'with paddles, rising, falling, on the water.' They were the tiniest and prettiest of canoe and speed rapidly, noiselessly and gracefully along under the fine and skilful paddling of the Indians."

Henderson (Flynn), Shirley. "Twelve Mile Oral History", Whitehorse: Aboriginal Languages Services, 1992.

Martha and David Taylor's families for years have had their home on Dog Island about eight

miles from Dawson; Tommy still fishes there.

Henry, Percy and Mabel. Interviewed by Jake Duncan and Sally Robinson. Sept. 5, 1997.

- MH: My dad used to fish with a fish wheel down behind Dog Island. He used to catch about 100 fish a day.

PH: He used to go down by boat and pole back. He did that until he was ...

MH: He was 87 when he quit.

PH: He would have kept going but Tommy wouldn't take him. He didn't have the balance anymore. Tommy cut him off fishing. Oh, he was mad.

- PH: There is no name we know of for Deadwood Creek.

SR: That was where Joe Susie used to fish. He had a camp there. Most people would go over and fish with him from Moosehide?

PH: No, he was by himself mostly. Most people had their own camps. Happy Jack had his own camp. This one they called Happy Jack Island. Dave Taylor used to fish on this island.

MH: That was way back in the 40s. Before my time.

PH: And then he used to fish at Twelvemile.

1959

Elliot, W.K. Whitehorse Fishery Officer. Correspondence to the Area Director of Fisheries, Vancouver, B.C. July 27, 1959. RG 23 Box 35 f.716-22-1 Part 4.

- Jack Flynn operated a commercial fish wheel on opposite side of Yukon at the Twelvemile.

These fish are sold to the NC Co. after the quantity reaches two tons. The NC Co. sells them to the RCMP and the fish go to Old Crow. they supply two ton every year. Flynn says he will have to put in another wheel to get this amount.

- David Taylor has a fish wheel at 5 mile. He supplies fish locally to the Dawson Hospital, cafes, local populace and the YCGC.

Henry, Percy. Interviewed by Marilyn Jensen, July 31, 1997.

- Down at Forty Line, they fish there too but they just gaffed them. They explained to me that there was a little island there and they had a scaffold on there and there is a man on the shore with a little canoe. When the fish comes you can see him, he makes a wave. Then he would tell him and he would go out there and gaff him. The name of the place is "jeu-kla-ka" in Han. "Jeu" is island. I never really asked where the fish go.

- After the gold rush and people lived at Moosehide. They had fish net and things. In the summer the people moved 8 miles below to a place called moose camp on the Yukon River.

- I went fishing around 1940s and I was about 8. The old guy across the river, I fished for him. We used to have to pull the boat eight mile. We would get 150 fish in the ? That was a big load for two little kids. I did that for two years. He paid us \$1 and we have to work 18 hours. I eat so much fish that time, I still can't eat fish. When we left him, and then he died anyway. He was about 85 when we left him.

- There was a guy fishing at the Fortymile and he would catch about 500 fish a day in his wheel and he might loose 200-300 fish when the boxes were full. That was around 1940-50. That was Ray Mason?

- There was a lot of fisherman because there was so many dogs. They would dry it. No such thing as dog feed in the stores. From here to Fortymile there was four fish camps just for dog food. Arthur Anderson, Halfway where Percy deWolfe was, Twelvemile another fish camp, and then Jim Hughs?

- That was how people made their living.
- The chums they just spit it in half and hung it. They were the last run.
- The family at Twelvemile was Charlie Adam.
- They didn't fish out of Moosehide Creek and the salmon did not spawn there. Clear Creek is too small for spawning too.

Henry, Percy and Mabel. Interviewed by Jake Duncan and Sally Robinson. Sept. 5, 1997.

JD: You were saying before that they bulldozed fish traps. Was that up there?

PH: No, that was at 40 Line.

SR: Near Fort Reliance.

1908

Herbert, Win. Letters written to the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert NMair, Whangarei, New Zealand, from Mr. and Mrs. (Bert and Win) Herbert, Dawson. Dawson City Museum and Historical Society.

25th July 1908. "The deep sea salmon come up the river in the summer and have only just reached Dawson.

1866

Jones, Strachen. "The Kutchin Tribes" Annual Report to the Smithsonian Institution for 1866, Government Printing Office, 1892.

322) "The Hong-Hutchin have another way, but this is only used for killing the big salmon... The largest salmon weighs from 42 to 50 pounds, the smaller from 18 to 25 pounds. In salmon fishing a stage is erected on the bank of the river, and a man stationed upon it gives notice when a salmon is passing; this he knows by the ripple it makes when ascending the strong current. The other men, each in the middle of his small canoe, push out, all provided with a bag at the end of a pole; the bag is about five feet deep; the pole is 8 or 9 feet long. The Indian paddles his canoe in front of the fish, and pushes his net to the bottom right in front of it; as soon as the salmon enters the bag the man pulls it to the surface and stabs the fish with a knife fastened to a pole about five feet long; he then either lifts the salmon into his canoe, or drags it ashore in the net."

"This mode of killing the salmon requires very great skill in the management of the small canoe... The boat is flat-bottomed -is about 9 feet long and one broad, and the sides nearly straight up and down like a wall. The fish make the water foam when it is first hauled up; if it strikes the canoe it will knock a hole in it; if it goes under the canoe it will upset it; and as none of the Kutchin can swim, the consequences might be unpleasant."

"... The Yucon Indians do not make [a] net, nor do they know how. Their implements for fishing are the bag for salmon, the bar for the fish in the small rivers, a hook and spear."...

"To make a spear a pole about nine feet long is taken, a spike driven into the end, on each side of which is a flexible piece of bone or wood, with a nail or sharp piece of bone attached to it, both pieces of bone pointing inwards and upwards. When a fish is struck, the two jaws, if I may call them so, are forced open, and the spike driven into the back of the fish, and in jerking up the spear the two nails or pieces of bone in the jaws either stick fast in the sides of the fish or meet under the belly, thus preventing it from falling off the spike."

Moosehide (Edha Dadhechan Ket'et): An Oral History. Prepared by the Developmental Studies students of the Dawson Campus (Tr'odek Hatr'unotan Zho) of the Yukon College, 1994.

15) Margaret Henry used to fish down at the point, called Big Rock. The family had a dog team to get wood.

33) Gerald Isaac - "During the summer, as the salmon arrived, our people prepared themselves for fishing. The Joseph family and others, would prepare fish wheels which were modelled after fish wheels over in Alaska. Most of these designs originally came from the Tanana River system and were used by the Tanana Indians and others along that river system."

37) Gerald Isaac - "There was a big event around the arrival of the king salmon. Every year, June and July, there was always big celebrations when the first salmon were spotted coming up the Yukon River. The event would be celebrated by dancing, singing and feasting because it was bringing life back to the community. Our people anticipated the salmon."

45) Angie Joseph - "When we had school down there [at Moosehide], we had fish camp over at the shipyard [on the Yukon] over there. So the last day at school, our father, our dad, used to have already set up camp and everything there. He had already moved most of the stuff that we needed over to the fish camp. So the last day of school all they had to do was move the kids and the family because everything was all set up. The campground, down at the lowest part of the campground, at the other end, that was one of the main fish camp areas."

"We fished and we stayed there all summer and then come fall before school, or in August sometimes, we moved back to Moosehide."

58) "Fish, we get fish everyday, dry fish. We go down to camp and make big smokehouse. Sit there, bunch of old ladies sit there and dry fish and smoke. They tell us to get rotten old stump so it can smoulder it away, you know! Smoke that fish."

80) John Semple - "And we used to go across the Yukon river; stay there 'till fall time; dry fish..."

89) Victor Henry - "... after that put the garden in, then everybody go to fish camp. Right where the shipyard is now [on the Yukon], that's where everybody used to go from Moosehide to fish camp. We...pack wood for the fish camps so they can smoke fish..."

1889

Ogilvie, William, DLS. "Exploratory Survey of part of the Lewes, Tat-on-duc, Porcupine, Bell, Trout, Peel and Mackenzie rivers, 1887-88" Part VIII in *Annual Report of the Department of the Interior for the Year 1889*, Ottawa: Department of the Interior, 1890. [354.710 03 CDI 1889]

47) At the Boundary, in the early winter months, the Indians caught some salmon that were frozen in on small streams, and fed them to their dogs. Some of these I saw; they were poor and spent.

Osgood, Cornelius. *The Han Indians*. Yale University Publications in Anthropology, Number 74. New Haven: Department of Anthropology, 1971.

66) Walter had heard of gill nets made of will-bark but did not know of their actual use by the Han. This was not taken as negative evidence for willow-bark gill nets were supplanted very early among most Athapaskan groups. One of Slobodin's informants reported gill nets of spruce root (1963a:6) but it is clear that the Han depended primarily on dipnets and fish traps.

Jones (1872:323) describes fish traps among the Kutchin and then says the Han have another way to fish for the big salmon while weirs are used for smaller fish such as pike, white fish etc.

67) Jones describes fishing by the Han. A stage is erected by the bank of the river, and a man stationed gives notice of a salmon passing. The salmon makes a ripple when ascending the strong current. The other men, each in the middle of a small canoe have a netted bag at the end of a pole. The man paddles ahead of the fish and catches it in the net and then brings it up and stabs it.

68) Henry Harper of Moosehide reported in 1932 that basket traps made of willows tied with spruce-root line were used in the side streams of the Yukon. Slobodin (1963a: 6) says that during fish runs, the traps had to be attended constantly; otherwise the weight of captured fish would break the trap.

69) Henry Harper of Moosehide, reports the use of a fish spear with a detachable bone point which fit into a socket and tied to the end of a 12 foot long dried wood shaft. This was used for spearing king salmon. Walter at Eagle confirmed its use. Schwatka (1885a:259) described a fish club used on the fish before it was removed from the net. Slobodin (1963a: 7) tells of a moose hind leg used as a fish club.

105) Slobodin (1963a: 6): Traps are set in shallow eddies near the banks of the Yukon, or at the mouths of its tributaries. (1963a:5) There are smaller fish camps along the Yukon elsewhere. (1963a:7) People got 50 to 60 fish at a time out of a trap when the salmon were running - more than they got from nets.

Roberts, Archie. Interviewed by Ann-Marie Miller, June 29, 1993. Tr'on d'ek Hwech'in First Nation Archives.

6) Archie used to work for a fisherman across the river from Dawson. They used a fish wheel and when the fish were running, two wheels. They caught about 300 pounds, per wheel, a night. They had to close down the wheel to cut up the fish. They split up the fish in Moosehide.

7) Fish wheels came from down low river so one they seen these boys, three Indian boy from Dawson they work on the boat they see that. So they made the same way. So that's how the fish wheel came up here.

8) I heard they got cannery down the mouth of Yukon River. So they just let so much fish go by and there, that's how they use to long time ago. Oh they just fish, fish all everywhere.

Schwatka, Frederick. "The Great River of Alaska II" *The Century Magazine*, September 1885. [Description from the source to Fort Selkirk.]

The winter quarters of the Indians are just above Fort Selkirk and they sally up the river to their hunting and fishing grounds. Moose, caribou, black bear and salmon form their principal diet.

Schwatka, Frederick. "The Great River of Alaska II" *The Century Magazine*, Vol XXX, October 1885, No. 6.

821) "In the roofs of the houses Strings of salmon were hung to dry, and the sleeping dogs held the floor below. Though little room was left, the stranger was always welcome.

In drying the salmon they split it ... In addition they slice the flesh to the skin in longitudinal and transverse cuts an inch apart. They prepare no fish for winter use, I understand...

J.A Summer, District Protection Officer. Correspondence to R.I. Regnart, Alaska Fish and Game Dept. 1965. Canadian Department of Fisheries, NAC Pacific Region, RG10 189-90/101, Box 27. file 801/20-2 vol.5.

- Spawning in the sidestreams and sloughs of the Yukon River from Minto down to Coffee Creek was reported to be heavy.

Thimmel, John Louis. Jack Nopp Collection, Dawson City Museum and Historical Society.

4) July 5, 1897, got twine for a salmon nett.

July 6, beginning to nett.

July 7, netting day and night.

July 8, putting corks on the nett.

July 12, finished my salmon nett.

July 19, they are catching plenty of salmon.

July 22, sold my boat and net to G. H. Stuart.

Vanstone, James W. *Athapaskan Adaptations: Hunters and Fishermen of the Subarctic Forests*.

Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago: Harlan Davidson Inc. 1974.

28) At the beginning of the 20th century, fish wheels were introduced by American miners all along the Yukon and rapidly superseded most of the other open water fishing methods. These were effective only in rivers and streams with muddy water.

1973

Walker, C.E. "Studies on the Freshwater and anadromous fishes of the Yukon River within Canada", Environment Canada, Fisheries and Marine Service, 1975.

7) A main stream spawning population was found at Ingersoll Island in 1973 but attempts to quantify it in 1974 and 1975 failed.

1976

Elson, M.S. and L.W. Steigenberger. *Measurements of chinook salmon collected in the Yukon River commercial fishery near Dawson City in 1975 and 1976*. Northern Natural Resources Services Ltd. Feb. 1977.

3) A 1976 study suggested that there were salmon spawning areas near the islands just above the Twelvemile River and the islands just above Fresno Creek and in the big bend above Woodchopper Creek.

14) These areas resemble the spawning areas near the Ingersoll Islands. There was also some evidence that chum spawned in the mainstem Yukon just upstream of Moosehide Creek.

Fishery

Seigal, N and C. McEwen. "A Historical Overview of Fishing in the Yukon", Northern Biomes Ltd. for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Pacific Rim Division, June 1984.

10) The question of how much fish was harvested by Indians prior to Eurasian contact is complex and difficult to answer. Cooley estimated the average per capita yearly consumption of salmon by aboriginal Indians and their dogs in Alaska as 415 lb/capita/year for interior Indians and projected that consumption would fall as one approached the headwaters. (R. Cooley, *Politics and Conservation: The Decline of the Alaska Salmon* (New York: Harper & Row, 1963), 17.)

1896

Wright, Allen A. *Prelude to Bonanza*. Sidney, B.C.: Gray's Publishing Ltd., 1976.

284) 1896. At Fortymile, even dog food was in short supply, the result of the failure of the salmon run, which was also a consequence of the low water.

1897

Denison, Merrill. *Klondike Mike: An Alaskan Odyssey*. New York: William Morrow & Co., 1943.
132) Mike's working dogs needed a pound and a quarter per day of dried fish or three pounds of fresh frozen fish. The only dog food left in Dawson in December 1897 was fresh frozen fish.

1897

Wells, E. Hazard. *Magnificence and Misery: A First-Hand Account of the 1897 Klondike Gold Rush*. New York: Doubleday, 1984.

208) At present it costs about \$3 per day to feed a dog as salmon and other suitable foodstuffs cost \$1 per pound.

1900

Seigal, N and C. McEwen. "A Historical Overview of Fishing in the Yukon", Northern Biomes Ltd. for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Pacific Rim Division, June 1984.

12) In Alaska in the 1900s, declines in the subsistence catch of salmon on the Yukon River are attributed to rescued dog populations, as sled dogs became replaced by more mechanical means of transport. (D. Pope, *The Upper Yukon and Other Freshwater Salmon Fisheries: Findings, conclusions and recommendations*, To the Eleventh Alaska Legislature, Alaska, 8)

22) At the turn of the century, the NWMP Dawson Division required 38,549 lb. of fish for dog food. (Z. Wood, Correspondence to RNWMP Comptroller, 24 March 1901, PAC Yukon Records, RG 18, D1, Vol.3, p.731.) The local resources were not enough and the N.C. store imported fish.

1900

Goudeau, F. Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Correspondence to Theophilus Stewart, Inspector Fisheries, Dawson City. January 30, 1900. RG 23, vol. 328, File 2813, Part 1.

"It does not appear that the salmon which ascend the Yukon River require protection to the same extent, for the reason that after entering the Rivers they are afforded little or no protection in the United States territory but are merely slaughtered in the lower portions of the river. There is no object in protecting king, or spring salmon, steelheads, dog-fish and other kinds, in the upper waters when every effort is being made to exterminate them before they reach Canadian territory. The Alaskan canneries, fish-salting and preserving factories, secure all the fish they can regardless of the future. Hence all who wish to fish for salmon in the Yukon territory might be allowed to do so on payment of a licence fee."

1900s

Department of Renewable Resources, "Yukon: State of the Environment Report, 1995. Environment Canada, February 1996".

55) Commercial fisheries for salmon in Yukon drainages started in the 1900s. Both the US and Canada fish the Yukon commercially. Sports fishing and subsistence fishing are also conducted in both countries.

1901

"Report of Superintendent A.E. Snyder, Whitehorse, November 20, 1901", in *Report of the North-west Mounted Police, 1901*. Ottawa: 1902.

55) The salmon catch in front of Dawson this year exceeded by far that of any year previous. For the latter part of July the average catch was something like 10,000 pounds daily. The price of fresh salmon at the beginning of the season was \$1 per pound, but the sudden flooding of the

market quickly brought the price down to 10 cents per pound. The cold storage companies bought the salmon in large quantities."

1901

Yukon Sun, May 11, 1901. Local first Nations people are ice fishing and using bacon for bait. They are selling their catch locally.

1903

Alaska Department of Fish and Game. *Yukon District: District and Subdistrict Boundaries Commercial Fishery, 1970*, Paper 291, Anchorage: 1970.

The first recorded commercial fishery in the district dates to 1903 when 70,000 pounds of king and chum were taken in the Yukon Territory. In 1918, Carlisle Packing Company operated a floating cannery at St. Marys. The first four years there was relatively large catches of king, coho and chum salmon. Commercial fishery was closed during 1925-1930. Commercial fishing for king salmon was resumed at a lower level in 1932. Since 1922, commercial catches of chum have been made only during 1952, 1956 and since 1961.

1903

Canadian Government, Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, 1903. Ottawa: 1904.

xxxvii) Inspector T.A. Stewart reports that king salmon appear about the 15th of July and run from 6-8 weeks. Market is limited and there are few commercial fishermen. Dog salmon arrive in the middle of August and continue until the close of navigation. Fish is principally used for dog food.

xxxviii) Besides the licensed fisheries, a large quantity of fish is caught by the miners for their private use. Impossible to give an estimate of that take.

1903

"Report of Superintendent A.E.R. Cuthbert," Dawson Nov. 30, 1903", in *Report of the Northwest Mounted Police, 1903*. Ottawa: 1904.

58) As the number of horses increases, the number of dogs decreases. The dogs are distributed at the river detachments both on the Yukon and the Stewart, and are utilized for patrols. One dog team is kept in Dawson for emergencies. Until this year fish, dried or frozen, was the chief supply of dog food for the dogs, but this has been discontinued altogether, and chit rice and dog biscuits substituted. A limited amount of fish is still used.

1903

"Report of Superintendent A.E.R. Cuthbert," Dawson Nov. 30, 1903", in *Report of the Northwest Mounted Police, 1903*. Ottawa: 1904.

43) The Indians of the district support themselves by netting salmon, both for sale and food, and by hunting.

1903

Yukon Sun, January 31, 1903. "Silas taken by Boston Man"

Silas and other First Nation members had agreed to catch and sell fish to Mr. Marshall who left for Tanana without paying any of the money he owed.

1908

"Report of Assistant Commissioner Wood," Dawson Nov. 1, 1908 in *Report of the Northwest Mounted Police, 1908*. Ottawa: 1909.

199) The salmon catch was very small during the past summer.

1908-1912

"NWMP 40 Mile Detachment Weekly Reports, 1908-1912 prepared for officer Commanding, "B" Division, RNWMP, Dawson." GOV 2078 YRG 1 Series 8, vol. 8A, f2.

- Kept 6 to 8 dogs.

- June 1909. 1 lb. of dog food issued per day. Fish always listed as dog food on hand.

- May 1, 1912 lists 1580 lbs of dog food consisting of dried salmon, rice, butter and tallow. October 1, 1925 pounds of dog food consisting of dried salmon, rice and tallow. The numbers drop gradually through the year.

1912

Tollemache, Stratford. *Reminiscences of the Yukon*, Toronto: William Briggs, 1912.

295) The dog salmon arrive at Fort Selkirk about the first week in September. I used to net about 500 of them for the dogs.

1914

Northern Lights. (Anglican Church newsletter)

August 1914. Selkirk has the usual exodus to the fish camps on the lakes, jackfish is the favourite.

November 1914. Wood cutting for the whites means not as much fish gets laid up.

1914-15

Canadian Government, Forty-eighth Annual Report of the Fisheries Branch, Department of the Naval Service, 1914-15. Ottawa: 1915.

243) The Yukon river seems to yield as largely as ever, even though fish wheels are used in unlimited number on the Alaskan side. The amount of fish taken by our prospectors is unknown.

1915

Dawson Daily News. July 20, 1915. "Indian Rights Discussed by Synod: Resolutions Adopted" If the natives are not allowed to sell fish it will mean eventual starvation.

1915-16

Canadian Government, Forty-ninth Annual Report of the Fisheries Branch, Department of the Naval Service, 1915-16. Ottawa: 1916.

239) This was the lightest run of salmon in the Yukon River since 1905, whilst the previous year was the banner one since 1898. Also a number of experienced fishermen enlisted for service at the outbreak of war. Fish wheels are scattered all along the Yukon to the boundary line, about 80 miles below Dawson.

1916-17

Canadian Government, Fiftieth Annual Report of the Fisheries Branch, Department of the Naval Service, 1916-17. Ottawa: 1917.

226) More fishermen enlisted for service overseas. The Alaskan fishermen use wheels and can

ship their fish to Dawson, pay duty and transport fees and still undersell the Yukon fishermen. Inspector Payson recommends the use of fish wheels in Canada.

1917

Yukon Council correspondence to the Governor General of Canada. April 23, 1917. RG 23 vol 995 f. 721-4-27 [1].

- Council successfully requests an Order in Council to allow the use of fish wheels on the Yukon River and its tribs.
- The demand for dried and salted fish in the Yukon far exceeds the supply. Prospectors using dogs and the fox farmers are importing dried fish from the Alaska.
- Council argues that there are tons of decaying fish on the river banks and instead of being wasted could be sold by using fish wheels.

1918

Alaska Department of Fish and Game. *Yukon District: 1966 King Salmon Commercial Fishery*, Paper 290, 1966.

- Commercial fishery began in Alaska in 1918.

1918

Found, W.A., for the Deputy Minister of the Navel Service. Correspondence to the Comptroller in Dawson City, March 15, 1918. RG 23, vol. 29 f.10-13-2, Part 1: Employment - Yukon Territory - Inspectors.

- Supervision so superficial by fishery inspectors that they are not worth the cost so responsibility is transferred to the RCMP.
- A similar letter remarked that local fisheries only supply a local market. Responsibility is transferred and Payson's position is terminated on July 31, 1918.

1918

Seigal, N and C. McEwen. "A Historical Overview of Fishing in the Yukon", Northern Biomes Ltd. for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Pacific Rim Division, June 1984.

94) Cannery started in 1918. The small run of salmon on the Yukon River during 1919 was part of the natural fluctuation, but there was also heavy fishing and salmon caught upstream had net marks. 95) The cannery blamed the small run on late and heavy ice conditions in the Bering Sea.

1919

Dawson Daily News. March 10, 1919. "Indians' Fine War Record is Recited: Loyal to Great Britain"

Salmon runs are a failure but the natives do well on sales.

1919

Knight, Supt. RNWMP, Dawson City. Correspondence to Deputy Minister of Naval Services, Jan. 7, 1919. RG 23, vol. 649 f.712-2-48, Part 1.

- Industry has markedly decreased owing to the number of people who have left the territory. The majority of salmon caught is dried and used for dog feed and other fish are caught for home consumption.
- The cannery at the mouth does not seem to have affected the run in the Yukon.

1920

Gordon, R.N. and C.H. Clay. "A Preliminary Report on the Proposed Yukon-Taku Power Development and its Effect on the Fishery", Department of Fisheries. Vancouver: Oct. 21, 1953. - Includes findings from "Investigation of the Salmon Fisheries on the Yukon River" in *Alaska Fishery Report of 1920*. In 1920 there was only one cannery at the mouth, handling 58,467 spring salmon. Chum salmon is the principal food product of the river. In 1920 the cannery handled 155,655 chums and estimates the home consumption to be 1,000,000.

1920

Knight, Supt. RNWMP, Dawson City. Correspondence to Deputy Minister of Naval Services, Jan. 3, [1920]. RG 23, vol. 649 f.712-2-48, Part 1.

- Considerable decrease in the fishery. Only 14 licences issued compared with 30 in 1919.
- Salmon run was small, as was the harvest. Very high water during the run.

1930s

Archer, Samuel. "Recollections" Written in the 1930s. Gene Richards (Granddaughter of Samuel Archer) Collection, Dawson City Museum and Historical Society.

65) Dogs on the trail are fed once a day - a mixture of boiled rice or flour with sun-dried salmon or some bacon.

Tidd, C.B. "Description of accompanying six prints showing Salmon Fishing with Wheel in the Yukon". Set by C.B. Tidd, Forty Mile, Yukon Terr.

2) the fish wheel on the Yukon was tended twice a day and caught 250 fish a day during a heavy run. A 20 pound fish will average 4 lbs dry. They are put dry into a bale of 50 pounds and taken to the nearest market. The current price was 15 cents a pound. Dry salmon are important for dog food and used by the RCMP, trappers, mail-carriers and all who travel by dog team in the winter.

Yardley, Joyce. *Yukon Riverboat Days*. Surrey, B.C.: Hancock House, 1996.

162) Ed Whitehouse carried his own dogfood, usually dried salmon, of which he fed them two pounds a day. The police in Dawson kept fifty dogs for their patrols.

1922-1934

US Secretary of State. Correspondence to the Minister of Canada. Nov. 22, 1934. RG 23 vol 995 f. 721-4-27 [1]

- All commercial fishing was prohibited in the Yukon River and the mouth from 1922 to 1932. In 1932 limited commercial more than 500 yards from the mouth were permitted. In 1932 and 1933 two salteries were operated near the mouth. In 1932 about 8000 king salmon were taken and in 1933 11000. In 1934 commercial fishing was allowed in the Yukon River but the catch was limited to 100,000 king salmon. The catch actually amounted to less than 30,000 king salmon.

1934

Caulkin, T.B., Superintendent "B" Division RCMP, Correspondence to RCMP Commissioner in Ottawa. Sept. 11, 1934. RG 23 vol 995 f. 721-4-27 [1]

The salmon run has been very small this year. Understand that salmon canneries have been established near the mouth of the Yukon River and asks that steps be taken to moderate the activities of the canneries.

1953

Gordon, R.N. and C.H. Clay. "A Preliminary Report on the Proposed Yukon-Taku Power Development and its Effect on the Fishery", Department of Fisheries. Vancouver: Oct. 21, 1953. - Includes findings from "Investigation of the Salmon Fisheries on the Yukon River" in *Alaska Fishery Report of 1920*. Yukon River is fished entire length and the number of fish taken is approximately 23,000 spring salmon.

1954

U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. Correspondence to A.J. Whitmore, Chief Supervisor of Fisheries, B.C., January 21, 1954. RG 2380-81/260 vol. 1226 file 726-11-7 [1].

- The commercial fishery catches king salmon only. The annual canned production over the past five years has been 12,850 cases averaging three and a half fish per case. The equivalent of another 8000 cases go to local sales. The fishery is mostly conducted by natives with set gill nets near the mouth in May and June.

- There is a resident population along the river who fish an estimated half a million chum. Personal use of the kings probably equals the commercial fishery. Silvers are abundant but not a lot are caught as they come too late to dry successfully.

1956

"Fishery Resources of the Yukon Basin between Eagle, Alaska and Carmacks, Yukon Territory", Progress Report No. III. 1956 Field Investigations, Juneau: US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1958.

13) The amount of salmon fed to sled dogs is quite variable, and depends largely upon the desire and ability of the owner. Estimates of dried salmon needed to keep a dog in good condition ranged from half to a pound and a half per day - more if the dog was working.

16) Residents interviewed stated that a dried salmon weighed between 3 and 4 pounds and a ton contains 600 to 900 fish.

1960

" Report on Meeting with Representatives of the Yukon Organizations Held in the Occidental Hotel, Dawson City, on September 12, 1960" RG 23 Acc. 1990-91/230 Box 78 f.721-4-27, Part 4: Legislation - Regulations- Yukon Territory.

- Concerns raised about overfishing of salmon as 6 fishwheels operating near Dawson compared to 2 in 1959. Answered that the salmon catch was used locally for RCMP dogfeed, local sale in Dawson and Indian subsistence. No limits have been set because Canadian catch on the river is small compared to the American catch. Also there is insufficient information on salmon spawning.

- Indian Affairs Branch issued the Indians with gillnets with too small mesh (3"?) to take salmon or any fish.

1965

Summer, J.A., District Protection Officer. Correspondence to R.I. Regnart, Alaska Fish and Game Dept. 1965. Canadian Department of Fisheries, NAC Pacific Region, RG10 189-90/101, Box 27. file 801/20-2 vol.5.

- There was five commercial and one native subsistence operating six fishwheels in the Dawson area.

100

1966

Young, R.G., Chief, Resources and Industrial Divn., Indian Affairs Branch. Correspondence to J.V. Boys, Indian Commissioner for B.C., June 17, 1966. Canadian Department of Fisheries, NAC Pacific Region, RG10 189-90/101, Box 27. file 801/20-2 vol.5.

- Dept. of Fisheries opened new section for commercial fishing between Dawson City and Tatchun Creek between July 15 and August 15.
- There will be seven fish wheels operating in Dawson this year. Last year the King Salmon ran five wheels between July 10 and Aug. 25. 3,000 kings were caught and later, three fish wheels took 4,000 chum.
- The fish packed to Edmonton during 1965 was in excellent condition. A trail shipment in 1964 was unsuitable for human consumption. There may be a market for fish eggs in Vancouver.
- US commercial fishing catch in 1965 was 118,424 kings and 22,758 chums.

1970

"Guardian Dawson F-S-S-6591", FISS Support Files, Weekly report of Fishery Guardian/Patrolman, Department of Fisheries and Forestry.

- August 23, 1970. This has been the biggest tourist year in the memory of Dawson City with the result the commercial fishermen have been doing well as far as prices and sales go. The run was spotty but may have produced a larger number than last year because of Kormandy's largest fish wheel being placed at Halfway House.

1970s

Seigal, N and C. McEwen. "A Historical Overview of Fishing in the Yukon", Northern Biomes Ltd. for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Pacific Rim Division, June 1984.

- 35) During the 1970s there was a renewed interest in sled dogs and fishing was again undertaken to feed the dogs.

1988

The DPA Group Inc., "Economic Potential of the Yukon Fishery", Yukon Renewable Resources and Economic Development Mines and Small Business, March 1988.

1-1) "The fish resources of the Yukon are scarce and valuable. Increasing demand for Yukon fish has occurred against a backdrop of stagnant or declining resource availability."

"To date the fish resources of the Yukon have been managed in most cases as open access resources. With the recent increases in resource pressure, this management strategy is no longer tenable. The need to ration resource use and access has become compelling."

1992

Wilson, Jane. "A Summary of the Aboriginal Fishery Catches of Salmon in District 10, Northern British Columbia and Yukon, 1992", Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Whitehorse: 1993.

8) The Yukon River commercial fishery has been reduced to one day per week for the initial two weeks of the season each year since 1988. Since the 1992 run was so compressed, a 48 hour fishing period per week was allowed that year. In addition, the pre-season commercial guideline harvest range was reduced from 9,100 - 12,000 chinook to 8,600 chinook during the 1992 season because of increases in the recent average AF harvest.

The 1992 chum harvest was estimated to be 304 pieces which is below the recent five year cycle average of approx. 2,600 chum.

1995

Department of Renewable Resources, "Yukon: State of the Environment Report, 1995. Environment Canada, February 1996".

56) The Pacific Salmon Treaty was signed by Canada and the US in 1985. The treaty has not resolved problems especially in the allocation of resources. The Pacific Salmon Treaty was intended to establish salmon conservation requirements and to create a fair distribution of fish. Talks failed in 1994 with no resolution of joint fishing plans. In December 1994, a three year interim agreement on Yukon River salmon stocks was signed and includes a joint rebuilding plan for depressed Canadian chum salmon stocks, a stabilization plan for chinook salmon and a Yukon River Salmon Enhancement Fund to conserve, restore and perhaps enhance the upper Yukon River salmon stocks in Canada.

57) There is no aboriginal fishing in the US, all rural residents of Alaska are allowed to subsistence fish.

Salmon Run: Size and Timing

Henry, Percy. Interviewed by Bob Charlie, April 15, 1993. Tr'on d'ek Hwech'in Archives.

45) The story I heard was that there was a certain place or lake that you did not touch. It was like welfare in case times got really tough. That's the last resort, you go there and you have enough fish to keep you through that hard time.

1894

"NWMP Report of Inspector C. Constantine, Inspector "B" Division, 1894."

73) Owing to the high water and lateness of season, fish have been very scarce. Parties who last year, put up and dried 1,000, this year could only get 300. The Indians are very much troubled about the scarcity.

1896

Carmack, George W. "My Experiences in the Yukon" From the Seattle Public Library, Seattle Washington.

1896. "About every four years there is a poor run of salmon along the Yukon and its tributaries. Salmon fishing proved a failure that year; in fact I had never seen a poorer run of fish in the North..."

1896

Constantine, Insp. Charles. MSS, Journal from 1896-1899. National Archives of Canada. RC 18, A1, Vol. 133, File 190 1895.

Aug. 1, 1896. 1st salmon for dinner.

1896

Constantine, Supt. C. Correspondence from Constantine to the Deputy Minister of the Interior at Ottawa, November 19, 1896.

- Salmon run was very poor this year.

1896

Wright, Allen A. *Prelude to Bonanza*. Sidney, B.C.: Gray's Publishing Ltd., 1976.
284) The failure of the salmon run was a consequence of low water.

1898

Canadian Government, Forty-first Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, 1913-14. Ottawa: 1914.

- Fishermen had thought the run was decreasing year by year but 1913 had the largest run of salmon since 1898.

1901-1903

Reid, Shad. "Alaskan Diary: March 25, 1898 - July, 1903." Charles Reid Collection, Dawson City Museum and Historical Society.

23) July 23, 1901. Cliff Creek mine. First salmon of the season for diner tonight.

27) July 03, 1902. Cliff Creek mine. First salmon of the season.

30) July 11, 1903. Cliff Creek mine. First salmon of the season.

1903

Canadian Government, Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, 1903. Ottawa: 1904.

xxxvii) Inspector T.A. Stewart reports that king salmon appear about the 15th of July and run form 6-8 weeks.

1904

Shelden, Charles. *The Wilderness of the Upper Yukon: A Hunter's Exploration for Wild Sheep in Sub-Arctic Mountains*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1911.

13) On July 11, 1904 they reached a point where the Coal Creek forks. There we saw two king salmon, which were just beginning to run up the creek.

1905

Canadian Government, Forty-ninth Annual Report of the Fisheries Branch, Department of the Naval Service, 1915-16. Ottawa: 1916.

239) This was the lightest run of salmon in the Yukon River since 1905.

1906

Tollemache, Stratford. *Reminiscences of the Yukon*, Toronto: William Briggs, 1912.

293) the worst salmon run in my experience occurred about the 1906, being the same year a large barge, proceeding upriver laden with coal oil, was wrecked in the lower regions of the Yukon.

1909-1910

Canadian Government, Forty-third Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, 1909-10. Ottawa: 1910.

233) H.T. McKay reports that the catch of salmon by whites is about 25 percent of that for the 1908-09 season. The run is very much less than in former years. In other years, the fishermen only fished a few hours per day to supply their needs. This year they persisted but failed to secure a quantity to compensate them for their time. This is blamed on the use of crude

oil as fuel on the steamboats plying the Yukon between Dawson and St. Michael. The catch of fish other than salmon compares favourably with 1908-09, only amounting to a decrease of 2,314 lbs.

1909

McKay, H.J., Inspector of Fisheries. Correspondence to Wm. A Found, Superintendent of Fisheries, August 31, 1909. RG 23, vol. 330, File 2843, Part 1.

Dewolf and Thine are fishing 25 miles below Dawson. They complain that the run is only half as large as the previous year. They blame the steamers that use oil for fuel.

1910

Canadian Government, Forty-fourth Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, 1910-11. Ottawa: 1911.

392) Inspector H.T. McKay reports that the non-native salmon catch showed an increase over the 1909-1910 season as the run was much greater.

1911

Department of Renewable Resources, "Yukon: State of the Environment Report, 1995. Environment Canada, February 1996".

53) The North Klondike River dam was constructed in 1911 and salmon stock declined.

1912-1913

Seigal, N and C. McEwen. "A Historical Overview of Fishing in the Yukon", Northern Biomes Ltd. for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Pacific Rim Division, June 1984.

29) In 1912 fishermen attributed their unusually small catches to crude and fuel oil residues spilled from oil burning steamers on the Yukon River. There was complaints of oil on the nets and on the gills of the fish in the nets. (H.McKay, Correspondence to Superintendent of Fisheries, August 31, 1919, PAC RG 23, Vol. 330, File 2843, p.72) In 1913 the run of salmon was again strong. (*Forty-seventh Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries 1914-15*. Fisheries, Ottawa: 1914, p.247).

1913

Canadian Government, Forty-first Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, 1913-14. Ottawa: 1914.

- Fishermen had thought the run was decreasing year by year but 1913 had the largest run of salmon since 1898.

1913

Canadian Government, Forty-ninth Annual Report of the Fisheries Branch, Department of the Naval Service, 1915-16. Ottawa: 1916.

239) This was the lightest run of salmon in the Yukon River since 1905, whilst the previous year was the banner one since 1898.

1915-16

Canadian Government, Forty-ninth Annual Report of the Fisheries Branch, Department of the Naval Service, 1915-16. Ottawa: 1916.

239) This was the lightest run of salmon in the Yukon River since 1905, whilst the previous year was the banner one since 1898. Also a number of experienced fishermen enlisted for service at the outbreak of war. Fish wheels are scattered all along the Yukon to the boundary

line, about 80 miles below Dawson. All the fishermen are law-abiding.

1916-17

Canadian Government, Fiftieth Annual Report of the Fisheries Branch, Department of the Naval Service, 1916-17. Ottawa: 1917.

226) The run was late and unusually light.

1918

Seigal, N and C. McEwen. "A Historical Overview of Fishing in the Yukon", Northern Biomes Ltd. for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Pacific Rim Division, June 1984.

94) Cannery started in 1918. The small run of salmon on the Yukon River during 1919 was part of the natural fluctuation, but there was also heavy fishing and salmon caught upstream had net marks. 95) The cannery blamed the small run on late and heavy ice conditions in the Bering Sea.

1919

Dawson Daily News. September 27, 1919. "Moosehide Long on Caribou - Shy on Salmon: Sam on the Situation"

Food shortage at Moosehide as no salmon running in Dawson, although they are running at St. Michael.

1919

Knight, Supt. RNWMP, Dawson City. Correspondence to Deputy Minister of Naval Services, Jan. 7, 1919. RG 23, vol. 649 f.712-2-48, Part 1.

- The salmon run was some 20 days late this year, but the run was very good.

1920

Knight, Supt. RNWMP, Dawson City. Correspondence to Deputy Minister of Naval Services, Jan.3, [1920]. RG 23, vol. 649 f.712-2-48, Part 1.

- Salmon run was small. Very high water during the run.

- Reports from the Porcupine district indicate that the salmon fishery there was a complete failure.

1922-1926

Northern Lights. (Anglican Church newsletter)

November 1922. Moosehide. Salmon run was very poor.

February 1924. Moosehide. Salmon has been scarce of late years. Blamed on commercial fishing at the mouth of the river.

February 1926. Moosehide. Few fish last summer.

November 1926. Moosehide. Lots of fish.

1935

Binning, SGD G., Dawson Indian Agent. Correspondence to Secretary of Indian Affairs in Ottawa. September 20, 1935. RG 23 vol 995 f.721-4-27 [1]

- During the past few years the run of salmon has been very small.

1945

Bostock, H.S. Yukon Territory, 1956.

13) The run is expected to begin in Dawson around June 28 although the date varies from year to year. In 1945 the first was taken on July 9. The run lasts only about a week or ten days.

14) There seems little doubt that the Yukon fishery has declined within living memory, almost certainly on account of the operations lower down in Alaska.

1953

Gordon, R.N. and C.H. Clay. "A Preliminary Report on the Proposed Yukon-Taku Power Development and its Effect on the Fishery", Department of Fisheries. Vancouver: Oct. 21, 1953.

- Includes findings from "Investigation of the Salmon Fisheries on the Yukon River" in *Alaska Fishery Report of 1920*. The spring salmon appear shortly after the ice runs out in late May or early June. The run lasts from three weeks to a month. The chum salmon appear soon after the advent of the springs and continue until the end of July.

1956

"Fishery Resources of the Yukon Basin between Eagle, Alaska and Carmacks, Yukon Territory", Progress Report No. III. 1956 Field Investigations, Juneau: US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1958.

29) The peak of the king salmon migration took place between July 22 and 28. The peak of the chum between September 7 and 12.

1959

Elliot, W.K. Fishery Officer. "Yukon Territory Salmon Spawning Report, 1959. RG 23 vol 523 f. 711-3-24 [1]

- There was a medium to good run of spring salmon. The chums have been about average. Indians and fishermen were very happy with the salmon run.

1959

Elliot, W.K. Fishery Officer. Correspondence to the Area Director of Fisheries, Vancouver, B.C. July 27, 1959. RG 23 Box 35 f.716-22-1 Part 4.

The first spring salmon was taken on July 8 but the run began in earnest on July 16. They average 12 to 15 lbs. The chum salmon should arrive on Aug. 10.

1965

Summer, J.A., District Protection Officer. Correspondence to R.I. Regnart, Alaska Fish and Game Dept. 1965. Canadian Department of Fisheries, NAC Pacific Region, RG10 189-90/101, Box 27. file 801/20-2 vol.5.

- A light to medium run numbering 2,925 averaging about 10 pounds. The run was good compared to previous years.

- Chum salmon escapement and seeding was estimated to be medium to heavy in most sections but survey left much to be desired.

- Spawning in the sidestreams and sloughs of the Yukon River from Minto down to Coffee Creek was reported to be heavy.

- Water levels were low in all areas throughout the season and it would appear that escapement of both species to some streams was reduced by this factor.

- King Salmon run between July 10 and Aug 25. The run peaked between July 15 & 29, Dawson.

1970

"Guardian Dawson F-S-S-6591", FISS Support Files, Weekly report of Fishery Guardian/Patrolman, Department of Fisheries and Forestry.

- July 12, 1970. First King salmon was caught by Steve Kormandy during this week.
- August 16, 1970. First dog salmon was caught by Steve Kormandy on August 14.
- August 23, 1970. The run was spotty.

1975

Walker, C.E. "Studies on the Freshwater and anadromous fishes of the Yukon River within Canada", Environment Canada, Fisheries and Marine Service, 1975.

10) There is good reason to believe that chum salmon in 1975 were far more numerous than in the previous two years but no reliable estimate can be placed on their numbers. A four year cycle exists in the Porcupine River populations and that may also occur in the chum passing Dawson.

1990

Joint United States/Canada Yukon River Technical Committee, "Yukon River Salmon Season Review for 1990 and Technical Committee Report", Anchorage: 1990.

11) Chinook salmon escapements in most of the major Canadian spawning index areas showed great improvement over 1989 with increases in survey counts noted in all systems except the Tincup, Ross and Little Salmon Rivers.

1992

Wilson, Jane. "A Summary of the Aboriginal Fishery Catches of Salmon in District 10, Northern British Columbia and Yukon, 1992", Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Whitehorse: 1993.

7) Reports of high water conditions throughout the 1992 season. The chinook run was about two weeks later than average and quite compressed as a result. Some bands expressed the concern that fewer chinook salmon were returning to spawn in certain sub basins such as the Ross, Pelly, Stewart and in Tincup Creek, north of Burwash.

8) Chum fishing was minimal in the Dawson area and further upstream due in part to unfavourable weather.