

1890

Heller, Herbert, ed. *Sourdough Sagas*. Cleveland: World Publishing 1967. or University of Alaska, Fairbanks. (Ask Michael about this one.)

14) Buteau, Frank. We bought Troublesome Point on the Fortymile River. In the Spring of 1890, the steamer *Arctic* came up to the mouth of the Fortymile to bring supplies, arriving there in July. We returned to Franklin Gulch and that fall, fifteen of us made a fish trap and caught about a ton and half of fish, so everybody had grayling for the winter.

50) Henry Davis, "Recollections". Mentions grayling coming down the river that they caught using a fish trap.

1890

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

58) Frank Bateau was mining in Franklin Gulch in 1888. In the spring of 1890 when the steamer *Arctic* came up the mouth of the Fortymile to bring supplies, we were all well and happy. That fall, about fifteen of us made a fish trap and caught about a ton and half of fish, so everybody had grayling for the winter. (From Heller)

1894

Gates, Michael, *Gold at Fortymile Creek.: Early Days in the Yukon*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 1994.

70) In the fall of 1894, the steamers failed to arrive at Fortymile and there was a shortage of food. On October 2, the miners put up a wing dam across the mouth of the Fortymile River with a 20 foot sluice in the intake and set a barrel, bored with holes, at the end of the pipe. They caught grayling, which they froze for the winter. (*Sitka Alaskan*, October 6, 1894 or October 16, 1894.)

1894

"Report of C. Constantine, Fort Constantine, Cudahy, Jan. 20 1896," in *Supplementary Report of the Commissioner of the North West Mounted Police Force, 1895*. Ottawa: 1896.

16) Fish was very scarce, the run was poor. Strickland went downstream from the fort and got several good salmon.

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. I am told that whitefish have been caught in the Sixty-mile Creek. Grayling are also plentiful.

79) The Indians are camped chiefly at the mouths of the smaller streams and are engaged in salmon fishing.

1896

Ogilvie, William. Extract from William Ogilvie's letter dated Fort Cudahy, November 8, 1896. The Indians around Fortymile occupy all the good fishing spots in the vicinity as did their ancestors before them. When the mission was established, they settled in Fortymile but return to their old fishing and hunting areas in the proper seasons.

"Last summer some parties here, aliens by the way who think the Indians have no rights took possession of the best of their fishing stands in the vicinity. The Indians appealed to the Bishop

who saw the agent here but got no satisfaction. One man applied for the exclusive privilege of fishing at one of the best of the Indian stands opposite to Forty Mile and I suppose the Agent had forwarded it to the Department.

"In a few years it may be necessary to regulate the means and times of fishing, but there is so little of the river in our territory that it would have little effect on the preservation of the fish."

1896

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

"With regard to the fisheries, the Indians could be relied upon to catch fish in sufficient quantities no white man would spend his time at this work. Last summer the Yukon was not fully lined with white man's nets, only four all belonging to dog teamsters were set over between the boundary and the Klondike. One owned by a teamster named Fritz Kloke was placed about nine miles from here down river. He was unsuccessful and had to leave this fall with his 23 dogs for Circle city to procure food for them, another net was placed opposite Forty Mile by one David Swanson, he also failed to catch sufficient for his dogs. Winfield Ohler placed his net just above Forty Mile and Coal Creek which is about 5 miles above the Yukon the Indians had more than ten nets set, but the Salmon run being poor very few fish were caught."

"The whites do not make a business of selling fish but will simply want them for their own use. Next summer there will probably be less fishing by the Whites than last, not only because of their failure but because of the Rock [?] Mining Camp which requires every available man and also the probability that the increased steamboat accommodation will provide sufficient fish from the lower River for dog food. The Indians living at Mining Camps are not dependent on the fishery for their livelihood. ... This year notwithstanding [the] failure of the Salmon catch it was very late before they could be persuaded to go out and in consequence fresh meat has been very scarce at this post. It would certainly be a gross injustice to debar the Whites from fishing and make them entirely dependent upon a band of Indians who will neither fish or hunt so long as they can buy food. "

c1895

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

274) Canham reported in a missionary magazine that:

"Great hauls of beautiful large salmon were taken in traps and nets every summer, which accounts for so many Indians being found here [Klondike]. The fact that the salmon are so plentiful at this point, decided a miner to establish himself there for the purpose of putting salmon up in barrels, to sell to the miners who were working at Forty Mile Creek. He was very successful, and made much more than he would have done at mining. Of course he charged very high for his fish."

Hayne, Terry L. "They Didn't Come in Four-Wheel Drives: An Introduction of Fortymile History." Prepared for the Bureau of Land Management Fortymile Resource Area. Tok, Alaska, 1976.

45) For many early day residents, dogs were critical to survival, and required substantial amounts of food. Some residents purchased bales of dried dog salmon for their dogs.

1898

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

16) October 3, 1899. Cudahy [Fortymile]. Crossed the Yukon in a boat with Dr. Hamilton and John Coster to their fish nets.

1908

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

248) Forty Mile: 6000 lbs. of King Salmon, 2000 lbs. of dog salmon, 1000 lbs. of whitefish, 500 lbs. of ling cod, 4000 lbs. of grayling and 700 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) Forty Mile: 8000 lbs. salmon, 5600 lbs. smoked salmon, 800 lbs. whitefish, 3500 lbs. grayling, 150 lbs. pickerel, 450 lbs. ling cod, 750 lbs. mixed and coarse fish.

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.

Visited David Swanson's fish camp, up the Forty Mile River. There ave been complaints against this man for using small nets. Swanson also complained that the catch of fish was smaller than in previous years and blames it on the oil burners.

1910

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

304) Forty Mile fish caught by whites: 150 cwts. salmon, 1 cwts trout, 10 cwts whitefish, 1 cwts. pike, 3 cwts. tullibee, 40 cwts. grayling, 30 cwts. mixed fish.

1912

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

304) Forty-Mile fish caught by non-natives: 182 cwts. salmon, 3 cwts trout, 8 cwts whitefish, 1 cwts. pickerel, 5 cwts. pike, 1 cwts. maskinonge. 40 cwts. mixed fish.

1913

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

304) Forty Mile fish caught by non-natives: 180 cwts. salmon, 4 cwts. trout, 5 cwts. whitefish, 1 cwts. maskinonge, 40 cwts. mixed fish.

1913

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

26-7) John J. 'Jack' Hillard was the American Customs officer at Eagle for 45 years. On the way to Dome Creek, he stopped at Liberty and fished for grayling in a creek in front of a cabin which Powers used with his pack train.

58) Frank Bateau was mining in Franklin Gulch in 1888. In the spring of 1890 when the

steamer *Arctic* came up the mouth of the Fortymile to bring supplies, we were all well and happy. That fall, about fifteen of us made a fish trap and caught about a ton and half of fish, so everybody had grayling for the winter. (From Heller)

68) In 1913, for the purposes of mining, Mr. Baur diverted the North Fork of the Fortymile across a neck of land, where it has flowed ever since. The diversion created a 23' waterfall at the bottom of a bend in the river. Complaints were heard, from those on the tributaries above the Kink, that the falls prevented fish from reaching to tributaries. During recent years, the flow of water has moderated the falls so as to allow fish to go above.

1913-1915

*Northern Lights*. (Anglican Church newsletter)

December 1913. A number of Indians have located again at Fortymile.

November 1915. During the years 1906-1911 Fortymile gradually lost population. During the summer of 1911 a few returned and from then to 1915, the population increased steadily.

There was a mission and a school. During the summer there was energetic salmon fishing. One man got over 1300 lbs. Most will be sold to the RCMP as dog food plus the fishermen's own dogs need food.

1914

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

244) There were 6 boats and 11 fishermen working on the Forty Mile with 14 gill nets and 40 lines. There was one smoke and fish house.

245) Forty Mile fish caught and marketed and or consumed locally: 190 cwts. salmon, 4 cwts. trout, 5 cwts. whitefish, 1 cwts. maskinonge, 40 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 4 boats and 8 fishermen with 12 gill nets and 35 lines. There was 1 smoke and fish house with 2 employees.

241) Forty Mile fish caught by non-natives: 140 cwts. salmon, 4 cwts. trout, 5 cwts. whitefish, 1 cwts. maskinonge, 30 cwts. mixed fish.

1916

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

227) There were 4 boats and 8 fishermen working on the Forty Mile with 12 gill nets and 35 lines. There was one smoke and fish house and 2 employees.

228) Forty Mile fish caught by non-natives and marketed and or consumed locally: 130 cwts. salmon, 4 cwts. trout, 4 cwts. whitefish, 25 cwts. mixed fish .

1930s-40s

*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.

23) Percy Henry - "in the spring of the year, we go fishing down Fortymile and you could sell grayling." There was a couple of hundred people at Moosehide and quite a few at Twelvemile.

1940s

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

26-7) John J. 'Jack' Hillard was the American Customs officer at Eagle for 45 years. On the way to Dome Creek, he stopped at Liberty and fished for grayling in a creek in front of a cabin which Powers used with his pack train.

1960

Jaremovic, L. and A. von Finster. "Salmon Presence in the Fortymile River, Yukon", Habitat of Fisheries and Oceans, Whitehorse: March 1988.

7) Jim Webb of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management states that stray chinook salmon have been seen periodically in the Fortymile River. Fred Anderson of the ADF&G notes that the Forty Mile is listed as an anadromous stream and mentions 1960 reports of chinook and chums spawning near the Taylor Highway.

1975

FISS Support Files, August 6 and 7, 1975. Ref: "Environmental Assessment of the Effects of Cassiar Asbestos Corp. on Clinton Creek, YT", Landucci E.P.S., DFO, Government of Canada.

- Chinook salmon observed at map reference 64 degrees 26' and 140 degrees 32'.

1978

Jaremovic, L. and A. von Finster. "Salmon Presence in the Fortymile River, Yukon", Habitat of Fisheries and Oceans, Whitehorse: March 1988.

6) Chinook juveniles were found in the mainstem at Clinton Creek and in Clinton Creek (EVS Consultants Ltd., "Assessment of the effects of the Clinton Creek Mine waste dump and tailings, Yukon Territory", Prepared for Cassiar Resources Ltd., Vancouver:1981; Environmental Protection Service, Regional Program Report #79-13, 1978).

7) Jim Webb of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management states that chums were captured near Steele Creek and chinook carcasses near Joseph's village (F. Anderson, Letter to G. Zealand, DFO, Whitehorse, April 30, 1978). Anderson concludes a viable run of chinook and chum salmon. He recommends a study to locate the location of spawning areas and to determine the relative size of the runs.

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.

78) Two radio tagged chinook were tracked into the Fortymile River. The entry was thought to be tag induced. Both fish left the Fortymile without spawning. Previous studies (DFO files, Elson and Steigenberger:1977) documented chinook spawning in the Fortymile River.

1983

"Forty Mile - Chinook Salmon", September 26, 1983, Memo from Tim Young, FISS Support Files, DFO, Government of Canada.

- Two radio tagged fish were found in the river, one at the Sikinni property (moved back into the Yukon) and one by Clinton Creek.

Pattern of signal suggests that Sikinni fish did not spawn.

- 2 locals, a trapper near the border and Larry Vesina, report seeing salmon in the river.

1984

Jaremovic, L. and A. von Finster. "Salmon Presence in the Fortymile River, Yukon", Habitat of Fisheries and Oceans, Whitehorse: March 1988.

6) Juvenile salmon were found in Clinton and Mickey creeks and the mainstem of the Fortymile with a total of 63 chinook captured, 49 in Clinton Creek (B. Clark, unpublished data, 1984).

1984

Robbins, Leslie. Interview with Sally Robinson, August 24, 1997.

- He was up the headwaters of the Fortymile and up Moose Creek, off the Top of the World Highway. We were doing some assessment. They were fingerlings in the creek in 1983 or 1984 in August. (The same year Glen Moore died.) Moose Creek was really small, about a foot and a half wide. It has all been mined since then.

1985

"Investigation at Forty Mile River", August 6, 1985. FISS Support Files, Government of Canada.

- Purpose of helicopter flight was to determine placer classification of Forty Mile River above the canyon.

- Classification done in 1982 was challenged by placer miners above the canyon. Investigation by Bruce Clark, DFO Habitat, found chinook salmon fry below the canyon.

- Starting at the US border the Fort Mile was flown to attempt to observe adults. The dark water frustrated attempts to spot fish and no adults were seen. No customary predators or scavengers were observed.

- Sampling stations were set and a station 9.5 km below the border captured chinook salmon 74mm and 67mm. The chinook salmon were young of the year (emerged from gravel in spring 1985) and were sacrificed and preserved.

- Although no adult chinook were observed, the FortyMile appears to have abundant spawning gravels. It is unlikely that the watershed freezes to the bottom. Water quality during the winter may not allow all incubating eggs to develop and this should be studied.

- Chinook salmon fry were observed well above (greater than 12 km) the canyon. Unless they were the product of spawning, they prove that chinook juveniles can surmount the canyon.

1985

Jaremovic, L. and A. von Finster. "Salmon Presence in the Fortymile River, Yukon", Habitat of Fisheries and Oceans, Whitehorse: March 1988.

6) Two chinook juveniles were found in the Fortymile and in the upper Fortymile above the placer operation (von Finster, "Investigation at Fortymile River", Memo dated August 6, 1985).

1986

Jaremovic, L. and A. von Finster. "Salmon Presence in the Fortymile River, Yukon", Habitat of Fisheries and Oceans, Whitehorse: March 1988.

6) A chum carcass was found one half mile above the Clinton Creek townsite pumphouse (B. McDonald, Memo to G, Zealand, DFO Whitehorse, Nov. 7, 1986) Two female and two male chum salmon were captured 500 metres downstream from the Clinton Creek bridge and three male salmon were captured just downstream from the canyon (McDonald, 1986).

1988

Jaremovic, L. and A. von Finster. "Salmon Presence in the Fortymile River, Yukon", Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Whitehorse: March 1988.

6) Several studies have confirmed the presence of juvenile chinook salmon in the Fortymile River and a number of its tributaries. In 1986, the Fishery Officer surveyed the river for spawning chum (MacDonald, 1986). No spawning chum were observed.

7) There were 1960 reports of chinook and chum spawning near the Taylor Highway.

11) Two adult chinook salmon were observed in the Fortymile River on the Alaska side (L. Carufel, Correspondence to F. Anderson, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, October 5, 1987). The 1987 salmon study gill net yielded one adult unspawned male chum salmon on Sept. 19, 250 metres downstream from the Clinton Creek bridge.

13) In August 1987, a total of 192 chinook salmon juveniles were collected in the mainstem Fortymile from the border to the rapids; fourteen chinook were caught above Browns Creek and 178 were caught below Browns Creek. One chinook was caught in Browns Creek and 10 chinook in Bruin Creek.

16) Based on historical reports and recent investigations, it appears that there are populations of salmon that spawn in the Fortymile.

17) The abundance of juveniles indicates the importance of the Fortymile for rearing. The location of juveniles over 30 km upstream from the mouth strongly indicates that these are progeny of chinook that spawned in the Fortymile.

1987

"Rational for Classification: Fortymile River Tributary to the Yukon River", YPA 96.

3) Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior conducted surveys in 1987 on the American side and observed a live adult female chinook moving over a redd in the North Fork of the Fortymile River. A dead male Chinook was found near the confluence with the South Fork.

4) Spawning chinook and chum salmon have been reported from the American part of the drainage over an extended period of time. Chum salmon, in or close to the spawning condition have been captured on the Canadian side.

1988

Jaremovic et al in Robbin L. Hunka 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.

4) The Fortymile River was surveyed in 1988 and juvenile chinook salmon were found in Browns Creek, Bruin Creek and the lower 35 km. of the main river.

1990

Ott, Alvin G. Habitat Division, State of Alaska. Memo to Alan H., Townsend, Habitat Biologist, "Fortymile River Fish Sampling", September 11, 1990.

With Al von Finster, set minnow traps on August 6 and 7. A total of 20 juvenile chinook salmon were captured, 16 in Alaska and 4 in Canada. Lost 31 traps due to unexpected high water. Ott concluded that salmon spawn in the Fortymile River, especially given the availability of suitable gravels. Extensive netting or a sonar site may be necessary to confirm this.

1994

Jones, Sebastian. Personal communication with Sally Robinson, October 4, 1997.

- Three years ago in September Sebastian saw three chum in Mickey Creek in a deep pool beside the road. These were adult fish. He sees fingerlings all the time.

**Fresno Creek** or Jeu dök, meaning Island Creek.

64'16' Lat., 139'48' Long.

1997

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

JD: Fresno Creek is quite steep. I know that there is rearing salmon up there.

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

CG: That map could show spawning areas in the mouth of the Fifteenmile. If it is Chinook, it would be in the clear water at the mouth.

PH: Fresno Creek is steep.

CG: And it is cold. There is ice in that creek in August.

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

PH: They could not spawn at the mouth of Fresno Creek. Too swift, big rock and too fine gravel.

**Indian River**

61'04' Lat., 134'13' Long.

1896

Henderson, Robert. "The Gold Discovery of the Klondike: A life story of Robert Henderson who found the first precious metal." Told by himself and set out by T.A. K. Turner. Archives of British Columbia.

13-15) In the summer of 1896, Henderson fell and injured himself "where Dominion Creek empties itself into the Indian River..." He made a skin boat to travel from there to Wounded Moose. He was deciding which way to go when he met a black bear coming from a fishing expedition with a large salmon in his mouth. After this he drifted down to Quartz Creek.

1898

Scott, H.H. Diary of H.H. Scott of the Batavia Party, Batavia, New York. Friday 1898 through July 1899. Scoins Collection from Ottawa, Dawson City Museum and Historical Society.

June 28, 1898. Twenty-one miles up the Indian River at a place called Moose Bar. Shot a fish at night.

"Indian River, August 21, 1972", FISS Support Files, Government of Canada.

Walking survey of Indian River from headwaters of Sulphur to mouth of Indian. Lots of mud, saw no fish.

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

SR: What about the Indian.

PH: I ask people but that river is mud.

CG: It may have been Nick deGraff or Water Survey Canada did some electro trapping on the Indian. They electro-shocked some chinook fry in that dirty water and they were very surprised to find them. That would be five to seven years ago. That was from a personal conversation. That was rearing salmon, maybe a mile from the mouth. There is one channel but it is pretty dirty.

PH: Indian River is all mined. That will be good lynx country. The beaver could go back in there.

CG: I was there in 1970 and shot a moose, and that river was chocolate in colour. That creek and the major tribs. have been mined continuously. I would infer there is fish from that reference to Henderson, but we have no documentation.

PH: They say there is no fish in the Indian. But Mabel and I and the kids used to catch grayling at Granville.

CG: I bet there is still rearing salmon in the Indian. It is just so dirty that you can't see them.

### **Kandik River**

65°50' Lat., 141°00' Long.

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. A friend, Mark Richards, who lives 75 km up the Kandik caught 23 chum during July 1976 but that was unusual. Randy Brown had never caught chum salmon at that time of the year up any side creeks.

"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 on July 17, 1956 but excellent spawning gravels were observed.

### **Kirkman Creek**

63°00' Lat., 139°33' Long.

Maloy, Hazel. Interviewed by Eleanor Millard, January 20, 1978. Tape 1/2. Dawson City Museum and Historical Society.

Talking about the Yukon Indians:

"If it was to come over from Wellsley Lake where they went over to rat, they'd come to the Yukon to catch the King Salmon. The salmon that came up, and in the old days, there used to be some great big salmon."

"Russell got one that weighed eighty-five pounds last, '77. But there were a lot of those big salmon, huge salmon in the old days, you see."

1938-50

Mann, W. D. Letters of Dan W. Mann. Dawson City Museum and Historical Society. Mann lived seven miles up Kirkman Creek.

Letter to his cousin from D. Mann at Kirkman Creek, June 27, 1938. "I tried to get some grayling but there wasn't a fish in the Creek. I guess it is the sluicing. It makes the water so dirty."

Letter to his cousin from Dan and Mary Man at Kirkman Creek, February 14, 1941. "Well don't talk about fish cause it makes my mouth water. I ain't tasted a fresh fish since last fall. The grayling we get in the streams in summer are lovely sweet fishes."

Letter to cousins from Dan and Mary Mann from Kirkman Creek, October 29, 1941. "I had plenty of grayling this summer and they are good fish and I caught five King salmon."

Letter to cousins from D. Mann from Kirkman Creek, April 18, 1943. "Well the bears must be out now and we are on the lookout for them and we can use the meat we have three dogs to feed. and the ducks will be here soon I will try and get a load of them and some grayling are sure a good fish."

Letter to cousins from D. Mann, Kirkman Creek, April 2, 1943.

"I wish some caribou would come a long now. We got three dogs to feed and some meat would be mighty handy now."

Letter to his cousins from D. Mann at Kirkman Creek. July 26, 1944. "It has been a wet summer here and I haven't done a thing except feed five dogs and made a boat. I killed five bear and two geese and a few Mallard ducks and grouse and rabbits and fish I got three pickerel this summer and grayling and 'yaiskonies' they look like white fish and they will take a spoon or plug they get big they go twenty pounds."

Letter to his cousin from D. Mann at Ballarat Creek, July 15, 1950. "I was fishing a day ago and a beaver came swimming along and was right under my rod and never seen me."

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

SR: Kirkman. No salmon.

PH: Just a small creek I could jump across right now. The mouth is a bad place. It was pretty hard for the fish to spawn in the steamboat days. The wake was always washing the gravel. But in the slough they could spawn. There is a good slough at Kirkman.

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

CG: Kirkman and Coffee Creek are about thirteen miles apart. Coffee was the gathering area, on that big flat.

JD: They would be fishing in the main stem Yukon. They would fish there in the main stem Yukon, all the way down to Kirkman Creek.

### **Klondike River - Kl'o dëk, meaning grassy creek.**

63°58' Lat., 138°41' Long.

1887

Moore, J. Bernard. *Skagway in Days Primeval*. New York: Vintage Press, 1968.

65) May 30, 1887. Passed the Klondike River and saw the large drying and smoking racks made of poles.

1887

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

20) J. Bernard Moore passed a native fish camp at the mouth of the Klondike in 1887.

1887-88

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]

29) The Ton-dac [Klondike] is a small river about 40 yards wide at the mouth, and shallow, the water is clear and transparent, and of a beautiful blue colour. The Indians catch great numbers of salmon here. They had been fishing shortly before my arrival, and the river, for some distance up, was full of salmon traps.

1891

Redmond, W.A. "Down the Yukon in 1887" in *Overland*. June 1891, 611-628.

- struck a large rancheria on the right bank of the river where there was a group of Indians. "They were preparing for the salmon run." That evening he arrived at Fort Reliance.

1894

Snow, Anna, "Anna E. Snow, 1887 Alaska Pioneer" Snow Family Papers, Dawson City Museum and Historical Society.

2) In 1894 Anna and George T. Snow started into the interior.

3) They passed the place where Dawson now stands, which at that time was an Indian fish camp.

1895

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

273) W.J. Bowen was sent to the Fort Reliance Indians in their fish camp at the mouth of the Klondike. (c1895)

274) Canham reported in a missionary magazine that:

"Great hauls of beautiful large salmon were taken in traps and nets every summer, which accounts for so many Indians being found here. The fact that the salmon are so plentiful at this point, decided a miner to establish himself there for the purpose of putting salmon up in barrels, to sell to the miners who were working at Forty Mile Creek. He was very successful, and made much more than he would have done at mining. Of course he charged very high for his fish." ( Rev. T. H. Canham, " The Diocese of Selkirk: It's Work and Workers," *The Church Missionary Intelligencer*, Vol. 23, (January 1898), p. 130.

1896

Wilkie, Rab and The Skookum Jim Friendship Centre. "Skookum Jim: Native and non-Native Stories and Views About His Life and Times and the Klondike Gold Rush." Prepared for Heritage Branch, Department of Tourism, Government of the Yukon, 1992.

71) Patsy Henderson's story from P. Henderson, SJFC Oral History Project 1973; transcript of CBC Radio interview; about 1960. - Jim, Charley and Patsy met George Carmack at the mouth of the Klondike River. George said it was too late to travel and they should wait until the river froze and travel by dog team. They built a fish-trap, and dried fish for the dog's winter food.

George, Charley and Jim travelled up Bonanza but Patsy stayed to tend the dogs and the fish trap.  
79) Angels Sidney's Account from Cruikshank 1990: 63-65. - "When they got to Klondike River, that's where they started to dry salmon. And that's when they came to George Carmack's camp. Well, Kate and her husband were drying salmon, too- They've been living on fish, but they're starting to get hungry for meat."

163-4) George Carmack's dream (from Snow Family Papers, Alaska State Library) - "I dreamt I was fishing in a small stream and caught two very large salmon, so that gave me the idea to go up the Klondike and catch salmon for the market..."

"As a result of this dream Carmack went to the mouth of the Klondike which was known to be a good spot for salmon..."

1896

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

35) Salmon was the primary resource of the Han. The fishing camps were located long the banks of the Yukon, although salmon also ascended tributary rivers such as the Klondike to spawn. People came to the camps several weeks or even months before the king and chum salmon reached Han territory in July. Often the camps were large, representing the whole band and visitors.

In 1896 Spurr reported about 200 Indians fishing at the mouth of the Klondike (Spurr 1900:105).

1896

Moore, J. Bernard. *Skagway in Days Primeval*. New York: Vintage Press, 1968.

190) July 28, 1896. At the Klondike he noted that the salmon had not yet appeared and "the natives are anxiously waiting for them, for it is very late."

1896

Ogilvie, William. Extract from William Ogilvie's letter dated Fort Cudahy, November 8, 1896. For generations, the Indians have occupied the ground around the mouth of the Klondak as a fishing ground.

1896

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

6) In May 1896, Carmack was at Ft. Selkirk and had a dream of some salmon covered in gold nuggets. "...as there was a good market for dried salmon along the river that year, I made up my mind to go fishing."

"...I went to the store, bought some net twine and started to make a large gill-net. In the meantime I was trying to make up my mind what stream to locate on. I was fairly well posted on the various streams that empty into the Yukon, having hunted and prospected on most of them."

"When my net was finished I had decided on my choice for a fishing ground. About fifty miles up the river, a small stream, known as the Klondike River, cuts its way through the right bank of the river. It was known as one of the best salmon streams on the Yukon, and that was to be my destination."

"On the first day of July, I loaded my boat and started up the river for the Klondike. ..."

"As soon as I arrived at the Klondike, I built a good fish trap and put it into the river, after

which I built frames to dry the fish on. By the time I had everything ready the fish began to run."

1897

Correspondence between R. N. Venning, Assistant Commissioner of Fisheries, and Inspector McKay in Dawson. Department of Marine and Fisheries, RG, Vol. 328, File 2801, Part 1.  
1910) Baldo Jelich states that fishermen have set their nets as he did, when fined in 1909 for obstructing more than two thirds of the Klondike River, since the early days of the Dawson gold camp.

1897

Ladue, Joseph. *Klondyke Nuggets: A Brief Description of the Great Gold Region in the Northwest Territories and Alaska*. New York: American Technical Book Company, 1897.

79) The Klondike. "The Indians catch great numbers of salmon here. They had been fishing shortly before my arrival, and the river, for some distance up, was full of salmon traps."

1899

Adney, Tappan. *The Klondike Stampede*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 1994.

449) The salmon reach Dawson between the 10th and 15th of June. Weighs up to 51 pounds. Indians use weirs and white men use drift-nets 150-250 feet long. Salmon of 80 lbs. have been reported at Fort Reliance. The next run of silver salmon weighs not more than 30 pounds. The dog salmon run last. The price of salmon on June 15, 1898 was \$2 a pound, by midsummer 25 cents a pound.

1899

"Report of Superintendent P. C. H. Primrose, Commanding NWMP, B Division" in *Report of the Northwest Mounted Police, 1899*. Ottawa: 1900.

53) A great number of men were employed in fishing for salmon last season in the Yukon, adjacent to the townsite, the supply being eagerly sought for by the remainder of the inhabitants.

pre-1900

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

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) in the summer the largest congregation of people was at the mouth of the Klondike, where a number of fish traps were set, and where there was a very large fish camp located - after spring floods had subsided - on the low shore of the Yukon just upstream from the Klondike's mouth. 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.

pre-1900

Nelson, Peter. Snow Family Papers, Alaska State Library.

Peter Nelson arrived at Stewart on the 2nd of May. Fell in with Joe Ladue and started for the Klondike together. They got to Ft. Reliance and packed across from there to the Klondike River, a distance of about 35 miles. They struck the Klondike about 45 miles up. They continued up the

Klondike and on the first day's travel stopped at a bar on the left hand side of the creek, late in the afternoon. That evening they went up about three miles further to a gravel bank about thirty feet high and 400 yards wide. The bank was a very heavy wash mixed in with large quartz boulders and had a fine slate bedrock. It was an old riverbed and they could trace its course for miles right into the Rocky Mountains. It was flat and level and the old bed ran straight as far as the eye could see. They made a spear out of moose bone fastened in the end of a pole and "that kept us in salmon for the rest of the trip; we just speared one every day for dinner." They started up the Klondike, travelling and prospecting for three or four days. On the fourth day, Sprague pulled out a fine big salmon.

pre-1900

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

7) Ancestors used fish traps at the mouth of the Klondike. Use to be high grass you make fish trap through that grass. Fish go through them but he can't come out, so they camp, that's how Indian fish. They go in, they can't come out.

pre-1900

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

I've seen a lot of sign away up the head of North Fork. People used to be there with stone tools. I think people go there for fishing too.

- The mouth of the Klondike was very important for fish trap. People came from different places to fish there. I asked one elder how good the traps worked and he said they could stop the fish going up there. They would fish all day and then let it go over night or every so many hours and they would go up through. And then they would shut it again. They would get a lot of fish because a lot of people would use it and they would share that.

- In the early days the people got most of their fish from the Klondike.

pre-1900

Flynn, Rowena. Interviewed by Ingrid Johnson, July 31, 1997.

- When my grandfather first came they camped behind the golf course, where the ball player is. It was the only the place dry. They don't people and so they stay there. My grandmother always tease my grandfather. I was small but just like a dream I saw my grandfather. They don't know people. He heard some people down the Klondike River and ran back to say there was some crazy Indians and we got to go. My grandmother went to look. The people used the small roots like they used to weave baskets. They weave it like a net about 150 feet. All the men, even the tallest, haul it out and go way out in the Klondike River. They go out and around and they hold it, and coming in, they singing eh? They were shouting and the women and kids were making noise. My grandfather thought they were going to kill those men. He went running back. My grandmother went to see. Oh, the salmon. They gave her a salmon and she went back to camp. Look, see what those crazy Indians gave us.

1899-1909

*Dawson Daily News*, "Protect Grayling: Jack Lee's plea on behalf of prospector and Logger", June 8, 1909.

In the early days of the camp, six or so professional salmon fishermen perceived that grayling

fishing was more profitable if fished with an illegal 2 to 3 inch mesh net. By the spring of 1900, several hundred of these nets could be counted any day during the open season in every eddy, nook and corner, along the Yukon and Klondike rivers in the vicinity of Dawson. The professional fishermen were still fishing in 1905, as were prospectors catching fish to grubstake themselves. Small nets were still in the river in 1906. The rod fishermen were being charged with fishing put of season and they went to their minister of parliament, Dr. Alfred Thompson, to complain about the professionals and their actions of the last 10 years. They have had ten years of uninterrupted grayling poaching and have denuded the Klondike pretty thoroughly. There is incessant use of small mesh nets about the mouth of the Klondike and far upstream during the seasons when the [grayling] are leaving and returning to their winter home. These nets hardly allow a mature fish to ascend the Klondike.

c1900

Isaac, Gerald. Interviewed by Nancy, March 19, 1994.

In the early days the salmon came up the Yukon to spawn in hundreds of thousands if not millions and the whales used to always come after them as a feed source. Grandma Eliza Isaac says she saw a 'big fish, all same house' at the mouth of the Klondike or at Moosehide.

1903

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.

19) In 1903, 17 commercial licences were sold, and forty men were engaged in the commercial fishing industry. ("Yukon District", in *Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries*, 1903. Fisheries, Ottawa: 1904, p. xxxvii.) The commercial fishing industry was local, initially specific to Dawson and later to Mayo and Whitehorse.

1903

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

xxxvii) Inspector T.A. Stewart reports that grayling are caught in the Klondike River and the eddies along the banks of the Yukon River. They appear about April 1st and remain until June. They reappear in September and run until the middle of October. They are plentiful and command a good price especially in April when they sell for \$1 per pound, for a short time. There is a good market for them in Dawson.

1906

Correspondence between R. N. Venning, Assistant Commissioner of Fisheries, and Inspector McKay in Dawson. Department of Marine and Fisheries, RG, Vol. 328, File 2801, Part 1. Mr. Desborough states that he has been fishing for salmon at Dawson for several years. (Two men in one boat fishing with nets.)

McKay states that salmon fishing is usually done immediately in front of Dawson by means of small boats and nets. They catch the large King Salmon.

1907

Kay, H.J., Inspector of Fisheries. Correspondence. RG 23, vol. 328., file 2813: Employment - Yukon District [1899-1914].

- 1907. McKay hires a special fishery guardian for night work on the Klondike River because

grayling prices are high and that encourages poaching. May 1907.

1908

Kay, H.J., Inspector of Fisheries. Correspondence. RG 23, vol. 328., file 2813: Employment - Yukon District [1899-1914].

- 1908. Special guardians are hired for two months for Dawson and for the Klondike River for 8 days.

1908

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

248) Klondike River; 3000 lbs. salmon, 1000 lbs. whitefish, 5000 lbs. grayling, 1000 lbs mixed and coarse fish.

1909

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

236) Klondike River: 4500 lbs. salmon, 950 lbs. smoked salmon, 1250 lbs. whitefish, 2030 lbs. trout, 19500 lbs. grayling, 180 lbs. pickerel, 500 lbs. ling cod, 390 tullibee, 1800 mixed and coarse fish.

1909

Lee, Jack. Correspondence to the Department of Fisheries in Ottawa, June 12, 1909. RG 23, vol. 330, File 2843, Part 1.

Williams has been poaching grayling in the vicinity of the camp since the early days. He informs on other illegal fishing activities and has once been caught by the fisheries inspector here.

Grayling are worth 35 to 50 cents a pound to the poachers during the five months of summer.

Williams also nets the mouth of North Fork under the ice with small mesh nets. Great numbers of both legal and illegal mesh commercial nets, baited with quantities of salmon eggs have always been used, without hindrance during the months of September and October, both in the Yukon and the Klondike, for a distance of some thirty miles up the Klondike.

1909

McKay, H.J., Inspector of Fisheries. Correspondence. RG 23, vol. 280., File 3384, Part 1.

1909. The Yukon Gold Co. have a dam on Bonanza, sixty feet high, but mining operations on this creek carry dirt and silt and no fish ascend.

1910

Correspondence between R. N. Venning, Assistant Commissioner of Fisheries, and Inspector McKay in Dawson. Department of Marine and Fisheries, RG, Vol. 328, File 2801, Part 1.

1910) Augusto Rocco and Baldo Jelich obtained commercial licences to use legal sized nets (4 inch mesh) in the "Dawson and Klondike Rivers".

Jelich was fined in 1909 for obstructing more than two thirds of the width of the mouth of the Klondike River. He said that he was setting his nets exactly as he had for the part number of years. The fishermen were not aware of the law with regard to fishing restrictions. This was not the case as Jelich complained that John Anderson, Daniel McRea and Joseph Gosher were obstructing more than two thirds of the width of the stream before he himself was fined.

1910

"Report of Inspector F.J. Horrigan, Commanding Dawson," in *Report of the Northwest Mounted Police, 1910*. Ottawa: 1910.

218) Second unit of Granville Power Company's hydro-electric power plant on the North Fork of the Klondike is complete. Now equipped to generate 10,000 HP.

1910

Venning, R.N., Department of marine and Fisheries, Ottawa. Correspondence with Dawson. September 1909. Department of Marine and Fisheries, RG 23, Vol. 328, File 2801, Licences-Yukon-Revenues and Policy [1899-1913].

- March 1910 application for a fishing licence in the Klondike River near the Ogilvie Bridge to catch whitefish and salmon.

1910

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

304) Klondike fish caught by whites: 40 cwts. salmon, 9 cwts trout, 11 cwts whitefish, 1 cwts. pickerel, 4 cwts. pike, 6 cwts. tullibee, 200 cwts. grayling, 19 cwts. mixed fish .

1911

McKay, H.J., Inspector of Fisheries. Correspondence. RG 23, vol. 280., File 3384, Part 1.

1911) The intake of the ditch owned by the Granville Power Co. is on the North Fork of the Klondike River, about eight miles up from the confluence. Loggers and prospectors live in the North Fork area and the prospectors depend on the grayling for part of their food supply. Often they will bring a large quantity to Dawson and sell them. A screen with three-quarters or one inch mesh across the intake would protect the fish as grayling are practically the only fish to frequent this stream.

1912) April 15, 1911 telegram noted quantities of fish reported destroyed in the Klondike River ditches. McKay again informed Ottawa of this on November 2, 1912 and noted a memo

from Ottawa requiring that the fisheries act be rigidly enforced in the Yukon. McKay was ordered to require the company to conform to the law and install screens on the intake in March of the following year.

1911

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

- The North Fork of the Klondike is a spawning ground. During the time the hydro dam was there, I don't think the fish went up there. After it closed the fish went back up to where the bridge is. They kept trying but they couldn't get up there.

1911 and 1914

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.

30) A dam was constructed on the North Klondike River in 1911. During most of the year the dam did not impede fish movement. Low water in the fall did not always allow fish over the dam. The Dawson Daily News noted that hundreds of salmon are crowded in to the area below the dam and have been caught there this season. ("Tells of New Yukon Winter Food Supply", *Dawson*

*Daily News*, November 29, 1919.)

31) In 1914, the only creek which showed a marked decline in fish was the Klondike where many of the large dredges were working. During the summer months, the water was muddy. (*Forty-seventh Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries 1914-15*. Fisheries, Ottawa: 1914, p.247).

1912

Venning, R.N., Department of marine and Fisheries, Ottawa. Correspondence with Dawson. September 1909. Department of Marine and Fisheries, RG 23, Vol. 328, File 2801, Licences-Yukon-Revenues and Policy [1899-1913].

- Domestic licence issued June 1912 to W.F. Collins for fishing salmon at Klondike River at Ogilvie Bridge was replaced by commercial licence in July.

1913

Venning, R.N., Department of Marine and Fisheries, 1913. RG 23, Vol. 328, f.2813, Employment - Yukon District [1899-1914]

- McKay is fired due to political partisanship. Charles Payson replaces him.

1913

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

- Grayling abound in all the side-streams except the Klondike where the dredges are working, keeping the water muddy.

304) Klondike fish caught by non-natives: 55 cwts. salmon, 12 cwts. trout, 10 cwts. whitefish, 85 cwts. mixed fish.

1914

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

243) The only river that showed a marked decrease in supply is the Klondike, where many of the large dredges are working and so the river is muddy during the summer. The upper reaches of the river is also a favourite with the Dawson anglers and very convenient for weekend anglers.

244) There were 9 boats and 11 fishermen working on the Klondike with 30 gill nets and 27 lines. There was one smoke and fish house.

245) Klondike fish caught and marketed and or consumed locally: 70 cwts. salmon, 12 cwts. trout, 15 cwts. whitefish, 2 cwts. maskinonge, 85 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.

239) There is a marked decrease of grayling in the Klondike as the big dredges keep the water muddy.

240) There were 6 boats and twelve fishermen with 18 gill nets and 25 lines. There was 1 smoke and fish house with 2 employees.

241) Klondike fish caught by non-natives: 40 cwts. salmon, 10 cwts. trout, 15 cwts.

whitefish, 80 cwts. mixed fish.

1916

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

227) There were 7 boats and 12 fishermen working on the Klondike with 18 gill nets and 25 lines. There was one smoke and fish house with 2 employees.

228) Klondike fish caught by non-natives and marketed and or consumed locally: 40 cwts. salmon, 10 cwts. trout, 10 cwts. whitefish, 80 cwts. mixed fish.

1920s

Kormandy, Ed and Percy Henry. "Oral History Survey: Lousetown." Land Claims Branch, Dawson First Nation. April, May and June, 1993.

- Grayling running up Bonanza in increasing numbers.

5) Doris Adair says she remembers Lucy Wood telling her that she lived at Lousetown as a girl and they used to fish up the Rabbit Creek, renamed Bonanza after the gold strike.

9) Martha Taylor grew up at the mouth of the Twelvemile River. She remembers. When she was a girl, the family went up Bonanza to go hunt for meat, fish and berries.

1920s-1930s

John Gould. Personal communication with Sally Robinson on June 24, 1997 in Dawson City, YT. John fished for grayling up Hunker Creek when he was a boy at Nugget Hill. This would be the late 1920s and early 1930s.

John says Steve Herman worked as cook for the company at the Indian River. The river was so full of silt "you could walk on it" but there was grayling in there.

1940s - 1960s

Kormandy, Ed and Percy Henry. "Oral History Survey: Lousetown." Land Claims Branch, Dawson First Nation. April, May and June, 1993.

5) Doris Adair says she remembers Lucy Wood telling her they would dry their meat and fish at Lousetown. Mostly people from Pelly used to come and stay there. They hunt and fish all summer long.

6) Archie Roberts was told many stories by the oldtimers. He said they used to get fish at Lousetown in the Spring and Fall, shallow water they used to spear them.

9) Martha Taylor grew up at the mouth of the Twelvemile River. She thinks "'Tron dik' means grassy creek I guess, I don't know."

10) Ronald Johnson's family was from Pelly. They moved to Lousetown in the 1940s and stayed there until the early 1960s. His Mom and Dad had gill nets set just above Lousetown where there is a bluff there, catching King Salmon. Then they set up a fish camp and just cut it up there and dry it.

11) Annie Henry says Mary McCloud and Lucy Wood used to fish at Lousetown. They would fish with sticks in the water that guided the fish to a funnel shaped trap that the fish could enter but not leave. They would dry the fish at Lousetown.

mid-1950s

Brunner, Greg. Personal communication with Sally Robinson. August 30, 1997.

- Weigo Christiansen told Greg that he saw chinook salmon in O'Brien Creek (now Brewery

Creek) in the mid-1950s. There was enough salmon that he was trying to spear them.

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

- There was a fair run of salmon from information received.

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 1500 king salmon in the Klondike River in 1961.

1961-2

Fisheries Research Board, October '61 to May '62"

- Spawning report, 1961-62. Klondike River with 1500 king and 2000 chum.

1961 - 1962

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, Klondike: 1500 in 1961 and 1000 in 1962.

1970

"Guardian Dawson F-S-S-6591, July 19, 1970", FISS Support Files, Weekly report of Fishery Guardian/Patrolman, Department of Fisheries and Forestry.

1970

"Weekly Report of Fishery Guardian/Patrolman, September 20, 1970", Guardian Dawson F-S-5-6591.

Dick North reported that "Salmon are returning to the Klondike. Sid Carr spotted a dead salmon floating - the first one he had ever seen in the Klondike since coming up here, Many salmon running were in evidence.

1972

"Correspondence from Jan. 4/72 to Oct. 5/72. Report Submitted by David Kains, October 2, 1972", FISS Support Files, Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

6) August 15. First fish sighted was a dead male about 1 mile upstream from the bridge which crosses the Klondike River a mile upstream of the mouth. About 50 dead or dying fish were sighted from this first one to a position 30 miles upstream on the South branch from the confluence of the South and North Klondike. Sighted spawning salmon at about mile 8 of the South Klondike. No fish were seen on the North Klondike.

8) August 22. Four salmon were sighted, 2 on the main branch and 2 on the South Branch with none sighted on the North Klondike.

1974

"f. Annual Narrative Report 1971 -"

1974 report states that the old YCGC dam on the North Fork does not appear to threaten the passage of fish. It does create a pool directly below it and chinook become susceptible to jigging. The author feels that the existing spawning population of chinooks in the Klondike system is

very low and cannot withstand the pressure. The domestic and subsistence salmon fisheries have remained about the same with regard to numbers of fishermen. Most of the native salmon catch is smoked and dried, used for food, and dog feed while the domestic salmon catch is basically for home consumption.

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. 25) Although the aerial surveys may have been done too late in the season for accurate chinook counts, 44 Chinook and no chums were counted on spawning grounds in 1974.

1974

Brunner, Greg. Personal communication with Sally Robinson. August 30, 1997.  
- in the summer of 1974 or '75, Greg counted 18 chinook at the South Fork intake.

1975

"Winter River Survey, 1975", FISS Support Files, Government of Canada.

3) An area near the old dam on the north fork of the Klondike is known to be a spawning area for chinook salmon.

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.

1977

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.

78) Previous studies (DFO files, Elson and Steigenberger:1977) documented chinook spawning. A small chinook return was observed in the Klondike.

1977

FISS Support Files, August 5, 1977. Observations by unknown near Gilcher Creek on the Klondike River.

- 2 chinook salmon were captured.

Chinook spawning times in Klondike start approx. August 1, peak by August 10 and end by August 25. Klondike provides excellent habitat. Extensive spawning occurs and migration route. Population levels seem to be critically low for salmon, considering historic population records and excellent spawning habitat, ie 1960 - 2000 chinook and 2500 chum salmon reported. (Ref: Pete Etherton. 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 Resources Services Ltd. July 28 to Aug. 31, 1977.)

1977

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

14) A few chinook salmon were found but no chum. Spawning has been reported to occur along the river at many locations upstream of Hunker Creek. August 11 they found five live and five dead salmon downstream of the Dempster highway. On August 18, one chinook salmon was sighted near the mouth of Gilcher Creek.

1977

FISS Support Files, February 1985. Ref: Pete Etherton. "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 Resources Services Ltd. July 28 to Aug. 31, 1977.

- Report stated that Flat Creek has excellent rearing habitat for at least 4 species including chinook salmon.

1981

Brunner, Greg. Personal communication with Sally Robinson. August 30, 1997.

In mid or early July 1981, he saw a couple jumping at the intake. Hans Augutson has seen a dead one above the intake.

1981

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.

83) 20 spawning chum were observed in the South Fork of the Klondike.

1983

FISS Support Files, August 10-15, 1983. Observations by L. Steigenberger.

- Chinook salmon spawning in mainstream, upstream of Hunker Creek and below airport.

1985

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.

130) The Klondike tentatively ranks 7th in order of Chinook production after the mainstem Yukon (Stewart to Hootalinqua), Teslin, Pelly Stewart, the Upper Yukon mainstem above Hootalinqua and the White. The importance of a sub-basin could vary annually.

1986

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.

83) One radio-tagged chum was tracked into the Klondike River and observed 27 km up the

Klondike on Sept. 4 and 5. The transmitter was recovered 44 km below the confluence of the North and South Klondike Rivers. It was assumed that the fish had spawned.

105) The chum that entered the Klondike had a migratory rate of 2.1 km.h(-1) in the Yukon and 78 km.h(-1) within the Klondike.

1987

Neff, Don. June 28, 1997. Personal communication with Sally Robinson.

Don thinks the dam on the North Fork of the Klondike did not stop the fish. Both the North Fork and the South had salmon and ten years ago bears were pulling them out at the Tombstone Campground on the North Fork.

1992

Duncan, Jake. "North Fork Fish Project - Collection Data/92/Chinook", 1992.

During July and August, Chinook salmon were caught 400 yards upstream from the mouth of the North Klondike, 250 yards above the mouth of the Klondike, a large eddy across from the mouth of the North Klondike and at an eddy at the outlet of the furthest downstream North Klondike channel. A total of 15 males and 3 females were caught. A total of 27,565 eggs were collected.

1993/94

Duncan, Jake. "Klondike River Salmon Restoration Project, Annual Report 1993-1994", Prepared for the Dawson Indian Band.

July 1933) 1 female and 9 male salmon were collected as brood stock on the North Klondike River, 100 metres from the confluence, and at the mouth of the North Klondike River. As a result of the project, 6,184 North Klondike fry were tagged and the adipose fins were clipped. 6,238 fry were released into the North Klondike River at a backwater eddy above the old diversion ditch on the North Klondike River.

1994

"Stream Inspection Log", FISS Support Files, Fisheries and Oceans, Government of Canada.

July 26, 1994. Ian Boyce and Jake Duncan observed 38 chinook salmon scattered throughout from half a km. above Goring Creek to 2 km. below. Spawning area as numerous redds were observed, some abandoned.

1994

"Chinook salmon spawning: Klondike and North Klondike Rivers", FISS Support Files, Correspondence from Al von Finster to Seigi Kriegl on August 4, 1994. Government of Canada.

- On July 28, 1994 a large male chinook was caught from the Dempster Highway bridge.

- On August 3, 1994 spawning appeared to be taking place in a cobble/boulder substrate downstream of the Dempster Highway Bridge, one third of the channel width from the north bank. There were 10 fish there.

- At the North Klondike Ditch crossing, active chinook spawning was observed about 50 metres downstream from the present structure, near the west bank. There were about 10 fish.

1994-1995

Duncan, Jake. "Klondike River Salmon Restoration Project, Annual Report 1994-1995", Prepared for the Tr'on d'ek Hwech'in.

9 females and 18 males were collected from the main stem Klondike River. 8 males were

collected on the North Klondike, 100 metres from the confluence, and at the mouth of the North Klondike River. At the time of collection, 17 females and 63 males were intercepted. A total of 4,241 fry were released into the North Klondike River in a backwater eddy located above the old diversion ditch.

1995

"Sampling: Lee Creek; Golden Creek; and the Klondyke River", FISS Support Files, Memo to file from Al von Finster on January 17, 1995, Government of Canada.

Three creeks in the area of the Brewery Creek Mines area were studied.

- On Lee Creek at the confluence of Pacific, 1 juvenile chinook salmon was captured.
- On the Klondike River upstream of "Golden" (un-named creek) Creek, 32 juvenile chinook salmon were captured.
- On the outlet of a beaver pond complex and the confluence of the Klondyke, 49 juvenile chinook salmon were captured.
- We were able to establish that, with the removal of the Lee Creek weir, juvenile salmon migrate upstream at least to the mouth of Pacific Creek. Fish do not presently use Golden Creek above the beaver dam complex. Juvenile salmon do utilize the lowest reaches of Golden Creek.

1995

"Loki Gold: Fish Salvage and Mitigation Access Road Construction, Aug.-Oct. 1995", White Mountain Environmental Consulting.

Working between Sept 28 and Oct. 2, 1995, White Mountain worked at a culvert installation at a ground water creek which crossed the new access road approx. 100 metres west of the North Klondike river captured. The creek was blocked and salmon captured and released above the construction. A total of 196 chinook salmon fry were diverted. Results from the salvage operation suggest that the creek provides important overwintering habitat for chinook salmon fry

1995

"Notes on an Investigation: Klondyke River and Tributaries", FISS Support Files, Memo to file from Al Von Finster, October 24, 1995, Fisheries and Oceans, Government of Canada.

Drapeau Creek, a tributary of the Little South Klondike was mined prior to the discovery on Bonanza.

- Juvenile chinook salmon were present in the Lower South Klondike at least as far up as Syenite Creek.
- No conclusion can be drawn in regard to the distribution of spawning Chinook salmon in the Lower South Klondike drainage basin. Most spawning was complete by the investigation period. Recommends further study.

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

- MH: Lots of people fishing king salmon from the Dempster Highway on the Klondike River.

JD: Yes, there is salmon spawning under the bridge and just down from the bridge. Just down from the bridge ...on the way out to the Dempster there is a road just before to the river and there is fish around in there. Named after Carson? And above there is some spots too.

MH: The salmon were running there and there was people there, just hooking them out. That was a couple of years ago.

- PH: Just above (Bruin) Brewery Creek, that's where that fish hole is. I have never been there

but an elder told me they used to go up Klondike to fish.

JD: That's up the South Fork. They used to go that far up for [fish to sell] sale?

PH: They used to fish for sale.

1995-1996

Duncan, Jake. "Klondike River Salmon Restoration Project, Annual Report 1995-1996", Prepared for the Tr'on dëk Hwech'in.

36 females were intercepted and 48 males. 6 females and 3 males were collected. High water conditions made visibility poor. The redds were not as concentrated as in previous years. Spawning salmon were observed as far up as Lee Creek. It is expected that 16,861 fry will be released.

1996

"Klondike River Salmon Restoration Project: 1996 Chinook Salmon Escapement on the Klondike River", FISS Support Files, Correspondence from Jake Duncan to Ian Boyce on Aug, 21, 1996, Fisheries and Oceans, Government of Canada.

- On August 7, an aerial count of salmon redds on the Klondike counted 82 redds from Rock Creek to the Dempster Bridge; 114 redds from the Dempster Bridge to Lee Creek; 26 redds from Lee Creek to the mouth of the Little South Fork. A total of 222 redds were counted in the Klondike from Rock Creek to the South Fork. Some active spawning was observed but the majority was deemed to be over.

1997

Brunner, Cynthia. Interview with Sally Robinson. August 19, 1997.

- I have seen them in the North Fork at July, right at the dam. I may have seen one dead one at the intake on the South Fork. I haven't seen them further up the Klondike. I have fished a lot on the South Klondike, like really a lot, and the whole way up, for grayling. That is all we eat in the fall, and I have never seen salmon.

1997

Brunner, Greg. Personal communication with Sally Robinson. August 30, 1997.

- Joe Henry told Greg that Goring Creek was a good place for king salmon.
- Hans Augutson has seen a dead one above the South Fork intake.
- Greg has seen chum salmon at O'Brien Creek in late October.

### **McQuesten**

63'33' Lat., 137'24' Long.

1901-1904

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

- Inspector Starnes of the NWMP states that McQuesten was a headquarters for Indians on the Stewart River in 1901. "There are about 250 Indians stationed in the vicinity of McQuesten who live by hunting and fishing." (Starnes 1902: 57)

- In 1904 the NWMP census found that 53 Indians were living at McQuesten. (Wood 1905: 19)  
In 1906, the NWMP noted that the trading post was closed and the game was disappearing. The

Indians had moved to Mayo. (Wood 1907: 12)

1909

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

Fish caught by Indians in the McQuesten: 2000 lbs. salmon, 1334 lbs. smoked salmon, 4988 lbs. whitefish, 500 lbs. trout, 3500 lbs. grayling, 750 lbs. pike, 200 lbs. ling cod, 1500 lbs. tullibee, 1000 lbs. mixed and coarse fish.

1909

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.

133-5) Yukon Indian Fish Catch Statistics, 1909-1916. Adapted from the Department of Marine and Fisheries Annual Reports. Approx. fish harvest in pounds.

McQuesten 1909 - 2,000 salmon, 1334 smoked salmon.

1910

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

304) McQuesten, fish caught by natives: 60 cwts. salmon, 11 cwts trout, 15 cwts whitefish, 1 cwts. pickerel, 8 cwts. pike, 16 cwts. tullibee, 38 cwts. grayling, 22 cwts. mixed fish.

1910

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

- In 1910, Constable A.L. Simmons was patrolling from Dawson City to Mayo and noted that most were away fishing and that the Indian's headquarters was still considered to be at McQuesten. (Simmons 1911)

1910

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.

133-5) Yukon Indian Fish Catch Statistics, 1909-1916. Adapted from the Department of Marine and Fisheries Annual Reports. Approx. fish harvest in pounds.

McQuesten 1910 - 6000 lbs. salmon.

1911

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.

133-5) Yukon Indian Fish Catch Statistics, 1909-1916. Adapted from the Department of Marine and Fisheries Annual Reports. Approx. fish harvest in pounds.

McQuesten/Stewart 1911 - 17,000 lbs. salmon.

1912

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

304) McQuesten and Stewart, fish caught by natives: 170 cwts. salmon, 7 cwts trout, 40 cwts whitefish, 2 cwts. pickerel, 8 cwts. pike, 60 cwts. 60 cwts. mixed fish.

1912

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.

133-5) Yukon Indian Fish Catch Statistics, 1909-1916. Adapted from the Department of Marine and Fisheries Annual Reports. Approx. fish harvest in pounds.

McQuesten/Stewart 1912 - 17,000 lbs. salmon.

1913

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

304) McQuesten fish caught by natives: 140 cwts. salmon, 5 cwts. trout, 27 cwts. whitefish, 40 cwts. mixed fish.

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.

133-5) Yukon Indian Fish Catch Statistics, 1909-1916. Adapted from the Department of Marine and Fisheries Annual Reports. Approx. fish harvest in pounds.

McQuesten 1913 - 14,000 lbs. salmon.

1914

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

244) There were 4 boats and 7 fishermen with 7 gill nets on the McQuesten.

245) McQuesten fish caught by native fishermen: 140 cwts. salmon, 6 cwts. trout, 27 cwts. whitefish, 40 cwts. mixed fish (Grayling, bull-heads and ouananiche).

1914

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.

133-5) Yukon Indian Fish Catch Statistics, 1909-1916. Adapted from the Department of Marine and Fisheries Annual Reports. Approx. fish harvest in pounds.

McQuesten 1914 - 12,000 lbs. salmon.

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 6 fishermen with 7 gill nets on the McQuesten.

241) McQuesten fish caught by natives: 120 cwts. salmon, 5 cwts. trout, 25 cwts. whitefish, 40 cwts. mixed fish.

1915

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.

133-5) Yukon Indian Fish Catch Statistics, 1909-1916. Adapted from the Department of Marine and Fisheries Annual Reports. Approx. fish harvest in pounds.

McQuesten 1915 - 10,000 lbs. salmon.

1916

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

227) There were 3 boats and 6 fishermen working on the McQuesten with 8 gill nets.

228) McQuesten fish caught by Indians: 100 cwts. salmon, 5 cwts. trout, 20 cwts. whitefish, 40 cwts. mixed fish.

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

15) Some interviewees mentioned fishing at the mouth of the McQuesten River.

16) Sam Peter and Jimmy Lucas remember chum being plentiful in the McQuesten River. Lucas remembers a fish camp 20 miles up the McQuesten where many chums were harvested.

17) Sam Peter, Jimmy Lucas and David Moses all talked about fish traps on the McQuesten River to catch chinook. The traps were built with spruce branches tied together to form what looked like a fence. Such traps could capture 50 salmon over the space of one night. Mary Hager described how tree roots were cleaned and tied together to make traps.

1947

Bostock, H.S. "Pack Horse Tracks - recollections of a geologists life in British Columbia and the Yukon, 1924 - 1954." Yukon Geoscience Forum, 1990.

233) July 20, 1947. "Lots of salmon could be seen coming up the shallow reaches of the North McQuesten." Walter and Erle gaffed a salmon and in less than 10 minutes, they had three salmon - 6 to 10 pounders. They were in excellent condition. There were some much bigger salmon but they could not handle them.

234) July 27, 1947. The packers and assistants caught some more salmon.

1953

Hoddinott, Charles. "Complaint of Pollution of Streams" RCMP, Division "G", Mayo Detachment. Nov. 4, 1953. RG 23 161444 f.702-11-4.

- Hoddinott has a cabin at the mouth of Haggart Creek and has depended on his catch of fish.

During the summer and fall of 1952, the number of fish decreased and this summer it was impossible to catch any fish. He blames refuse from the local mines.

- Capt. H.D. Ferguson patrolled the river and observed the refuse and also observed schools of trout and grayling in the South McQuesten. Water samples were taken and Crystal Creek and Flat were noted as very turbid.

- An attached report from L.E. Requa reports that a patrol in August 1953 saw no fish in the McQuesten or Haggart Creek. In the same locations in 1952 there were fish observed and Requa had no trouble getting his limit of grayling.

- An attached statement from Freddie Harper notes dead salmon, pike and ling cod in the McQuesten but no live fish.

- An attached statement from Sgt. Cresswell notes the lack of fish and beaver in 1953. He did not see beaver until 20 miles from the mouth of the McQuesten.
- An attached lab report states no cyanide, or unusual metal/mineral in the water. Suggests the problem may be biological.

1955

McComb, William. Correspondence to the Bureau of International Fisheries, USA. October 10, 1955. RG 23 Vol 847 f.719-12-3 [1].

- Complains that two sources of the salmon spawning grounds have been destroyed by cyanide and mine tailings. The McQuesten River has been a heavy spawning area and now has become devoid of all fish. Blames the United Keno Hill Mining Company and Mankeno Mining Company for putting waste into the river. The Mayo River, also a place for heavy runs of salmon is stopped by the dam at Mayo with no fish ladder. The operators at the power house fish illegally.
- An associated letter states that the problem on the McQuesten has been under investigation by the department of fisheries and remedial measures have been proposed.

1955

Poli, Cecil D. Correspondence to the Department of Games and Fisheries in Ottawa, August 3, 1955. RG 23 Vol 847 f.719-12-3 [1].

- Complains that inspectors who looked at the tailings from United keno Hill were misled and the destruction of fish and water animal downstream in the McQuesten has been immense.

1959

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

- There was a fair run of springs from information received.

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. 25) Forty Chinook and no chums were counted on spawning grounds in 1974.

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.

Chum spawning probably takes place in the Mayo and McQuesten Rivers where chum spawnings have been previously been reported.

1977

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

18) McQuesten is an important salmon spawning river. On August 31, 31 chinook salmon were observed in the first 16 km of the river. On August 28, 4 chinook carcasses were observed. Chinook also use this river for rearing, nursery and probably an overwintering area for parr.

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.

96) Ennis et al: 1982 reported that chinook spawning occurs in the McQuesten River. Recent spawning information is available only for the South McQuesten.

1983

Pendray et al in Robbin L. Hunka 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.

3-4) Field studies in the McQuesten found that juvenile chinook salmon used shallow, low velocity areas and cover was not a limiting factor in habitat selection. In the late summer, significant juveniles were found in the lower reaches of smaller tributaries near spawning areas. There were no juveniles in streams with a gradient of 4% or more.

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

CG: I know that the bottom of the river is shaped by the fish.

Just below where Hager's got his fish camp.

PH: There was village just across. In Dawson, the elders used to talk about the village below McQuesten [on the Stewart].

GC: Could be near the airport? That's a good place for a camp.

PH: There is a natural dam on the McQuesten, where the north fork come into the south fork.

CG: The South Fork is fish formed by spawning fish. There is a big log jam that they say is impeding spawning. The fish do get around one side.

### **Mission Creek**

"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) Surveyed by boat on August 17 but no salmon were observed.

### **Montana Creek**

64°01' Lat., 139°34' 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.

39) Three juvenile chinook salmon were captured near the mouth.

### **Moosehide Creek**

63°23' Lat., 139°15' Long.

*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.

*Northern Lights*. (Anglican Church newsletter)

November 1915). A large number of Peel River people visited for two weeks in July at Moosehide.

*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.

### **Nation River**

65°31' Lat., 141°00' Long.

"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.

28) Interviews indicated that chum salmon ascend the Nation River.

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

PH: I have been up the Nation River about fifty miles but I didn't look for fish. The river was good travelling though.

### **Porcupine River**

67°15' Lat., 141°00' Long.

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

"Fishing Branch" marked on an 1891 map (GSC Map 1891: Sheet #8). Inset on the map notes:

"Yukon Indians say this branch rises near the Yukon at the head of one of its small effluents called "Charlie's Creek" and that they formerly came over here to fish for salmon. The fishing caches are still here. The Indians call it Salmon River and took four days to cross from the Yukon. There is a fishing station at its mouth."

1916

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

226) There was an unusually light run of salmon on the Yukon. The run was late. The Porcupine run had greater numbers than ever remembered by white inhabitants.

1919

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.

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

1956

Bostock, H.S. Yukon Territory, 1956.

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. On the Porcupine at Old Crow we were told that before 1914 their salmon run was sufficiently large to justify a fishery during the second week of July. Now they take no more than 20 king salmon a year in the Whitefish nets and have long abandoned the use of salmon nets.

15) Dog salmon arrive at Old Crow soon after July 1, and ahead of the kings.

1973-75

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 populations on the Fishing Branch.

10) Population estimates of spawning chum were (1973) 16,000 (1974) 32,000 and (1975) 353,000 (Elson: 1975). A four year pop. cycle seems to occur in the Porcupine River chum population.

8) Observed spawning populations on the Miner River, a branch of the Porcupine River.

8) Observed spawning populations on the Whitestone River, a branch of the Porcupine.

#### **Quebec Creek or Chu dëk meaning Island Creek.**

64°10' Lat., 139°32' Long.

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

Jake: I think Bobby Farr has a fish camp there.

#### **Reindeer Creek.**

63°43' Lat., 139°41' 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) Nine minnow traps were set in the upper stream in 1988 and thirteen juvenile chinook salmon were captured.

37) Forty-one juveniles were captured near the mouth.