Yukon River Panel, Communications Committee
Project CC-02-11

Yukon River Educational Exchange Program
Final Report

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for:

Yukon River Panel

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Study History: Starting in 1985 the United States (U.S.) and Canada engaged in negotiations to create a long-term agreement for the management of Chinook salmon and fall chum salmon spawning within the Canadian portion of the Yukon River drainage in the Yukon Territory. After 16 years of negotiations both countries came to a final agreement on how to share the salmon resource in March 2001. The *Yukon River Salmon Agreement* represents an international commitment to the restoration and conservation of salmon upon which Yukon River communities depend. Due to the nature of the Agreement, it is important for fishers and residents of the Yukon River drainage to understand its terms and regional and cultural differences; hence the creation of an educational exchange program. Project CC-02-11 represents the second half of the sixth Yukon River Educational Exchange Program, the first exchange having taken place in 2002.

Abstract: The purpose of the educational exchange was to provide an opportunity for diverse groups of people, involved in salmon fisheries along the Yukon River, to experience and share regional and cultural differences regarding fisheries issues, understand fisheries management techniques, and appreciate the various concerns of people that rely on Canadian-origin Chinook salmon and fall chum salmon. In the summer of 2011, four Alaskans from communities within the U.S. portion of the Yukon River drainage and one Alaskan fishery manager visited communities and fishing-related locations in the Canadian portion of the drainage for a period of eight days. The trip was geared to foster and strengthen the ability of participants to think and act on a cooperative basis to improve conservation and restoration of the salmon resources, as outlined in the *Yukon River Salmon Agreement*. During the trip participants met with Elders, youth, fishing families, First Nation representatives, Yukon River Panel representatives, and fisheries managers. After the trip, an independent consultant conducted an assessment of the entire program to evaluate success and improve effectiveness.

Key Words: Alaska, Canada, Chinook salmon, educational exchange, fall chum, fishers, headwater, salmon, United States, Yukon River, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA), Yukon River Panel, Yukon River Salmon Agreement, Yukon Territory

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An Educational Exchange Program was initiated to enable members of communities along the Yukon River, both in Alaska and the Yukon Territory, to understand drainage-wide needs and concerns for use of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon and fall chum salmon. The program was conducted with the ultimate purpose of furthering communication, transferring knowledge, and transforming perceptions of divergent groups to foster an increased appreciation for the perspectives and needs of other people in the Yukon River drainage. This program was initiated in 2002; this report documents the second half of the sixth undertaking of the program. Canadians visited Alaska in 2010; to compete the cycle Alaskans visited Canada in 2011.

Differing socio-economic and cultural needs makes cooperative management and stewardship among fishers along the 2,300 mile Yukon River challenging. The educational exchange program helps to bridge differences among upriver and downriver fishers and increase understanding and support for stewardship of wild Yukon River salmon stocks.

The objectives for the Educational Exchange Program are to:

1. Plan and execute a trip bringing 5 Alaskans with strong ties to Yukon River fisheries to representative fishing spots in Canada to gain and share knowledge, both during and after the trip.
2. Build cross-border understanding and cooperation among Yukon River drainage individuals and communities.
3. Evaluate effectiveness of the program by surveying all past participants.

In August 2011, four fishers and community leaders and one fisheries manager from communities in the Canadian portion of the Yukon River drainage spent eight days traveling to communities in the Yukon Territory—Teslin, Whitehorse, Lake LaBerge, Mayo, and Dawson; they also visited a fisheries project in Fairbanks, AK. Participants were exposed to all aspects of the Chinook salmon fishery in those regions. They also met with Yukon River Panel representatives and discussed the important role the Panel plays in U.S./Canadian relations and international fisheries management.

Participants learned and shared information about different cultures, fishing practices, and the importance of salmon in different areas in the Yukon drainage, and they gained knowledge about fisheries management. The trip fostered personal relationships by bringing together fishers and community leaders from different parts of the river to spend time learning about each other. All of these experiences emphasized the importance of communication between all salmon resource users along Yukon River.

After the trip, YRDFA conducted an evaluation of the entire program to evaluate success and improve effectiveness.

INTRODUCTION

An educational exchange is a powerful, intensive approach to transferring knowledge and transforming perceptions. Participants have the opportunity to witness, question, and interact with the subject matter first hand, which can foster much deeper understanding than other forms of communication typically provide. As such, the Yukon River Educational Exchange Program is a sound way for fishers and other fisheries stakeholders from the U.S. and Canada to come together to learn about the international agreement, to appreciate the different salmon resource users, and to increase awareness of fishery-related issues.

U.S. and Canadian users of the salmon resource are participants in a world of interdependence. Understanding differences in culture, lifestyle, and opinion proves to strengthen one's ability to think and act on a cooperative basis. Therefore, a key priority of this project is to enhance contact between upriver and downriver fishers, as one becomes the exchange participant and the other the host community member.

Participants in the Yukon River Educational Exchange are challenged to learn by pursuing issues of interest and concern, to research through observation and personal experience, and to document their experience for further transfer of knowledge with their home communities. The exchange also takes advantage of the participants' differences in age, motivation, cultural background, and past fisheries experience. The most effective exchange experience requires participants be immersed in the host community to develop and nurture a holistic and mutual view of life on the Yukon River.

STUDY AREA

During the trip into Canada, the areas visited included Teslin, Whitehorse, Lake LaBerge, Mayo, and Dawson. Host communities were chosen based on location within the drainage and the ability of each community to give a specific "picture" of that portion of the drainage in terms of culture, fishing practices, and management projects/presence.

OBJECTIVES

1. Plan and execute a trip bringing 5 Alaskans with strong ties to Yukon River fisheries to representative fishing spots in Canada to gain and share knowledge, both during and after the trip.
2. Build cross-border understanding and cooperation among Yukon River drainage individuals and communities.
3. Evaluate effectiveness of the program by surveying all past participants.

METHODS

The Educational Exchange is a logistical challenge that requires months of planning prior to execution. Key tasks include identifying appropriate destinations and timeframes, selecting suitable candidates, and coordinating tours and travel arrangements in remote locations.

The specific procedures followed in organizing the 2011 exchange were:

1. Solicit input from Canadian Panel members, First Nations, and management agencies regarding the itinerary of the exchange and review suggestions made by past participants.

   The planning process for the educational exchange began in March 2011. The previous year's exchange was reviewed and evaluated. YRDFA worked with Yukon River Panel members, DFO, several First Nations, and contacts from previous exchanges to develop the trip.

2. Identify and contact communities, First Nations, and organizations that can assist with program goals and outcomes.

   First Nations of all host communities were contacted to request permission to visit, to discuss logistics, and to ensure local people would be able to assist with the visit. Panel members, past educational exchange participants, Yukon Salmon Subcommittee members and staff, YRDFA contacts and members, and agency personnel were also valuable contacts.

3. Develop a process for selection of participants.

   A standard application form was developed by the Communications Committee in 2006. This form was reassessed and adopted for the 2011 exchange (see Appendix A). Because a major key to the success of this program is selection of appropriate candidates, it was decided that applicants would be hand-picked for their level of involvement and stature in their communities. Geographic diversity would also be considered. Candidates were selected by the project coordinator, who has coordinated this trip for 5 years, travels extensively to fisheries meetings in Alaska, and serves on the Yukon River Panel's Communications Committee.

4. Recruit and select participants from throughout the U.S. portion of the Yukon River drainage.

   Recommendations for suitable candidates were solicited from Panel members, others involved in the Panel process, and other groups engaged in fisheries work in Alaska, and those candidates were contacted. Emphasis was placed on recruiting active fishers; people serving in advisory capacities to fisheries issues in the non-profit, public, and private sectors; and individuals with the capacity to effectively spread knowledge to their communities. Any of these people who expressed interest and availability was sent an application.

Once applications were received, they were reviewed to ensure suitability. Once selected, participants were officially notified and asked to confirm their ability to participate in the exchange (see Appendix B). Everyone did confirm their interest and intention of joining the trip.

Participants included Michael James, a YRDFA board alternate, fisheries advocate at policy meetings, and manager of his hometown of Alakanuk; Angela Demientieff, long-time Panel advisor who has been involved with fisheries boards for more than 25 years, from Holy Cross; Orville Huntington, Natural Resources Director from Tanana Chiefs Conference, from Huslia; Jenny Pelkola, member of the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council to the Federal Subsistence Board and operator of one of the more productive fish camps on the Yukon, from Galena; and Steve Hayes, Summer Season Manager with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, from Anchorage. Each person brought a passion for the salmon resource, a strong sense of curiosity, an adventurous spirit, and a wealth of knowledge that made passing of knowledge easy everywhere they went.

5. Coordinate all travel, lodging, dining, meeting, touring, and other arrangement for the trip.

   YRDFA staff spent several weeks contacting First Nations, agencies, and other groups to organize daily events. Staff followed an approach that has worked well in the past: begin with an orientation of the greater fishery, then go to a number of communities and visit with Elders and fishers, tour the community, boat on the local river, stop by fish camps, participate in local activities, and break bread with as many people as possible. Once the activities were in place, staff booked air travel, rental vehicles, and hotel rooms/lodging, hired cooks as needed, processed checks for guides, per diem, and petty cash, and purchased travel supplies—sunscreen, restocking materials for first aid kit, gifts, and snacks.

6. Provide orientation information prior to the exchange to prepare participants for their visit, to alleviate concerns and to clarify expectations and requirements of the program.

   All participants were sent an itinerary, emergency contact information, and packing list, along with a participant agreement form, medical information form, and media release form (see Appendix C). Phone conversations and emails ensued to address any additional questions and concerns. The YRDFA staff member guiding the trip conducted an orientation the first travel day. Participants were given informational packets/folders containing host community profile information, suggestions for sharing information, a Yukon River Salmon Agreement briefing sheet, and a copy of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement Handbook (see Appendix D). Additional meetings were held each morning and evening to ensure understanding and agreement with each day's agenda.

7. Carry out the educational exchange trip, bringing representatives from Alaska to significant fishing areas in the Canadian portion of the Yukon River drainage.

Five participants from Alaska visited Teslin, Whitehorse, Lake LaBerge, Mayo, and Dawson from August 9-16, 2011. The time period was selected based on average run strength for Chinook salmon in that region. Participants learned and shared knowledge through interactions with numerous people in each community and site visited.

8. Share information learned with participants' home communities in Alaska.

   Participants were inspired and energized by what they saw and learned during the exchange, and they shared this newfound knowledge when they returned home. In addition to speaking with friends, colleagues, and neighbors, all participants serve on fisheries boards or work in fisheries management, and they indicated that they would use their newfound knowledge in those forums. To assist with the sharing, YRDFA staff mailed each participant pictures from the trip.

9. Evaluate the 2011 program by soliciting feedback from participants.

   All participants were asked to complete a 10-question feedback/evaluation; four participants completed and returned the form (see Appendix E). All participants gave detailed verbal feedback during a debriefing meeting at the end of the trip. On the whole, participants described the trip as excellent, exceeding their expectations, and eye-opening. Discussions revealed that everyone took away a greatly enhanced understanding of salmon fisheries in the Canadian portion of the drainage and the different perspectives of user groups along the river.

10. Evaluate the entire program by hiring a qualified evaluation consultant to contact past participant to assess the effectiveness of the program.

    YRDFA contracted with the Alaska Funding Exchange, an organization experienced in program evaluation and working in rural areas, to perform an independent evaluation of the educational exchange. Goals and areas of interest were identified, and from that a survey was developed. The Alaska Funding Exchange distributed the survey to past exchange participants, then evaluated responses in a report. (see Appendix F)

RESULTS

Travel Details

Monday, August 8

Participants traveled to Fairbanks. For some, this was a day-long affair, starting near the Bering Sea and requiring multiple flights. They checked-in to a hotel and gathered together for the first time for an orientation dinner.

Tuesday, August 9

In the morning, the group toured the Salcha River counting tower project, watched as fall chum salmon passed by, and learned about daily operations of such projects. They also discussed run

strength and escapement. By early afternoon they boarded a flight to Canada, and after a friendly visit with Canadian Customs, they officially entered the country. The flight was a little late getting in, but numerous biologists and managers from DFO still met the group for dinner to informally build relationships and discuss how salmon fisheries operate in the Yukon Territory.

Wednesday, August 10

The day started with an official overview of Canadian fisheries management with DFO. Next, the group piled into a rental minivan, and they enjoyed their first views of the Yukon River in Canada as they drove to Teslin. There they met up with representatives of the Teslin Tlingit Council for a tour, during which they also saw a shipment of salmon that had just arrived from the Taku River. Throughout the remainder of their time in Teslin, they heard about this new practice of buying salmon from the Taku and they learned why this was done. Then the group met a number of Elders and local fishers at the Teslin Heritage Center to talk about the fishery over a BBQ. The discussion grew detailed and they felt the passion and concern that some people had for the state of the king salmon run and the desire for more conservative management. It was probably the most contentious discussion of the trip, but it did open their eyes to the viewpoints of people at the headwaters.

Thursday, August 11

The day dawned rainy and chilly, but the group was still excited to don raingear and climb into boats for a tour of the Teslin River and it's fish camps. They enjoyed noting the similarities of the geography to some areas closer to home, and they equally relished the quality conversations with local fishers about salmon management and drying techniques. The executive director of the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC) joined them on the river and the following day, and shared details about his organization and its work. Then, everyone dried off in a warm cabin and discussed subsistence harvests while gorging on a lunch of local salmon and bison, then jumped back into the boats to return to the trusty minivan and drive back to Whitehorse.

Friday, August 12

First thing in the morning they met their guide for the day—Al von Finster, formerly of DFO. Al had set up a full day of meeting local First Nations and touring important fisheries sites, and after a brief orientation the group piled back into the beloved minivan and lit out for adventure. The first stop was breakfast at Ta'an Kwachan's culture camp on the shores of Lake LaBerge. They learned about the camp and local harvests, and had the chance to participate in a powerful, emotional sharing circle with the entire camp. This was a turning point for the trip, when participants really let their gaurds down, began shared fully of themselves, and starting building solid connections with locals and other participants.

Next, the group took a hairy ride down a mud-slick road to Kusawa Lake, a historic trading and salmon spawning site. Unfortunately, the lake was silt-laden due to recent heavy rains, so they could not see the spawning dunes, but they did gain an appreciation for the history of the region and learned about local restoration projects from Al.

After a healthy picnic lunch, they once again braved the slip-slide road away from the lake and zipped back to Whitehorse to tour the hatchery and fishway. This was an eye-opening experience for many of them, as most had no idea that such an operation existed on the Yukon River. They were also treated to a presentation from a representative of the Campagne/Aishihik First Nation, who discussed her people's history in the region, with a focus on fishing. They ended the day by enduring a few more hours in the reliable minivan, which chugged along to Hotel Carmacks for the evening.

Saturday, August 13

The day started with a few more hours squeezed into the mud-splattered minivan as the group bounced and weaved their way to Mayo. Once their, they changed into raingear, pulled on life vests, and settled in to a boat for a tour of the Stewart River and Frasier Falls, courtesy of Na-Cho Nyak Dun (NND) First Nation. They were enthralled by the falls and enjoyed hearing stories of how local fishers harvest salmon as they swim up through the turbulent water. They also discussed local harvests this year relative to the recent and distant past, trying to grasp how meeting the international border passage goals affected the local fishery. Afterward they dined with First Nations represntatives, local fishers, and Elders, talked about fisheries concerns, and built friendships. The conversation continued to flow smoothly as they toured NND's new office building after dinner, making Mayo the favorite stop for most participants.

Sunday, August 14

The group spent the morning visiting households and fish camps that stretched from Mayo toward Dawson. They thoroughly enjoyed getting to know their hosts and learning about local life, fishing practices and needs, and traditions. They shared loads of information regarding their own communities, and the tone of the day remained light and joyous. Then they squeezed back into the now jam-packed minivan (they had been accumulating gifts and momentos along the way) for the scenic drive to Dawson. The Discovery Days Festival was still in full swing, so they took the afternoon off to tour town on their own and enjoy a bit of downtime. In the evening they met with local miners and representatives from YSSC for an introduction to placer mining and salmon-related considerations.

Monday, August 15

As a more hands-on continuation of the previous evening's conversation, the group was treated to a tour of a local placer mine courtesy of YSSC. Participants asked quite a few questions about restoration practices and requirements, and many got a lustful look in their eyes as they watched the flecks of gold as they were separated from the rocks and soil.

There's nothing like a boatride to relax a group with gold-fever, and participants really enjoyed the short river trip to Moosehide. They met with Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation representatives and took a leisurely tour of the community. As afternoon showers struck, they settled in to a warm and inviting dining area and visited with the caretakers and their boat captain, who worked with salmon and caribou

for the First Nation.

They lumbered back into the boat for the quick ride back to Dawson, and gathered for one last meal as a group. This also served as a debriefing meeting, where participants shared thoughts on what they learned and how they would use that knowledge.

Tuesday, August 16

The group braved the spunky little minivan one last time as they headed to the airport to fly back to Alaska. Some participants made it home the same day, but those with further to go overnighted in Fairbanks.

Wednesday, August 17

The remaining participants headed home, and their intrepid YRDFA guide drove the dusty, dependable minivan back to Whithorse. For no discernable reason he was given the presidential suite in his hotel (at no extra charge) and discovered that one should not put soap in a jacuzzi.

Thursday, August 18

The YRDFA guide hopped on an early flight in Whitehorse, and by dinnertime found himself settling back into home, enjoying pictures from the recent whirlwind tour of the Yukon.

After the Exchange

Once the trip was over, YRDFA staff sorted through the mountain of receipts and downloaded pictures. These pictures were saved to 5 jump drives, which were mailed to participants to assist them in reliving and sharing what they learned. Staff also ordered some special thank-you gifts for the First Nations that really pitched in to make the trip so worthwhile. These gifts were hand-made traditional fish-cutting knives, or tlabasses (called ulus in other regions), made by respected Elder Sidney Huntington from Galena. They will be presented to these First Nations at the December 2011 meeting of the Yukon River Panel.

YRDFA staff also made a point of staying in contact with participants regarding how they were applying their newfound knowledge. One participant had shared pictures and stories with friends, and was on the agenda to discuss the trip at the next meeting of her Tribal Council. Two other participants were talking about this experiences at home and meetings, and, like all participants, planned to continue applying the knowledge to their professional and board level work. The two remaining participants indicated that they would be sharing the information in their own way, one through local outreach to youth and the other through more official meetings.

It is important that these participants continue to use their enhanced knowledge and experiences to become a greater informational resource for their communities. As one Yukon River Panel member puts it, these seeds of knowledge can sprout understanding throughout the drainage.

Evaluation of Entire Program

In short, the program is meeting its objectives. There were some recommendations for improvements, and these will be taken into account in the planning of future exchanges. See the report in Appendix F for details.

CONCLUSION

The educational exchange trip brought together a diverse group of individuals not only relying on the Yukon River salmon resource, but also working to share and conserve it. Not only was it an exchange between Yukoners and Alaskans, but also between Alaskans and Alaskans as participants from the same country, but different communities, got to know each other. While traveling to different parts of the Yukon River, participants interacted with people affected in various ways by salmon fisheries thereby giving both parties the ability to appreciate the needs, concerns, and interests of those involved. Throughout the exchange certain topics, such as the Yukon River Salmon Agreement, factors affecting salmon, management strategies, status of stocks, and the importance of the resource were stressed and discussed in an informal setting.

Five participants were brought on the 2011 exchange. Although that number is small, their capacity to build relationships forged during the exchange and share knowledge with their home communities will have a cumulative effect.

Lastly, based on the independent evaluation, this is a worthwhile, successful program, and it should be continued. However, there is always room for improvement, and organizers must always strive toward that goal, using feedback from past participants and the Yukon River Panel as a guide.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the Yukon River Panel for providing funds to make the educational exchange program a reality. We would also like to offer a special thanks to the various host communities for generously welcoming a group of strangers, who left feeling like old acquaintances. Opening your doors to reveal your lifestyle, culture, and passionate beliefs regarding Yukon River salmon was greatly appreciated. Thank you to all the individuals who assisted with the planning and carrying out of the exchange. There were many of you and it could not have happened without you. Lastly, we appreciate the willingness of the participants for the long days they put in during the trip, the sharing of information after the trip, and for their patience and enthusiasm.

APPENDIX A - *Participant Application*

Yukon River Educational Exchange, Summer 2011

APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Mailing Address:_____

_____

City **State** **Zip Code**

Phone Number: _____

Day **Evening**

Fax Number: _____**Email:**_____

Birth Date:_____

Month/Day/Year

Do you have a current passport? [ ] Yes [ ] No

Passport Number?_____ **Expiration Date?**_____

Emergency Contact Information **Contact person must be conveniently reachable**

Contact Name:_____ **Village:**_____

Phone Number: _____

Day **Evening**

Fax Number: _____**Email:** _____

Relationship:_____ (i.e. friend, father, wife, brother, etc.)

QUESTIONS *(If you need more space to answer a question attach a separate sheet).*

1.) What do you hope to gain from participating in this educational exchange?

2.) What makes you a good candidate this exchange, which involves learning and sharing information about the salmon resource with other communities, and then sharing what you have learned with your own community?

3.) Which communities, if any, have you visited along the Yukon River within Alaska and/or the Yukon Territory outside of your home community? *(Please list communities visited)*

4.) Please describe any experience you have with public speaking and/or giving presentations to groups of people.

5.) Visiting a host community means being culturally sensitive. Do you have any experience with people from cultures other than your own?

6.) This exchange will involve long days of travel with a group of people, meetings, visits to fish camps, boat trips, car trips, rigid schedules, a great deal of time outside (possibly in poor weather), walking, and possibly camping. It also involves being away from home for more than a week in August. Are you willing and able to handle this?

Please return this form to YRDFA by fax (907-272-3142) or email (jason@yukonsalmon.org).
Questions? Call Jason Hale of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association at
(877) 999-8566 extension 105 (toll free)

Program funded by the Yukon River Panel

APPENDIX B

Participant Letter (Example)

YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

725 Christensen Drive, Suite 3-B, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Tel: 907-272-3141 Toll free: 877-999-8566
Fax: 907-272-3142 E-mail: jason@yukonsalmon.org

TO: Angie Demientieff
FAX: 907-476-7132
FROM: Jason Hale
DATE: 7/29/11

Hi Angie,

Thanks again for choosing to join the 2011 Educational Exchange! The attached pages include a travel itinerary, packing list, a handful of pretty basic but necessary forms, and other information relevant to the trip. Please read, complete, and sign the forms and either fax (907-272-3142) them back to me before traveling or hand them to me in Fairbanks. Either way, I would like you to give me signed originals in Fairbanks.

Please be sure to carry your travel itinerary with you. It has important information you'll need along the way, and some contact phone numbers in case of an emergency. We ask that you keep packing to a minimum and you be able to carry what you bring. Also, **don't forget your passport!**

I will meet you on Monday, August 8 at the Fairbanks Airport as you arrive. Please read your travel itinerary carefully and be sure to be on time for your flight(s).

If you have any questions or problems, contact me at any time. I have included my contact phone numbers on your travel itinerary in case you encounter problems along the way. Through next weekend, probably the best place to reach me is my home office (907-746-7355).

See you soon!

APPENDIX C
Participant Pre-Travel Information (Example)

Angie Demientieff's Travel Details & Important Phone Numbers

Monday, August 8

10:45 a.m.-11:10 a.m.	ERA/Hageland, Holy Cross to Aniak, *confirmation code CCQMPZ*
12:20 p.m.-1:35 p.m.	ERA, Aniak to Anchorage, *confirmation code CCQMPZ*
5:35 p.m.-6:40 p.m.	ERA, Anchorage to Fairbanks, *confirmation code CCQMPZ*
7:45 p.m.	Meet group in lobby of Alpine Lodge to go to orientation dinner
Lodging	Alpine Lodge, Fairbanks

Tuesday, August 9

8:15 a.m.	Tour Salcha River counting tower
1:10 p.m.-5:05 p.m.	Air North, Fairbanks to Whitehorse, *confirmation code 564004*
7 p.m.	Dinner with DFO at Giorgio's
Lodging	Westmark Hotel, Whitehorse

Wednesday, August 10

9:00 a.m.	Overview of Canadian Fisheries Management with DFO
Late morning	Drive to Teslin
1:30 p.m.	Tour Teslin, attend Teslin Tlingit Council presentation at Heritage Center, storytelling, meet locals
5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	BBQ at Heritage Center
Lodging	Yukon Motel, Teslin

Thursday, August 11

5:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	Check out bird banding station *(optional)*
9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Boat to fish camps on Teslin River, traditional lunch at camp
2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	Tour George Johnson Museum
3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.	Meet & greet at First Nation administrative building
5:00 p.m.	Drive back to Whitehorse
Lodging	Yukon Inn, Whitehorse

Friday, August 12

8 a.m.-5p.m.	Orientation of tour day with Al von Finster Breakfast at Helen's fish camp Old trading sites, spawning areas, and restoration projects Meet representatives from Ta'an Kwachan, Campagne/Aishihik, & Kwanlin Dun First Nations on traditional lands throughout the day Tour fish ladder & hatchery
Lodging	Hotel Carmacks, Carmacks

Saturday, August 13

Morning	Drive to Mayo
11:00 a.m.	Meet Na-Cho Nyak Dun First Nation representative at North Star Motel
Noon-5 p.m.	Launch boat on Stewart River, boat to Fraser Falls
5:45 p.m.	Dinner & meeting with local fishers at curling lounge Be ready to discuss who you are and your views on the Yukon

	River king salmon fishery
Lodging	North Star Motel, Mayo

Sunday, August 14

8 a.m.	Breakfast at curling lounge
9:30 a.m.	Pick up bag lunch, tour fish camps
Afternoon	Drive to Dawson
Evening	Dinner with local miners at Klondike Kate's
Lodging	Eldorado Hotel, Dawson

Monday, August 15

Morning	Mining tour, courtesy of the Klondike Placer Miners Association
Afternoon	Boat to Moosehide with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation representative, meet local Elders
Evening	Debrief dinner
Lodging	Eldorado Hotel, Dawson

Tuesday, August 16

10:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Air North, Dawson to Fairbanks, *confirmation code 564004*
Lodging	Pikes Waterfront Lodge, *confirmation code PWL 1957926*

Wednesday, August 17

Early morning	Take hotel shuttle to Fairbanks airport
7:55 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	ERA, Fairbanks to Anchorage, *confirmation code CCQMPZ*
10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.	ERA, Anchorage to Aniak, *confirmation code CCQMPZ*
12:45 p.m.-1 p.m.	ERA/Hageland, Aniak to Holy Cross, *confirmation code CCQMPZ*

IMPORTANT: You must have your current, unexpired passport with you.

Airlines
Air North: 800-661-0407, 867-668-2228
Alaska Airlines 888-327-2755 or 800-252-7522
ERA Aviation Fairbanks Office 800-866-8394, 907-266-8394
Warbelow's 888-459-6250, 907-474-0518

Hotels
Alpine Lodge, Fairbanks 907-328-6300
Eldorado Hotel, Dawson 867-993-5451
Hotel Carmacks, Carmacks 867-863-5221
North Star Motel, Mayo 867-996-2231
Pikes Waterfront Lodge, Fairbanks 877-774-2400
Westmark, Whitehorse 867-393-9700
Yukon Inn, Whitehorse 867-667-2527
Yukon Motel, Teslin 867-390-2575

Other
YRDFA office 877-999-8566 or 907-272-3141
Jason Hale home office 907-746-7355
Jason Hale cell 910-233-9888

What to Pack

We ask that you limit yourself to one medium bag and a small carry-on bag.

You MUST bring rain gear and comfortable shoes. If you require medication for health reasons, please be sure to pack extra in case of travel delays. Also, please bring some snacks for yourself; meals will be provided but your snacks are your responsibility.

YOU MUST have your passport. Be sure that it is current.

OPTIONAL: You may also want to pack a few small mementos (pictures, smoked/dried/jarred fish) that are representative of your area/country to give to people you meet in your travels and share at potlucks.

PROVIDED: You will be provided with bug dope, sunscreen, some snacks, a calling card, a water bottle, and a small waterproof bag for use while boating.

PACKING CHECKLIST
* *must have*

Item	**Packed?**
Rain gear *	
Passport *	
Comfortable walking shoes*	
Clothing for boating and walking*	
Personal snacks*	
Medication (12 days worth to be safe)*	
Toiletry items (toothpaste, etc.)	
Coat (fleece, wind, etc.)	
Short sleeve shirts	
Long sleeve shirts	
Pants/Shorts	
Socks	
Hat	
Camera	
Small mementos from home community	
Other:	

Note from Jason: I typically pack pretty light, with 2 pairs of long pants, 1 pair of shorts (plus a bathing suit, which I never travel without), 4 long sleeve shirts, 3-4 short sleeve shirts/t-shirts, plus a light or mid-weight jacket, hat, socks, sandals and sneakers, and underwear. We have to lug our stuff everywhere and squeeze it into a minivan with 6 people, so I'd recommend leaving the kitchen sink behind. That being said, bring what you think you'll need.

YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

Yukon River Educational Exchange, Summer 2011
PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT FORM

Please read this two page document carefully. It contains important information and MUST be signed prior to participating in the Educational Exchange Program.

PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT, RELEASE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK

In consideration of the services of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association its agents, owners, officers, directors, volunteers, employees and all other persons or entities associated with it (hereinafter "YRDFA"), I agree and acknowledge as follows:

1. Independent Contractors: YRDFA employs independent contractors for various services, including transportation and lodging. YRDFA does not retain control over these entities and is not liable for any acts, negligent or willful, or failure to act of any such person, entity or third party.

2. Program Activities and Risks: The activities of the Educational Exchange Program (hereinafter "the Program") which I am to participate in entails known and unknown risks that could result in physical or emotional injury, death, or damage to me, to property, or to third parties. I understand that certain risks are inherent and cannot be eliminated without jeopardizing the essential qualities of the activity. I understand that YRDFA does not want to frighten me or reduce my enthusiasm, but considers it important for me to know and understand in advance what to expect and to be informed of the activities inherent risks.

The Program may involve travel and time spent in rural communities along the Yukon River. As part of the Program, you may be required to camp, carry your personal belongings and/or equipment, cross rivers, travel by foot on off-trail uneven terrain, load and unload gear, and handle fishing gear. These activities entail risks including, but not limited to: slipping and falling; falling objects; water hazards; drowning; exhaustion; hypothermia; hyperthermia; prolonged exposure to cold water; heat exhaustion; sunburn; dehydration; intense cold, heat, sun, snow, rain, fog and wind; instructor misjudgment; contact with poisonous insects and wild animals; negative reaction from air or waterborne bacteria or virus; prolonged delay in ability to obtain medical assistance (evacuation to medical facilities could take 24 hours or longer); transportation failures; communication failures; forces of nature such as rock falls and flash floods; improper lifting and carrying; breakdown or faulty equipment; transportation failures or delays, and losses due to civil unrest and terrorism.

3. Acknowledgement and Voluntary Assumption of Risk: I am aware that the activities listed above entail the risk of loss, injury or death to me and/or others. I understand that the description of the above list is not complete, and that other unknown or unanticipated risks may result in loss, injury or death. I agree to assume responsibility for the risks identified above and for those risks not specifically listed. My participation in this Program is purely voluntary. No one is forcing or requiring me to participate and I chose to participate in spite of the known and unknown risks.

4. Unsupervised Free Time Activities**:** The Program may allow for unsupervised free time. Free time activities are not part of the Program and are at your sole risk. YRDFA is not responsible for any loss, injury, illness or death which may result from your participation in free time activities. The category "free time activities" is intended to include consumption of alcohol in accordance with state and local laws, and YRDFA has no responsibility for such activities. YRDFA staff and employees may provide assistance or even accompany participants in free time activities, but in doing so they are acting in their own individual capacity and not at the direction or on behalf of YRDFA.

5. Denial of Participation: I understand that YRDFA reserves the right to deny any person participation before or during the Program if it determines that person to be mentally or physically unprepared, or if it determines that person poses a potential risk of danger to him/her or others. In these cases the participant will be responsible for all costs associated with removal from the Program.

6. Disclosure of Information & Insurance: I have read all information provided by YRDFA concerning the Program, and have completely and accurately filled all required forms and information. I certify that I am willing to assume the risk of any physical or mental condition I may have.
I certify that I have adequate insurance to cover any injury, damage, or loss may cause or suffer while participating, or else I agree to bear the costs of such injury, damage, or loss myself.

7. Binding Indemnification: I agree to defend, hold harmless and indemnify YRDFA from any claim, liability, loss, damages or expenses resulting from a claim brought by a fellow participant, rescuer, or any other person for loss or damage caused by my conduct. In the event that YRDFA or anyone, acting on their behalf, is required to incur attorney's fees and costs to enforce this agreement, I agree to indemnify and hold them harmless for all such fees and costs.

8. Mediation/Arbitration, Choice of Law, Venue: Any dispute between YRDFA and me and or my heirs, successors, parents or guardians concerning, relating, or referring to this Agreement, the Program, or any information and/or literature concerning the Program shall be resolved exclusively in the state of Alaska, city of Anchorage. Such proceedings will be governed by substantive Alaska law. If I have a legal dispute which cannot be settled through discussions between the parties, I will attempt to settle the dispute first through mediation before a mutually acceptable mediator in the state of Alaska, city of Anchorage. To the extent mediation does not result in a resolution, I agree to arbitrate the matter before a mutually agreeable arbitrator in the state of Alaska, city of Anchorage. I understand that arbitration is subject to and conditioned upon the written consent of YRDFA.

9. Severability: If any part of this agreement is deemed unenforceable by an arbitrator or court of competent jurisdiction, all other parts shall be given full force and effect.

10. Release of Liability: **I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND, AND ACCEPT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT. BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT, I AGREE AND PROMISE TO ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL OF THE RISKS OF THE ACTIVITIES WHICH I AM TO ENGAGE IN. I AGREE TO RELEASE AND DISCHARGE YRDFA FROM ALL CLAIMS, LIABILITIES, AND LOSSES ASSERTED BY OR ON BEHALF OF ME ARISING FROM OR RELATED TO MY PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM. THIS RELEASE INCLUDES LOSS, INJURY, ILLNESS, DAMAGE OR DEATH CLAIMED TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF YRDFA ASSOCIATED WITH THE RISKS NOTED ABOVE, AND THOSE NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED. I FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE THAT BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, I AM RELEASING YRDFA FROM LIABILITY FOR ACTS OR OMISSIONS WHICH MAY OCCUR IN THE FUTURE.**

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name:_____

YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

Yukon River Educational Exchange, Summer 2011

MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM

The purpose of this form is to advise YRDFA of any condition which may require additional attention. All information will be kept confidential and only YRDFA staff coordinating the Educational Exchange Program will have access to this form and the information it contains.

Your Name:_____

Mailing Address:_____

_____
City State Zip Code

Phone Number: _____
Day Evening

Fax Number: _____ Email:_____

Emergency Contact

Contact Name: _____ Village:_____

Phone Number: _____
Day Evening

Relationship:_____ (i.e. father, wife, brother, etc.)

Medical/Personal Information

1. Age_____ Height_____ Weight_____

2. Do you have any of the following conditions?

	Yes	No
• History of heat/cold related illness	[ ]	[ ]
• Muscle or joint problems	[ ]	[ ]
• Communicable disease	[ ]	[ ]
• Cardiovascular disease	[ ]	[ ]
• Asthma (or other respiratory problems)	[ ]	[ ]
• Diabetes	[ ]	[ ]
• Hypoglycemia	[ ]	[ ]

- Other_____

3. If you answered "Yes" to any of the above questions, please describe in detail the nature and circumstances of your condition. _____

_____

4. List any allergies_____

5. List any over the counter medications you routinely take and for what purpose. _____

_____

_____

6. List any prescription medications you are currently taking and the condition for which you are taking it.

_____

_____

7. Have you experienced a significant reaction to insect stings? If yes, what insect(s) and what was the reaction? _____

_____

If yes, you must bring your own Ana-kit or Epipen kit, plus a spare.

8. Describe any dietary restrictions (i.e. food allergies, etc.) _____

_____

_____

9. Please list any and all serious injuries you have sustained in the past, and the circumstances surrounding the injuries. _____

_____

_____

10. Do you have any illness or condition which may pose a risk to yourself and/or others? If yes, please explain. _____

_____

_____

_____

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your ability to participate in the Educational Exchange Program, please do not hesitate to contact YRDFA.

MEDIA RELEASE FORM

For, and in consideration of, the opportunity and privilege of appearing in or participating in one or more video recordings, sound tracks, films, photographs, written articles, internet or recordings, I, _____, hereby consent to the use and editing
Print Name

thereof and release the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) or other agencies contracted by the YRDFA, from any and all claims resulting from such use, sale, editing and release to the media.

Signature_____ **Date**_____
Month/Day/Year

APPENDIX D

Participant Trip Packet (Example, not including Yukon River Salmon Agreement handbook or itinerary)

Whitehorse, Yukon Territory

Overview

Whitehorse is Yukon's capital and largest city (population 26,418, estimated June 2010). It was incorporated in 1950. Because of the city's location in the Whitehorse valley, the climate is milder than other comparable northern communities.

Whitehorse is located at Historic Mile 918 of the Alaska Highway and is the former terminus of the White Pass and Yukon Route Railway from Skagway, Alaska (although the rails are still there, the train only goes as far as Carcross now). At the head of navigation on the Yukon River, the city was an important supply and stage center during the Klondike Gold Rush. It has been the territorial capital since 1953, when the seat was moved from Dawson City after the construction of the Klondike Highway. Whitehorse is in the mountain climate region, the tundra soil region, the arctic vegetation region, and the boreal cordillera ecozone.

The city gets its name from the White Horse rapids, which were said to look like the mane of a white horse. The rapids have disappeared under Schwatka Lake behind a hydroelectric dam, which was completed in 1958.

Nowadays Whitehorse is a government town, and it is the home of the main campus of Yukon College.

Law and Government

Whitehorse is a city under Yukon municipal legislation, and has a city council of six councillors and one mayor, elected every three years by eligible Canadian citizens of age 18 or older, resident within city limits.

First Nations

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation, based in the McIntyre subdivision of Whitehorse, has cultural affiliations with the Northern and Southern Tutchone as well as with the Tagish from Marsh Lake but is also an amalgamation of many Yukon First Nation culture groups.

The Ta'an Kwach'an Council, who separated from the Kwanlin Dun First Nation in September of 1998, is affiliated with the Southern Tutchone Tribal Council and has members who are Southern Tutchone and Tagish. The traditional territory of the Ta'an is located around the Lake Laberge area. The Ta'an Kwach'an Council signed their land claims and self-government agreements on January 13, 2002.

The First Nations people of the Whitehorse region enjoyed a nomadic way of life and traveled extensively throughout the area following big game, fishing, and trapping. Archaeological evidence at Canyon City shows that First Nation people have occupied that area for thousands of years.

Geography and Climate

Like most of the Yukon, Whitehorse has a dry subarctic climate, although with warmer winters than some Canadian prairies cities. Whitehorse experiences annual temperature average daily highs of 21 °C (70 °F) in July and average daily lows of −22 °C (−7.6 °F) in January. Record high temperature was 34 °C (93 °F) in June 1969 and the lowest was −52 °C (−62 °F) in January 1947. Whitehorse has little precipitation with an average annual snowfall of 145 centimeters (4.75 ft) and 163 millimeters (6.4 in) of rainfall.

Whitehorse has been described as "pearls on a string", with its residential, industrial and service subdivisions located along the main thoroughfares that carry traffic within city limits, with large gaps of undeveloped (often hilly) land between them. The Alaska Highway is the primary roadway, with branch roads reaching additional subdivisions. One such branch road, signed as "Highway 1A" and following Two Mile Hill Road, 4th Avenue, 2nd Avenue and Robert Service Way, is the main access to downtown, Riverdale and the Marwell Industrial Area. Other branch roads (Range Road, Hamilton Boulevard, Mayo Road) access smaller residential areas and recreational facilities.

Transportation

The Whitehorse International Airport can be seen on the bluffs to the right of downtown Whitehorse. Whitehorse is served by the Whitehorse International Airport and has scheduled service to Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Fairbanks and Frankfurt, Germany (summer months).

Surface access to Whitehorse is provided by a network of highways, including the international Alaska Highway connecting the Yukon with the Alaska, British Columbia and Alberta highway networks.

The Yukon River is essentially navigable, but no passenger or freight services use the river at Whitehorse.

Arts and Culture

Some of the tourist attractions in Whitehorse include Miles Canyon, the S.S. Klondike sternwheeler, the Yukon Transportation Museum, the MacBride Museum, the Old Log Church Museum, the Beringia Centre, Yukon Gardens, "Log Skyscrapers," the Whitehorse fish ladder, the Yukon Wildlife Preserve and the Takhini Hot Springs, and the Yukon visitor center.

Whitehorse supports a thriving, vibrant art and music scene, hosting several music festivals every year. In the dead of winter the Frostbite Music festival warms things up with everything from funk to klezmer punk and much more.

Much of this information was found at http://www.yukoncommunities.yk.ca.

Teslin, Yukon Territory

Overview

The Village of Teslin, Yukon, is situated 183 kilometers east of Whitehorse on the Alaska Highway. The name Teslin is derived from the Inland Tlingit word tás t'en, or "long sewing sinew", which, in turn, refers to the 148 kilometers long and narrow Teslin Lake flowing from northern British Columbia into the southeastern Yukon. From most vantage points in the village, which is at the confluence of Nisutlin Bay and Teslin Lake, the eye can scan a vast boreal landscape. Looking south, where the lake bends out of view, there are three prominent mountain peaks straddling the British Columbia–Yukon border, 1,920 meters above sea level. They are known to the Inland Tlingit as Tlènaxh Tawê, or "Lone Sheep" and most commonly referred in the vernacular as the "Three Aces" or "Dawson Peaks". Tlingit legends tell of a much younger world when Animal Mother gave birth to the animals in a grassy basin nestled between these three peaks.

In 1898, the Hudson's Bay Company established a trading post at the south end of Teslin Lake, near the Jennings River. Short lived, the post closed in 1901. A new trading post opened in 1904, where the Village of Teslin is located today. It became a meeting place for the local Inland Tlingit during the summer months. With the construction of the Alaska Highway in 1942, Teslin became a permanent settlement.

The Village of Teslin has a population of 452, two-thirds of which are Inland Tlingit citizens (1998 statistics).

History

A precious source of Teslin Inland Tlingit knowledge, oral tradition suggests the presence of Tlingit in the Yukon further back in time than written history conveys. These are the stories best told by the Elders—and yet to be recorded. The Teslin Tlingit people are descendants of the Taku Qwan who, in the early 18th century, moved and they started a way of life separate from that of their coastal relatives. By the mid-19th century, the Taku Qwan gradually expanded their contacts with the people who lived on the Yukon plateau while maintaining their social and economic ties with the coast. Trading furs from the interior with coastal Tlingit, the Taku Qwan introduced the first Russian, American and European trade goods to the Yukon.

Over the course of time, the Taku Qwan intermarried and shared their coastal culture with other Yukon Indian people. Firmly established in their new geography as a distinct society, they became collectively known as Inland Tlingit. Though the Tlingit integrated with their interior neighbors, Tlingit traditions, culture and social patterns have remained largely intact and alive today.

The construction of the Alaska Highway and Canol Road, in 1942, brought more drastic changes and prompted the local, semi-nomadic Tlingit population to permanently settle in what today is the Village of Teslin on the shores of bountiful and scenic Teslin Lake.

Political traditions also distinguished Inland Tlingit from other Yukon First Nations: Tlingit people look back to a time when they adhered to strict laws rooted in a sophisticated Clan system. The five Clans still play a prominent role in contemporary Teslin Tlingit society and, into the 21st century, have helped shape the implementation of their modern treaties.

The Teslin Tlingit Council Land Claim and Self-Government agreements were enshrined in settlement legislation in 1995, after two decades of negotiations with the governments of Canada and Yukon. These treaties set the stage for a Teslin Tlingit self- government structure that incorporates traditional Clan culture into contemporary organizational and management principles. From these treaties the Teslin Tlingit Council draws the authority to enact laws for the good government over 2,428.60 square kilometers of settlement lands located on approximately 10,000 square kilometers of Teslin Tlingit Traditional Territory in the Yukon.

Economy

Although the economy of Teslin relies heavily on traditional and subsistence activities, tourism has become an important aspect of the economy. It provides work and income for many people during the summer season, when the community becomes a busy center. Other activities include government services.

The government services sector provides the largest share of employment in Teslin, occupying over one third of all workers. The Teslin Tlingit Council is the largest single employer. First Nation administration, services, and development provide a significant number of jobs to First Nations people. The territorial government, which has highway, forestry, and social services in this area, also provides some jobs. Health care employs almost another 15 percent of workers.

Cost of Living

Teslin is close to Whitehorse and on the Alaska Highway, the main supply route for the Yukon. These factors help keep prices relatively low. Although prices for some things are higher, on average, than in Whitehorse, other prices are lower. Overall, it costs about 2 percent more to live in Teslin than to live in Whitehorse.

Much of this information was found at http://www.yukoncommunities.yk.ca.

Mayo, Yukon Territory

Overview
There was a time when the placer gold and hardrock silver mines around Mayo drove the Yukon economy. Today the economic balance has shifted to other parts of the Territory, but placer mining and exploration continues. The community of Mayo still serves as distribution and service center for the surrounding area. Mayo is located at the confluence of the Mayo and Stewart rivers in the heart of the Yukon, about 400 km northwest of Whitehorse. It lies within the traditional territory of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun (FNNND).

Mayo was originally established as a river settlement, and became the service center for significant mining activity in the area. Silver, zinc and lead ores were loaded on sternwheelers at Mayo to be shipped to Whitehorse. An all-weather road linking Mayo with Whitehorse was completed in 1950. The Silver Trail, a scenic highway that begins at Stewart Crossing on the Klondike Highway, travels through Mayo and leads to the mining camp at Elsa and the Hamlet of Keno.

Beautiful scenery and extensive history make Mayo a significant tourist destination. The community is a convenient base for wilderness tourism, canoeing, hiking, big-game hunting and fly-in fishing.

People
The average population of the community of Mayo in 2003 was 409, showing a continual decline from an average of 503 in 1997. Prior to this, Mayo's population grew slightly at the start of the 1990s.

The First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, who live in and around Mayo, make up 60 to 70 percent of the community population, compared to First Nations representation of 23 percent for the Yukon overall.

Mayo has a settled multigenerational population. The 2001 Census reported that well over 80 percent of the people living in Mayo had also lived there in 1996. Fewer than 10 percent of the population had moved to Mayo from outside the Yukon in the five years prior to 2001, compared to 16 percent of the overall Yukon population.

First Nation
The Nacho Nyak Dun have lived and trapped throughout the northeast Yukon and Mayo Area for generations. The Nacho Nyak Dun are culturally affiliated with the Northern Tutchone people of the Selkirk First Nation and the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation. Northern Tutchone is a member of the Athapaskan language family. Some members of the Nacho Nyak Dun trace their ancestry to the Gwich'in people to the north and Mackenzie people to the east. The name "Nacho Nyak Dun" means "big river people."

Since earliest times, the people lived on the land, using the rich supply of game animals, fish, birds and vegetation in the area. They travelled throughout their traditional territory throughout

the year. The people of the area followed a traditional moiety system of Crow and Wolf. The oral history of the Nacho Nyak Dun reveals early contacts and trade relationships with explorers and traders in the area. The First Nation have readily adapted to the dramatic changes of the last several decades, as mining interests and settlement expanded in the area and transportation routes were built. Many people found employment in the mines and in road maintenance; others maintained a traditional life on the land.

Along with three other First Nations, the Nacho Nyak Dun signed their land claims and self-government agreements in 1993. The agreements came into effect in 1995. The FNNND was actively involved in land claims negotiations throughout the years and often played a decisive role in shaping the process.

The Social Programs department of the FNNND has been taking new directions in community and individual healing through an intense cultural revival that includes language and traditional crafts programs, back-to-the-land activities, fish camps, hunting, and school programs. On an annual Wellness Day, people celebrate their culture, visit and share with community members and visitors.

Economy

The economy of Mayo is linked to providing services for the people of Mayo and the surrounding area. Government services, including First Nation and territorial administration, provide about a third of the jobs in the community. Placer mining and mineral exploration provide a non-governmental economic base for the community. Construction and tourism are also contributing sectors.

Cost of Living

Goods and services are consistently more expensive in Mayo than in Whitehorse. Some products, like meat and cigarettes, are close to the Whitehorse price. Others, like dairy products and fruit and vegetables, are substantially more expensive. On average, it costs about 14 percent more to live in Mayo than in Whitehorse.

Much of this information was found at http://www.yukoncommunities.yk.ca.

Dawson City, Yukon Territory

Overview
The population was 1,327 at the 2006 census. The area draws some 60,000 visitors each year. The locals generally refer to it simply as 'Dawson', but the tourist industry generally refers to it as 'Dawson City' (partly to differentiate it from Dawson Creek, British Columbia, which is at Mile 0 of the Alaska Highway).

History
The townsite was founded by Joseph Ladue and named in January 1897 after noted Canadian geologist George M. Dawson, who had explored and mapped the region in 1887. It served as the Yukon's capital from the territory's founding in 1898 until 1952, when the seat was moved to Whitehorse.

Dawson has a much longer history, however, as an important harvest area used for millennia by the Hän-speaking people of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and their forebears. The heart of their homeland was Tr'ochëk, a fishing camp at the confluence of the Klondike River and Yukon River, now a National Historic Site of Canada. This site was also an important summer gathering spot and a base for moose-hunting on the Klondike Valley.

The Klondike Gold Rush started in 1896 and changed the First Nations camp into a thriving city of 40,000 by 1898. By 1899, the gold rush had ended and the town's population plummeted as all but 8,000 people left. When Dawson was incorporated as a city in 1902, the population was under 5,000. St. Paul's Anglican Church built that same year is a National Historic Site.

The population was fairly stable until the 1930s, dropped after World War II when the territorial capital was moved to Whitehorse and languished around the 600-900 mark through the 1960s and 1970s, but has risen and held stable since then. The high price of gold has made modern mining operations profitable, and the growth of the tourism industry has encouraged development of facilities. In the early 1950s, Dawson was linked by road to Alaska, and in fall 1955, with Whitehorse along a road that now forms part of the Klondike Highway.

The City of Dawson and the nearby ghost town of Forty Mile are featured prominently in the novels and short stories of American author Jack London, including The Call of the Wild. London lived in the Dawson area from October 1897 to June 1898.

Law and government
In 2004, the Yukon government removed the mayor and the town council, as a result of the town going bankrupt. The territorial government accepted a large portion of the responsibility for this situation in March 2006, writing off $3.43 million of the debt and leaving the town with $1.5 million still to pay off. Elections were set for June 15, 2006. John Steins, a local artist and one of the leaders of the movement to restore democracy to Dawson, was acclaimed as mayor, while 13 residents ran for the 4 council seats.

The government of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, now a self-governing First Nation, is also located in Dawson.

Industry

Today, Dawson City's main industries are tourism and gold mining. Gold mining started in 1896 with the Bonanza (Rabbit) Creek discovery by George Carmack, Dawson Charlie and Skookum Jim Mason (Keish). The area's creeks were quickly staked and most of the thousands who arrived in the spring of 1898 for the Klondike Gold Rush found that there was very little opportunity to benefit directly from gold mining. Many instead became entrepreneurs to provide services to miners.

Starting approximately 10 years later, large gold dredges began an industrial mining operation, scooping huge amounts of gold out of the creeks, and completely reworking the landscape, altering the locations of rivers and creeks and leaving tailing piles in their wake. A network of canals and dams were built to the north to produce hydroelectric power for the dredges. The dredges shut down for the winter, but one built for "Klondike Joe Boyle" was designed to operate year-round, and Boyle had it operate all through one winter. That dredge (Dredge No. 4) is open as a National Historic Site of Canada on Bonanza Creek.

The last dredge shut down in 1966, and the hydroelectric facility, at North Fork, was closed when the City of Dawson declined an offer to purchase it. Since then, placer miners have returned to the status of being the primary mining operators in the region.

Cost of Living

The cost of living in Dawson City reflects the community's location, well off the Alaska Highway, which is the main transportation route to and through the Yukon. Prices for most goods and services are substantially higher than in Whitehorse. In general, living in Dawson City is almost 17 percent more expensive than living in Whitehorse.

Much of this information was found at http://www.yukoncommunities.yk.ca.

YUKON RIVER EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE
Finding its meaning…

Exchange –

Pronunciation: iks-'chAnj, 'eks-"
Function: *noun*
Usage: *often attributive*, as in 'educational exchange'
Etymology: Middle English *exchaunge,* from Middle French *eschange,* from *eschangier* to exchange, from (assumed) Vulgar Latin *excambiare,* from Latin *ex-* + *cambiare* to exchange

Definition: the act of giving or taking one thing in return for another

The purpose of this trip is to explore, experience, and understand regional and cultural differences regarding fisheries issues. By observing, listening, showing, and asking you will gain experience…AND give knowledge. Not only will you benefit from this exchange, but your host community will as well.

When talking to host communities regarding salmon fisheries issues, have prepared in your mind a few simple answers to the following questions:

1) Who are you?
2) Where are you from?
3) What do you do?
4) Why are you here?
5) How do you harvest and process salmon?
6) Why are salmon important to you?

It is important to remember that not only will host community members be asking questions of you, but you will be asking questions of them. You will have the opportunity to meet with fishers, elders, management personnel, Tribal Council officers, commercial processors, researchers, and youth. While talking with host community members, please keep in mind a list of questions covering topics that interest you, possibly including:

1) What are your hobbies?
2) Where do you fish?
3) What is the history of fishing/subsistence in your community?
4) How do you put away your fish?
5) How do you think the fishery should be managed?
6) What are your needs? Are they being met?

This list could go on and on, so just bear in mind that you want to take full advantage of your time in Alaska. Don't be afraid to speak up and don't hesitate to ask questions. There are no right or wrong answers… only the **opportunity to learn from one another, to communicate, to build understanding and relationships, to make friends, and to exchange information!**

Yukon River Salmon Agreement (YRSA)

Overview
An official treaty-like agreement between the U.S. and Canada to ensure the future for the Yukon River salmon fishery through harvest sharing, research and habitat protection.

- 16 years of negotiations
- An annex to the Pacific Salmon Treaty
- Implemented by management entities in 2001
- Received official recognition December 4, 2002
- Refers mainly to king and chum salmon

Important Components
Yukon River Panel:
A body made up of local fishers and agencies, formed by the governments of the U.S. and Canada to implement the YRSA and to make recommendations to U.S. and Canadian management entities concerning the conservation and management of Canadian-origin salmon.

- Make recommendations to management entities
- Set and adjust escapement objectives
- Develop and implement research and management programs
- Manage the R&E Fund

JTC - Joint Technical Committee:
An international advisory committee comprised of representatives from the U.S. and Canada, from both state and federal agencies, and local and regional organizations charged with various tasks related to stock assessment and management.

- Report run outlooks and proposed in-season management strategies to the YR Panel
- Evaluate status of salmon stocks
- Examine management regimes and recommend improvements
- Technically review and evaluate proposals submitted to the R&E Fund

R&E Fund – Restoration and Enhancement Fund:
A fund whereby U.S. sponsored appropriations are used to support research, conservation, and enhancement of Canadian-origin salmon stocks, to include stewardship development of salmon habitat and to maintain viable salmon fisheries within Canada.

- Programs and projects shall be consistent with the protection of existing wild salmon stocks and the habitats upon which they depend

The Agreement: What it means for fishers
Escapement Objectives: The number of adult salmon allowed to avoid harvest in all fisheries to ensure a sufficient number salmon reach spawning grounds each year to sustain future harvest

Harvest Shares: The proportionate sharing of harvestable salmon between the U.S. and Canada to allow for the rebuilding of salmon stocks through sufficient spawning escapements

Rebuilding Stocks: A program to restore escapement goals to levels specified in the YRSA by taking into account the relative health of the brood years

APPENDIX E
Evaluation Form and Individual Evaluations

Feedback/Evaluation Form - *Educational Exchange Program 2010*

Please read the questions below and rate your experience according to the following rating system:
5 – *Excellent,* ***4*** *– Good,* ***3*** *– Okay,* ***2*** *– Needs Improvement,* ***1*** *– Poor*

Please give detailed comments as your input will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and to make improvements in the future.

1. Was the trip itinerary described to you clearly? **5 4 3 2 1**

2. How would you rate your experience in:	**Fairbanks**	**5 4 3 2 1**
	Whithorse	**5 4 3 2 1**
	Teslin	**5 4 3 2 1**
	Tour with Al von Finster	**5 4 3 2 1**
	Mayo	**5 4 3 2 1**
	Dawson	**5 4 3 2 1**

Comments:

3.(a) What worked well in each community visited?

(b) What did not work well in each community visited?

4. How would you rate the structure (informal vs. formal) of the program? **5 4 3 2 1**
Comments:

5. How would you rate the performance of the YRDFA coordinator on the trip? **5 4 3 2 1**
Comments:

6. What could be improved to make the program better for next year?
Comments:

7. How well did the program meet your learning objectives and expectations? 5 4 3 2 1

8. What would be your overall rating of the educational exchange? 5 4 3 2 1

9. Other comments or suggestions?

10. Please provide any suggestions for other ways to deepen understanding amongst different user groups on the Yukon River and/or to spread knowledge of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement.

Feedback/Evaluation Form - *Educational Exchange Program 2011*

Please read the questions below and rate your experience according to the following rating system:
5 – Excellent, 4 – Good, 3 – Okay, 2 – Needs Improvement, 1 – Poor

Please give detailed comments as your input will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and to make improvements in the future.

1. Was the trip itinerary described to you clearly? 5 4 3 2 1

2. How would you rate your experience in:

Fairbanks	5 4 3 2 1
Whithorse	5 4 3 2 1
Teslin	5 4 3 2 1
Tour with Al von Finster	5 4 3 2 1
Mayo	5 4 3 2 1
Dawson	5 4 3 2 1

Comments:

3.(a) What worked well in each community visited? Things were all ready for us, and people were willing to listen to us and were very kind

(b) What did not work well in each community visited? One person dominating the conversation and activities.

4. How would you rate the structure (informal vs. formal) of the program? 5 4 3 2 1
Comments:

5. How would you rate the performance of the YRDFA staff/coordinator on the trip? 5 4 3 2 1
Comments: watch out for retracing your steps (back tracking) over all, it was very good

6. What could be improved to make the program better for next year?
Comments:

Please complete this form and return it by mail or fax to:
YRDFA Educational Exchange, 725 Christensen Drive, Ste. 3-B, Anchorage, AK 99501 907.272.3142 (fax)

7. How well did the program meet your learning objectives and expectations? (5) 4 3 2 1

8. What would be your overall rating of the educational exchange? (5) 4 3 2 1

9. Other comments or suggestions? This trip opened my eyes to what the First Nations people are doing on their side regarding fishery.

10. Please provide any suggestions for other ways to deepen understanding amongst different user groups on the Yukon River and/or to spread knowledge of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement.
Maybe make a video of our way of life to share with the host country. Keep communicating with one another.

Feedback/Evaluation Form - *Educational Exchange Program 2011*

Please read the questions below and rate your experience according to the following rating system:
5 – *Excellent,* **4** – *Good,* **3** – *Okay,* **2** – *Needs Improvement,* **1** – *Poor*

Please give detailed comments as your input will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and to make improvements in the future.

1. Was the trip itinerary described to you clearly? (5) 4 3 2 1
Nothing I know of, not sure on Mike?

2. How would you rate your experience in:

Fairbanks	(5) 4 3 2 1
Whitehorse	(5) 4 3 2 1
Teslin	(5) 4 3 2 1
Tour with Al von Finster	(5) 4 3 2 1
Mayo	(5) 4 3 2 1
Dawson	(5) 4 3 2 1

Comments:
Everytime I learned and made critically important contacts, for all my work.

3.(a) What worked well in each community visited?
The intimate contact with Native tribes and professionalness with agencies.

(b) What did not work well in each community visited?
The rain was not so fun.

4. How would you rate the structure (informal vs. formal) of the program? (5) 4 3 2 1
Comments:
It was all good, except one noisy night from way downriver dominated to much discussion

5. How would you rate the performance of the YRDFA staff/coordinator on the trip? (5) 4 3 2 1
Comments:
We had what we needed when we got it.

6. What could be improved to make the program better for next year? (5)
Comments:
We could try and keep it the same, and work on more outreach beforehand. Some did not know who we were

Please complete this form and return it by mail or fax to:
YRDFA Educational Exchange, 725 Christensen Drive, Ste. 3-B, Anchorage, AK 99501 907.272.3142 (fax)

7. How well did the program meet your learning objectives and expectations? (5) 4 3 2 1

It far exceeded all my expectations.

8. What would be your overall rating of the educational exchange? (5) 4 3 2 1

It could not have been better.

9. Other comments or suggestions?

A bigger van would be nice. And maybe see some one fish.

10. Please provide any suggestions for other ways to deepen understanding amongst different user groups on the Yukon River and/or to spread knowledge of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement.

We need to work harder to do outreach and educate before we get there. Or to mach discassion on things we should both know. I'll get back to you on it. No time !!!!

Feedback/Evaluation Form - *Educational Exchange Program 2011*

Please read the questions below and rate your experience according to the following rating system:
5 – Excellent, 4 – Good, 3 – Okay, 2 – Needs Improvement, 1 – Poor

Please give detailed comments as your input will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and to make improvements in the future.

1. Was the trip itinerary described to you clearly? yes (5) 4 3 2 1

2. How would you rate your experience in:

Fairbanks	all great	(5) 4 3 2 1
Whitehorse		(5) 4 3 2 1
Teslin		(5) 4 3 2 1
Tour with Al von Finster		(5) 4 3 2 1
Mayo		(5) 4 3 2 1
Dawson		(5) 4 3 2 1

Comments: no complaints.
Love to do it all over again.
Glad to experience it.

3.(a) What worked well in each community visited?
shared likewise concerns, environmental concerns, got along well, enjoyed company

(b) What did not work well in each community visited?
Nothing

4. How would you rate the structure (informal vs. formal) of the program? (5) 4 3 2 1
Comments: Everything worked out nicely.
Went smooth.

5. How would you rate the performance of the YRDFA staff/coordinator on the trip? (5) 4 3 2 1
Comments: couldn't have asked for someone for very nice, respective, knowledge, and okay daily.

6. What could be improved to make the program better for next year?
Comments: maybe a larger vehicle like a van.

Please complete this form and return it by mail or fax to:
YRDFA Educational Exchange, 725 Christensen Drive, Ste. 3-B, Anchorage, AK 99501 907.272.3142 (fax)

7. How well did the program meet your learning objectives and expectations? 5 4 3 2 1

too much nicely. very good.
make me humble.
make me glad & happy. share knowledge every where

8. What would be your overall rating of the educational exchange? 5 4 3 2 1

excellent

9. Other comments or suggestions?

Keep it up
would like to go again, anywhere
any kind of meeting

10. Please provide any suggestions for other ways to deepen understanding amongst different user groups on the Yukon River and/or to spread knowledge of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement.

This group can be deep in our hearts,
our minds, absord more understanding &
knowledge, and share & feel the situations,
the concerns, the welfare, the care.
Give the under standing & the absord the
knowledge to anywhere we go to spread
& let others become aware & knowledgable,
To feel, share about the agreement.
we did not judge or critize each others.
we did go nicely.
we did okay along.

Steve

Feedback/Evaluation Form - *Educational Exchange Program 2011*

Please read the questions below and rate your experience according to the following rating system:
5 – Excellent, 4 – Good, 3 – Okay, 2 – Needs Improvement, 1 – Poor

Please give detailed comments as your input will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and to make improvements in the future.

1. Was the trip itinerary described to you clearly? 5 4 3 2 1

2. How would you rate your experience in:

Fairbanks	5 4 3 2 1
Whithorse	5 4 3 2 1
Teslin	5 4 3 2 1
Tour with Al von Finster	5 4 3 2 1
Mayo	5 4 3 2 1
Dawson	5 4 3 2 1

Comments:

3.(a) What worked well in each community visited?

(b) What did not work well in each community visited?

the rain

4. How would you rate the structure (informal vs. formal) of the program? 5 4 3 2 1
Comments:

5. How would you rate the performance of the YRDFA staff/coordinator on the trip? 5 4 3 2 1
Comments:

6. What could be improved to make the program better for next year?
Comments:

Please complete this form and return it by mail or fax to:
YRDFA Educational Exchange, 725 Christensen Drive, Ste. 3-B, Anchorage, AK 99501 907.272.3142 (fax)

7. How well did the program meet your learning objectives and expectations? 5 4 3 2 1

8. What would be your overall rating of the educational exchange? 5 4 3 2 1

9. Other comments or suggestions?

10. Please provide any suggestions for other ways to deepen understanding amongst different user groups on the Yukon River and/or to spread knowledge of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement.

I have listed my responses in this letter because you would never be able to read my hand writing.

Response to Question:

2

I think of all the places we visited, Mayo was the most educational. We had a great guide with Steve Buyck. He really did a good job of explaining things to us. All locations were great but Mayo was the best.

3a

Visiting with local fishermen and other interested parties worked well. This was valuable to have people that knew the area.

3b

The rain. It would have been nice to have more time in each community. It is impossible to take it all in and learn all you would like to with the short visits. It is understandable that it's impossible to do this.

4

I was extremely impressed with the structure of the program. It was obvious that a lot of time went into setting it up. Time spent contacting people to visit with. I would say that it was informal when it needed to be and formal when it needed to be.

5

I think it takes a special person to pull a trip like this off. Jason did an excellent job. He was well informed with the area and people. He could answer questions the group had and if he couldn't he would get the information to the group. This type of trip needs a person like Jason that can deal with the group for 9 days and still keep a smile on his face at all times. GOOD JOB and give him a raise.

6

The only thing I can think of is if there are older folks going, it would be better to have covered boats to keep them out of the rain and cold. Actually, even if they are younger it still would be better to have covered boats.

7

I was quite surprised at how much I learned from the trip. Being the Area manager for the Alaska side I thought I HAD A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE Canadian side. I learned a lot of new and different things. I also walked away from the trip with questions about Canadian management. These new things

will help me to understand things better while attending meetings with Canadian managers and researchers.

8

A rating of 5 might seem high but well deserved.

9

Bigger van and covered boats.

10

One thing I was thinking while on the trip was that maybe having packets of the most current data from Alaska and Canada would help. It seemed that a lot of folks had no idea what was going on with the run. Having some information that could be handed out may help.

APPENDIX F
Evaluation of Entire Program by Alaska Funding Exchange

Yukon River Educational Exchange Program Evaluation

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
November 23, 2011

The Funding Exchange, Inc./Alaska Funding Exchange (AFE) was contracted by Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) to conduct an evaluation of the Yukon River Educational Exchange (YREE) program. Specifically, AFE was asked to address the following questions with regard to the program:

- How have participants used the knowledge they gained as a result of the Yukon River Educational Exchange project?
- How have they shared or spread the knowledge they gained?
- What suggestions do they have for improving the program?

Sharon Charnell Gherman served as Program Evaluator for this project.

Methodology

In completing this evaluation, AFE examined YRDFA documents including the most recent YREE grant proposal and program reports. AFE also interviewed Jason Hale, YRDFA Communications Director and surveyed program participants.

A survey was designed for YREE participants. Survey forms were sent via U.S. Mail to a total of 56 program participants. Survey participants were given the option to complete the survey by pre-paid return mail, online or via telephone. Approximately four weeks after the initial survey was mailed, unresponsive survey recipients were contacted by YRDFA staff via telephone to encourage their response.

Of the 56 surveys mailed, 5 were returned for incorrect address. A total of 22 surveys were completed and returned, giving an overall response rate of 43%, which is acceptable.

Program Background

The Yukon River Educational Exchange was created in 2002 to enable members of communities along the Yukon River in Yukon Territory, Canada and Alaska, USA to understand drainage-wide needs and concerns for use of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon and fall chum salmon. Program objectives include increased communication, understanding and appreciation for the perspectives and needs of the various people in the Yukon River drainage.

Each year, five fisheries leaders from either Alaska or Canada (alternating each year) spend eight days traveling to Yukon River communities in the other country. Participants meet with Yukon River Panel representatives and discuss international fisheries management and U.S./Canada relations.

Participants learn and share information about their different cultures, fishing practices, and the importance of salmon in different areas in the Yukon drainage. During the trip they gain knowledge about fisheries management and develop relationships by observing and communicating with their peers on the other side of the border.

The objectives of the Yukon River Educational Exchange program have been to:

1. Plan and execute a trip bringing five Alaskans (or in alternate years, five Canadians) with strong ties to Yukon River fisheries to representative fishing spots in the other country to gain and share knowledge, both during and after the trip.

2. Build cross-border understanding and cooperation among Yukon River drainage individuals and communities.

3. Evaluate the effectiveness of the program by surveying all past participants.

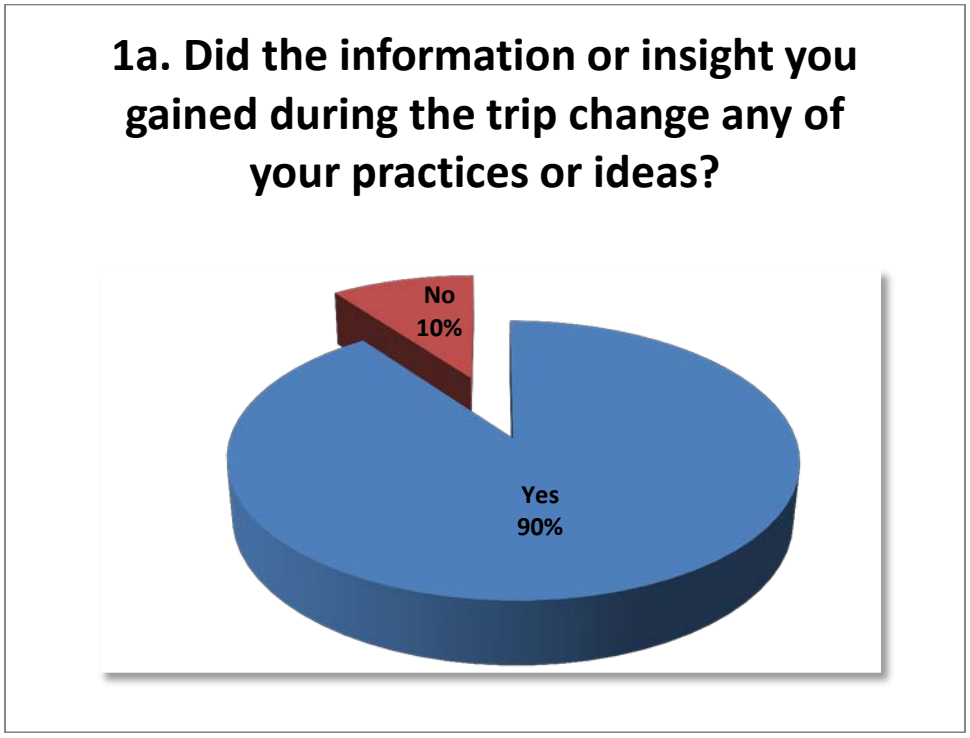
Note about Survey Results

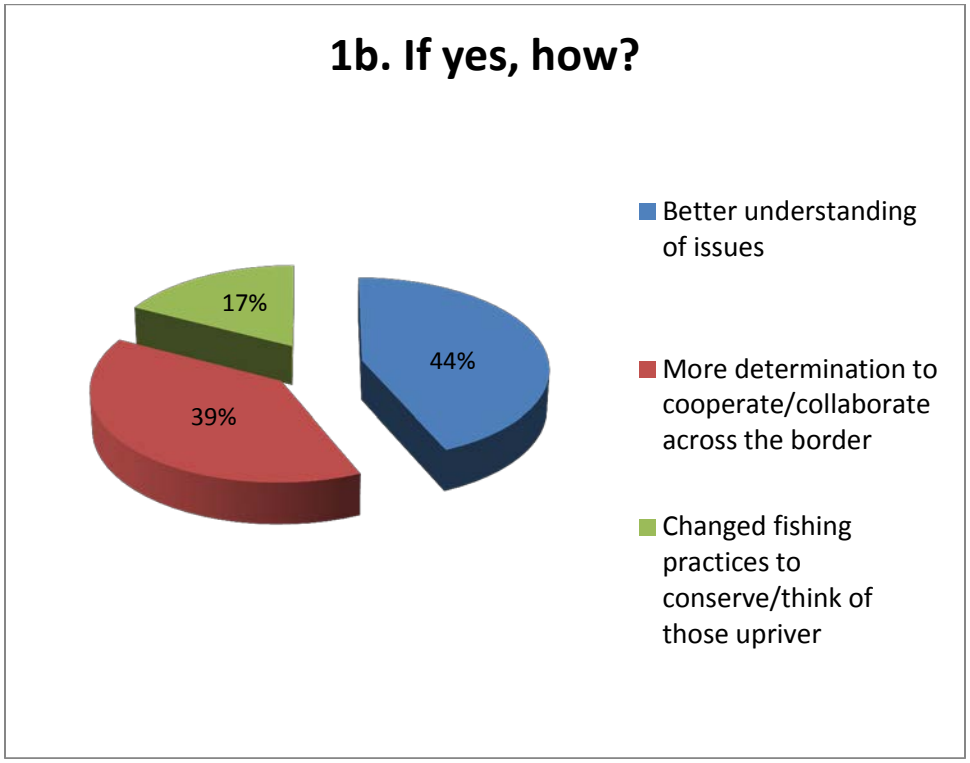
Please note that in the following survey, responses with multiple answers were counted in each category to ensure accuracy. Therefore, the number of responses to an individual question may total more than the total number of respondents.

A copy of the survey data summary and the individual answers are included with this report.

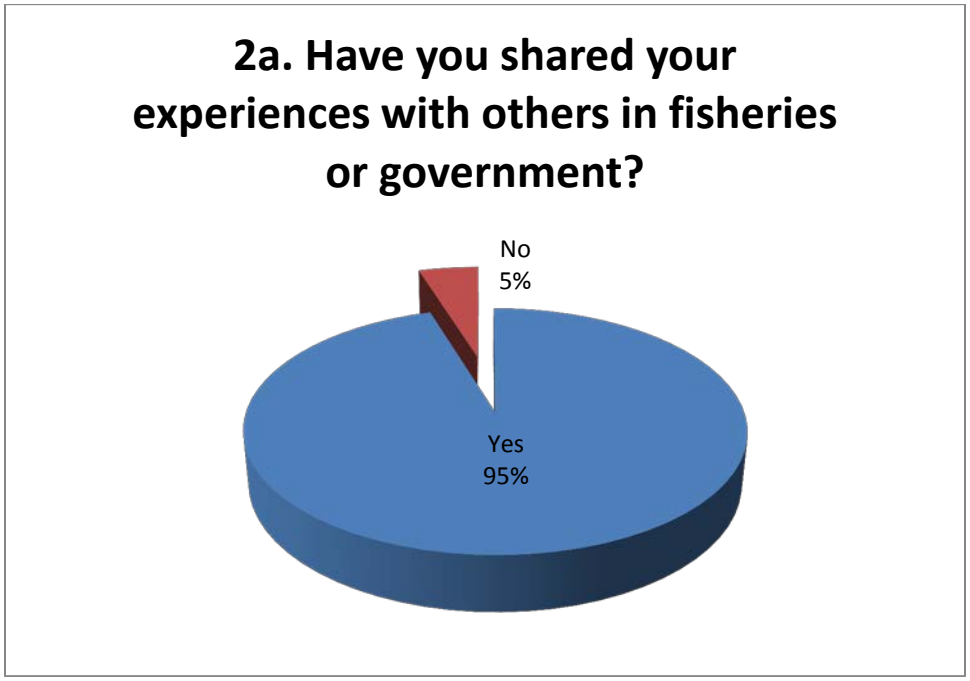
Survey Results

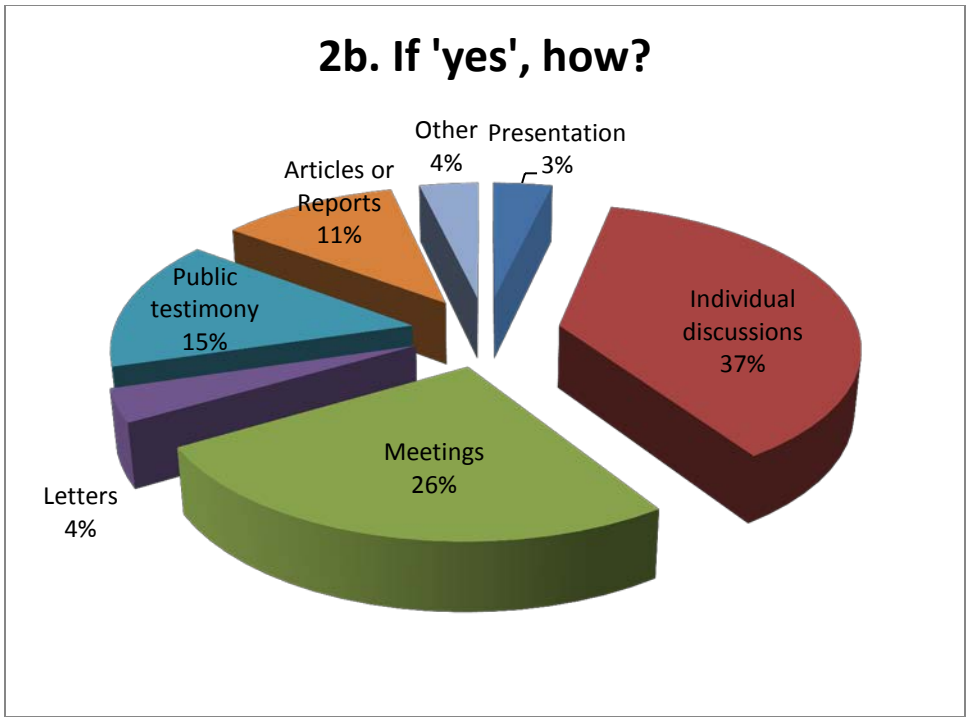
1. *Did the information or insight you gained during the trip change any of your practices or ideas? If so, how?*



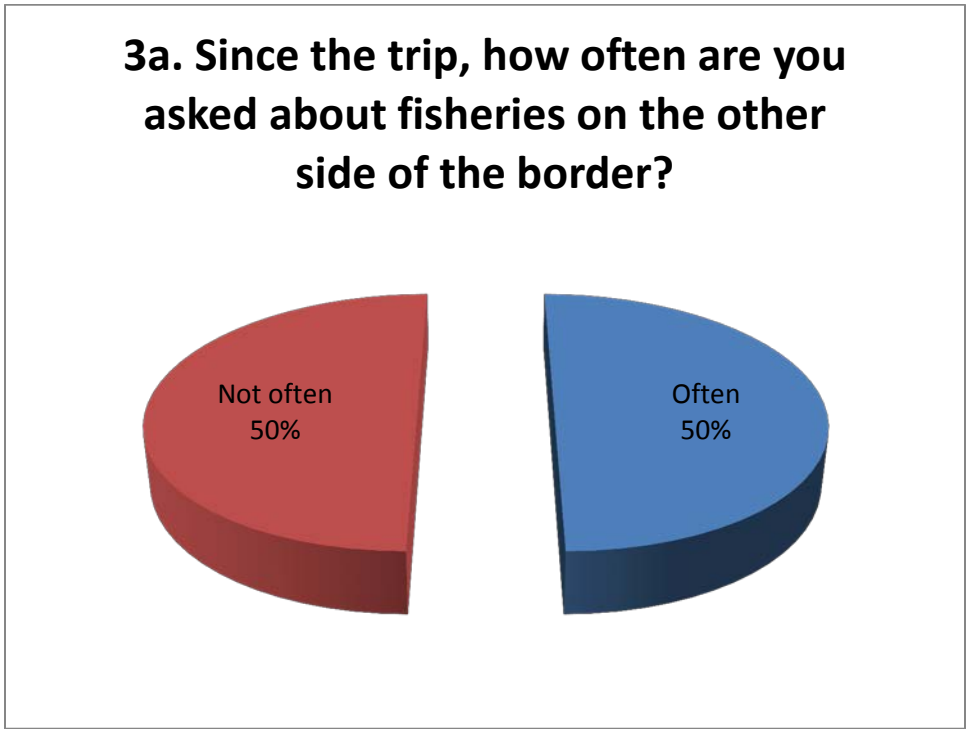


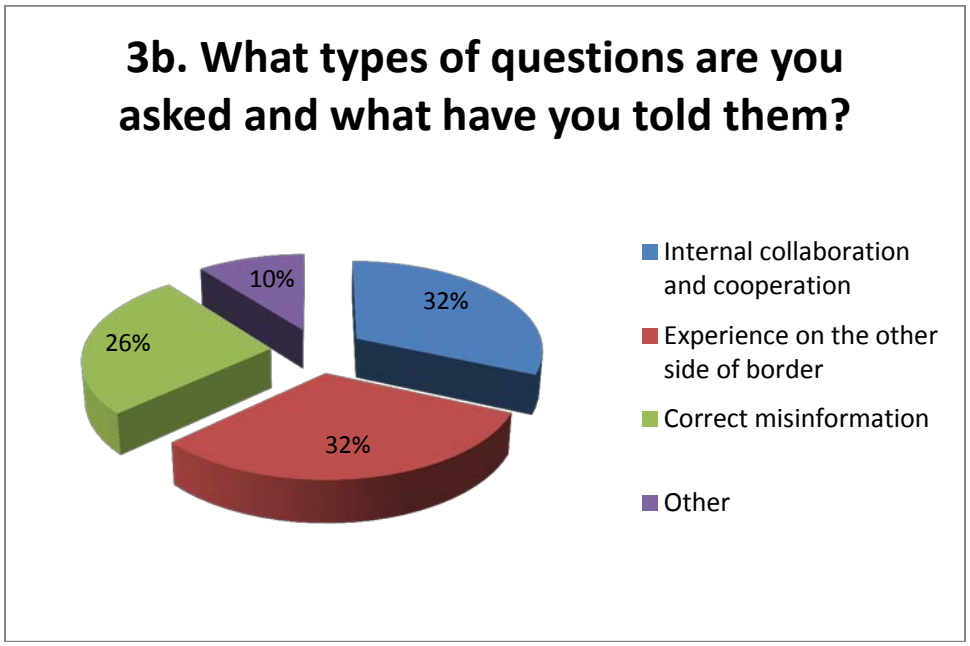
2. *Have you shared your experiences with others in fisheries or government? If yes, what type of sharing took place – a presentation, individual discussion, personal testimony at a government hearing, written articles or reports, etc?*



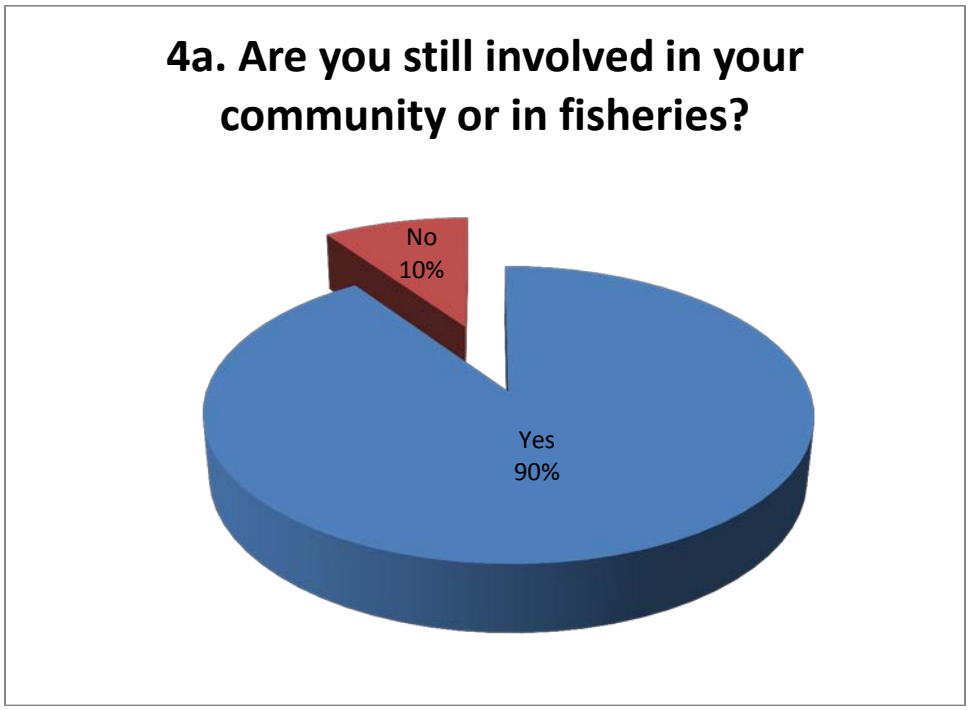


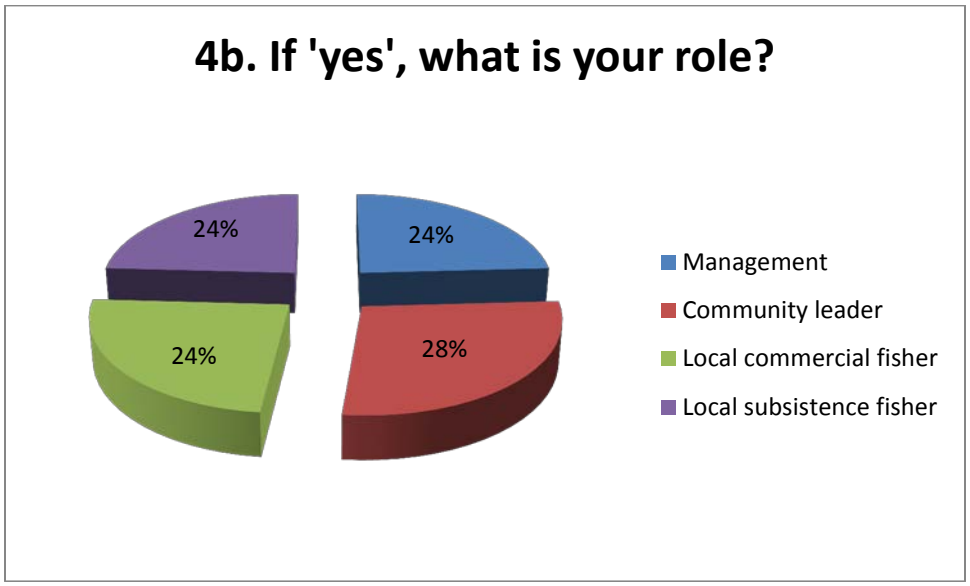
3. *Since the trip, how often are you asked about fisheries on the other side of the border? What types of questions are you asked and what have you told them?*



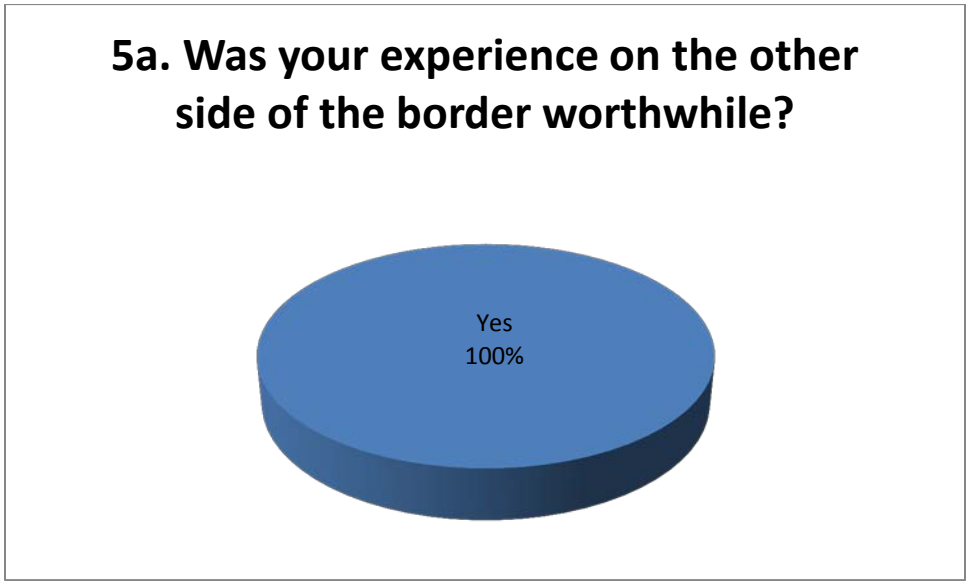

3b. What types of questions are you asked and what have you told them?
10%
32%
26%
32%
Internal collaboration and cooperation
Experience on the other side of border
Correct misinformation
Other

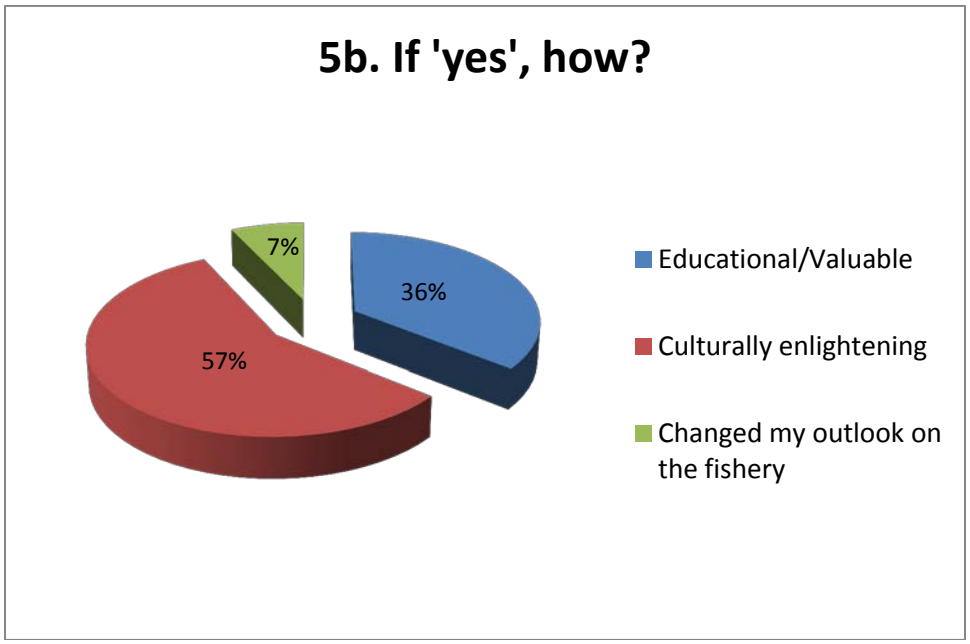
4. *Are you still involved in your community or in fisheries? If so, what is your role?*



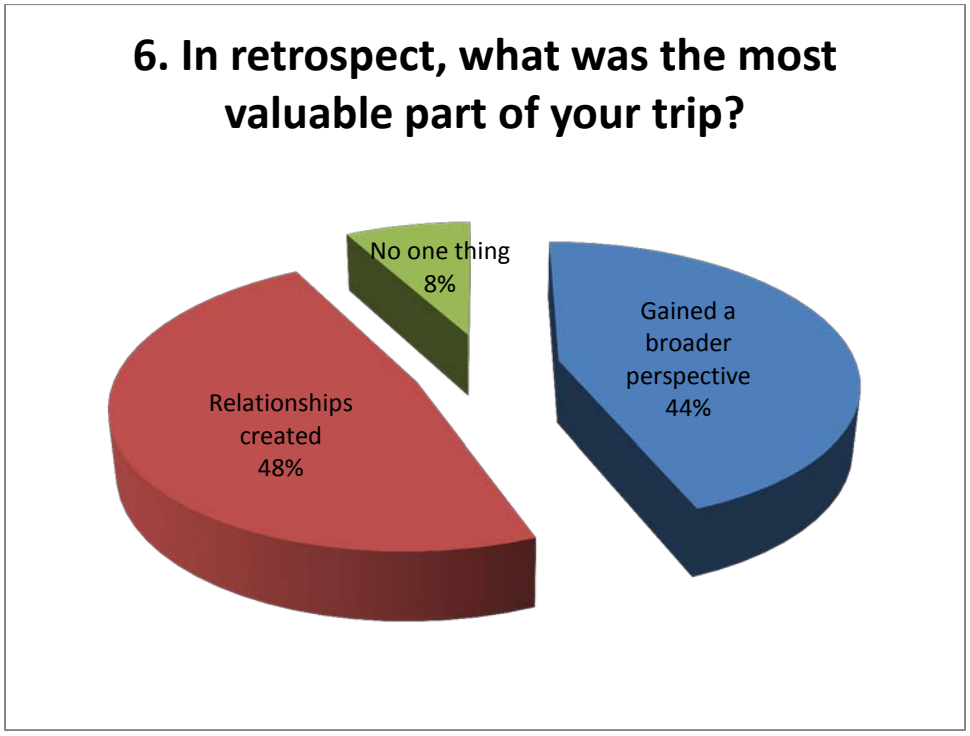


5. Was your experience on the other side of the border worthwhile? If so, how?

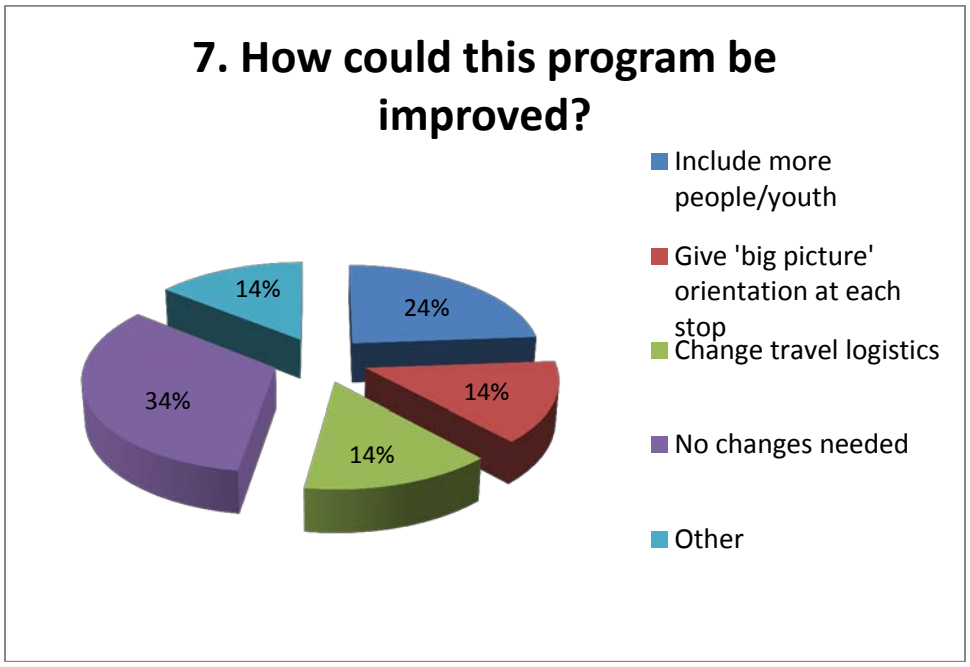




6. In retrospect, what was the most valuable part of your trip?



7. In your opinion, how could this program be improved?



Summary of Survey Responses

At the end of each year's Exchange trip, participants have received a short survey in order to obtain feedback about the participant's experience in the program. In the post-surveys taken in this manner, participants overwhelmingly described the trip as "excellent", "exceeding their expectations", and "eye-opening".

This report's multi-year survey sent as part of this evaluation attempted to evaluate the extent to which participants continue to view their Exchange trip as valuable, and to determine if and how the trip has influenced their actions or attitudes about the Yukon River fishery.

How have participants used the knowledge they gained as a result of the Yukon River Educational Exchange project?

Survey participants unanimously continued to believe their participation in the Exchange had been a worthwhile experience, with 90% of them stating that the information or insight they gained had changed their ideas and/or practices in some way. All survey participants stated that the trip had been educational or valuable in some way. Respondents stated they now had a better understanding of the issues (44%), were more determined to cooperate across the border (39%), and had changed their fishing practices to conserve for the sake of those across the border (17%). It is clear from the survey responses that participants consider the Yukon River Educational Exchange program highly valuable, and that the educational experience contributed to enhanced cross-border understanding, changed practices, and new friendships and collegial relationships.

How have (participants) shared or spread the knowledge they gained?

Survey participants were evenly divided when asked how often they are asked about the Yukon River fishery – 50% chose "Often", and 50% chose "Not often". "Often" was not defined in this question, so the response is subjective according to each respondent's interpretation.

When asked what type of questions they were asked and how they answered, however, participants overwhelmingly communicated positive information about the Yukon River fishery (90%). The YREE program has been successful in effectively multiplying YRDFA's educational reach to the communities in the Yukon River drainage, and possibly beyond.

The majority of survey participants (90%) were still involved in either their community or in fisheries. Their roles were almost evenly divided between management (24%), community leader (28%), local commercial fisheries (24%) and local subsistence fisheries (24%). **The responses to this question would indicate that program officials are effectively choosing program participants who will continue to positively affect their communities after the end of the program.**

A small percentage of respondents (8%) felt that no single aspect of the YREE trip was most valuable – they valued all aspects equally. The remaining participants were almost evenly

divided between valuing most the relationships created on the trip (48%) and the broader perspective they gained of the fishery (44%).

What suggestions do (participants) have for improving the program?

When asked how the program could be improved, 34% said no changes were needed and 14% thought more people should be included. 14% felt the trip could have been improved by receiving a 'big picture' orientation at each location, and 14% mentioned a preference for a change involving travel logistics.

Recommendations

Based upon survey results and feedback received during interviews, it is clear that the participants viewed the YREE trip as a valuable attitude- and personal action-changing experience. The education participants received and the exposure they gained on the trip gave them new insights that in many cases changed not only their thinking about the Yukon River fishery but also influenced their actions positively.

Program leaders appear to have done a good job of choosing participants with community influence, and the majority of participants have continued to spread their knowledge and contribute their opinions to the local discussion about the Yukon River fishery. It is clear that the YREE program has been successful in effectively multiplying YRDFA's educational reach to the communities in the Yukon River drainage and possibly beyond.

Relationships that have been initiated via the YREE trips are currently left up to individuals involved to maintain. Program staff might consider providing one or more forums to encourage continued dialogue among participants via email, threaded chats, or newsletters mailings to past participants. This would also afford YRDFA a vehicle through which to update all program participants of changes, news, and announcements.

As suggested by survey participants, the positive effects of the YREE program to date would be increased by seeking funds to include more people in future Exchanges. Care must be taken, however, to balance the increase in number of participants with keeping the group size small enough to facilitate networking and discussion among the entire group.

end of report

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

(scg)

Sharon C. Gherman
Program Evaluator
Alaska Funding Exchange