

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association****Federal Tax ID: 920135445****Project Title:****Project Type: Planning and Research**

# Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association - Yukon River Chinook Salmon Management Plan

**State Funding Requested: \$300,000**  
One-Time Need**House District: Statewide (1-40)****Brief Project Description:**

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|--|
| Conduct a two year stakeholder planning process resulting in a conservation based Yukon River Chinook (King) Salmon management plan. |
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**Funding Plan:**

|                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Project Cost:           | \$300,000          |
| Funding Already Secured:      | (\$0)              |
| FY2012 State Funding Request: | <u>(\$300,000)</u> |
| Project Deficit:              | \$0                |

*Funding Details:*

N/A

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) was created in 1991 in response to a disastrously low salmon run. YRDFA's mission is to protect and promote all healthy wild fisheries and cultures within the Yukon River drainage. YRDFA has been instrumental in uniting the Yukon River on salmon issues. Our priority is to build on this by developing a coordinated approach in concert with tribal governments, elders and youth in addition to utilizing scientific expertise to create a salmon management plan designed to address declines and work toward a healthy river system, healthy salmon runs and healthy communities.

YRDFA is requesting \$300,000 to implement a fisheries management planning process over the next two years in preparation for and with follow-up to the Alaska State Board of Fisheries Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim meeting in January 2013.

The YRDFA executive director, policy director and communications director will participate in the fisheries management process and conduct public information and education strategies to protect Yukon River salmon while keeping people from the Yukon River involved in the process. Funds will also provide a former intern through the First Alaskan's Institute to work part-time while he is at UAA as a project assistant. YRDFA will contract a scientist to review the King Salmon management plan for the Yukon River and work with other salmon and tribal groups and state and federal agencies to review potential triggers and management tools for managing subsistence, commercial, personal use, and sport fisheries along the Yukon River to include commercial and subsistence fisheries harvests and schedules. Financial management and travel for the YRDFA executive board is included for fisheries management planning in addition to travel funds for staff participation in regional meetings. YRDFA will simultaneously be working with Elders to incorporate their traditional knowledge and values

into the plan.

While there are numerous other entities including the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and their associated regional councils as well as tribal entities and individual tribes themselves, YRDFA is the only group with representation from the entire length of the Yukon River that has the experience to bring all these groups together under one umbrella to tackle how to manage the King salmon in years of low returns.

The funds would be spent over a two year period. Please see the attachments for additional details about the proposed project and its funding.

**Project Timeline:**

The project would begin July 1, 2011, and end on June 30, 2013. See attachments for further details

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

N/A

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: Jill Klein  
Title: Executive Director  
Address: 725 Christensen Drive, 3B  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone Number: (907)272-3141  
Email: jill@yukonsalmon.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No

## **Proposal for funding the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association**

**Project Title:** Building a conservation-based Chinook (King) salmon management plan for the Yukon River

**Project Proponent:** Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association  
Jill Klein, Executive Director  
725 Christensen Drive, Suite 3B  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-272-3141 extension 102, [www.yukonsalmon.org](http://www.yukonsalmon.org)

**Project Location:** The Yukon River in Alaska

### **Project Objectives:**

1. Conduct a two year stakeholder planning process to coordinate submission of a conservation based Yukon River King salmon management plan proposal to the Alaska Board of Fisheries;
2. Review potential triggers and management tools for managing subsistence, commercial, personal use, and sport fisheries along the Yukon River to include commercial and subsistence fisheries harvests and schedules;
3. Develop a culturally appropriate public information and education approach for fostering stewardship of Yukon River salmon.

**Project Timeframe:** July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2013

### **Project Background:**

The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) was created in 1991 in response to a disastrously low salmon run. YRDFA's mission is to protect and promote all healthy wild fisheries and cultures within the Yukon River drainage. YRDFA is working to address three main issues facing the Yukon River: a declining salmon run, the lack of a coordinated conservation-based salmon management plan and threats to community welfare from declining subsistence and commercial catches.

Our goals include reducing Yukon River conflict, coordinating an approach for fishers and tribes involvement in sustainable fisheries management, reducing threats to Yukon River salmon and their habitats throughout their lifecycles, preserving the subsistence way of life along the Yukon River and providing accurate and timely information to all Yukon River residents about fisheries management and issues affecting Yukon River salmon and their habitats.

YRDFA has been instrumental in uniting the Yukon River on salmon issues. Our priority is to build on this by developing a coordinated approach in concert with tribal governments, elders and youth in addition to utilizing scientific expertise to create a salmon management plan designed to address declines and work toward a healthy river system, healthy salmon runs and healthy communities.

YRDFA has historically relied upon federal appropriations for support. Dwindling federal support necessitates that we diversify our revenue to operate more effectively and sustainably. At the same time, dramatic declines in Chinook salmon runs on the Yukon River require immediate and focused attention. We have secured new funds from competitive federal, state, and foundation sources. However, in order to meet the programmatic challenges ahead of us, we require additional support.

**Project Summary:**

YRDFA is requesting \$300,000 to implement a fisheries management planning process over the next two years in preparation for and with follow-up to the Alaska State Board of Fisheries Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim meeting in January 2013. The YRDFA executive director, policy director and communications director will participate in the fisheries management process and conduct public information and education strategies to protect Yukon River salmon while keeping people from the Yukon River involved in the process. Funds will also provide a former intern through the First Alaskan's Institute to work part-time while he is at UAA as a project assistant. Financial management and travel for the YRDFA executive board is included for fisheries management planning in addition to travel funds for staff participation in regional meetings.

Beginning in July 2011, YRDFA staff will initiate a process to develop a unified approach to a conservation based King salmon management plan. YRDFA will contract a scientist to review the King Salmon management plan for the Yukon River and work with other salmon and tribal groups and state and federal agencies to review potential triggers and management tools for managing subsistence, commercial, personal use, and sport fisheries along the Yukon River to include commercial and subsistence fisheries harvests and schedules. Additionally, YRDFA will simultaneously be working with Elders to incorporate their traditional knowledge and values into the plan. This information will be used in developing outreach and education information for people from the Yukon River – to build support of and meaningful participation in conservation based strategies to protect King salmon and sustain them for future generations.

YRDFA has approached Lannan Foundation, Mitsubishi Foundation, Seventh Generation Fund and the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund for funds related to this effort. Committed sources of funds for next year starting in July 2011 include National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association.

**Justification:**

While there are numerous other entities including the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and their associated regional councils as well as tribal entities and individual tribes themselves, YRDFA is the only group with representation from the entire length of the Yukon River that has the experience to bring all these groups together under one umbrella to tackle how to manage the King salmon in years of low returns.

We have engaged in groundbreaking work on fisheries management plans; reducing bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, documenting, utilizing and sharing traditional ecological knowledge and ensuring that Yukon River salmon can sustain future generations.

**Timeline/Milestones:**

July 2011 – Hire contract scientist to develop new approaches to King salmon management on the Yukon River; YRDFA staff begin developing outreach and educational approaches as well as development of a steering committee stakeholder group.

September 2011 – Initiate development of a river-wide education and outreach campaign to share culturally appropriate conservation messages and build support for revisions to the King salmon management plan.

October 2011 – Host a meeting for the steering committee stakeholder group to meet with the contract scientist and review the King salmon management plan and steps to take for drafting the first revision. Initiate Elders council meetings in the Yukon River regions to gather traditional knowledge and values to set direction for this process.

February 2012 – YRDFA annual meeting; review first draft of the revised King salmon management plan and invite key people to the meeting to hold related discussions.

April 2012 – coordinate submission of Board of Fisheries proposals; submit placeholder for the King salmon management plan. Inform and educate tribal invitees at a pre-season meeting for the tribal designated fishing leaders along the Yukon River.

October 2012 – Host second meeting for the steering committee stakeholder group to meet with the scientist and review the second draft of the King salmon management plan. Include one Elder from each Yukon River region to review the plan and input their traditional knowledge and values.

December 2012 – Final approval of the plan will take place.

January 2013 – Final review for the public of the King Salmon management plan at a pre-Board of Fisheries (BOF) meeting hosted by YRDFA and presented to the BOF.

March 2013 – Attend regional meetings and present details of how plan will work starting in summer 2013 at the summer preparation meeting for the Tribal designated fishing leaders along the Yukon River. Conduct final outreach and education about the new plan.

June 2013 – Final report writing and wrap up.

**Project Outcomes:**

Revisions to the Yukon River King salmon management plan will have been made that include conservation and harvest strategies that accommodate low salmon returns to the Yukon River. An agreement along the entire length of the Yukon River will have been coordinated and solutions that have public buy in will have been created. A scientist will have participated in the process leading to support and buy in from the fisheries management and research agencies.

**Project Budget:** Year 1, \$150,000 Year 2, \$150,000 for a total of \$300,000

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)  
Conservation based King salmon management planning

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association  
Budget  
Fisheries management planning for the Yukon River

Year 1

|              |         |  |
|--------------|---------|--|
| Personnel    | 75,000  | YRDFA staff members                    |
| Travel       | 30,000  | YRDFA executive board and staff travel |
| Contract     | 30,000  | Scientist                              |
| Total direct | 135,000 |  |
| indirect     | 16200   |  |
| Total        | 151,200 |  |

Year 2

|              |         |  |
|--------------|---------|--|
| Personnel    | 84,000  | YRDFA staff members                    |
| Travel       | 30,000  | YRDFA executive board and staff travel |
| Contract     | 20,000  | Scientist                              |
| Total direct | 134,000 |  |
| indirect     | 16080   |  |
| Total        | 150,080 |  |

**Total** 301,280



YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

February 14, 2011

Senator Donny Olson  
State Capitol Building, Room 508  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Senator Albert Kookesh  
State Capitol Building, Room 11  
Juneau, AK 99801

Representative Alan Dick  
State Capitol, Room 104  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Representative Neal Foster  
State Capitol, Room 434  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Olson, Senator Kookesh, Representative Dick and Representative Foster:

We are writing to convey support for the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA), whose mission is to protect and promote all healthy wild fisheries and cultures along the Yukon River drainage.

YRDFA is an organization of subsistence and commercial fishermen along the entire length of the Yukon River in Alaska. As you know, Yukon River salmon provide a primary source of food and are essential to the subsistence way of life in our region. For many residents the commercial salmon harvest also provides the only means of income for those who live in the remote villages of the Yukon River.

In recent years, salmon declines have impacted people's abilities to harvest subsistence salmon for their families to eat and there have been no directed Chinook salmon commercial fisheries in the past two years, leaving people with little opportunity for earning income from the fishery.

It is important that the communities, people and tribes of the Yukon River have strong representation in fisheries management. YRDFA provides an essential voice for fishing families. Through unique outreach and education projects in addition to traditional ecological knowledge and policy advocacy, YRDFA has helped to include fishers in the management process.

YRDFA has historically relied upon federal appropriations for support. Dwindling federal support necessitates that YRDFA diversifies their revenue. At the same time, dramatic declines in Chinook salmon runs on the Yukon River require immediate attention. YRDFA has secured new funds from competitive federal, state, and foundation sources. However, in order to meet the challenges ahead, we require additional financial support.


725 CHRISTENSEN DRIVE, SUITE 3-B • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501  
TELEPHONE: 907-272-3141 • 1-877-99YUKON(9-8566)  
FAX: 907-272-3142 • EMAIL: info@yukonsalmon.org  
WWW.YUKONSALMON.ORG


YRDFA is an essential component in the management of Yukon River fisheries, and should receive financial support from the state. We ask you to support YRDFA and the people of the Yukon River by requesting and securing funding from the State of Alaska for YRDFA.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

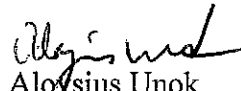
The Board and alternates of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association:


  
Lester Wilde  
Hooper Bay

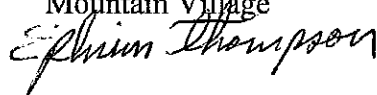
  
Aloysius Aguchak  
Scammon Bay


Frank Alstrom  
Alakanuk

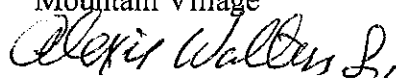
Felix Walker, Sr  
Scammon Bay

  
Aloysius Unok  
Kotlik

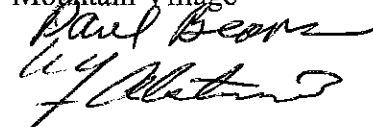
  
Michael James  
Alakanuk


Ephrim Thompson  
Mountain Village  


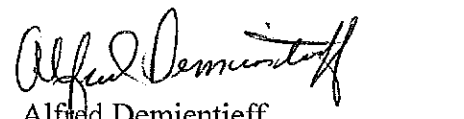
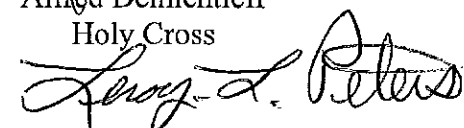
  
Ole Hunter  
Scammon Bay

Alexie Walters, Sr  
Mountain Village  


Anna Pratt  
St. Marys

Paul Beans  
Mountain Village  
  
Bill Alstrom  
St. Marys

  
Mike Peters  
Marshall

  
Alfred Demientieff  
Holy Cross  






Leroy Peters  
Holy Cross

Robert Walker  
Anvik



Fred Huntington, Sr.  
Galena



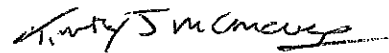
Mickey Stickman  
Nulato



Richard Burnham  
Kaltag

Lester Erhart  
Tanana

Charlie Wright  
Tanana (Rampart)



Tim McManus  
Nenana



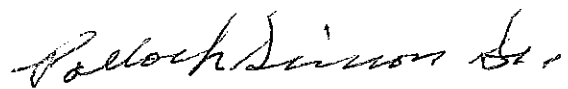
Stan Zuray  
Tanana



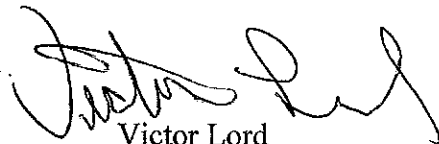
Ted Suckling  
Nenana



Philip "Jeep" Titus  
Minto



Pollock Simon, Sr  
Allakaket



Victor Lord  
Nenana

Andrew Firmin  
Fort Yukon



William Derendoff  
Huslia



Ron Chambers  
Whitehorse, YT

Jan Woodruff  
Eagle