

Association of Village Council Presidents Press Release

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AVCP Supports 2021 Federal Fishery Disaster Declaration Request

Vivian Korthuis, CEO

In 2021, the families and communities along the Yukon River from the delta coast to the US/Canada border faced the most difficult salmon season fishery in history. Run forecasts were so low that the season started off closed completely. As salmon entered the river and traveled past fisheries projects determining run strength, it was apparent there were so few fish that closures had to remain if there was any hope of making escapement objectives for the future of the salmon.

AVCP has worked with Yukon River partner organizations – Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA), Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA) and the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission/Tanana Chiefs Conference (YRITFC/TCC) – to once again appeal to Governor Dunleavy to request a federal fisheries disaster declaration for the Yukon River. The formal request was submitted by YRDFA and YDFDA on August 23, 2021. On September 2, 2021, AVCP sent a letter to the Governor supporting this disaster request. The letter included appreciation for the efforts the Governor has made in providing donated fish this summer and referenced the irreplaceable loss of traditional sustenance. The letter was shared with Senators Murkowski and Sullivan and Congressman Young, as well as Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland.

AVCP is working with our regional tribes for additional support to the 2021 request.

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For additional information, please contact AVCP Communications Director, Gage Hoffman at 907-543-7308 or email at ghoffman@avcp.org

AVCP is a regional nonprofit tribal consortium comprised of the 56 federally recognized tribes of the YK Delta. The geographic boundaries of AVCP extend from the Yukon River Village of Russian Mission downstream to the Bering Sea coast, north up through Kotlik and south along the coastline to Platinum and then extending up the Kuskokwim River to Stony River, including Lime Village on the Stony River tributary. The area encompasses approximately 6.5 million acres, or 55,000 square miles, in Western Alaska.