

**Project Title:** AYK Rapids Student Monitoring Program 2011-2013

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**Project Period:** 2011-2013

**Study Location:** Yukon River, Rampart Rapids

**Abstract:** The project was started due to a lack of consistent, random, and full season sex, length, weight, girth and Ichthyophonus disease information on Yukon River Chinook salmon bound for the Upper River and Canada. These types of data are essential for the effective management of the many salmon species that migrate upstream each year.

Student technicians were trained to collect fisheries data since 2001 in the Rampart Rapids area located at river mile 731, approximately 40 miles upstream of the village of Tanana, Alaska. Along with creating a large, long range database this project gives students an opportunity to participate in data collection for numerous biological studies and to develop their interest in future fisheries work.

The collected data are comprised of Chinook salmon sex, length, weight and girth during the Chinook salmon season and visual inspection of changing flesh color and fat content in chum salmon. Species are inspected for disease conditions with a special emphasis on Ichthyophonus disease prevalence in Chinook salmon. The data from these studies provide valuable information for the management of Chinook and chum salmon and migratory whitefish. This information has been identified as a priority at many Federal Regional Advisory Council, State Advisory Council, and Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association meetings.

Each year the project also takes on several requests for data collection or assistance by other researchers and agencies wanting help on their projects.

**Key Words:** Chinook, chum, data, Ichthyophonus, Rapids, salmon, students, Yukon,

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