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James Beard Foundation Awards Top Honors to Yukon River Salmon Story:

"King of Alaska," Produced by Warner-Hanson Productions

Emmonak, Alaska—The story of wild Yukon River salmon, titled "King of Alaska," earned top honors at the 2010 James Beard Foundation Media and Book Awards ceremony on May 2, 2010 in New York City. The award was for the category, "TV Show, On Location."

Featuring nationally acclaimed restaurateur and chef, Rick Moonen, the wild Yukon River salmon segment was part of a PBS series titled "Chefs A' Field," created by Heidi Hanson and Chris Warner of Warner-Hanson Television. Filmed largely in Emmonak, Alaska, "King of Alaska" focuses on the Yupik Eskimo fishermen for whom salmon fishing has been a way of life for generations.

Kwik'pak General Manager Jack Schultheis, who helped orchestrate the project, said he is pleased that the segment on wild Yukon River salmon and the Yupik people who catch the salmon on the Lower Yukon River earned top honors at the prestigious James Beard Foundation Awards event. "For us, this validates the fact that we have an amazing story to tell—as well as excellent salmon," Schultheis said. "We are grateful to Warner-Hanson Productions, to Rick Moonen, and to the fishermen of Emmonak for making this particular episode in the entire PBS series such great television."

The series is posted on the Kwik'pak website: www.kwikpakfisheries.com.

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