



KWIK'PAK
F I S H E R I E S

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Kwik'pak Fisheries Predicts Strong Opening of Yukon River Salmon

Emmonak, AK—Kwik'pak Fisheries, the major buyer of salmon on the Lower Yukon River, says all signs point to one of the strongest keta (chum) runs in years—good news for both the retail supermarket and restaurant trade that are promoting the Yukon River brand, says Kwik'pak's General Manager, Jack Schultheis.

Schultheis said the offshore test fishery has seen significant numbers of fish—the highest in years. “Both the ketas and kings are healthy-looking fish, and while they are running late, they are coming in with strong numbers,” Schultheis said. Biologists now predict the keta fishery to exceed 1.8 million fish.

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), which postponed the opening of today's keta fishery several times because of the high numbers of king salmon in the river, finally allowed the keta fishery to open for six hours on June 28.

“The story here is the strong cooperation between ADF&G and Kwik'pak, balancing the needs of the commercial fishery with the need to both meet our treaty obligations with Canada, as well as ensuring that a sufficient number of fish make it upriver to spawn. This is really an example of sustainable fisheries management,” Schultheis said.

Kwik'pak is promoting its traceable wild Yukon River salmon in several U.S. markets, including the New York-Pennsylvania region; Minneapolis-St. Paul; Kansas City; and St. Louis, among others. In addition, Elliott's Oyster House in Seattle will once again feature fresh wild Yukon River keta salmon on its menus over the next few weeks.

For more information, visit www.kwipakfisheries.com.

Note to Editors: Jack Schultheis will be available for interviews. Contact Jack at 907-444.1317.