

YUKON SALMON COMMITTEE
Meeting #42
March 17 – 18, 2003
Whitehorse, Yukon

MEETING DATES 2003-2004

Meetings to Date (2003-2004)

Meeting #41	January 21 - 23, 2003	Whitehorse
Yukon Panel	March 10 - 14, 2003	Whitehorse
Meeting #42	March 17-18, 2003	Whitehorse
Public Meeting	March 17, 2003	Whitehorse

Upcoming Meeting Dates (tentative)

Public Meeting	April 8, 2003	Dawson
Public Meeting	April 9, 2003	Old Crow
Public Meeting	April 16, 2003	Haines Junction
Meeting #43	June 24 – 26, 2003	Whitehorse
Conference Call	August 20, 2003	
Meeting # 44	October 7-9, 2003	
Meeting #45	November 25-27, 2003	
Meeting #46	February 24-26, 2004	

MEETING SUMMARY

1. **Review Agenda**
 - Agenda was amended and approved.

2. **Review Minutes of Last Meeting**
 - Due to time constraints the minutes will be reviewed at a later time.

3. **Review Action Items**
 - Action items were reviewed.

4. **Review Calendar – Set meeting dates for 2003-2004**
 - New meeting dates were set for June 24-26, August 20 (conference call), October 7-9, November 25-27, February 24-26.
5. **Members' Updates:**
 - PSC Annual Meeting
 - Fish Think Tank
 - Placer Regulations Briefing
 - Yukon River Panel
 - Land Use Planning Workshop
6. **Review Public Meeting Agendas**
 - Whitehorse
 - Dawson
 - Old Crow
 - Haines Junction
7. **IFMP Public Consultations – Yukon River Working Group**
 - Update on Carmacks Community Meeting
 - Update on Pelly Community Meeting
 - Update on Whitehorse Community Meeting
 - Concerns with Yukon River IFMP Process
 - Next Steps
8. **Budget Review**
 - Current 2002-03 and planned expenditures to year end
 - Draft Budget for 2003-04
9. **Placer Issues YSC**
10. **Update on YSC Funding**
11. **Tatchun Creek signage – Review and Approval of Wording**
12. **Strategic Planning**
13. **Habitat Issues Briefing**
14. **Other Issues**
 - Youth Contest Judging
 - YSC Meeting Location

• **Invitations to Public Meeting**

MEETING MINUTES

Monday **March 17** **9:00 a.m.**
Location: **Large Boardroom, DFO/Water Board – 419 Range Road**

Present:

Hardy Ruf	Chuck Hume	Lorelei Smith
Carl Sidney	Frank Paterson	Gerry Couture
Craig McKinnon	Stan Njootli	

Absent:

Vicky Josie
Steve Taylor (until late Monday morning)

DFO Staff:

Andrea Wilson
John Burdek

Guests:

Randy Clarkson – KPMA
Joel White – KPMA

Meeting was called to order at 9:10am

- Stan Njootli opened the meeting with prayer
- New member Frank Paterson was introduced to Committee members
- John Burdek gave an update on his position with DFO – he has been on leave from DFO and working at Ta’an and is now back. John will be focusing on negotiations and the policy side of First Nations Treaties; Mary Ellen Jarvis will be covering Aboriginal Fisheries; Andrea and Louise will be focusing exclusively on the YSC
- Clarification – All YSC meetings are open to the public unless the meeting is called in-camera
- Frank gave some background on his experience:
 - Has worked in negotiations for 10 years for landclaims, worked with YTG (highways) and worked as a councillor for Na-Cho Nyäk Dun FN.
 - His interests are with the land and preservation of the land. Frank also noted that he does believe in a balance between environment and industry.
 - Fish and Wildlife need to come first, but jobs are also important.
- Lorelei announced that she will be away after today due to a family emergency, Craig will chair the Public meeting and the remainder of this YSC meeting.
- Carl welcomed Frank to the committee and talked about the balance between industry and conservation

1. Review Agenda

- Stan suggested adding an *Update on Changes to Placer Issues*.
 - Andrea noted that DFO Area does not have a clear idea, from the Minister, of what is happening with Placer; communications are pending. If there are changes during the course of the meeting Eric Val will brief.
- Stan suggested adding YSC Meeting place to the agenda, **YSC meeting Place added to agenda.**
- Due to his absence at the previous meeting where changes were made to honoraria, Craig wanted to comment on the changes – regarding receipt of preparation, “members need to make sure that they take the time to do the preparation prior to meeting”.
- Chuck asked for clarification on the in-camera sessions. Suggested that we need to add to Operating Procedures.
- ***In-Camera Procedures added to agenda*** under other issues
- Andrea noted that packages were delayed this meeting due to illnesses of staff.
- Craig clarified that he wanted members to take seriously their commitment to prepping.
- Carl noted that he does not believe that the YSC should have any in-camera session.
- Gerry noted that the UFA does lay out confidentiality. This is specifically re: recommendations to the Minister under section 16.8.
- Gerry added that the only other situation where an in-camera session would be appropriate was if a YSC member(s) had personal issues. This is at their discretion. YSC members should be able to make the decision to discuss internal Committee issues in-camera or not.
- Andrea reminded the committee that in order to maintain confidentiality re: recommendations to the Minister, we have to call in-camera sessions to ensure our discussions are kept secure and within the group. Minutes are a public document.
- Stan commented that this is a good reminder, and that we need to keep in compliance of the UFA, this is one of the reasons why we should have in-camera sessions.
- **Agenda was amended. Move *Review of Minutes to 10A.*; Under item 13 Other Issues, include *Operating Procedures for in-camera sessions and Meeting locations.***
- **Agenda was approved with the above amendments.**

2. Review Minutes of Last Meeting

- Changes to Minutes will be left until Tuesday morning so members can review.
- Not completed during meeting #42. Minutes from Meeting #41 will need to be approved at Meeting #43.
- Re: minutes – in camera session minutes are kept separate from distributed minutes, as they are not for public distribution. Available to members only.

- REVIEW OF MINUTES CONTINUED UNDER 10A.

3. Review Action Items

- Question posed to the committee whether the action items should be reviewed prior to the meeting by each member of the committee, then only action items in question will be reviewed during the meeting instead all the action items? Committee recommended that **all** Action items continue to be reviewed and discussed individually during each meeting.

Following is an overview of items that were discussed at Meeting #42 but do not require any further follow-up. All action items that are ongoing are to be included under the “Summary of Action Items” distributed separately at each meeting.

ACTION ITEM #37-10: Secretariat to invite Larry Bagnell, Yukon MP, to the next YSC meeting to be briefed by the YSC on the lack of response from the Federal government on issues such as abandoned mines, devolution, and DIAND.

Larry Bagnell was invited to YSC March meeting, but was unable to attend but is tentatively scheduled to attend the September meeting. Date and time will be determined closer to the date

Mtg. #38: YSC should ensure that HCSP program is also included in discussion with Mr. Bagnell. Larry Bagnell was scheduled to attend the September meeting, but due to a last minute scheduling change, was unable to attend. He will be briefed, by phone, by Gerry Couture and Bob Van Dijken ASAP. Following his briefing, he would like to work on some joint letters to Ministers with the YSC.

Mtg. #39: During the September meeting Larry Bagnell met with Gerry Couture, Lorelei and Bob van Dijken to discuss some concerns. Lorelei mentioned that L. Bagnell would still like to meet with all the committee, possibly at the January meeting.

Mtg. #40: Larry Bagnell is scheduled to meet with the committee, Thurs Jan 23.

Mtg. #41: Larry Bagnell met with committee members January 22. Only 2 actual letters sent to Government were never responded to about abandoned mines. Recommendation was made for Larry Bagnell to hand deliver new letter from Meeting#41 to ministers of Finance, Fisheries & Oceans, Environment and DIAND these letter are on funding for reclamation of abandoned mines Letters were hand delivered to all but Minister Anderson. Letters sent January 29th, 2003.

Mtg#42: Noted that this issue was also brought up in the House and funding will be committed to clean up (amount unknown).

ACTION ITEM #38-15: BVD to draft a letter to Viceroy commending them on their thoroughness and willingness to work with the public to ensure that environmental safety is assured.

Mtg#40 – Draft letter prepared for review at YSC Meeting. Letter Sent January 3, 2003.

ACTION ITEM #39-7: Youth Contest. YSC will hold this again and will try to communicate more with Teachers. Will also send an internal e-mail to government departments to promote.

Shannon Moore is coordinating contest and will provide an update at the November Meeting.

Mtg. #40: Youth Contest will begin in December with advertizing and in-class promotions. Changes this year include 1) age categories; 2) inclusion of French schools; 3) timing of contest (advertizing begins earlier); 4) new sponsor; 5) e-mail of info to government departments 6) use of the DFO education coordinator to involve teachers and promote contest within schools.

Paid Advertising options will be given to committee during meeting #41. E-mail has been sent around to government offices (Yukon Gov't and federal). Some entries coming in now.

Done: See ACTION ITEMS #41-4, 41-5, 41-6.

ACTION ITEM #39-13: The YSC will determine during their Strategic Planning exercise whether or not to commit funds to the Live Release Communications Strategy.

Noted in outstanding issues as low priority,

Mtg. #40: The YSC decided during their strategic planning session that they could not support this strategy financially at this time, but would like to lend any other form of support i.e. input, information on web site or newsletter etc.. Letter drafted to Board advising of this.

Mtg. #41: The YSC after further discussion recommended that 3K be put towards the Live Release Strategy. Letter re-drafted and sent February 25th.

Mtg. #42: F&WMB Need to ensure that expenditures are made within this fiscal year.

ACTION ITEM #39-19: Secretariat to ensure that Public Meeting dates are included in any Yukon Conservation Catch Card letters sent to anglers.

Letter was sent to all Yukon salmon anglers with Catch Card data and dates for Public Meetings. Done March 6th, 2003.

ACTION ITEM #40-1: Letter to be drafted to VGFN and YTG re: how the YSC conducts its public processes i.e. Public Meetings, Porcupine Working Group. Because salmon is involved, YSC should have been involved from the outset, not after the fact.

Letters sent Feb. 14th.

ACTION ITEM #40-4: The 2-page summary on the Recreational Fishery should be formatted into a brochure.

Brochures completed and will be included in a mail out to all recreational fishers.

ACTION ITEM #40-5: Copies of the Recreational Fishery Summary should be available at Public Meetings and through DFO and the YSC. DFO Admin staff need to know where to find reports in case there are requests.

Copies will be provided at Public Meetings. Copies have been placed at DFO reception, and DFO staff advised of their whereabouts.

ACTION ITEM #40-8: All YSC materials to be updated with new web address.

Done. Noted for on-going potential.

ACTION ITEM #40-14: YSC Chair to send letter to DFO requesting that anything over \$1000 the computers (5) be kept in the communities.

Done, Letter sent February 10, 2003. Response received March 10, 2003 copy in read file.

ACTION ITEM #40-19: YSC to draft a letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans re: providing additional funding to C&P in the Yukon.

E-mailed Area Director Dec. 4 for advice on how to proceed (aw).

Letter drafted and sent to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on February 26, 2003.

ACTION ITEM #41-1: DFO to provide an official letter to the YSC, identifying who the official executive secretary is.

Area Director advised of request. Letter advising the committee that Andrea Wilson will be the Executive Secretary, is available for review in the Read File.

ACTION ITEM #41-4: Shannon to check with Trix Tanner on who received the youth contest information, and ensure that the information is getting out to everyone.

Everything was delivered; in addition copies of the poster were delivered to the communities outside Whitehorse by Canada Post.

ACTION ITEM #41-5: Shannon to make up additional Youth Contest packages for Stewards to hand out in their communities and check into option of Chair and Shannon visiting the schools in Whitehorse.

Mtg. #42: Completed and delivered by Stewards, the Whitehorse schools were contacted but they were not interested in having anyone visit at this time.

ACTION ITEM #41-6: Youth Contest - Cut back newspaper spots to one entry at the end of February or early March; use only Yukon News and make ad half-page size; use radio spots and purchase more prizes so all entries get a prize.

Done. Some entries received, but remainder of entries expected closer to the due date from the schools.

ACTION ITEM #41-7: Secretariat to draft a letter to the Minister of Finance prior to the February budget, asking the minister for long term funding to cleanup the abandoned mine sites, include a prioritised list of abandoned mines with concerns and justification for clean-up. Recommend that funding be allocated for a permanent solution and that he discuss these concerns with

the Minister of DIAND. Larry to hand deliver the letter to the Minister, copy of letter to be sent in the mail.

Hand delivered by Larry Bagnell week of Feb 3rd, copies sent January 29th, 2003

ACTION ITEM #41-8: Secretariat to draft a letter to the Minister of DIAND, Environment and Fisheries & Oceans Canada, asking them to lobby the Minister of Finance for the Funding to clean-up the abandoned mine sites in the Yukon. Larry to hand deliver the letters to the Ministers, copy of letter to also be sent in the mail.

Hand delivered by Larry Bagnell to all ministers, the exception of the Minister of Environment. Copies of letters mailed January 29, 2003.

ACTION ITEM #41-11: Yukon Placer Regulations – Letter to be sent to the Minister of Fisheries recommending that a consultative process be put in place for the implementation of the new placer regulations, and request that an additional grace period be considered during the implementation of the new regulations.

Letter sent February 26, 2003

ACTION ITEM #41-13: Bob to compile a list for the committee of abandoned mine sites priorities for cleanup with explanations and details for each mine.

Information was provided to the committee and incorporated into letter to the finance minister.

ACTION ITEM #42-1: Carl to provide to Secretariat contact details of Deloitte and Touche person in Faro to contact and arrange update presentation for next meeting.

Provided at Meeting #42. Andrea to contact Shannon Glenn.

Randy Clarkson left at 10:10 a.m.

4. Review Calendar – Set meeting dates for 2003-2004

- No meetings currently scheduled after this meeting
- Suggested that another YSC meeting be scheduled for June.
- Clarification of Public Meeting in Dawson scheduled for April 8, 2003 for one day, Yukon River Working Group to attend as representatives from the committee.
- Frank asked for clarification on the Working Groups; The YSC working groups are members of the committee that focus on individual areas such as the Alsek, Porcupine and Yukon River they were created to work with representative from the affected communities, and FN in developing strategic plans and reviewing recommendations that are part of the draft IFMP (Integrated Fisheries Management Plans) prior to the Plan being sent from the YSC to the Minister.

ACTION ITEM #42-2: Secretariat to Provide Frank Paterson with a list of Working Group members.

Provided at meeting #42.

ACTION ITEM #42-3: Secretariat to look into Frank attending next Yukon College Boards and Committees training course. Also provide to YSC information on other relevant Yukon College courses i.e. Chair Training.

- Suggestion that if we do meet in June, should be quite late so that we have latest info from Alaska. Meeting required for run updates, conference calls required for changes in the plan. Recommended 3 days June 24-26, 2003
- Lorelei suggested that meetings in New Year be changed to February. Due to DFO staff constraints with having meetings in January. Also better to have public meetings a bit later.
- Stan suggested June agenda item – update from YTG re: Oil and Gas development in Eagle Plains (bilateral agreement between YTG and NWT)
- Angela Wakely, head of Oil and Gas
- Update on 8 commercial licences for CYFN
- Will update on World Summit on Salmon – this not captured as an Action Item in mtg. #41
- Conference Call – August 20th - all YSC members for Run update
- July 9 – Carl TAC Faro (confirm with Bob)
- YR Panel – Dec. 8-12 in Anchorage
- YR Panel – March 8-12 in Anchorage

ACTION ITEM #42-4: YSC Meetings for 2003-04 will be as follows:

- **June 24-26, 2003**
- **August 20th 2003 – Conference Call (All Committee Members)**
- **October 7-9, 2003**
- **November 25-27, 2003**
- **February 24-26, 2004**

Secretariat to include in next YSC newsletter, send to e-mail distribution list and post on YSC website.

ACTION ITEM #42-5: June Meeting Agenda to include the following items:

- **Update from YTG re: Oil and Gas development in Eagle Plains (bilateral agreement between YTG and NWT) – Angela Walkley**
- **Update on 8 commercial licences, from CYFN.**

ACTION ITEM #42-6: Secretariat to obtain agenda for World Summit on Salmon and explore the possibility of the YSC doing a presentation on their management and structure.

ACTION ITEM #42-7: Secretariat to confirm July 9th date for Faro TAC and make arrangements for Carl to attend.

5. **Members' Updates:**

• **Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) Annual Meeting – Lorelei**

- Lorelei attended meeting in February in Oregon
- Canadian side of Transboundary Panel met to develop a general proposal for all three transboundary rivers (Asek, Taku and Stikine), to present to the American Side; Canadian side requested 50% of existing fisheries for their harvest share, and anything new would also be 50/50.
- US will be getting back to the Canadian contingent prior to next meeting
- Escapement requirements are laid out within the agreement, both sides are required to allow for the escapement as agreed, by putting restrictions on existing fisheries.
- Both sides split what is available for catch (Total Allowable Catch), escapement is a joint responsibility of both sides to achieve.
- Question - Is this achievable in terms of the fisheries, is the US going to come back with some sort of argument similar to the Yukon River discussions that they have to give up some of their own fish? 98% of fish in these rivers are Canadian origin, but there are some US enhancement fish.
- Alaska is trying to remove these rivers from their other quota's (Ocean fisheries) for all their fisheries.
- PSC requires that it be a majority stock for that river, not a mixed stock for it to be removed. What is being argued is if they take it out of their big quota then it should be added to the Transboundary Rivers Quota. These parts are still being negotiated
- 50-50 split on existing fisheries if it is confirmed; US concern regarding possible cutbacks to American fisheries, Canada is not currently taking its 50%.
- Discussions on the Asek are now happening, in the past there has not been any representation from the Asek on the Transboundary Panel.

Steve Taylor joined the meeting at 11:15

- Americans argue that even though fish spawn in Canada, they are rearing in American waters.
- Question – what were the catch share in past years? There is little info available – data gaps are a problem.
- Question - Are there shares for sockeye? Not on the Asek
- The 50/50 share will be an improvement for Canada, as we have had very little harvest in the past
- Question – how was it that Lorelei became the member for the Transboundary Panel? Was the rationale that the Chair of the YSC would provide a good link? The position is not mandatory to be a YSC member, but they would be considered first.
- Previous letter submitted to Fisheries from the YSC recommending that a representative from the YSC and the Asek RRC be chosen as reps on the Transboundary Panel.

- At the Alsek Working Group, the recommendation was that someone from the Alsek should be the new rep.
- Craig explained the Gord had indicated to him that he did not want to have 2 Champagne Aishihik reps
- Carl mentioned that the committee had been working at trying to get a seat on the Panel for more than 5 years. This was also discussed with people in Atlin, Dease River and Dease Lake area.
- Want to ensure that there is a balance on the Transboundary Panel, there are now two reps for the Alsek, not sure on terms of reference on appointments.

ACTION ITEM 42-8: Amend minutes meeting #41 to make sure that Lorelei is not referenced as ‘elected’ onto the Transboundary Panel

ACTION ITEM 42-9: Secretariat to clarify terms of reference and nomination process for Transboundary Panel. Also rationale for selecting Lorelei. Clarify Gord’s role on the Panel.

- **Fish Think Tank – Lorelei**

- March 6, 2003 – The steering committee met quickly to formalize next day’s meeting.
- 7th and 8th – meeting took place
- Objective: To Streamline and standardize Yukon Fishing regulations and continue to maintain and encourage participation of Yukon resident and non-resident anglers while ensuring the conservation and protection of all fish populations and healthy aquatic systems.
- Goals: conservation, quality angling, preserve way of life, management strategies, economic value of angling, introduce the principals of respect and sharing, and Regulations must be supported by education
- Focus: angler harvest, implications of harvest, possible closures in some instances, involve public, discussion, presentations by Don Toews, Chuck Gregersen - Anglers Perspective; Glenn Babala – tacklers retailers perspective; Lodge owner perspective Hardy Ruf; Lorelei Smith- Salmon sport fishing management from YSC; a FN experience with sport fishing management – Wanita Sidney, Sport Fishing enforcement and compliance with Dan Lindsey and Tony Grabowski (YTG); Evaluation of lake trout angling trends, Management approaches and Regulations in the YT – Sue Thompson; Sport Fishing Management Science Considerations – Don Toews; 2002 Lake Trout Management Symposium, what did we learn – Sue Thompson.
- Respect and value principle; focus on regulations that can be understood by Youth - Education school curriculum re: fish management and angler harvest
- Key recommendation – barbless hooks (single or treble) by 2004
- Suggestion to work on for 2007 to aim for only single barbless hooks
- Suggested a free exchange for kids – swap treble hooks for single barbless.

- One standard throughout the territory would be easier for enforcement
- Suggested Fishing Derby to encourage new practices
- Suggested that no big fish should be kept for all species (used to be that you could keep one big fish)
- No consensus on single barbless Yukon wide

Chuck H.: raised concern re: people setting night hooks. – Set line fishing is not covered under sport regulations, possibly under subsistence fishery, a special permit is required.

- This was a brainstorming session to generate ideas for the Fish and Wildlife Management Board. There will still be a public process if there are any proposed changes to the regulations.
- Turnout from sport fishers was limited
- Did the Board have all of their questions answered at this forum? In a basic sense, yes. Idea was to look at regulations and find ways to improve understanding and compliance. Simplification/streamlining of regulations – came to the realization that our regulations are quite well understood, comparatively, but we can still make some positive improvements.
- Need to also make improvements to enforcement; the budget is low for enforcement. No recommendations came forth on the enforcement issue.

It was suggested that Gerry take the message back to the Board that increased budget for enforcement would be a worthwhile effort. It is understood that realistically we can not enforce everyone in the Yukon, so it is also important to have the public on side.

- Public attendance at these meetings continues to be a problem
- Commercial freshwater fisheries account for only 5% of catch and there is a move to get rid of the licences as they're not sustainable i.e. they are not selective.
- Suggestion that the licences be issues for other species such as Pike.
- There are a very limited # of licences currently in existence
- 95% of freshwater catch is by recreational fishers

Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:00.

Meeting re-convened at 1:37

All members present with the exception of Carl Sidney and Vicky Josie

- **Placer Regulations Briefing (L. Smith, G. Couture)**
 - Lorelei and Gerry met with Gord Zealand, Brian Bohunicky (Director, Habitat Policy and Regulatory Affairs Branch), Alex Hanke (Director of Habitat Policy and Regulatory Affairs), Richard? (Sue Farlinger, Sue Moody, Graham van Tighem on Feb. 26
 - YPC meeting that was previously scheduled to for February 26th was cancelled, not everyone was willing to come to the table at that time.

- This meeting with the DFO ministers representative took place to bring people up to speed on the status of the implementation of the new regulations.
- A meeting also took place with governments this morning and it was believed that the Minister also met with KPMA.
- They would like to see a government group formed to develop the process of bringing the new regulation in place.
- They are working with everyone to implement a lengthy transition period and phasing, site specific reviews will replace the YPA by 2007.
- The Ministers decision to implement the new regulation will not change
- Not every component will need a site specific review
- Will be grouping some site reviews into watersheds specific
- Not everyone is sitting at the table, so until everyone comes to the table they are unable to figure out a process of implementation.
- Brian Bohunicky gave the majority of the briefing on the implementation process.
- **Louise has copy of tape from meeting – need to make transcript.**

ACTION ITEM #42-10: Tape from the Feb. 26 Placer briefing will be transcribed and copies provided to all YSC members.

- May 13-14 is proposed date for new Yukon Placer Committee meeting
- Committee felt that we need to discuss further the Placer issue in this meeting as there are still outstanding issues.
- **Yukon River Panel**
 - The Joint Technical Committee report on Run Outlooks 2003 is now available.
 - Panel agreed to 28k for Chinook escapement goal, 25K for subsistence start-up
 - Run outlooks continue to look bad
 - Copy of approved R&E projects available
 - Approx. 1.2 million US\$ available
 - total of 59 projects approved, 49 of which are Canadian
 - Brief overview of Panel process provided for Frank:
 - Panel meets twice a year – manage R&E funds and make recommendations on Yukon River fisheries management for each year
 - Panel also takes care of administration
 - Basic recommendation was to work towards the an escapement goal for 28k Chinook and 65k Chum, both run forecasts are low.
 - A Strategic Plan for the R&E fund will be put together and they will be meeting in May. The Working Group will be developing this plan,
 - There was some confusion about who could attend Panel and Working Group meetings – meetings were not closed but they wanted to keep the size of these working groups manageable, that are suppose to be part of the process.
 - Need to ensure that all views are being represented in these groups. Stan raised the concern that it was difficult to have input into the process

regarding proposals that affect the Porcupine with the current structure of the group.

- **Land Use Planning Workshop (Whitehorse) – Steve Taylor**
- Biologist from Alberta discussed trout fishing in lakes and how he was monitoring populations in Northern Alberta.
 - Talked about catch and release and indicated that he had not seen any improvements or changes to populations where live release angling was practiced.
- Also discussed how land use planning should be approached – suggested that any existing salmon restrictions should be inputted automatically into the land use planning process
- Generally, workshop discussions were about the importance of a planning process and how different jurisdictions were approaching the process.
- In terms of the YSC, it is clear that salmon considerations need to be included in land use planning process.
- Land Use Planning is a very slow process, but is very important.
- YSC should look at becoming more involved in this process.
- Land Use Planning Commission has not been very active, to date.
- YSC should become more proactive in this area.
- Salmon was not specifically discussed at this meeting, focused more on lakes and lake trout.

6. Review Public Meeting Agendas

- **Whitehorse (Gold Rush Inn)**
- How will Placer be addressed if it is brought up?
 - Public Meetings are a forum for fishers – focus has to remain on management plans
 - Parties are still working together on the regulations implementation.
 - “YSC is mandated to focus on salmon and salmon habitat and the Public Meeting is specifically a forum to discuss salmon”
 - We are a public board, the public will need to contact DFO to get further information on Placer.
- Current set up is with central table at the front and rows of seating
- Pat Milligan will be presenting Management information at the public meeting, requested some clarification of what the committee wanted presented.
 - Possibly the Yukon Post Season Review which was presented in Anchorage, but recommended a shorter version for the public meeting, which would include a brief information sheet on the Alsek and one for the Yukon River with the returns for 2002, average returns and the forecasts for 2003
 - Suggested that short and simple is better
- Pat will bring more detail to meeting and can provide it if people ask for it, as well copies of the Yukon River Joint Technical Committee Report for 2002 and the Transboundary Technical Committee report which contains information for the Alsek.

- Better to not go into too much detail, so people will maintain interest.
Will not be presenting the whole IFMP presentation will keep it simple.
- Very simple handouts, single page per system
- Pat is DFO's key person for the Yukon River, for other areas the key people are out of the office, but Pat will look for info and will familiarise himself with the plans and projects that may come up for discussion.
- A few changes were made to the wording of the agenda
- **Steve Smith to explain changes to boundaries and regulations**
- Who from the YSC will be attending the public meeting? All but Lorelei, Vicky and Stan
- Catch Card Program – should be some explanation of proposed changes to the program. Craig will go over the revisions to the card.
- Door prize will be given out again this year, Craig to draw names
- Will members of KPMA or pro mining advocates likely be in attendance?
Need to have answers that the committee is in agreement to.
 - All Yukon Salmon Committee members have individual opinions on YPA issue, but we have to be prepared to stick to our mandate and stand behind our position and explain the YSC position to the public
 - YSC is in favour of a proper consultative process
 - Craig will clarify that the meeting is focused on IFMPs
 - Craig will also clarify that the YSC's mandate is to protect salmon and salmon habitat
 - YSC will be discussing Placer issues during their meetings
 - YSC also needs to sort out some internal issues re: Placer
 - YSC has a long history of their position re: Placer, and we should stick to it
 - Joel White indicated that there would likely be questions on the YSC's position re: the Minister's decision
 - Chair issued a press release following the Minister's announcement. This Press Release summarized 2 years of discussions within the YSC and our established position during the 2 years.
 - Steve Taylor indicated that the Press Release was not agreed on
 - Board and Committee both have a mandate to make recommendations, but the Minister has the final decision. Mandates of Board and Committee are clear and we have to protect fish and wildlife
 - Why would the YSC, after participating in the Yukon Placer Committee process which came up with a set of recommendations, sit back when the recommendations were tossed? Why would they then agree with the minister's decision? This is where people are getting upset.
 - The perception is that DFO has not provided the public with enough information on how this decision will be implemented. Because there is no further information, the blanks are being filled

in by public speculation. No further information will be issued until the YPC can meet.

- What did the YSC recommend to the Minister after they took part in the review? The YSC supported the recommendations with the conditions that there needs to be an implementation plan, and that they wouldn't support an authorization that wasn't legal. If the Minister couldn't meet those conditions, then the YSC couldn't support the revised authorization.
- Public perception is that DFO has been remiss in their responsibility to inform major stakeholders.
- Presentation of approved R&E projects (copy of project list to be available)
- **Dawson (April 8th Public Meeting)**
 - Presentation similar format as the Whitehorse Public meeting
 - Presentation of approved R&E projects
 - Harvest Study? Need to verify with ME Jarvis
 - Catch Card Update:
 - more recreational fishing happening on the Klondike
 - Gerry suggested a discussion on sport fishing practices on the Klondike, where salmon are being pulled right off the spawning grounds. This is a concern as the fish are being pulled right of the redds.
 - Add to Agenda discussion on Recreational Fishery on the Klondike River – Gerry to lead discussion.
 - Need to ensure that C&P is present to discuss enforcement
 - Trondek Hwechin Heritage Hall is the location for public meeting, recommended either the Heritage Hall or the Heritage Center
 - meeting starts at 9 a.m. on the 8th
 - Heritage Hall may be able to help arrange catering
 - Advertise:
 - Targeted letter to be sent to each individual Commercial Fisher
 - Newspaper in Dawson – check publication dates
 - Yukon News
 - Posters, YSC members and work with Dawson RRC
 - YSC members attending: Lorelei, Gerry, Steve, Frank (Carl and Craig need to confirm availability)

ACTION ITEM #42-11: For Dawson Public Meeting, Secretariat to complete the following:

- **advertise in Yukon News and local Paper;**
- **book Heritage Hall;**
- **individual letters to all commercial fishers;**
- **Invitation letters to RRC, THFN and Yukon River Commercial Fisher's Association;**
- **Co-ordinate with RRC;**
- **Distribute posters via YSC members;**

- **Arrange for DFO staff from C&P and HEB to attend to answer questions;**
- **Include agenda item on Klondike River Recreational Fishery;**
 - **Old Crow (April 9th, Public Meeting)**
 - Stan suggested that YSC review the info provided by DFO and make recommendations on what types of run escapements are more realistic for the current run strength, that are more achievable for Fishing Branch
 - Concerns expressed that the run is way below the current limit point
 - The US is looking into options for a rebuilding plan for the Sheenjek and the Porcupine Rivers as part of the Panel meeting discussions.
 - Are there copies of the latest information on the radio telemetry studies on Chinook? Yes.

ACTION ITEM #42-12: Secretariat to collect latest info on the radio telemetry studies, and any supporting maps that are available.

- Discussion from the Working Group to have a workshop combined in conjunction with the RRC
- YSC still wants drop in to go ahead

ACTION ITEM #42-13: For Old Crow Public Meeting, Secretariat to coordinate informal information session during the afternoon with info on approved R&E projects.

- Have both session in the Community Hall
- Bertha Frost or Mary Tizya to cook food
- Lorelei to attend. If we have \$ in Budget and Craig is available, he will also attend the OC Meeting.
- Advertising – General Store, CHON FM, new radio station (contact Vicky)
- Posters to Stan and Vicky as well to the RRC to distribute around the community

ACTION ITEM #42-14: Old Crow Public Meeting – Secretariat to arrange the following:

- **location Community Hall;**
- **Contact community members to arrange for dinner;**
- **Advertise via General Store, CHON, Yukon News, new radio station;**
- **Posters to YSC members and RRC for distribution.**

- **Haines Junction (Public meeting held in conjunction with the RRC)**
 - Add to agenda:
 - Enforcement and changes to Dalton Post
 - Yukon River - include as an optional item, only discuss if there is an interest, otherwise information handout
 - Transboundary Panel
 - Catch Card

- Focus should be on the Alsek River, bring information handout on the Yukon River
- RRC will be doing an open house during the day
- Request about 2 hours from the RRC and try to be at beginning of agenda
- Concern that Placer will take over the meeting and shut down the other discussions – YSC has been asked to provide minutes from Whitehorse Public Meeting to Haines Junction RRC
- RRC suggested that meeting be held at Conference centre
 - YSC approved the conference centre for meeting location
- Re: sending minutes to RRC - need to advise RRC of amount of time that the Public Meeting takes. Unable to provide Minutes, as they need to be approved through regular process, Craig and Hardy can update the RRC on how the public proceedings went in the interim.
- Some of the RRC's have recorded a better turn out at meetings, if the draw prizes are worth coming out for. Does the committee want to consider doing this to increase the turn out for their public meeting? Strategic planning process will determine if we want to spend \$ in future on really good door prizes.

ACTION ITEM #42-15: Haines Junction Public Meeting - with details of above. Secretariat to arrange the following:

- **Add to agenda item on Enforcement and changes to Dalton Post boundaries;**
- **Focus on the Alsek River, bring handout on the Yukon River**
- **Continue to co-ordinate with RRC re: logistics.**

7. IFMP Public Consultations – Yukon River Working Group

- **Update on Carmacks Community Meeting**
 - Lorelei Smith, Steve Taylor and Gerry Couture attended meeting in Carmacks – started well, but the FN was concerned that the meeting was a consultation meeting not a information meeting
 - Discussion of IFMP issues did not get far because of the issue of what is consultation?
 - A representative from the Chief and Council stated that they were ready to close the meeting down, because they didn't want to be in a position that the meeting was considered consultation
 - Chief came to the meeting, the meeting was then closed or finished
 - There are many concerns within the community about the nature of the consultation
 - Carmacks and Pelly both have Traditional Law that lays out a process of what constitutes consultation with each First Nation
 - Handing out a piece of paper is often perceived as a finalized plan, not a working document
 - Issues that did come up were:
 - Removal of the campground at Tatchun
 - Did not like graph that showed Carmacks as major user of the resource

- Some of the Yukon Communities have shown a preference for working with a facilitator when consulted on issues concerning their resources. This is a very costly form of consulting and not all FN communities are in agreement of this format.
- **Update on Pelly IFMP Community Meeting**
 - Lorelei Smith, Gerry Couture and Steve Taylor attending IFMP meeting in Pelly
 - Meeting was very similar to Carmacks meeting, wanted to call it a information meeting
 - Also concerned about consultation vs. information
 - RRC attendee (Dorothy Bradley)
 - Pelly has meeting in the spring with whole community, need to try and get on this agenda.
 - Having a fish gathering meeting week of May 3rd
 - Fish Gathering Meeting would be a good opportunity to talk to all the Northern Tutchone First Nations
- **Update on Whitehorse IFMP Community Meeting**
 - Carl Sidney, Gerry Couture, Lorelei Smith and Steve Taylor attended IFMP meeting in Whitehorse
 - Meeting in Whitehorse went well, Resource Managers for the other FN communities, are in the process of developing their own management plans if they haven't already done so.
 - Some of the Resource people from FN would like to be able to come together as the larger group
 - Teslin is pushing for the larger Working Group at the political level, other FN don't necessarily all agree with the larger group process
 - The Salmon committee have two conflicting requests from FN communities regarding the form of consultation
 - Previously there were problems with communication of information from representatives of the working group back to the larger community and First Nation.
- **Concerns with Yukon River IFMP Process**
 - Information was provided to the First Nation in advance, but the majority communities do not seem as if they were prepared for the meeting.
 - Need to re-involve the community members in the management process, and ensure that the information gets to the internal FN process and workings.
 - Need to re-build trust, with the community and governments (ie. Elders have had nets cut up for not marking nets) If a facilitator will help build the trust within communities, then we may need to consider that the facilitator may be the way to go for communities as needed.
 - Consistent problems with getting decision-makers to meetings

- Need to possibly look at pairing a few communities together that affect each other i.e. Mayo, Pelly, Selkirk and Ross River as one group and Dawson, Little Salmon Carmacks, Kwanlin Dun, Ta'an and Teslin.
- Should we bring the larger group back together to try to make decisions?
- We need to have some sort of forum for all FN to discuss this whether it be as groups or all together.

- Need to start looking at a radio telemetry project to find origins of mixed stocks, to help determine number of fish from Pelly, Stewart etc., possibly funded through the R&E funding.
- Need to ensure that the Traditional Knowledge is incorporated into management planning, where the spawning areas and numbers are.

- Need to make some decisions re: the best long-term approach for meeting with the FN on development of the fish management plans
 - Do we have the funding to start working on the process this year?
 - Possibly have a facilitated session or forum with FN's to come up with a long-term plan, give options or suggestions.
 - Ensure that FN are also requested to contribute in the development of the process.
 - Possibly do larger forum with individual community follow up, so that we can help the resource staff in the communities get the information down to the decision makers.
 - To build trust, we should probably address the leadership, so that direction can be given to FN resources staff as to the best approach and so it is also prioritized within the First Nation
 - There is a perception that YSC is too closely tied to DFO and there is distrust of consultations involving DFO
 - Idea of a facilitated session with Yukon River First Nations would be worthwhile, this is a long term process, emphasis would not necessarily be for this year but for following.
 - Getting people to the table remains a challenge
 - Need to first get the Leadership on side at CYFN - would not need DFO for this, this is more a political discussion. Make sure we have good time on the agenda
 - Will likely only have a few minutes to make your case, so presentation will be key.
 - What type of presentation to the Leadership?
 - Need to provide background on the YSC to leadership
 - Need to outline the fact that we need to have effective management on the Yukon River
 - All affected FN's need to be involved and they have to be prepared to take part in the development of those management plans.
 - Clarify that each FN will be making their own management plans on how they will be managing their own fisheries, in coordination with other FN's on the river.

- Most FNs have traditional knowledge salmon management plans in place; the FNs now need to incorporate scientific knowledge into their plans. (Run sizes, expectations and numbers required in the rivers.)
- Turnover of FN technical staff has been a huge problem – we spend a lot of time educating FN staff and then there is a change of staff and we're back to square one.
- YSC has been trying to talk to Leadership for years, but has not had much success. The Leadership has different priorities right now at the Leadership meeting; chances are we will get bumped off the agenda again.
- YSC members need to talk with FN technical/resource staff and directors – there are problems when non-FN go into some of the communities. Explain that a plan needs to be developed so that other FN down the river can also get fish.
- Need to develop appropriate briefing package that is understandable to lay people, and specific to their traditional territory. Should include number of salmon on their spawning ground, number of salmon passing through their area, harvest level and conservation point, along with a number of options.
- Should include FN staff and community members with an interest in the resource
- Leadership meeting is May 27 – also try to get Minutes from Last leadership meeting:

ACTION ITEM #42-16: Carl Sidney to obtain Minutes from last leadership meeting.

- Recommended that Steve Taylor coordinate meetings with the Yukon River First Nations. Carl to assist with discussions, as he has the experience with the Teslin FN management plan.

ACTION ITEM #42-17: Steve Taylor to coordinate meetings with Yukon River First Nations, with the objective of coming together to come up with a planning process for consultations on, and development of, the Yukon River IFMP. Other alternate committee members to assist are Frank, Carl, Craig.

- Could talk to CAFN to gather their experience on how they came up with a plan and a process, what they needed from their leadership
- Briefing would be delivered verbally – should contain role, mandate, composition etc. of YSC. Format should be simple, straightforward, and easily understandable. Include partners. Yukon River Treaty background. Include some visual aids, one page. Explain why there is the need to develop the management plans in each FN traditional territory so that there is a sharing of the resource as it goes up the river.
- Would be effective to involve CAFN and show the example of how another FN developed their management plan. Maybe Chuck go along to explain CAFN or one of CAFNs resource people.

ACTION ITEM #42-18: Secretariat to develop a briefing package for First Nations on Integrated Fisheries Management Planning. Package to be reviewed by all YSC members and completed by April 1.

ACTION ITEM #42-19: Secretariat to develop a brochure which explains the mandate, composition, roles etc. of the YSC.

- What other important issues are outstanding? Negotiation of Basic Needs Allocation, outstanding commercial licences etc. Should these be brought forward during these discussions?
- Important to have FN committee members meeting with each FN, so there is some trust. Committee members' role is to listen and gather information from each FN regarding the IFMP process, and bring it back to the whole committee so that the whole committee can address the problems that we are having with developing the IFMP with each community on the YR.
- Need to have a written summary completed for each meeting with FN's.
- Some concerns and misconceptions were raised with the basic needs allocation, and a need for clarification to FN of the process.
- What is the time frame for this? Scheduling is an issue.
- Hard to determine is how much time you need to get the message across. Do we need a few hours or a few days with each FN, each FN is different? At least one week, most likely more. Need to include Mayo, Dawson, Pelly, Carmacks, Ta'an, Kwanlin Dun, Ross River, White River, Carcross and Teslin.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Tuesday March 18, 2003 9:00 a.m.
Location: Large Boardroom, DFO/Water Board – 419 Range Road

Meeting was called to order at 9:05.
Frank Paterson began with an opening prayer.
All members present with the exception of Vicky and Lorelei.

8. Budget Review – Louise Naylor

- **Current 2002-03 and planned expenditures to year end**
 - LN reviewed the current year budget – there is approximately 4.8k left to spend, this must be spent by March 31, 2003 or it goes back to the Receiver General.
 - Suggested printing costs for brochure and as well as professional design
 - Suggested purchase of more promotional items and office supplies
 - Could pre-register for World Summit on Salmon,

ACTION ITEM #42-20: Lorelei and Craig to be registered for the World Summit on Salmon, from the current year's budget.

ACTION ITEM #42-21: YSC authorized LN to expend any remaining budget from 2002 – 2003 on office supplies, promotional materials etc.

World Summit on Salmon:

- Carl suggested that the YSC make a presentation at the Summit on the YSC's mandate, roles, composition etc.
 - Info on R&E fund, Yukon Panel etc.
 - This might not be the forum for this
 - See Action Item #42-6.
- **Draft Budget for 2003-04**
 - Need to include one additional meeting, a week of YSC member expenses for consultation with FN on the IFMP process with 4-5 members and associated costs, may need to amend based on total cost.
 - Include costs of two members attending the World Summit on Salmon.
 - Draft budget approved with above changes.

ACTION ITEM #42-22: Budget to be amended to reflect new meeting schedule and commitments to FN consultations re: IFMP.

9. Placer Issues YSC:

- There are a number of issues that need to be discussed within the YSC
 - Craig asked the YSC if they want to have this session in-camera or allow members of the public to be present.
 - It was noted that in a previous meeting of the YSC, some of the Placer Issues were held in-camera, and these discussions were going to be part of today's discussions.
 - Frank Paterson, Gerry Couture, Carl Sidney, Chuck Hume, Steve Taylor, Hardy Ruf, and Stan Njootli, indicated that they were comfortable keeping the discussions open to the public
 - Concern was raised that the Chair was not present and they were uncomfortable discussing the press release without her present.
- Stan indicated that some past discussions have taken place that should be closed to the public or in-camera, as they are on confidential matters or recommendations to the minister and because they may affect individuals or organizations if they were released to the public. The committee should continue to have in-camera sessions as needed, if the information being discussed is confidential or personal.

Carl Sidney Contract re: YPA

- It was brought to the attention of the YSC the Carl Sidney had accepted a contract from YTG to act as a liaison to First Nations re: Placer Authorization
- There is a concern that this is a conflict of interest
- Carl indicated that he thought that contracts were private business and not for discussion within the committee.

- The First Nations were working on a Mining Symposium and the purpose of the contract was to see if there was First Nation support for the mining symposium
- Some concerns were brought forward from an outside source to the attention of Lorelei Smith and Gord Zealand, which is why the issue was being brought before the YSC now.
- Craig noted that each member is nominated to the YSC, and they bring experience to the committee. Members are still entitled to have personal opinions, and they do not need to mimic their Mandate of UFA in their personal lives.
- Issue is, is Carl in conflict?
 - Should Carl have notified the Committee of this contract?
 - Stan asked for clarification of what Carl is doing. Craig distributed copies of the contract under question.
 - The contract was: *‘To provide the Yukon Government with advice on First Nation views on the Yukon Placer Authorization and the decision by the Federal Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to eliminate this arrangement.’*
 - *“To provide a liaison between the Yukon Government and First Nation Governments on an appropriate and cooperative response to the Federal government on the future of the Yukon Placer Authorization.”*
- SN - Most YSC members have at least some form of perceived conflict. No matter where committee members are in the Yukon they are influencing a decision on salmon and salmon programs, especially if they are voting on issues or agreeing on consensus.
- HR – all of us are in a mild sort of conflict of interest sitting on the committee. Hardy owns a fishing lodge, Gerry involved with commercial fishing, FN members are involved in subsistence fishery, what brings us together is our interest in salmon. It would be harmful if a person of this committee took out a contract to enrich themselves. Need to be aware, that about half of the committee members were or are involved in mining. As long as we are not doing it to enrich ourselves and our work on the committee is to work for the salmon and salmon habitat, all YSC members share a common interest in salmon.
- CH – Agrees with Hardy, does not want to start finger pointing, Carl’s contract is his private affair. We are here basically for the salmon resource, the best habitat made available, and it may have been in conflict also with the mining community, but some where down the road we are go to come to a measure where both sides are going to come out to the good. Any consulting work or other work is a private matter and we should leave it at that.
- YSC needs to remember its mandate
- ST - refused to discuss the matter. He believes it should not be before the Committee.

- It was clarified that another Board or Committee brought this issue to the attention of a YSC member. The chair after discussion with Gordon Zealand then brought the issue to the attention of YSC.
- CS – felt this discussion was an invasion of his privacy
- FP – felt that this discussion should not be on the table, as it was Carls own business. There were a lot of personal issues on the table over the last few days and felt that they were destroying the committee and it was interfering with the YSC conducting its business.
- GC - indicated that he did have a problem with this contract. Gerry advised that he often does take contracts himself, but he is very careful that there is no appearance of conflict of interest or he moves away from the subject or issues that may be perceived as being in conflict. It is unfortunate that this conversation is taking place in an open session; it could have taken place in an in-camera meeting. Problem is where the date of contract is after the YSC took a stance re: the Yukon Placer Authorization (YPA). Subject of the contract was YPA. The issuer (YTG) of the contract has a definite view on the YPA. There is the appearance that YTG is hiring a member of the YSC who has a different view; **there is an appearance of conflict here.** YSC and YTG have conflicting stances on YPA. This could have been alleviated if the conflict was declared or addressed right from the start. Now there is a definite appearance of conflict
- YSC may need to look at developing guidelines on how we deal with conflict of interest, or just taken as lesson learned in this case.
- It is very difficult to deal with an issue like this, when someone gets money from someone for doing something, the public wants to know why and the public begins to question.
- This contract undermines the credibility of the YSC
- Maybe the YSC can just take this as a lesson learned, but there is no denying the fact that there is a definite appearance of conflict.
- ST - asked that this issue be tabled until another meeting.
- FP - Agreed that this should not be discussed until Lorelei is present.
- Does the YSC want to hear Lorelei's perspective? Yes – the YSC would like to hear the full story.
- SN – from experience on other committee's and boards regarding conflict of interest guidelines should look at fairly conservative guidelines.
- This issue needs to be dealt with at the Committee level
- Should the Secretariat gather information re: existing conflict of interest guidelines? Yes

ACTION ITEM #42-23: Secretariat to research existing Conflict of Interest Guidelines and present to YSC at next meeting for review and development of Conflict of Interest Policy.

March 17, 2003 Public Meeting Review:

- One of the better meeting turn outs to the committee public meeting.
- CM - asked for feedback from the Committee on how he chaired the meeting and the responses he gave to the public in particular the response to the Placer

Authorization. The committee had decide previously that this public meeting was not going to be the forum to discuss the YPA, and when the issue was brought up Craig did answer some questions, but made it clear that he was answering from his own point of view and not for the whole committee. He had a change of opinion at the meeting and felt that the committee needed to hear the public's view.

- FP - commended Craig on his handling of questions, and felt that he was quite up front. Made it clear to the public that YSC have a mandate and they have to follow it.
- CM - indicated to the public that if the YSC were having information briefings on issues related to placer, habitat etc. they would extend the invitation and notify the other groups. Should the YSC go out of their way to invite specific people, and if so, who?
- GC - felt that Craig did well, considering that we were opening up the floor for a question that we were not prepared for. Felt that we owed the public an explanation with our side of the story. Committee members are assigned positions, sometimes these positions get difficult and the rest of the committee do not have all the information and details.
- ST – felt that what happened with the press release is very damaging to our credibility, we need to make it know to the public that the members here were not part of this new release. This news release was made by the Chair without consultation and without any participation of the YSC members. What is the committee's future because of this news release? he speculated that our credibility in the communities with the public has been severely damaged. Felt that it is important that the committee demonstrates to the public that we are prepared to do serious things to ensure that this does not happen again. He felt that the chair should resign, and/or send an open letter to the public that this news release was done without the committee participation, due to the damage that was done from the December 17th news release. And one way or another he will let the public know that he was not behind the news release and he had nothing to do with the news release. If this release had come to the table prior to release there was no way that he would have supported it. Because the backlash is too great from the communities. Felt that there were people that didn't want to rectify the situation; they just want to look for ways to get out of it.
- A question raised at the Public Meeting was: Is the YSC was going to issue another press release that was going to deal with the December 17th press release? Craig requested clarification from the committee, on a previous decision from the January meeting in-camera. Did the committee decide not to issue another press release because it was going to be more damaging? Yes the committee did decide not to have another press release, it was felt that at that time that it would be more damaging. Some committee members have changed their opinions since that meeting and now feel that the public should be given an explanation.
- CS - noted that this is a salmon committee issue and DFO staff were not to be part of this discussion.

- GC - LS consulted with him on what should go into the Press Release – he suggested that she look into the minutes for the past two years, which clearly stated the YSC's position re: YPA negotiations, along with the recommendations that the committee sent to the minister on the YPA in relation to the minister's decision. Suggested that she estimate where the salmon committee would stand given that information. Press Release was written based on information the YSC had already discussed and agreed to over the past two years.
- SN – requested that when a comment is made on the conduct of a member that the session should be made in-camera. Or we should no longer talk about it. Lorelei is not here to defend her actions.

Discussion closed

- CM – another question rose last night – Did the committee support the ministers decision prior to his press release? In a meeting previous to press release the committee decided and gave instruction to the chair on the content of a letter sent to the Minister in October; the committee clearly stated its position in regards to the YPA report package sent to the minister, the letter clearly stated that the committee only supported the package if certain conditions were met.
- FP – in his past experience with other committees, the whole committee was involved in the press release. Also the papers include a lot of information that is not accurate.
- CM – the operating procedures were revised at the last meeting to incorporate the press release procedure, committee members should review the changes.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 for lunch. Meeting was re-convened at 1:35 p.m.
Steve Taylor not present.

- Copies of the letters sent to the minister on the YPA were provided to the committee for their information,
- Members asked if they knew if Steve Taylor would return? Uncertain.
- Members asked if there were any concerns re: the budget projections for 2003-2004. See under budget.

Continuation of Placer Issues...

- CM - recommended that any outstanding issues re: members actions should be discussed in-camera
- Committee asked to focus on answering the questions that were put to them at the Public Meeting in Whitehorse, these questioned need answers by the end of the day for the Dawson Public meeting.
- CM - Concerned about internal politics and past history within the YSC, debates on what the YSC is, their mandates, members issues, conflicts of interest, Craig asked that the YSC sort out their internal problems within the Committee. We should discuss our in-house concerns when all YSC members are present and in-camera. These discussions should not be open to the public, the committee need to consider their image in the public eye.

- Purpose of Public Meetings is to provide information to the public.
- CM - At the Whitehorse Public Meeting it was very difficult to answer questions as the YSC is not united as a whole.
- The YSC agreed as a Committee to focus on the IFMPs at the Public Meeting
- HR – requested clarification from the committee members on if the YSC is going to come up with a statement on the Dec 17 press release, as this was one of the main questions from the public meeting.
- Committee felt that there is a need for a statement and it should be developed prior to the Dawson public meeting.
- Do we develop it now or have an in-camera session?
- GC - The YSC needs to establish its position regarding the Placer Authorization; it is recommended that Joel (KPMA) be present for these discussions if we go in-camera.
- CS – disagreed with going in-camera. Felt there were some things happening prior to the press release that some individuals knew about. This is a public board and the public should be allowed to hear about how everything happened with the press release.
- CM – clarified that he wanted to come to a decision on the YPA, but all the other internal relations and back stabbing should not be for public discussion.
- There have been changes of opinion within the YSC since the Minister’s announcement, due to recent events.

ACTION ITEM #42-24: The YSC needs to issue a press release clarifying the original Press Release re: the Minister’s decision on the YPA.

- CS – recommended that future public meetings in Whitehorse be held during the day.
- **Q** – Did the Yukon Salmon Committee use the same process that CYFN used before making their decision to support the minister’s decision? CYFN took a month to determine their response to the Minister’s decision; did the YSC have a similar process before they released their response? NO.
 - We were involved in the YPA mediation process, and were aware that there were a great deals of problems with the Authorization. After mediation, the YPC came out with a report that we supported conditionally: that the Minister provided \$ for all the special studies that needed to be done – otherwise the authorization would not provide an adequate protection to fish and fish habitat.
 - There was a question of legality raised on the YPA – The Minister did not answer. One of the conditions of the YSC’s support was that the document had to be legal.
 - If all the \$’s were not provided, as per the report recommendations, the new recommended Authorization would not work.
 - The Minister decided to get rid of the old Authorization and go to a new form of site-specific authorization; and review existing information and go to a new effluent standard.
 - Sciences referred to in the Minister’s release – Birtwell, Seakem, and Bradford. In earlier negotiations and development of the YPA (1992)

decisions were made despite the science that advised that existing standards were not acceptable for fish, effluent standards in excess of 100mg were detrimental to fish. Current science also confirms this.

- There are multiple studies demonstrating the harm of the placer industry
- Earlier authorization decisions were very political, even though the scientific information showed differently
- The minister requested that the YPC review the continuing need for deferrals under their review of previous authorization. The YPC refused to deal with a review.
- Total bill for implementing the new Placer report was \$1.3 million over 3 years period
- Support of YPC recommendations from the Salmon committee was conditional on all the money being supplied and that the authorization is legal. The YSC did not initially request a phase out of the YPA.
- KPMA wonders why the YSC was so quick to support the Minister's scrapping of the Authorization, when they felt that the process had been consultative and the recommendations had been agreed to.
- The YSC had always been very clear that their support was conditional. Industry should not have been surprised by the YSC's support of something that was better for fish and fish habitat.
- The Chair, when developing the Press Release in support of the Minister, felt that she had the support of the YSC, based on everything that had happened in past meetings of the YSC.
- There may have been some problems with the YSC's process regarding the Press Release. This is now fixed. We need to move forward.
- KPMA made a presentation to the YSC, as well the committee has received a presentation from Ian Birtwell.
 - Joel (KPMA) - Would the Yukon Salmon Committee consider another presentation from industry on fish science that Industry is basing their decisions on? Yes
- Summary of YSC Press Release – The Chair made her decision based on what she felt the YSC mandate was, our mandate is to manage fish and fish habitat. The Chair knew the history of the mediation that had gone on during the YPA review; she was in the room at the time of the mediations. The Chair felt that she had the support of the committee, over the last two years the committee had been supporting better protection of fish and fish habitat. The wording of the press release was that the minister had decided on a new and better way, the committee can support that based on our mandate for better protection of fish and fish habitat. Some committee members call the press release a mistake, or there was a difficulty in the process. The committee now has a process in place that requires that before a press release is issued the majority of members need to be consulted.
- What is the Committees position? We need good protection of fish and fish habitat and we need a mining industry, lets find a way to do both. A letter has been sent to the minister from the YSC recommending that we need protection of fish and fish habitat and we need the mining industry it is important and peoples lives are at stake. We develop a process that the

mining industry is fully consulted, and given the help it needs to meet these new standards and stay in existence.

- The old YPA was supposed to protect fish and fish habitat, but it did not protect it adequately.

Questions on Placer from the Whitehorse Public Meeting: Some answers were supplied at the public meeting and some were clarified at the committee meeting the following day.

Q - Did the YSC make a decision before the Minister's announcement? No

Legality of the Authorization. The Minister indicated that he was not going to comment on this issue. Yukon Conservation Society had left the table because they had questions on the legality of the authorization and Sierra Legal agreed with them. A member of the public made the comment that in one of the minister's letter/announcements the minister had said that at no time was legality of the YPA a problem.

Q – Is it the Yukon Salmon Committee policy to consulting with Sierra Legal Defence on issues? We have no direct involvement at all with the Sierra Legal in relation to this, on a previous occasion the committee asked someone to check with Sierra Legal defence on their thoughts on whether or not the cleanup of the Faro mine was taking place on a reasonable schedule.

Q – When the YSC endorsed the Minister's chucking of the YPA, does that mean the YSC agrees with the sediment discharge level of 25mg?

The YSC does not have an opinion on specifics. Generally speaking the committee are in favour of better protection for fish and fish habitat. YSC is looking for standards that effectively protect fish and habitat and that are defended/supported by science. Specifics such as this are for the Placer Committee to work out or through the consultative process.

Q - Is it fair to interpret that the YSC would like to convert all Class IV streams into salmon streams? No, the letter to the minister states that we believe in consultation, we believe in the process where YTG, KPMA, FN Governments and main stake holders are working with DFO. The committee is looking towards other responsible authorities that are directly involved in this decision and how it plays out in the Yukon.

Q – What technical information did the YSC use in making their recommendation to the minister and what is the science that the recommendation was based on?

- Birtwell, and all accompanying studies. All were made available to the Placer Committee.

Q – Didn't the Placer Committee make their decision, based on all the same information, and make their recommendations? Yes

Q – The letter the committee was referring to, is that their Feb 26th 2003 letter? No, the letter the committee is referring to is the letter previous to the minister’s decision.

Q – Clarification on the last sentence of the 2nd paragraph of Feb. 26 letter. “The data accumulated by Fisheries and Oceans on the effects of sediments on Salmon and their habitat must reach the larger community in order to support your decision”? Education to the public is essential on what the minister’s decision is based on. DFO needs a communications strategy to make sure that people understand why the decision was made.

Q – In my experience as a mining engineer and many other technical peoples experience, some of the provisions that have been suggested by DFO are technically unattainable; could the YSC be persuaded to reconsider the 25 mg standard? Would the salmon committee be open to presentations from other parties or scientific sources and opinions from other sources such as the diamond inspector or from KPMA or other scientific sources? Yes, the YSC is open to flexibility in standards, providing they provide adequate support to salmon and salmon habitat.

Q – Was there another agenda or were there other studies that were being conducted that were put forth to the Minister to base his decision on? No. All the scientific studies were made available to the YPC.

Q - Member of the public requested a summary of the YSC’s concerns regarding the old Yukon Placer Authorization. (No answer provided at public meeting)

- 2 major areas of concern – standards for effluent going into streams and the principle and process of deferrals and the way it was working.
- Spawning habitat was well protected dealt with in the YPA (although it could be deferred in multiple areas down the same stream and some deferrals were not coming off). Rearing habitat was the problem.

Q – Is the YSC doing any specific studies comparing the reasons for the low returns in the Porcupine and the Yukon River Basin, is there any difference in the reasons for the two? There is a basic monitoring program on the Porcupine, but no studies have been done on the water quality to see if changes have taken place. Consensus within the Fish biologist and technician both from the US and BC, changes from 1998 are there because the marine environment. No funding is available to do studies at this time. I.e. The Chum spawn off the main Yukon in areas such as the Kluane River, but as far as Pat Milligan is aware they are not spawning in areas that are mined.

Q – There use to be a figure that identified the percent of potential habitat that the Salmon have available versus the habitat that is actually being utilized, does DFO have that figure? Chinook salmon spawn in over 100 systems, despite the low returns over that last few years. We are still finding new spawning areas, the only reason why Chinook may not use a system is because there may be some sort of

migration barrier. Not sure of the actual percentage of habitat they are using in terms of the potential available. Salmon key in on areas because of ground water and egg casing from previous spawning populations etc...

Q - Does the 3% of habitat that placer mining occupy really impact salmon? This question is better answered by one of DFO's habitat technicians.

(Answer from YSC March 18th)

- We have 3 major watersheds which have been impacted by mining to the degree that we don't think that it is productive fish habitat (Sixty Mile, Indian, Klondike and Forty Mile)
- Fish and gold often go together, we are putting salmon at risk
- The impact of deferral has downstream effects on salmon, especially in Type IV streams.
- This would be a good one for DFO-HEB to address, the impacts are such that habitat should address as they deal with industry and habitat.

Q – What are your people's thoughts on a stream that has been placer mined, and then gone back to nature? Pat M. – I have not done that type of study. Gerry Couture – some studies have been done, and the prognosis is not good. The data and the studies available indicate that it takes the streams a long time for the streams to return to health after it has been broken up. The length of time is not identified.

– Some members of the public had other data that indicate that studies done on 3 creeks have shown different information the Salmon go further up stream and in more abundance, ie Vancouver creek, Scroggie Walhalla System, and Britannia Creek. There are other examples of creeks in California that have improved quality of the spawning. As well Thistle Creek that was dredged back in the 40's now has an abundance of grayling. In the areas along the Indian River which have been extensively mined; there were quite a series of settling ponds, now there are lakes that are known as one of the better grayling spawning areas. There were conflicting facts and opinions presented on the effects of mining on Habitat.

- Important at public meetings to let people express their opinions and present their anecdotal evidence. At Dawson meeting, it is important that an expert from HEB be there to field technical questions.

See ACTION ITEM #42-11.

- Question from Chuck Tobin – Process aside, Lorelei acted in good faith, we set up a new process to ensure that this won't happen again, the committee believes in full consultation. Does the YSC support the Minister's decision to phase out the YPA and replace it with a method of regulating industry?
 - A – The YSC is at odds and will issue a press release to clarify this.

Why does the YSC feel that the YPA is not protecting fish and fish habitat?

ACTION ITEM #42–25: Secretariat to draft a list of FAQs (based on questions from the Whitehorse Public Meeting and other concerns) and the YSC’s responses to them.

- There was a letter from the DFO Minister to Al Kapy (Chair - YPC), which discusses possible implementation processes.
- No one has agreed to anything yet, there are just options to be considered.
- Possible questions that may arise in Dawson are: Does the YSC still support their Chair? This needs to be firmly established. YSC needs to unite. Chair acted in good faith. Error was in YSC’s lack of process re: issuance of Press Releases
- Attitude in Dawson might be much more aggressive than in Whitehorse – it can be very intimidating. We are going there in good faith; need to be clear that YSC members are doing their jobs. Committee needs to be prepared for hostility
- Want to have a civilized discussion in Dawson so that we can be productive
- Does the committee want to consider a possibility of a Facilitator? Who ever is chairing needs to set some Ground Rules for discussion?
- Need for a longer post-season review, due to the fact that there are a lot of commercial fishers. The outlooks for 2003 need to be included.
- IFMP needs to be dealt with in more detail than in Whitehorse Public meeting
- Might be wise to separate the meeting out into a Placer section
- Remember that the YSC is here to protect the salmon
- Committee needs to ensure that we do our consultations at these meeting regarding the IFMP.
- YSC needs to submit an answer to the December press release.

10. Update on YSC Funding – Andrea Wilson / Louise Naylor

- Andrea provided a brief review of DFO’s new Policy on Honoraria. Effective April 1, 2003 *all honoraria payments* must be by virtue of a *service contract* written in accordance with the Government Contracts Regulations
- Corporate Services contracting staff will co-ordinate and assist field staff with the set up of blanket service contracts (up to 10K each) to cover honoraria for all commission, council, board and committee members
- This will provide government with a paper trail for honoraria payments, and will also bring the policy in line with current Treasury Board standards, and DFO’s need for open and fair contracting practices.
- This change will not have an impact on payment of YSC members.
- Louise will be setting up the service contracts in the next 2 weeks.

11. Tatchun Creek Campground signage – Review and Approval of Wording

- Bev Brown submitted a request for permission to put the YSC logo on the sign, which will be put at the Tatchun campground
- Also requested a letter of support from the YSC, as they have run out of \$. They will be requesting funds from YTG.
 - YSC has an issue with the statement re: Catch and Release fishing.
 - As long as they are willing to revise the statement, the committee are in agreement to providing the use of the YSC logo
 - Chuck moved to approve, Gerry seconded all in favour.

ACTION ITEM #42-26: Re: Tatchun Creek signage, Secretariat to draft a letter advising that the Steward has permission to use the YSC logo, providing that the sign is amended to reflect that it is the FN that is not in favour of Catch and Release fishing. Also include letter of support.

12. Strategic Planning

Not discussed.

13. Habitat Issues Briefing

Not discussed

14. Other Issues

- **Youth Contest Judging**

ACTION ITEM #42-27: Secretariat to select Youth Contest finalists in each category. YSC members to review finalists during Public Meetings to choose winners.

- **Meeting Locations**

- Some members of the YSC are concerned with the perception that YSC too tied to DFO because of where they hold their meetings.
- Moving the meeting location outside of the Water board meeting room, significantly affect the ability of DFO to provide administrative and technical support in the manner that they have at meetings.
- Next meeting to be held at the Yukon Inn

ACTION ITEM #42-28: June YSC meeting to be held at the Yukon Inn, on a trial basis. Secretariat to provide assessment of costs and impacts of changing meeting location.

- **Invitation to Public Meeting**

- The issue has come up where key resource people are not aware of our public meeting. Letters of invite were drafted for the committee's review, to resolve this issue.
- YSC reviewed draft letters and approved.

See Action Item #42-11.

Best way to contact members:

- Chuck – fax to CAFN
- Frank e-mail
- Stan at Westmark until Friday

Meeting was adjourned at 4: p.m.