

# YUKON SALMON COMMITTEE MINUTES

**April 4-6, 2006, Meeting #56**

**Dawson City, Yukon**

**Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006 4:00-5:00 p.m.**

**Location: Trondek Hwechin Conference Room**

**Present: Craig (chaired), Lorelei, Gerry, Dan, Joe and Louise (DFO)**

**Absent: Carl (plane delay), Esau (plane delay), Vicky, Steve (DFO)-(plane delay), Ed and Chuck**

## 1) Announcements

Members and presenters arriving from Old Crow were delayed in Fairbanks, estimated arrival time not prior to start of public meeting; Craig took over Chair responsibilities and coordinated preparation for meeting.

## 2) Review Agenda

Due to presenters being delayed in Fairbanks the Public Agenda was reviewed and responsibilities distributed among present YSC members as follows:

- Craig would take on Chair responsibilities and conduct meeting.
- Yukon River Panel (Gerry & Lorelei)
- Review of 2005 Season and Run Outlooks for 2006 (Craig, with assistance from Gerry and Lorelei)
- Bering Cisco Species at Risk (Gerry)
- Update on YSC Issues
  - Aquaculture Policy (Craig)
  - Dawson Sewage (Gerry)
  - Delinking of Commercial and Domestic Lic. (Dan)
  - Road Salt Management (Gerry/Chuck)

YSC main agenda additions

- YSC Chair meeting with Clayton White
- Educational Exchange
- Air North
- Regulation for Recreational Fishery

**Wednesday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Location: Trondek Hwechin Conference Room**

**Attendance:** Carl Sidney, Craig McKinnon, Vickie Josie, Gerry Couture, Lorelei Smith, Dan McDairmid, Joe Johnson, Esau Schafer, Chuck Hume, Karen Calla (Fisheries and Oceans Canada), Sandy Johnston (Fisheries and Oceans Canada), Steve Smith (Fisheries and Oceans Canada), Louise Naylor (Fisheries and Oceans Canada), Peggy Kormendy (Public)

**Absent:** Ed Kormendy

### 3) **SARA (Species at Risk Act) Recommendation** – Sandy Johnston

- Sandy as a ministerial representative discussed with the YSC management as a follow-up from public presentation on Bering Cisco last night (Apr 4).
- Yukon Salmon Committee agreed to consult with the public but the Government to Government consultation should be the responsibilities of the governments.
- SARA presented first at Fisheries and Oceans Canada Dialogue session in November 2005.
- Bering Cisco was listed earlier as “Recommended as Species of Concern (data deficient)”, updated report showed that it is now listed as a “Species of Special Concern”. Minister needs to seek a recommendation prior to listing.
- Much discussion about the lack of data on Bering Cisco
- Need to confirm/check out the current wording of the Bering Cisco listing
- Concern about lack of Traditional Knowledge incorporated into listing
- Timeline of recommendation by minister has to be in by Spring of 2007
- Recommendation: The minister send it back to COSEWIC for reassessment, lack of Traditional Knowledge in current status report, lack of Yukon participation in COSEWIC meeting where the decision made, impinges upon the creditability of the SARA (taking it seriously). As far as we know the species is healthy in Alaska, awareness of Umbrella Final Agreement consultation. Offer to make sure the enforcement of release as currently required and dedicate to gather info. Address their concerns – Hydro electric and increased fishing (Yukon Electric). There may be a need for Government to Government consultation and Yukon Salmon Committee needs time to conduct public consultation prior to making a recommendation. Had this consultation occurred the Traditional Knowledge and use of this fish by First Nations would be known.

**ACTION ITEM #56-1: Bering Cisco – Formal recommendation to be made to the minister under section 16.8.1 for the affected First Nations to be consulted, recommend that COSEWIC reassess the current Bering Cisco listing, also there was no Yukon representative present when the present decision was arrived at. Need to document process. Gerry to assist Secretariat with Drafting of letter.**

### 4) **Conservation Units – Update on Wild Salmon Policy Process** – Sandy Johnson

- The need to identify conservation unit came out of the Wild Salmon Policy.
- In the interim nine conservation units have been identified for Chinook, and five units for Chum.

- A status report for two conservation units is being drafted one for Chinook and one for Chum.
  - Draft assessment is for Mid Yukon Tributaries (Chinook) and White (Chum)
  - Chinook : Porcupine, White, Stewart, Pelly, Mid-Yukon Tributaries, Upper Yukon Tributaries, Teslin, North Yukon Mainstem
  - Chum: White, Main Stem Yukon, Porcupine and Teslin watersheds.
- Consultation: Wild Salmon Policy concerns expressed for consultation with First Nations should be on the ministers agenda do not consult after everything is already done. The YSC are responsible for consulting with the public. The FN's may designate to the Resource managers either way the contact needs to be determined.

## 5) IFMP Recommendations

- Escapement targets were presented at the public meeting on Apr 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Chum minimum 80K escapement
- Discussion about Chinook levels
  - Natural fluctuations in numbers, some years are good returns and others not so good, dependent on weather and climate change
  - Over spawning (more true for sockeye that utilize lakes), reference was made during the public meeting about too many fish in spawning areas, not so relevant for Chinook.
  - Lorelei - Options proposed ( <expected = 28K, as expected = 30K)
  - 2K more fish on the spawning ground = 6K to 8K more fish produced
  - Sandy - Other Option ( $\leq$  expected = 28K, above expected = 30K)
  - 93K = 28K, share above expected at 3:1 (one to escapement up to 43K)

**Recommended 28K if run is expected, over 28K then 3:1 (fishers:escapement) to 30K on the spawning ground if better than expected run. If the run comes back better than expected the managers will manage the other fisheries to share the extra fish between the catch and escapement. Should not impact the FN fishers. (Agreed)**

- Recreational Catches
  - Discussion on allocation for Recreational Catches when fish are available. Currently only Commercial Fisheries are provided more opportunity when more fish are available.
  - If in green zone (in season projection) then Recreational Fishery would increase to 2 retention/4 Possession on Yukon drainage. (Whitehorse Public Meeting)
  - If fishery is better than expected could go better then 2 retention/4 possession with validation from conference call.

## 6) Salmon Synopsis

- Development of document that removes us from the Yukon Territory Government fishery synopsis.

- Could include information specific to salmon all Yukon salmon fisheries and include management plan.
- Decision was postponed during last meeting until after the dialogue session
  - The fisheries renewal is still moving forward along with amendments to the fishery act.
- Q - Cost? A- From Nov 2005 meeting, Approx size of a handbook, estimate 20 pages, front and back in colour, stapled
  - Prices based on 2000 copies
  - Utilized by all user groups
  - Form of consultation on new recommendations and regulations. For educating the public on all fisheries, management plans and issues of concern.
  - Design approx. 2.9K
  - Printing approx. 4.7K
- Advertising could cut cost.
- Mock up to be done by Lorelei for feed back by Yukon Salmon Committee.

7) **Review Action Items**

(Postponed to next meeting)

8) **Review Minutes from February 2006 Meeting**

(Postponed to next meeting)

9) **Habitat Consultant Position**

- Add Knowledge and understanding of Umbrella and Final Agreement, Seek Traditional Knowledge, YESAA
- Seek out First Nation Interest
- Discussion about increasing the scope of position to biologist, habitat, and community liaison. Look at getting funding from R&E, and other sources as more responsibilities will cost more.
- Leave the scope as is include knowledge and issues above
- Recognize it is going to be hard to find someone with the same calibre as Bob Van Dijken.
- Aim to get in place by June.
- Experience working with First Nations and an awareness of the need to incorporate Traditional Knowledge into decision making processes. (Include as additional bullet in work statement)
- Post with application deadline mid May
- Craig and Gerry part of the interview process
- Discussion about the possibility of splitting a position with the Fish and Wildlife Management Board given the YESAA demands.

10) **YSC Budget – Louise Naylor**

- Summarized expenditures 2005-2006 to date and forecasted remaining expenditures payable (waiting on final invoices).

- Discussed the ability to recover over expenditure of funds in 2004/2005 (\$8K). No options available at this time. Question whether the Yukon Salmon Committee could look into a multi year contribution agreement that would allow for the Yukon Salmon Committee to utilize the funds in another year.
- Funding – Estimated funding is \$206,100 for FY2006/2007. Contribution agreement ready for signing by YSC Chair.
- Reviewed breakdown of forecasts for FY2006-2007.
- Access To Information and Privacy (ATIP)
  - Discussed how YSC information was subject to ATIP, as it is currently housed/stored on DFO servers and within DFO offices.
  - All the YSC information is available to the public with the exception to Recommendations and personal info. Only issue would be that the amount of YSC information would administratively be time consuming to locate information that pertains to the ATIP issue. Clarify that DFO ATIP person would decide whether to screen out information that they think would fall under the privacy area we have no ability to screen out what is provided.
  - **All in Agreement to purchase computer to use as separate server, and move all files to the YSC office. Estimated cost of computer and accessories, to ensure that files are also backed up, would be \$2.5K.**

## 11) Youth Contest Recommendations

- Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding sponsors.
  - Framed, quality certificate (Michelle)
  - Update from Michelle read (provided to committee members)
    - Request for Pizza for Faro \$50 payment agreed
    - Certificate & Card recommended wording agreed: “The Yukon Salmon Committee extends their sincere appreciation for your contribution to their Annual youth contest in 2006 (Name of person & business) helped make it a great success! Thank-you.”
    - Cards signed by chair.

## 12) Members’ Updates:

- **Yukon River Working Group – Mar. 3 (Carl, Gerry, Lorelei, Joe)**  
Steve reviewed minutes from Mar 3 Working Grp meeting
  - Clarified Roles and responsibilities of various committees (question on Yukon Panel, YSC etc)
  - Provided general updated on issues (Yukon Queen II, Dawson Sewage, Road Salt Management, Contaminated Sites)
  - Lot of discussion on Oil and Gas

- Update on Yukon River Panel (Lorelei and Gerry) – talked about issue of genetics
- What info is gained from coded wire tag program
- Big fish issue in Alaska
- Discussion on the Salmon Summit for Northern Tutchone FN
- IFMP
- BNA workshop upcoming – March 28-29
- Selkirk RRC Habitat protected Area, looking for support in form of letter. (Requested that YSC monitor the Western Copper Project)
- Moosehide gathering this year *tentative* date is July 20-23
- Mainly an information meeting for working group

**ACTION ITEM #56-2: Selkirk RRC Habitat Protection - YSC Chair to work with administrator of YRP to write letter of support from Panel.**

- **Alsek Drainage Fishery (Chuck)**
  - Run last year was poor, no FN's fished
  - Expected small spurt of fish, Grizzly Bears moved to higher elevation, and black bears moved down to creek, unusual to have black bears.
  - Commercial harvest remained the same at the mouth, but fished longer period
- **Yukon River Panel Meeting (Chuck, Joe, Esau, Carl, Vicky, Lorelei)**
  - Presentations during meeting are to be posted on the Yukon River Panel Website
  - Genetics
    - Establish committee: "What questions do we want genetics to answer?"
  - R&E Projects
    - Committee to evaluate R&E projects are they meeting objectives.
  - Non-Government members stressed the raising of escapement to 33K for next year. Need to revisit "when is a run rebuilt".
  - AWL (Age, Weight and Length) - Pat co-chair and Danny
  - Coded Wire Tagging report by December so a decision can be made
  - JTC: suggestion to have Elders on JTC to incorporate Traditional Knowledge in discussions. May not understand all the technical info, but they can relay other information that needs to be part of the JTC discussions.
  - Esau attended panel meeting and found it complex as well as a good educational exercise.
- **Old Crow Public Meeting - April 3 (Vicky, Esau, Carl)**
  - Project Tagging of Coho under the ice - Coho up the Bluefish, no previous knowledge from Old Crow attendees, interest in whether the information gleaned was useful.
  - Esau and Vicky Chaired meeting – Community members more relaxed when local person chairs versus YSC member from outside Old Crow.

- Good turnout at meeting
  - It was felt that the R&E Projects are important
    - Community looking forward to Salmon Gathering
    - Would like to bring up the Bering Cisco up at the Salmon Gathering (Esau)
  - Yukon Salmon Committee issues review (Aquaculture policy, Wild Salmon Policy, Yukon Queen II, Youth Contest, et al.)
  - Questions raised after meeting High Seas and Fish Migration/Life Cycle
- **Basic Needs Allocation Workshop (Carl, Lorelei, Chuck)**
    - Not as well represented by all FN as expected
    - Lindsay Staples facilitated
    - No decision made because of poor representation one year grace to get Basic Needs Allocation discussions up and running
    - Ad hoc committee formed composed of Steve Smith, Emmie Fairclough, Steve Taylor and assisted with Dave Joe
    - FN's requested that Dave Joe be part of the whole BNA process
    - Need more information from the FN's that did not participate, presentation to be made to Leadership.
    - Need to look for additional funding options to cover expense for additional year of BNA negotiations if the magnitude of workshops are going to be carried out as discussed during the workshop.

**Thursday**                      **April 6, 2006 – 9:30 a.m.**  
**Location:**                      **Trondek Hwechin Conference Room**

13) **Yukon Fish & Game Association (YSC Chair meeting with Clayton White)**

- Fish & Game Association not very receptive to having a coordinated event on the date of their fry release (June 4), the fry release is a Fish & Game Association endeavour.
- Suggest making presentation to F&GA on Fish Management Process. (Carl to talk to Clayton)

**ACTION ITEM #56-3: Yukon Fish and Game Association – Suggestion that the YSC coordinate a presentation to the YF&GA on the management plans process and update during one of the YF&GA meetings, possibly make the presentation open to the public. Carl to coordinate with Clayton. Carl and Lorelei to present to YF&GA.**

14) **Review Calendar**

- Yukon Queen II Workshop? (May sometime)
- May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006 - Strategic Plan for Stewardship program (Gerry and YF&WMB)
- May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006 - Whitehorse Public Meeting (Gerry, Lorelei, Joe, Craig & Carl)

- June 2-4, 2006 - Salmon Gathering (Old Crow)
  - YSC Chair should go to Salmon Gathering (Esau)
  - Carl asked that a YSC elder attend, suggested Joe to attend the Salmon Gathering with Carl.
- June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006 - Fry Release - Whitehorse (Craig to attend)
- July 27-30, 2006 (tentative) - Moosehide Gathering (date not set yet by Trondek FN)
- Salmon Celebration (Date not set, most likely not during time of Moosehide Gathering July Meeting on the Land) A July meeting on the Land for YSC members is not convenient for all members.
- Ross River (Carl to talk to Testloa, YSC Yukon River Reps to attend, tentative after week of Discovery holiday, August 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 2006)
- September 19-21, 2006 - Yukon Salmon Committee meeting - Whitehorse
- November 21-23, 2006 – Yukon Salmon Committee meeting – Whitehorse
- JTC (End Nov??)
- December 11-15, 2006 (week of) - Yukon River Panel/R&E
- February 20-22, 2007 - Yukon Salmon Committee meeting - Whitehorse
- April 2-6, 2007 - Yukon Panel Anchorage
- April 17-19, 2007 (week of) – YSC Meeting Old Crow/Dawson

## 15) **Other Business**

- **Updates**
  - Water Quality concerns in Old Crow delivery service are ongoing discussions that hope to have resolved by spring (Esau)
  - Climate Change workshop was held in Haines Junction – went over well with the FN's (Chuck)
- **Placer Regime Workshop**
  - Regime is still moving along
  - Still scheduled for implementation at the end of 2007
  - More workshops will be scheduled
  - Protocols are now in draft form.
  - Impression is that the Regime will be working with real number and work both ways.
- **Kluane Parks Management Board (KPMB) - Craig**
  - Chair wants to present to Yukon Salmon Committee the poster on Kokanee that the YSC participated in. (expect contact from them)
- **Educational Exchange – Lorelei**
  - Email will be going out to First Nation, Renewable Resource Council, Yukon Salmon Committee and interest groups requesting them to nominate one individual to go and out of the returned applications two people will be picked.
  - Educational Exchange to happen some time in June, key thing in the decisions is to educate people on the Yukon River, ie. Panel members from the Yukon

Salmon Committee would be given priority for the Yukon Salmon Committee members.

- Craig nominated by Yukon Salmon Committee. Dan alternate Yukon Salmon Committee nominee. Education Exchange makes final decision.

- **Agenda for next YSC Meeting**

- Quality of Water and development language – discussion topic possibly have DFO Habitat to speak to requirement (Joe)
- Road salt (invite City of Whitehorse and others to present to the Yukon Salmon Committee on road salt management as to where they dump their snow removal)
- Website

- **Air North**

- Suggested Letter of Appreciation to staff for all their help (**Craig**)
- Members would prefer a complementary ticket, not letter

- **Sport Fishery Regulation (Lorelei)**

- Tethering, get Legal Opinion Requested to make the wording illegal ask a response from Justice
- Reference was made to the wording in the synopsis

**ACTION ITEM #56-4: Tethering – Get an opinion from justice on the tethering wording in the synopsis, if not legal what wording could be used to make it illegal.**

- **DFO Biologist Position**

- Craig took part in the interview process
- Two candidates were interviewed, only one qualified
- Joe's concern over First Nation hiring
- Yukon Salmon Committee interested in involvement in hiring.
- Request integration of Yukon Salmon Committee into hiring process so that the Salmon Committee mandate is included.

**\*\*Note - Meeting adjourned by 1pm for Air North flight at 2:35pm.**