

MINUTES
SALMON SUB-COMMITTEE
February 17-19, 2009, Meeting #67
Whitehorse, Yukon

MEETING DATES 2008-2009

Past Meeting Dates

Salmon Sub-Committee	February 26-28, 2008	Whitehorse
Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association	February 25-28, 2008	Grayling, Alaska
Porcupine River Working Group	March 19, 2008	Old Crow
Yukon River Panel	March 31-April 4, 2008	Whitehorse
YFWMB	April 29 – May 1, 2008	
YFWMB	June 10 – 12, 2008	
Dawson Public Meeting	May 20, 2008	Dawson City
Salmon Sub-Committee	September 3-4, 2008	Whitehorse
YFWMB	October 22-23, 2008	Whitehorse
Salmon Sub-Committee	November 18-20, 2008	Whitehorse
Yukon River Working Group	November 21, 2008	Whitehorse
Vision 2020 Symposium	November 26-28, 2008	Whitehorse
Yukon River Panel	December 8-12, 2008	Anchorage
YFWMB	December 9-11, 2008	
Porcupine River Working Group	January 6, 2009	Old Crow
YFWMB	January 27-29, 2009	
Salmon Sub-Committee	February 17-19, 2009	Whitehorse, YT

Upcoming Meeting Dates (tentative)

Alsek Working Group	TBA	
State of the Salmon Conference	February 2-5, 2009	Vancouver, BC
Yukon River Panel	TBA	Whitehorse, YT
YRDFA	March 2-5, 2009	Hooper Bay, AK
Yukon River Panel	March 23-26, 2009	Whitehorse, YT
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board	April 21-23, 2009	Whitehorse, YT
SSC Meeting (postponed)	April 21-23, 2009	Whitehorse, YT
SSC Public Meeting (postponed)	April 22, 2009 (Evening)	Whitehorse, YT
Old Crow Meetings	TBA (spring)	Old Cow, YT
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board	June 23-25, 2009	
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board	August 25-27, 2009	
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board	November 3-4, 2009	
Porcupine River Working Group	November 24 th , 2009	Old Crow, YT
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board	December 8-10, 2009	
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board	February 9-11, 2010	

MEETING SUMMARY

1. **YESAB Process – Stephen Mills/Andrew McCoy**
2. **Operating Procedures – “Quorum”**
3. **Yukon River Panel - YFWMB**

4. **Data Path Survey – YFWMB**
5. **Reviewed Agenda**
6. **Announcements/Community Updates**
7. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair (postponed)**
8. **Review of Action Items**
9. **Review Minutes from November 2008 Meeting**
10. **Whitehorse Star February 10, 2009**
11. **YESSA, 5Year Review**
12. **Funding Arrangements between DFO and the SSC (Letter)**
13. **Administration**
14. **Members' Updates**
15. **Youth Contest (Michelle Murphy)**
16. **Members' Updates cont.**
17. **Review Calendar**
18. **Other Business**

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday – 1:30pm – 4:30pm – February 17th, 2009

Location: Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Whitehorse

Present: Carl Sidney (Chair), Don Hutton, Vicky Josie, Lorelei Smith, Georgina Sydney and Steve Smith (Executive Secretary).

Absent: William Asp and Craig McKinnon.

Opening Prayer

Meeting called to order by Chair Carl Sidney at 1:30 p.m.

1. YESAB Process – Stephen Mills / Andrew McCoy

Stephen Mills has been an executive board member since the YESAB board was established. Andrew McCoy is the senior assessment officer.

- A brief outline was presented on how the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA) came to be. YESAA was established under chapter 12 of the Umbrella Final Agreement.

- Assessments done under YESAA provide recommendations to decision bodies, although the recommendations are not binding. Most recommendations to date have been accepted.
- The assessments role is to determine if there is a significant environmental or socio-economic effect if the project does or does not go ahead.
- The screening process is a public process; the process is transparent where the public can see the decisions that were made and still have the ability to comment on them.
- Three levels of assessment are: the Designated Office evaluation (North, Central, Southwest, Whitehorse, South Central and Southeast); Executive Committee Screening; and Panel of the Board Review.
- Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) is made up of Board Chair, Executive Members (x2), and Board Members (x4)
- Discussions took place on the options available to the Yukon Queen II in regards to the Yukon Environmental Assessment process, this is where a project was already in operation prior to the assessment process. YESAB can provide recommendations to DFO on whether or not the project can continue to operate, and if there should be terms and conditions attached.

2. **SSC Operating Procedures – “Quorum”**

Change definition of a SSC meeting quorum from five members (four members including chair or vice chair), revised to read “50 percent of appointed members including a chair or the vice chair”.

Decision: Agreement to change to the definition of a quorum: A quorum will equal 50% of the appointed members including the Chair or the Vice-Chair. (All present concurred)

ACTION ITEM #67-1: Quorum - Change wording in Operating Procedures to reflect decision in minutes to revise the definition of a quorum.

3. **Yukon River Panel (YFWMB)**

During a Fish and Wildlife Management Board meeting, members of the board requested that the board looking to get on the Yukon River Panel Agenda for the March 2009 meeting. The Board's main message would be a presentation on “The Importance of Salmon to Yukoners”, getting to the spawning ground etc., brought to the board's attention by the Minister of Environment. Board would like to work in partnership with the SSC in developing a presentation.

- SSC felt it would be a conflict for SSC member to make a presentation for the Panel as they are members on the Panel.
- Suggested that if the YFWMB are making a presentation they should also request that the YTG Environmental Minister be present as part of it also.

Wednesday – 9:00am to 4:30 pm – February 18th, 2009

Location: Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Whitehorse

Present: Carl Sidney (Chair), Don Hutton, Vicky Josie, Lorelei Smith, Georgina Sydney, Steve Smith (Executive Secretary) and Louise Naylor (recorder)

Absent: William Asp and Craig McKinnon.

4. **Data Path Survey – F&WMB**

Data report approved by SSC members for release. SSC Members invited by chair of the FWMB to attend meeting in April to review symposium strategic planning.

5. **Reviewed Agenda**

6. **Announcements/Community Updates**

- VJ – The Old Crow community is upset with a decision being made by the Fn Gov. without consulting the members of the community. This was brought about when a letter was drafted on the plan for the 2009 VGFN fishery in Old Crow for the Chief and Council to present to minister. The community fishers or members were not part of this.
- Carl FN Traditional knowledge forecaster indicated that this years salmon run will be a good one.

7. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Postponed

8. **Review Action Items**

ACTION ITEM #66-1: Develop introduction letter to new minister of DFO. – Carl and Steve

Done – Letter sent November 2008

ACTION ITEM #66-2: Request a presentation from YESAB on the Processes, timelines etc. plus info on the Yukon Queen II.

Done - on Mtg 67 agenda

ACTION ITEM #66-3: Office Space - Arrange movers to transfer SSC items to YFWMB office.

Done - Movers arranged, move completed December 2nd, 2008

ACTION ITEM #66-4: Letter to YFWMB accepting offer with date, request a 1 year rental agreement.

YFWMB notified by phone due to short time period between meeting and moving date.

ACTION ITEM #66-5: Purchase 8K Air North flight credits.

Done- \$8,000 credit purchased on account.

ACTION ITEM #66-6: Contribution Agreement - Draft letter from SSC to DFO requesting a multi year funding arrangement or flexible transfer agreement using other agreements such as the agreement from the Surface Rights Board for example of the preferred type of agreement. If DFO does not have the ability to carry out this request, request that DFO seek authorization. – Carl/M.Eikland

- Done

ACTION ITEM #66-7: Poster for State of the Salmon Conference - Craig to review previous posters and presentation revise for State of the Salmon Symposium.

- Done

ACTION ITEM #66-8: Exec secretary to contact State of the Salmon to determine timelines etc. for submission of items for the Salmon Symposium sponsorship.

- Done

ACTION ITEM #67-2: Members whose terms have just ended to receive SSC jackets during community tours, jackets already ordered and received.

9. Review Minutes from November 2008 Meeting

Minutes were reviewed, seconded by Lorelei Smith, all in agreement. Minutes were accepted with revisions.

- Break: 10:00 a.m.

- Back to order: 10:25a.m.

10. Whitehorse Star February 10, 2009

Reviewed the News item – “Caribou, salmon were on leaders' agenda”. The Whitehorse Star Article covered the Premiers meeting with PM, discussed Yukon Salmon By-catch and Yukon River Salmon Agreement between Canada and US.

ACTION ITEM #67-3: Article on Premiers meeting PM - Write letter(s) to Premier and MoE (E. Taylor) thanking them for bringing the issue of Salmon By-catch and the YRSA to the attention of the Federal Ministers.

ACTION ITEM #67-4: Draft letter Minister of DFO letter bringing issues to her attention, by-catch, YR Agreement and Alaska listing as a “Yield” concern. (Lorelei to assist).

11. YESSA 5 Year Review

- Discussed concerns related to the YESSA Process. The following comments were raised and are to be submitted from the SSC:
 - Concerns raised on timelines, do not allow enough time for FN, Boards and Committees and RRC's to comment.
 - Recommend that special funding be provided for major projects.
 - If variations of recommendations are made, the public need to be consulted on changes. (example of processes)
 - Work closer with regulators to develop enforceable recommendations
 - YESSA needs the authority to designate regulators.
 - YESAB should have ability to additionally designate regulators that haven't self-identifies but.
 - Designated office's process, regulators should have same level of onus as with EX Committee process. Ie modified recommendations justifications going back out for public comment.
 - Designated office's recommendations need to be binding or stronger?

Action Item #67-5: YESSA Review – Write/Email response with comments on: timelines for comments, special funding for major projects, consultations on changes or variations, working with regulators and authority to delegate regulators.

12. Funding Arrangements between DFO and the SSC (Letter)

SSC reviewed draft letter with committee. All members were in agreement of letter with revisions. Letter approved with changes.

Action Item #67-6: Funding Arrangement Agreement - Letter to go out with corrections and additions.

- Meeting was adjourned for lunch at 11:30 a.m. by Chair Carl Sidney.

LUNCH BREAK

- The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by Chair Carl Sidney.

13. Administration

- 2008/2009 Expenditures and Forecasts reviewed total expenditures to January 20, 2009.
- Update forecast with following planned expenditures:
 - Laptop computer (dell) w/ PowerPoint, MS office suite, wireless, webcam, speakers, with carrying case
 - Recording equipment
 - Teleconference phone
 - Office Phone
 - Alsek meeting (tentative need to confirm a date prior to contacting?)
 - Community meeting (Tentative March 16-20 – Carl to contact RRC and FN's to confirm availability)
 - Teleconference or meeting week of March 16 to discuss budget
 - 1.5K for community awards

ACTION ITEM #67-7: Order Sign – “Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee” (two signs: 1st - hanging from door, 2nd – hanging off the front with arrow) (2’Tx 3’W)

- 2009/2010 Budget Forecast
 - Carl reviewed the 2009/2010 proposed budget with the SSC members. Committee discussed who to send the 2009/2010 SSC budget whether the Area Director or Minister.
 - All committee's members were in agreement of sending proposed budget directly to minister.

ACTION ITEM #67-8: Chair to send approved budget to minister with letter.

14. Members' Updates

- Nov 21 - Yukon River Working Group (Carl, Lorelei)
 - 14 persons present
 - participants provided updates for their communities
 - FN requested that SSC send agenda and meeting dates out to FN's at least one week prior to meeting
 - Yukon River Working group meeting tentative schedule March 17th suggested location either Carmacks or Pelly.(requested participation of

DFO Stad & OHEB for March meeting to answer questions, request a presentation from Stad and OHEB on issues related to YR)

ACTION ITEM #67-9: Lorelei to draft letters to DFO requesting participation of STAD, OHEB and C&P in the Yukon River Working Group.

- Nov 27-28- 20:20 Vision Report, Whitehorse
 - As of Jan 31st the most of the questionnaires are in.
 - Teslin is still outstanding for community visits February 26.
 - Data path report is approved for release,
 - Other questionnaires from kids, symposium, door to door, communities' data collection is not yet completed; coordination of data entry and analysis is still outstanding. Data path has been hired again to digitize the information and do a statistic analysis of info,
 - Final report with recommendation is still to be finalized it is to be signed off with signatures of YFWMB, SSC, and all RRCs.
 - Final draft report - dinner meeting to be discussed April 21st
 - SSC approved 20K funding to assist with Symposium final Report and printing.
 - SSC approved an additional 12K funding to assist with data analysis

Thursday – 9:00am to 4:30 pm – February 19th, 2009

Location: Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Whitehorse

Present: Carl Sidney (Chair), Don Hutton, Vicky Josie, Lorelei Smith, Steve Smith (Executive Secretary) and Louise Naylor (recorder)

Absent: William Asp and Craig McKinnon.

15. Youth Contest (Michelle Murphy)

Michelle gave a brief report on the 2009 youth contest program:

- Closing date Feb 19th, members to vote on the entries during this week, Carl to contact Louise once voting is finished;
- Participation this year was down due to problems with communications to teachers;
- Resource package for teachers completed;
- Working on getting kids activities posted to website;
- Entry's to be posted at the Arts centre mid March;
- Chair to work on bringing trophy back from Faro
- SSC members will need to look into another contractor to coordinate for 2010.

16. Members' Updates cont.

- Nov 22-25 - NPAFC BASIS Symposium, Seattle (Lorelei)
 - North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission – Bering Aleutian Salmon International Survey: Climate Change, Production Trends, and Carrying Capacity of Pacific Salmon in the Bering Sea and Adjacent Waters.

- All the scientist who had received funding through BASIS, presented overviews of the research they had done over the last 3-5 years.
- Carrying Capacity/Climate Change/Ocean Production
- The Bering Sea Study areas were broken down by Eastern , Central and Western.
- Presentation was made showing size and numbers relationship to temperatures
- Bering Sea ecosystems studies
- Migration and distribution of Salmon etc.
- Abundance levels and Juvenile Survival of Yukon Chinook was under 25% on average dependent on temperatures as per Jim Murphy presentation.
- Dec 3, 2008 -Yukon Placer Secretariat, Whitehorse (Carl)
 - Presentation from Rob Thompson and Shirley Dawson
 - Intro, Background, history, traditional knowledge, watersheds.
 - There are 16 watersheds classified in the Yukon 10 are category “A”, 6 are category “B”.
 - Still to be classified is the Alsek and the Liard
- Dec 8-12, 2008 -Yukon River Panel, Anchorage (Vicky Josie, Lorelei Smith)
 - US Subsistence fishers were saying they were not going to listen to managers; the fish were their fish and their economy.
 - Eagle sonar were the best assessment, need better in-season data from Pilot station not as good a count.
 - Pollock fisher – North Pacific Fisheries management
 - US were looking at the economic review, but did not take into account the Canadian fishery in the economic review
 - Presentation from Jeff Bromigan on size selection exportation. Showed how escapement and exportation can impact on the size and quality of the run;
 - Mesh size was discussed and impacts of percentages of the dropout (dead fish) rate with the smaller mesh. Need to design a better net.
 - Discussed R&E projects and concerns with the funding distribution.
- Jan 6, 2009 - Porcupine River Working Group
 - Meeting with RRC and Resource area of the FN
 - Questions were raised: on what happened to 50% of the Canadian origin fish? US was reduced but the fish were caught by other to meet their needs. What actual number of fish caught in the US? Why were the numbers lower, escapements was not met since 1997?
 - Concern - Why is there no monitoring of Chinook on the Porcupine? Alaska Fish and Game has expressed an interest to work with Old Crow.
 - Discussion have been ongoing in regard to putting sonar on the Porcupine and other rivers where information is lacking.
 - Concern - Old Crow expressed their anger that Fort Yukon were fishing in 2008. This is something that needs to be resolved at a political level by bringing the leaders together from both communities.
 - Concern - Why were the subsistence numbers normal, restriction were suppose to be on the subsistence?
 - Public meeting was also held in the evening, 20 participants

- Spring meeting after the Panel was requested, with a community meeting so that numbers could be communicated to the members of the community.
- Next meeting around Tuesday of last week of November before the Yukon River Panel, with a JTC meeting
- Vicky and Carl to work on coordinating meeting with community and leaders to help with Fort Yukon concerns.
- Feb 2-5, 2009 – State of the Salmon Conference, Vancouver
 - Very interesting and informative
 - SSC sponsored one of the breaks
 - Participants were from US Oregon, Japan, Russia, Alaska,
 - Perception from Alaska was that the Alaskans had a good management plan; committee members were concerned with this perception as it is not accurate for the international rivers.
 - There was presentation on over-fishing the middle run, which had the potential to create an early and late run.
 - A number of Presentations from participants at the SOS where causes of concern or attention that the committee need to be aware of, such as a presentation from Dr. John White on yield concerns status of Yukon Salmon: “Management Level”. This was flagged by the SSC for further info and consider in management concerns on the Canadian side SAR or species of concern.
 - There is supposed to be two hydro power plants going in Alaska and a number of other mines that are being considered. SSC members need to keep an eye out for these projects, it was clear if they were on the Yukon River or not.

- The meeting was adjourned for Lunch at 11:30 a.m. by Chair Carl Sidney.

LUNCH BREAK

- Meeting back to order at 1:06 p.m. by Chair Carl Sidney.

17. Review Calendar

- * March 2-5, 2009 – YRDFA (Carl Sidney)
- * March 16-20, 2009 - Community Road Trip
- * March 17 – Yukon River Working Group
- * March 23-26, 2009 – Yukon River Panel
- * March 30 – April 5, 2009 (Vicky, Carl, Lorelei, William?) North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Action Item #67-10: North Pacific Fishery Management Council - Need Agenda, Rental Vehicle or flight (Check Vehicle Rental rate)

- * April 21, 2009 (evening) – Review Draft 20:20 meeting with FWMB, RRC’s (need to confirm)
- * April 21-23, 2009 - YSSC
- * PRWG: Vicky to establish date April/May

- * April 22, 2009 - Public Meeting (evening – Whitehorse 7pm start)
- * Working group dates - Yukon River
- * November 24th, 2009 – Porcupine River Working Group

Action #67-11: Calendar - Pass Meeting Dates to Diane (FWMB)

Action Item #67-12: Different boardroom (willow room and Yukon Inn) – Done, room booked for April 21st-23rd.

Action Item #67-13: Funding – Need to clarify what finances return rules are for funds remaining in advance. (for March budget discussion)

18. Other Business

- * Job Posting – Lorelei and Carl to work on posting of job description and details during the week of Feb 23rd

- * Agenda: Next YSSC Meeting April 21-23
 - TC
 - Elections
 - Strategic Plan (1 day) after 20:20 evening meeting
 - Youth Contest Position
 - Board and Council Recommendations Database (re: Letter)
 - Habitat Consultant
 - Pre-season outlook
 - Management tools
 - Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) Stock Status of Yukon Chinook and associated action plan (“management level/yield of concern”) – for march (plans for April meeting)

Meeting was adjourned at 1:45p.m. by Chair Carl Sidney.