

MINUTES
SALMON SUB-COMMITTEE
November 18-20, 2008, Meeting#66
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	

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
Salmon Sub-Committee	February 17-19, 2009	Whitehorse, YT
YRDFA	March 2-5, 2009	Hooper Bay, AK
Yukon River Panel	March 23-26, 2009	Whitehorse, YT

MEETING SUMMARY

1. **Review Agenda**
2. **Announcements/Community Update**
3. **Review Action Items**
4. **Review Meeting Minutes from July and Septembers 2008**
5. **Administration**
6. **Strategic Plan/Operating Procedures**
7. **Contribution Agreement – M.Eikland**
8. **Youth Contest Package/Update**
9. **Post Season Update**

10. **SSC Budget Development 2009/2010**

11. **Review Calendar**

12. **Review Presentation and Poster for State of the Salmon Conference**

13. **Other Business**

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Carl Sidney (Chair), William Asp, Vicky Josie, Dan McDiarmid, Craig McKinnon, Lorelei Smith, Steve Smith (DFO), Bonnie Huebschwerlen (DFO) and Louise Naylor (recorder)

Tuesday - 9:00am – 4:30pm – November 18th, 2008

Location: Large Boardroom, 419 Range Road

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chair Carl Sidney

Opening Prayer – Carl Sidney

1. Review Agenda

- Reviewed agenda, agenda accepted with revisions.

2. Announcements/Community Updates

- No new appointments to the SSC, delayed due to election and new minister appointments.
- Introduced the new DFO Treaty and Aboriginal Policy Directorate biologist
- Mike Smith from Tanana Chiefs Conference has scheduled a meeting in Fairbanks Alaska December 13, during the same week as the Panel meeting. FN's are meeting to strategize on how they can address FN concerns and communicate them to the larger boards where the concerns are not being addressed.
- SSC members commented that there were no fish this year; this is the public perception from fishers who have fished the area for years, lodges etc. There has been fish in the past years but this year the fish were sparse. Ross River area commented that they saw some bigger fish coming through, better than in previous years.
- Old Crow did not get as many salmon as they needed due to high water, an alternative effort was made to fish for Whitefish, but no Whitefish were caught either. Some chum salmon were caught but not enough. Effort will be made to catch additional coho to make up the difference. Old Crow FN has hired a new resource coordinator (Dick Mahoney).
- Update on 20:20 vision symposium in the communities: prior to Jan 31st, 2009 intent is to get input from RRC's who could not make it to the Whitehorse symposium. Mayo tentatively scheduled for Jan 15th.
- **Election of Chair and Vice Chair** (Identify time for Nomination and Voting) – Recommended that elections be Postponed until the February meeting due to membership vacancies. All members were in agreement to postpone elections until Feb 2009.

3. Review Action Items

ACTION ITEM #58-2: Contribution Agreement – Post meeting with Area Director, SSC Chair and Vice Chair will seek out an appropriate expert to redevelop a Contribution Agreement that meets the SSC needs and the spirit of the intent of the UFA and the Treasury Board requirements.

Feb 07: information needed to discussion during May meeting.

On agenda for discussion during may meeting

Mtg#60 May 2007 – Discussed in-camera

Mtg#61 Sept 2007: For discussion during September meeting

Frank/Carl/Steve to meet Thursday, November 1st.

Nov 1: Carl/Steve met, Carl to review further and provide input/comments.

Mtg #62 Nov 2007: The committee members agreed with the contribution agreement as is for the upcoming year and Carl will sign a copy. The SSC will work with DFO to develop a contribution agreement for the future

Feb: Steve is prepared to present budget process and how it is tied to the contribution agreement, program objectives, outcomes, mandate and accountabilities – Next SSC meeting after Feb meeting.

Discussion: The IRG report and the idea that it is not a final report agreed to yet by all parties. Need to look at the changes that are being recommended, what are the new processes that are being recommended by the IRG and do they work for the committee? Would like to see the lawyers options.

Mtg#63 Feb 26/08 – Carl to discuss contribution agreement options with a Lawyer, in relation to what the implementation review group are recommending.

Mtg#64 Jul 30/08 – Carl has met with Lawyer and reviewed historical info of the SSC, recommended that the Lawyer review other CA from UFA boards and committee's. Lawyer is now waiting on some of the other CA's before moving further.

Mtg#65 Sept 3/08 – Carl to invite the Lawyer to meet with the SSC at their next meeting in November.

Mtg#66: Mark Eikland on agenda for Meeting #66.

ACTION ITEM #61-3: - Strategic Plan – Carl, Craig and Chuck to input into the previous version of the Strategic Plan worksheet and identify whether the goals were accomplishments. Revise worksheet to include 2004 to 2006 accomplishments.

Sept '07: Carl, Craig and Chuck met to work on.

Oct '07: Craig doing further work on file.

Mtg#62 Nov 2007: Craig to bring back to the committee to discuss Thursday,

Mtg#63 Feb 2008: Committee requested that the tape be reviewed for further details (Done), Carl and Chuck to work with Craig on further completing task.

Mtg#64 Jul 2008: Craig and Steve to work together to get the revised document to SSC members.

Mtg#65 Sept 2008 – Document has been sent to Craig for verification, once Craig has verified document is correct it will be sent to all committee members.

Mtg#66 Nov 2008 – In packages for review during November meeting.

ACTION ITEM#63-11: Inventory - Louise to submitted orders for promotional items as identified during SSC Feb 2008 meeting. Plus order jackets for members who's terms are ending.

-Inventory ordered, SSC Jackets no longer available looking into alternative similar to previous jackets.

Done – sample jackets received Aug 2008

Mtg#65 Sept 2008: Order jacket as requested by members and for back-up stock.

Done – Order received Nov 3, 2008.

ACTION ITEM #61-12: Management Tools - SSC members to read and review management tools booklet, provide comments and additional information on draft document to Lorelei, prior to November 2007 meeting.

Mtg#62 Nov 2007: revise deadline to February.

Mtg#63 Feb 2008: ongoing

Mtg#64 Jul 2008: provide a draft copy to new members for review

Mtg#65 Sept 2008: Lorelei to send to SSC members

SSC Management Plan- emailed to SSC members September 16th, 2008.

Done – Ongoing

ACTION ITEM #61-13: Management Tools - Lorelei and Kelly to work on the Alsek section of the Management tools, in the interim develop a proposal to request funding for next year.

Mtg#62 Nov 2007: on going

Mtg#64 Jul 2008: Lorelei to work with CAFN on the Alsek section, second item on going.

Mtg#65 Sept 2008: pending on completion of action item #61-12.

Done - Ongoing

ACTION ITEM#63-17: Lorelei to identify the issues from the SSC Aquaculture policy, which still may need a second opinion from a Lawyer.

Mtg#64 Jul 2008 on Agenda – Postponed to next meeting

Mtg#65 Sept 2008: On agenda for November meeting

ACTION ITEM #64-2: De-linking Commercial Domestic Fishery - SSC requested that a formal letter be received from the Region Staff member who is responsible for moving forward the request to de-link the commercial and domestic fisheries in the Yukon, request details on what needs to be done, the timelines and identifying who is working on it.

Mtg#65 Sept 2008: SSC to send letter requesting info

Done - Letter sent September 17, 2008

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

ACTION ITEM #64-5: SSC to draft revised job description for habitat consultant, and distribute to SSC members. – Lorelei, Dan, Craig

Mtg#65 Sept 2008 – for discussion by all members during November meeting

Mtg#66 Nov 2008 - Draft distributed to SSC for review, copy also available in packages.

Discussed during Nov Meeting - Done

ACTION ITEM #64-7: Provide the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Board with a letter notify the board that the committee is interested in committing 10K to the vision conference and providing promo items for draw prizes. Clarify on the letter what the SSC would like to come out of the conference: is the vision of the SSC the same as the public vision, logo on vision 2020 documentation, partnering production, SSC to attend the meetings with the RRC's to address concerns related to Salmon and promote the presence of the SSC being connected to the YFWMB.

Done - Letter Sent

ACTION ITEM #64-8: Promo Items: Carl and Craig to explore the option of local suppliers developing a medallion for SSC mugs.

Mtg#65 Sept 2008: pending

Mtg#66 Nov 2008: Local supplier found, Craig exploring various design options.

ACTION ITEM #64-10: Carl to contact the YFWMB (Graham/Don) to verify if the sub-committee could contact the Vision 2020 consultant to give the SSC perspective, so that it is incorporated into the document provided to the public.

Mtg#66 Nov – Done

ACTION ITEM #64-11: Provide the board with the SSC members locations which are more relevant to where the RRC's are located, so that SSC members can also attend meetings on the SSC behalf. Board to use Carl Sidney as a direct contact on the vision 2020 information.

Done – contact information sent.

ACTION ITEM #65-1: SSC requested ½ day to be made available during the next meeting for the SSC to discuss protocols of the in season fishery decision making with Frank Quinn and Sandy Johnston.

On agenda November meeting

ACTION ITEM #65-2: Carl to request quotes from YFWMB on cost of office space, for SSC to review during November meeting.

Done – information received on agenda for discussion.

ACTION ITEMS #65-3: SSC Members to register individually for the 20:20 symposium.

Reminders sent – Done

ACTION ITEM #65-4: Yukon Queen II - Members to review submission and provide feedback by Sept 4th, 2008

Done – submitted Sept 2008

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

ACTION ITEM #65-5: Steve to inquire into options of SSC presenting during the State of the Salmon Conference.

Done – options forwarded to SSC Chair, copy also available in packages

Mtg#66 Nov discussion - 11.5K sponsorship to be submitted, Carl and Steve to work on submitting poster; Carl to make presentation at beginning. Tote item is to be band aide dispensers. Review presentation and Poster during strategic planning. (Note: 11.5K sponsorship was no longer available, committee agreed to 3K coffee break sponsorship as alternative)

ACTION ITEM #65-6: Current pictures of SSC members to be taken at the November meeting.

ACTION ITEM #65-7: Yukon River Panel – Notify the co-chair that the SSC preference is to have the Panel meeting take place in early or mid-march.

Done

ACTION ITEM #65-10: Send letter to the DFO minister inquiring into his visit in the Yukon and his inability to meet with the committee.

Done - Letter sent

4. **Review Meeting Minutes from July & September 2008**

- July and September Minutes were reviewed and revised, and all members present in favour, minutes approved as revised.

LUNCH BREAK – 12:00

Meeting Called backed to order – 1:40

5. **Administration**

Office Space

- Reviewed quote from YFWMB
 - Discussed quote from YFWMB, original quoted figure is based on square footage used and a 50/50 split of YFWMB office cost, totalling \$737.88. Figures provided is an estimate based on high figures. Board would like to work with the SSC. YFWMB get inquiries on Salmon already it would be good to have the presence of the SSC in the office.
 - Discussed with Graham a starting figure of \$500/mnth to start. After 3 months usage costs will be reviewed to determine actual real costs.

MOTION: Carl Sidney moved that the location of the Salmon Sub-Committee office be relocated to the YFWMB office, all were in favour, motion passed.

- Asked Graham if there was to liability insurance available within the present YFWMB insurance? A- Yes, the insurance would need to be adjusted to include the SSC.
- Discussed communications to the public on the SSC move. Decisions to hold on communications until phone number and all changes have been completed.

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

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

20:20 Vision Symposium (Graham V.)

- Reviewed preliminary draft Agenda for the YFWMB 20:20 Symposium

- Who will speak on behalf of the SSC on subjects related to fish?
Recommended names are Craig McKinnon, Carl Sidney and Lorelei Smith. Intent is for SSC members to lead 3 different panels with 5 minute introductions talks on Habitat, Fish Health and Fish Management.
 - Ie. Habitat quality enhancement and access - discussion introduction from the point of view of the SSC and how they deal with this issue related to their responsibilities.
 - Ie. Fish Health – discussion to include SSC mandate and issues of concern identify and raise peoples awareness of fish health issues, if nothing else educate people.
- Concerns were expressed from the communities that there would be limited participation from the communities due to the travel costs. Six of the RRC's have already proposed having alternate meetings in their communities, dates still to be determined.

Chair called a meeting Break at 3:05 p.m.

Meeting Called back to order by chair at 3:30p.m.

2008/2009 Expenditures and Forecasts

- Reviewed summary of expenditures.
- Only one claim has been submitted to date, usually claims are submitted quarterly but since expenditures have been less than previously forecasted. The advance have not been completely utilized during the second quarter as previously expected a send claim was not required. Balance is showing a surplus with presently forecasted expenditures.
- Discussed the remaining expenditures forecasted to March 31, 2009, expenditures still for be incorporated into forecast are:
 - State of the Salmon Symposium Sponsorship;
 - Include and additional meeting on Feb, including March meeting in communities;
 - YRDEFA (1 member);
 - 20:20 Symposium Community (6 meetings x1 person i.e. who ever is closest to the meeting);
 - Yukon River Panel (need to verify if date is set prior to March 31).
- SSC members to coordinate gifts to past members suggested that they be coordinated at the same time as meetings within the closer communities.
- Credit account with Air North is low, requested permission from SSC for purchase additional credits to put in account, recommended that a purchase would be beneficial to help cover off some of the flight cost to the State of the Salmon Symposium . SSC members approved an additional credit of 8K to be put on to the Air North account.

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

Meeting Adjourned by Chair Carl Sidney at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday – 9:00am to 4:30 pm – November 19th, 2008

Location: Large Boardroom, 419 Range Road

6. Strategic Plan/Operating Procedures

- The SSC reviewed the Strategic Plan document updated last year by Carl Sidney, Craig McKinnon and Chuck Hume.
- All members participated in the process of updating and revising the document to more closely represent their present needs;
- Discussed changing the name on the SSC website, committee agreed to postpone making the change pending decision on whether or not to relocate the website to a new host.

7. Contribution Agreement – M. Eikland

- SSC requested advice on how the SSC could get a more flexible funding arrangement so that the committee received funding in the timely manner with no funding lapses.
- Mr Eikland provided a summary document to the committee that outlined the history and the steps that had been taken to come up with the summary of advice for the committee.

Summary of Advance:

- SSC expressed concerns with funding lapses
- Some of the other federally funded boards are funded through a flexible transfer payment, which allows them to retain surpluses until funding is received for the next year.
- Reviewed federal boards CA's, plus YFWMB funding Agreement (YTG). YTG funding agreement is more flexible as it is more tailored to their need, and they are not required to be tailored under the Treasury Board guidelines.

Options:

- SSC take steps to maintain a multi year funding agreement or flexible transfer payment agreement model.
- Direct funding through the YFWMB, this would require an additional step that the funding process to which make impact on the timeliness of receiving funds.
- After review of the UFA and Implementation plans, DFO is clearly the agency identified as responsible for Salmon, so it would be difficult to seek funding through another agency or organization.
- FWMB would need to then negotiate a fund agreement on behalf of the committee, which would then create another administrative step in the process.
- Suggested that the SSC reviewed DFO's Strategic Plan "Our waters our future" for 2005-2007 and it Integrated Aboriginal Policy framework for 2006-2010, incorporated appropriate aspects into correspondence to DFO.
- Identified DFO's response to the 9 year review on the issue of the SSC mandate, there is some confusion of the responsibilities.
- INAC has changed its funding arrangements to initiate Flexible transfer payment agreements, which is a multi year agreement national model;
- DFO does not have authority to use Flexible transfer payments arrangements at this time, but they do have the ability to have multi year agreement, where funding would still need to be sought annually.
- Carry over of national funds allows you to keep your surplus so there is no lapse in funding at the start of the next year but the next fiscal years funding is reduced by the amount of the carry over.
- The SSC has the option of sending correspondence to DFO to recommend that DFO follow the INAC funding model and move towards a multi year flexible transfer payment agreement as the government standard.

- Discussed SSC drafting their own CA, clarified that Federal Departments are required us previously approved CA templates plus the CA is suppose to include limitations that are predefined by treasury board for them to approve the funding.
- Discussed various options.
 - Requested that Mark research other multi year options within other boards and committees, and determine whether DFO has the option to use flexible transfer arrangement model or multi year funding options. Prepare a letter to DFO for Chairs signature.

ACTION ITEM #66-6: Contribution Agreement - Draft letter from SSC to DFO Minister 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.

Thursday – 9:00am to 4:30 pm – November 20th, 2008

Location: Large Boardroom, 419 Range Road

8. **Youth Contest Package/Update**

- SSC members reviewed the draft resource package developed for the elementary schools.
- The resource package includes: instructions for the Teachers, information on the lifecycle of salmon plus a number of copies of tasks/activities that the teachers could use in the classroom to initiate discussion with students on salmon plus worksheets that utilize skills related to the curriculum of various age groups.
- Still to be completed is a cover letter for the teachers, plus to complete a final preview of the lesson plans and activities.
- Discussion putting info on webpage would need to convert specific activities into PDF.
- Final resource packages still need to be copied for the schools, estimated date is first week of December. Recommended that a copy also be provided to the YFWMB for their schools program coordinator.
- To be displayed at the Yukon Arts Centre - March 24th, 2009
- All SSC members were in agreement of the resource package as presented, no revisions identified.
- Suggested to include in the cover letter to the teachers that there be a request for comments or suggestions.
- Question rose on the where about of the Youth Contest Trophy, Carl volunteered to coordinate the retrieval of the trophy from Faro.

9. **Post Season Update**

Pat Milligan gave an update on the Alsek drainage and the Yukon River Drainage
Alsek drainage

- The pre-season outlook was not favourable but the numbers were higher than the actual in season returns. Closures occurred in most areas of the Pacific Coast due to anticipated poor returns, marine conditions were not favourable for fish migrating out in 2005 survival was poor. Returning numbers for 2008 were anticipated as poor.
- All fisheries were closed for virtually the entire season

- Chinook weir count was 466, preseason projection was 2600, and the 10 year average was 1556. Escapement goal was 1100 fish; the escapement goal was not met.
- Early Sockeye (prior to Aug 15) count was 43, preseason projection was 4300, and the 10 year average was 2453.
- Late Run Sockeye came in very late, count was 2698, preseason projection was 12,000, and the 10 year average was 11,149.
- Coho count was 4275.
- Village Creek was not in operation in 2008, problems with counter.
- Champagne FN closed for members for majority of the fishery. Some effort was made during the coho fishery.
- The numbers recorded this year are the lowest numbers on record; the weir has been in since 1976.
- SSC requested test fishery and coho catch information on the US side.

YR Drainage

Chinook Run:

- The Chinook run on the Yukon River was poor in 2008.
- The sonar has been counting the YR Chinook now for 4 years at Eagle, Alaska.
- 45000 was the agreed upon escapement number into Canada, the number was based on the information from the sonar not on the mark recapture program.
- In 2008 all the YR escapement indexes were below average, the same numbers were expected on the spawning grounds as 2007. Genetic info should help confirm numbers.

Chum Run:

- Reviewed the 2008 Upper Yukon fall Chum salmon highlights.
- Summer Chum fishery opened July 1st with a restricted mesh size. Catch was 125600 Chum (bi-catch - 4300 Yukon River Chinook). Actual number of Canadian origin fish caught was low. Total Summer Chum harvest 151800
- Fall Chum Harvest was commercial 119000, subsistence 55000.
- Development of fall Chum run was slow.
- Graph was viewed showing a comparison of Sonar Count and Fish wheel catch in 2008, and similarities.
- Live release test fishery was not used in 2008; data from Pilot Station and Eagle sonar programs concluded that the run was of sufficient strength meet the escapement goal, allowing Canadian fisheries.
- Commercial and domestic fisheries were opened earlier in the season than usual. No restrictions were imposed on the FN chum fisheries.

Porcupine River Drainage

Chum:

- Old Crow FN in conjunction with a consultant firm ran a mark-recapture program during 2008, which estimated 21700
- The 2008 Weir count was 18500 to Oct 11; the number was expanded to 20100K since the weir was shut down earlier than previous years.
- YR Panel set an IMEG of 22000-49000 for Fishing Branch for 2008-2010; the previous longstanding goal was 50000-120000.

LUNCH BREAK

10. SSC Budget Development 2009/2010

(SSC - In Camera)

11. Review Calendar

- * Yukon Placer Secretariat - Dec 3, 2008 - (William Asp)

- * YFWMB Jan 27-29, 2009
- * State of the Salmon Feb 2-5, 2009
- * Yukon River Panel, Whitehorse – TBA
- * Salmon Sub-Committee Meeting - Feb 17 –19, 2009 (All members)
- * Salmon Sub-Committee meeting on the land - Mar 23, 2009 (TENTATIVE)
- * SSC General meeting dates 2008/2009 plus tentative working group dates – setting dates postponed until new members appointed.

12. Review Presentation and Poster for State of Salmon Conference

Previous poster information was summarised on a USB, Craig was asked by SSC to reviewed presentation and draft poster and notify committee of any concerns.

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.

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.

13. Other Business

- Habitat Job Description
 - Committee reviewed the draft job description all were in favour of the job description as written
 - Discussed hiring someone to fill the habitat position prior to end of fiscal year.
 - All in agreement to post this fiscal (prior to March 31) and hire for next year.
 - Advertising, hiring working group, and remaining details of job to be discussed during February meeting.
- Pictures – SSC Members
- Agenda for next SSC Meeting
 - Habitat Consultant Job posting
 - Strategic Plan (1 day) In-camera
 - Yukon Queen II – presentation from YESAB on process and timelines
 - Waterways presentation
 - Contribution Agreement (2hrs) M. Eikland
 - Youth Contest
 - Member Updates
 - In-Season Decision making
 - Chair and Vice Chair Elections

ACTION ITEM #66-9: Carl to be notified when new SSC appointments completed, so that arrangements can be made for Chair to meet with new appointees one day prior to meeting.

ACTION ITEM #66-10: SSC Medallion - Craig to send mug choices to committee members and determine costs.

Closing Prayer – Vicky Josie

Meeting Adjourned at 4:20 p.m. by Chair Carl Sidney