

MINUTES
SALMON SUB-COMMITTEE
September 18-20, 2007, Meeting #61
Whitehorse, Yukon

MEETING DATES 2007-2008

Past Meeting Dates

Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee	May 1-3, 2007	Dawson
Public Meeting	May 2, 2007	Dawson
Public Meeting	May 16, 2007	Whitehorse
Yukon River Working Group	May 28, 2007	Whitehorse
Yukon Queen II	May 30, 2007	Dawson
Haines Junction (Public)	June 6, 2007	Haines Junction
SSC & DFO Roles Workshop	June 18-19, 2007	Whitehorse
Faro Mine Tour	July 6, 2007	Faro
Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee	September 18-20, 2007	Whitehorse

Upcoming Meeting Dates (tentative)

DFO/SSC Workshop	November 12, 2007	Whitehorse
Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee	November 13-15, 2007	Whitehorse
Yukon River Working Group	November 16, 2007	Whitehorse
Yukon River Panel	December 3-7, 2007	Anchorage
Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee	February 26-28, 2008	Whitehorse
Yukon River Panel	March 24-28, 2008	Whitehorse

MEETING SUMMARY

1. **Announcements/ Community Updates**
2. **Review Agenda**
3. **Review Action Items**
4. **Review Minutes from May 2007 Meeting**
5. **DFO habitat staff on assignment**
6. **Strategic Plan**
7. **Habitat Update – (Habitat Consultant Kelly Hayes) (see Appendix I for complete update)**
8. **Development of Protocol for Travel cont.**
9. **Correspondence Reviewed**
10. **Management Tools (Lorelei)**

11. **Budget**
12. **Members' Updates**
13. **Review Calendar**
14. **Run Update, Mark recapture and Sonar (S. Johnston)**
15. **Request for Community Meeting in Dawson**
16. **Other Business**
 - **Possible R&E proposal/proposals from SSC**
 - **Organic Salmon Farming Standards**
 - **Youth Contest**
 - **Agenda for next SSC Meeting**

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Carl Sidney (Chair), Gerry Couture, Chuck Hume, Joe Johnson, Vicky Josie, Ed Kormendy, Lorelei Smith, David Bunbury (Laberge RRC) & James MacDonald (Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation)

DFO: Frank Quinn, Louise Naylor (Recorder)

Absent: Dan McDiarmid, Craig McKinnon & Esau Schafer

Opening Prayer

1. Announcements/ Community Updates

- Carl – Fish harvesting within Teslin FN was minimal; fishers who usually catch 70-80 king salmon on a drift only were catching 5 fish at a time.
- No further updates due to poor run

2. Review Agenda

- Addition - Youth Contest
- Revision - Monday afternoon meeting schedule postponed until Tuesday AM, due to attendance at funeral.

3. Review Action Items

Action items listed below require no further action. To see action items still ongoing see separate summary sheet.

ACTION ITEM #46-23: BVD to draft an article for the newspapers explaining the problems with the current water licensing system in the Yukon.

Mtg#61: Item closed, revised request through action item 61-7

ACTION ITEM#59-1: YR DFA Meeting – Carl Sidney, Vicky Josie to attend on behalf of the SSC, to promoting the fish size case and the possibly of a petition at YR DFA meeting.

Carl Attending on behalf of SSC – Done

Mtg#60 May 07 – Carl updated committee at during May meeting. No further action required.

ACTION ITEM#59-2: Board of Fish Meeting: Carl Sidney and Gerry Couture to contact the 4 user groups to see if there is an ability to put forward a petition for an emergency meeting with the Alaska Board of Fish via the upper river panel members.

Mtg#61 Sept 2007 – Consolidate all related action times for discussion during September meeting on the direction that needs to be taken, no further action required at this time.

ACTION ITEM#59-3: Fish Size - Draft letter to Department of Fisheries and YTG minister regarding the fish size concerns at the mouth of the river, once record of decision or information is received from the Board of Fish and results from petition. (Gerry (to get info) and Steve)

Mtg#61 Sept 2007 – Consolidate all related action times for discussion during September meeting on the direction that needs to be taken, no further action required at this time.

ACTION ITEM#59-4: Fish Size - SSC to send letter with a draft petition to RRC's asking that they manage the petition within their communities. Cc to F&WMB.

Mtg#61 Sept 2007 – Consolidate all related action times for discussion during September meeting on the direction that needs to be taken, no further action required at this time.

ACTION ITEM#59-5: Fish Size – SSC to send letter to FN's asking for support in the form of a letter regarding Alaska Fish and Game problems with fish size. Identify that RRC's will be managing a petition within community.

Mtg#61 Sept 2007 – Consolidate all related action times for discussion during September meeting on the direction that needs to be taken, no further action required at this time.

ACTION ITEM Mtg#59-7: Yukon Queen II – OLD action item clarification – Kelly to review previous letter from SSC to Minister from previous recommendation, draft letter to strengthen previous recommendation. Letter to be circulated to SSC members for review and approval prior to final draft.

Letter sent Mar 19/07 - Done

Mtg#60 May 07 – Since Holland America is applying for an authorization under the Fisheries Act, no further action is required at this time.

ACTION ITEM Mtg#59-8: Northern Cross – Kelly to look into further information on Northern Cross Plan - Process for developing areas of interest for April meeting.

Mtg#60 May 07 – Kelly reviewed the plan, no further action required as there are no salmon issues.

ACTION ITEM#59-11: Yukon River Panel Members – Draft letter to Minister indicating that Vicky Josie and Gerry Couture members' names are to stand as Panel member; other members interested in being alternates are Ed Kormendy, Chuck Hume and Esau Schafer but not interested in being full members.

Mtg#61 Sept 2007: Done (Note: Gerry announced that he would not be putting his name forward for renewal on the SSC for 2008)

ACTION ITEM#59-15: – Haines Jct. Public Meeting - letter to Alsek RRC advising of the June 6 intended date; see if they want to present items at end of meeting.

June 6 2007 – Craig, Chuck and Carl attended on behalf of SSC, Frank Quinn attended on behalf of DFO.

ACTION ITEM#59-14: – Fish and Game Assoc. – request dates of their public meetings.

Mtg#61 Sept 2007 – Chair to follow-up with Executive secretary. No further action required

ACTION ITEM #60-3: Executive Secretary to contact the YF&GA by phone and/or email, find out the date, advise that the SSC members want to attend the fun day at Rotary Park and are willing to sit on a working group. Also, find out the YF&GA meeting dates and provide the SSC meeting dates to them. Executive Secretary will try to set up a meeting.

Already discussed, See Action Item#59-14.

ACTION ITEM#60-1: Expenses for two of Carl Sidney's travel claims. Executive Secretary will look after taking these expenses from old year funds.

Final Summary already completed, unable to take expenses from old year funds.

ACTION ITEM#60-2: Contract for Kelly Hayes to be revised. Executive Secretary will revise the contract and insert the wording at the end of the Land use planning section as follows:

“and agreed upon assignments or projects between the two parties”

New contract revised and signed off by Kelly Hayes and Carl Sidney. No more action required.

ACTION ITEM #60-4: Lorelei and Craig to take the history list of documents produced February 14th and do further work to produce a report that fits into the strategic plan with goals and outcomes.

Mtg#61 Sept 2007: On agenda for discussion during September meeting - Done

ACTION ITEM #60-6: Kelly Hayes to review Jake Duncan’s reports with respect to the Yukon Queen II.

Done, provided for review just prior to the September 2007 meeting.

ACTION ITEM #60-8: At the public meeting, commercial fishermen asked about the possibility of the SSC purchasing recovered tags and being reimbursed from DFO at a later date. Executive Secretary will look into this and report back to Carl Sidney.

Mtg#61 Sept 2007: Trondek Government is currently providing this service to the FN’s in Dawson, There is possibility that this service could be provided to the commercial fishers. It is not know at this time if Commercial Fishers would also be included. Suggestion made that DFO develop protocol with all FN’s to implement similar collection of tag data.

ACTION ITEM #61-1: Tag Recovery – SSC to draft letter to Trondek FN recognizing their support in the collection of tag and tag data to expedite the process of data collection.

ACTION ITEM #60-9: Letter to be drafted stating no wrong doing was done, no money was spent personally and the SSC will have no future involvement with the salmon catch card bank account. The SSC members will be removed from the bank account and the money in the account will be returned to the general revenue fund. Executive Secretary will draft the letter.

Letter received August/2007, letter to bank drafted requesting closure of account and bank drafts for Receiver General for Canada and SSC, signed off by Chair and Steve Smith. Done

ACTION ITEM #61-2: YFGA – Carl and Frank to follow-up with the YFGA on what occurred with the summer events and meet with the YFGA to clarify any misunderstandings.

4. Review Minutes from May 2007 Meeting

Minutes reviewed and adopted as revised.

11:45 Meeting adjourned for remainder of day.

Wednesday – 9:00am to 4:30 pm – September 19th, 2007

Location: Large Board Room, 419 Range Road.

9:05am Meeting called to order by Chair Carl Sidney

5. DFO habitat staff on assignment

Frank Quinn introduced to the Salmon Sub-Committee the new habitat staff who have been temporarily assigned to the Yukon Office:

- Paul Christensen, Habitat Biologist, responsible for referral files other than placer
- Sean Collins a Habitat Biologist, currently responsible for Placer Mining referrals.

6. Strategic Plan

Committee reviewed the strategic plan draft historical information from 2004-2006, and identified key accomplishments and challenges as follows:

Historical Info

2004

- Formally participated in the review of the Yukon Placer Authorization.
- The SSC Panel members started attending JTC's meetings
- Provided funding for 2 elders to attend panel meeting to participate and provide information on fishing activities at Fort Yukon.
- Opened dialogue process with letter to FN's on consultative process, with the intent to provide a more effective and efficient communication and consultative process with individual FN's.
- Developed Newsletter for distribution
- Distributed Performance questionnaire to the public for input on how the SSC are doing.
- Set a deadline of September 30, 2004 for a satisfactory resolution by the YQII working group of the issues surrounding the Yukon Queen II;
- Resolved issue of tied elections by splitting the 1 year term in half between candidates;
- Recommendation was deferred on the Collection of Yukon River Chinook Salmon Gametes pending consultation with the Yukon public and the Net Cage Farming Workshop to be held March 16-17, 2005;
- The SSC Coordinated a Cross-Cultural Training Session for all committee members during a meeting on the land, members held a community dinner and experienced various cross-cultural fishing techniques;
- Submitted a recommendation to DFO requesting that terms of committee members be staggered during the next process of appointments, in order to provide for better continuity in committee operations;
- Consulted with FN's and began a written process on the proposed delinking of the Yukon River Commercial and Domestic Fisheries in regulations;
- Formally requested that the Yukon Government make the development of mining production licence regulations, a priority;
- Took part in DFO's audit and evaluation of DFO's funding arrangement with the Salmon Sub-Committee Program.

2005

- Release of Auditors report on DFO's funding arrangement with the Salmon Sub-Committee Program
- Completed a literature review of benefits and impacts of salmon net-cage farming
- Participated in consultation on DFO's Wild Salmon Policy
- Continue to express concerns with length of time it is taking to complete the Reclamation plan for Faro mine site.
- Implemented a Job shadowing pilot program with a Yukon College Renewable Resources student and Habitat Consultant.
- Held a public workshop on Salmon Net Cage Farming and the practice of transferring genetic materials.
- DFO implemented the staggering of salmon committee members' terms

- Participated in the State of the Salmon Conference
- Explored the concept for the development of a Watershed Management Plans for the communities.
- Achieved new funding arrangement with DFO
- Concerns raised with Environment Canada and the dumping of road salts and impacts on salmon.
- Formally recommended that a moratorium be place on the transport of Yukon salmon gametes out of the Yukon for the purpose of net cage farming.
- Recommended that YTG place a moratorium on coal bed methane extraction, exploration and development in the Yukon River basin, until such time that a YESAB process be completed to allow for regulation.
- Made a presentation to the Fish and Wildlife board on options for building a better and closer relationship.
- Formal recommendation made to DFO regarding the regulatory de-linking of the YR commercial and Domestic Fisheries.
- Reminder to minister to consult with the SSC and his obligation to seek a recommendation on status of Bering Cisco as a species at risk
- Took part in protocol development and consultations regarding the Yukon Placer regime.
- Letter sent to Yukon Government regarding the lack of consultation on the changes to the listing in the Mining Land Use Regulations.
- Protocol agreement accepted for DFO Ministerial recommendations
- Continue to monitor mining and other development activities regarding salmon and salmon habitat.

2006

- Received update on the Environmental Impacts regarding Dawson Sewage from new responsible authority (YTG).
- Determined that it was not possible to copyright the name Yukon Salmon.
- Requested a presentation from the Three Parties on the intent of the UFA with regard to the SSC and salmon management. Were unable to coordinate presentation received in 2006.
- DFO consulted the SSC on conservation units in regards to the Wild Salmon Policy.
- Formal recommendation made to DFO on Bering Cisco.
- Recommended a change in the wording within the YTG Fishing synopsis regarding tethering.
- Participated in the continuing development of the Transboundary Panel annex for the Alsek drainage
- Requested information on road salt disposal and usage within the Yukon and within the area of Whitehorse.
- Supported the initiative of the Selkirk RRC regarding Habitat Protection Area of the Macmillan River.
- Submitted a letter to DFO requesting implementation funding for the Yukon River Agreement.
- Formal recommendation made not to allow the export of salmon gametes from the Yukon.

Key Accomplishments of the SSC 1995-2003

- Habitat Conservation and Stewardship Program;
- Retirement of eight commercial licences, to accommodate FN participation (UFA)
- Creation of the Yukon Salmon Conservation Catch Card;
- Creation of the Alsek, Yukon and Porcupine River Working Groups;
- Youth Contest – a positive and successful initiative;
- Yukon River Test Fishery;
- Participation on Yukon River Panel and signing of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement;
- Were active participants in the YPA Review;
- Played an instrumental role in obtaining Abandoned mine funding
- Continuing development of a consultative process for the creation of Integrated Fisheries Management Plans;

2004

- Provided for more public participation during the Yukon River Panel meetings by bringing elders to the meeting.
- Developed Newsletter for distribution
- Arranged for the better continuity of information, by recommending that the terms of committee members be staggered during the next process of appointments.
- Began the process of Consulted with FN's and began a written process on the proposed delinking of the Yukon River Commercial and Domestic Fisheries in regulations.
- Members devoted the time to experience and understand the different fishing techniques of committee members during a Cross-Cultural Training Session.
- Held a public workshop on Salmon Net Cage Farming and the practice of transferring genetic materials.

2005

- Completed a literature review on the benefits and impacts of salmon net-cage farming
- Concerns raised with Environment Canada and the dumping of road salts and impacts on salmon.
- Implemented a Job shadowing pilot program with a Yukon College Renewable Resources student and Habitat Consultant.
- DFO implemented the staggering of salmon committee members' terms
- Explored the concept for the development of a Watershed Management Plans for the communities.
- Formally recommended that a moratorium be placed on the transport of Yukon salmon gametes out of the Yukon for the purpose of net cage farming.
- Reminder to minister to consult with the SSC and his obligation to seek a recommendation on status of Bering Cisco as a species at risk
- Played a major role in protocol development and consultations regarding the Yukon Placer regime.
- Protocol agreement accepted for DFO Ministerial recommendations

2006

- Requested information on road salt disposal and usage within the Yukon and within the area of Whitehorse.
- Supported the initiative of the Selkirk RRC regarding Habitat Protection Area of the Macmillan River.
- Salmon Sub-Committee created their own policy on how the committee would respond to the export of salmon gametes and fish farming requests in the Yukon.

Key Challenges of the SSC 1995-2003

- Effective approaches to dealing with the issue of reclamation of abandoned mines;
- Public Image – the impression that the SSC is part of DFO;
- Consultations – ensuring meaningful discussions and public participation in consultations;
- Funding Arrangements – achieving financial autonomy from government;
- Few strong community partnerships formed to date;
- Training – little or no formal training is provided for new SSC members;

2004

- Set a deadline of September 30, 2004 for a satisfactory resolution by the YQII working group of the issues surrounding the Yukon Queen II;
- Recommendation was deferred on Collection of Yukon River Chinook Salmon Gametes pending consultation with the Yukon public and the Net Cage Farming Workshop to be held March 16-17, 2005;
- Arranged for the better continuity of information, by recommending that the terms of committee members be staggered during the next process of appointments.

2005

- Recommended that YTG place a moratorium on coal bed methane extraction, exploration and development in the Yukon River basin, until such time that a YESAB process be completed to allow for regulation.
- Formal recommendation made to DFO regarding the regulatory de-linking of the YR commercial and Domestic Fisheries.

2006

- Requested a presentation from the Three Parties on the intent of the UFA with regard to the SSC and salmon management. Were unable to coordinate presentation received in 2006.
- Submitted a letter to DFO requesting implementation funding for the Yukon River Agreement.

ACTION ITEM #61-3: - Strategic Plan – Carl, Craig and Chuck to provide 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.

1:35pm Meeting called back to order

7. Habitat Update – (Habitat Consultant Kelly Hayes)

Kelly provided an update to the salmon committee members, the discussion and questions captured below. Note: full report attached as Appendix I.

Yukon Queen II

- * Discussed the new voluntary procedures described in the 2006 report, it has been observed that a number of these procedures were implemented by Holland America in 2007. Noted that these were voluntary measures, in some instances the vessel complied but there were a number of instances where the vessel did not comply as observed by a canoeist's travelling to St. Mary's.
- * A number of concerns have been identified with the number of branches and debris in the river that are being washed back into the river by the boat. The debris is a common occurrence naturally in the spring, but prior to the boat it only occurred in the spring and was washed to the high water mark, now with the boat around the debris continues to be washed back in the river all season long interfering with other activities on the river such as fishing nets.
- * Kelly requested feedback from SSC on the draft Yukon Queen II YESAB submission.
- * Concern rose that precedence was being set by Yukon Queen II, can other vessels be impacted by allowances given to Yukon Queen II. How many other vessels the size of the Yukon Queen will be utilizing the river? I.e. need to set limitations on size and limitation on speed.
- * Suggestion was to look into and applying other examples of Fast Ferry restrictions near shorelines.
- * Need to strengthen the YESAB submission to get YESAB to assign an agency to take the lead in the planning and development of a policy on vessel operation on waterways in the Yukon.
- * Need to encourage others to participation in the YESAB process.
- * Comment made on draft breakdown on costs and expenses of revenue made by Holland America. Question on who is getting the biggest dollar value? Holland America owns a number of businesses in town that they promote, do they promote only Holland America or other businesses in town not directly linked to Holland America?
- * Concern rose that the Salmon Sub-Committee is spending large amounts of time on the Yukon Queen II. Is it not a DFO responsibility to enforce if the Yukon Queen is breaking the law?

DECISION: Kelly to continue developing YESAB submission, incorporating additional suggestions and any further suggestions/recommendation that committee members provide to Kelly.

ACTION ITEM #61-4: Yukon Queen II - SSC to provide comments on the Yukon Queen II draft YESAB submission to habitat consultant by September 30, 2007.

ACTION ITEM #61-5: Kelly to develop a letter to FN's, RRC's, Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council, and effected interest parties, to advise of the upcoming YESAB submission and request their support and participation in responding to the Yukon Queen II submission.

Dawson Sewage Treatment Facility

- * YTG has submitted a sewage treatment proposal to the YESAB board.

- * A number of concerned citizens had a problem with the recommended location, and developed a petition of 11 pages long, 6 pages of the petition were signatures but the signature pages did not reference what the petition was all about. The petition is now in question, on whether it is legal and if it would pass legal inspection.
- * Positive note is that there is movement on getting a sewage treatment in place for Dawson, and Dawson now has a city council in place that supports getting the treatment facility.

Oil and Gas

- * The initial review identified no major concerns for the Salmon Sub-Committee; upon further discussion with the committee other anadromous fish were identified in the areas of the Peel watershed.
- * Need to verify that the other fish that are included under the definition of Salmon are not impacted.

ACTION ITEM #61-6: Oil and Gas - Kelly to draft letter for Carl to review on the three requests for postings of Oil and Gas for the Peel Plateau, deadline for submission September 28, 2007.

YESAA 5-Year Review

- A 5 year review has been initiated
- No request for input has been received to date by the Salmon Sub-Committee

ACTION ITEM #61-7: Yukon Water board and YESAB Process - Kelly to review during the November meeting, Water Licence and YESAB process and determine if they are counter productive.

Yukon Placer Regime

- New Yukon Placer Regime comments on 2nd phase required by end of September.

ACTION ITEM #61-8: Yukon Placer Regime - Kelly to review and draft any responses that the committee may have on the second phase of the Placer Regime. Letter to include acknowledgement of report previously submitted, any comments need to be submitted to Kelly prior to September 24th.

8. Development of Protocol for Travel cont.

- * Travel expenses
 - members requested that they receive an advance on travel expenses prior to meetings
 - Admin need to be notified up to 2 weeks in advance of details of travel (dates, hotels, and method of travel)
 - Advances can be made up to the total amount of travel expense claims (honorarium not included).
 - If members do not participate in the full meeting they need to notify admin in writing of necessary changes.

DECISION: Advance cheques to be made available to members at beginning of General meetings, when notice of attendance is provided from members (with clear information on travel plans) to admin within two weeks of meetings. For other

meetings an advance is to be provided once travel advance form is approved for travel.

Meeting Adjourned 4:30pm

Thursday – 9:00am to 4:30 pm – September 20th, 2007

Location: Large Board Room, 419 Range Road.

9:05am Meeting called to order.

9. Correspondence Reviewed

- Received from CYFN, request for SSC interest in shared office space

ACTION ITEM #61-9: CYFN – Executive Secretary to draft letter to CYFN in response to the September 11th correspondence, advising CYFN that the Salmon Committee would possibly be interested in occupying an office in the new CYFN.

- * Received from Yukon River Drainage Association, request for nomination from the SSC.

ACTION ITEM #61-10: Yukon River Drainage – Executive Secretary to draft a response to June 28, 2007 letter from YR DFA, nominating Chair of the SSC (Carl Sidney) and Vice Chair (Craig McKinnon as alternate).

- * DFO Fisheries Act – comments and amendments to Bill C-45 and offer to arrange follow-up discussion if the committee are interested.
 - o Frank Quinn notified the committee that he had also been contact recently from the Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs within DFO, asking if the SSC would be interested in a follow-up meeting.

ACTION ITEM #61-11: DFO Fisheries Act – Frank to response to May 03, 2007 letter from DFO on the committees behalf requesting a follow-up discussion during the week of November SSC meeting.

10. Management Tools (Lorelei Smith)

Lorelei provided a general overview to the committee on a draft Yukon Territory Comprehensive Salmon Management tools booklet. The general content of the booklet is that it will include information on the locations of salmon, what the runs historically were like, which habitat they utilize, identify where there is a lack of information, what species are at the greatest risk, where the resources are expended, and it should also give an opportunity to create and strengthen relationships with the users and managers of salmon within the areas. This book is intended to target members of committees, FN Fisheries management, RRC, etc.

Additional booklets can be broken down by major drainages i.e. Yukon River, Alsek, and Mackenzie River drainage. A Salmon Synopsis could be developed for the recreational fishers.

Discussion and additional info:

- o Suggestion to separate the Umbrella Final Agreement from policy.
- o Need additional information on resident and migrant fish populations
- o Need to include footnotes or cite of information provided in document
- o Need to alphabetize the order of headers under section 5.0
- o Needs additional historic information as well as life histories of salmon and survival rates.

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.

- The various drainage booklets need to be worked on separately, work on the Alsek booklet and start development of an R&E proposal for the Yukon River drainage proposal to get additional funding for the Yukon River part.

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

10:25 – Morning Break

10:45 – Meeting called back to order

11. Budget

- **Expenditures 2007-2008**

- Reviewed balances and clarified expenditures to date
- Discussed issue with inventory tracked on balance sheet, suggested the inventory be tracked as assets on a separate summary sheet.

ACTION ITEM #61-14: Inventory items to be removed from book keepers tracking program, items to be tracked on separate summary sheet, to be made available at meetings for members to review if additional purchases are required.

- Suggested that it would be helpful to include a realistic monthly forecast of remaining expenses at the November meeting within the budget summary in addition to the original forecasted provide for the year to assist with budget planning for remainder of year.

ACTION ITEM #61-15: Budget – Include a forecast of remaining expenditures to March 31st 2008 along with budget summary during financial updates.

- **Forecasts 2008-2009**

- Need to get the request for the contribution agreement in place in time. A forecast needs to be provided in advance with a forecast of expenses by month. Also need to identify the work plan of the committee for the coming year.
- Need to develop forecast for 2008-2009, based on previous expenditures.
- Carl to work with Frank. Lorelei not available for discussions with Carl and Frank but available to comment on draft by Email.

ACTION ITEM #61-16: Carl and Frank to develop a forecast for 2008-2009, and forward by email to Lorelei prior to next meeting for comments for the committee to discuss.

12. Members' Updates:

- May 16, 2007 – Whitehorse Public Meeting (Carl, Joe, Lorelei, Chuck)
 - Q- On **lcthyophonus** and how far up the river it was found
 - Q - on how fast the salmon move up the river
 - Suggest that there be more advertising to increase participation, i.e. Also use radio two weeks in advance in morning.
 - Members suggested that the next meeting be considered outside on a Saturday in May to increase attendance
- May 24-25, 2007 – Climate Change Action Plan (Carl)
 - Attended a 3 ½ day meeting put on by YTG

- Report of workshop provided to committee, within read file in Sept2007.
- Comment made by member that they had seen correspondence recently that the SSC need to address the factor of climate change in the management of salmon.
- May 28, 2007 - Yukon River Working Group (Carl, Gerry, Joe, Lorelei)
 - Discussion on the poor turnout and participation
 - Suggest that a date for next meeting be set during working group meeting and have members commit at that time.

ACTION ITEM #61-17: Yukon River Working Group – Executive Secretary to contact working group members by letter or email ASAP to determine availability to attend and agenda items, response needed by last week of October at the latest.

- May 30, 2007 – Yukon Queen II (Gerry Couture, Ed Kormendy)
 - Update provided by Kelly Hayes during Habitat update
- June 6, 2007 – Alesk RRC and SSC Public Meeting Haines Jtc. (Carl, Chuck, Craig)
 - No concerns on fish were brought to the attention of the SSC members present.
 - There were other resource issues that seemed of higher priority during meeting.
- June 12, 2007 – Laberge RRC (Carl)
 - Two members of the RRC were in attendance
 - Carl provided an overview of how the RRC can provide input into the Panel process.
 - Also provided an overview of how the Salmon Sub-Committee worked
- June 13, 2007 – Tantalus School, Carmacks (Carl)
 - Made a presentation to the youth contest winners during the GA.
- June 19-20, 2007 – Workshop SSC and DFO
 - Waiting on the report from the implementation review group, once that report is out then another meeting will be scheduled
 - Suggested date November 12 with the implementation review presentation, committee review the report in AM and meet with the IRG later in the AM or PM.

ACTION ITEM #61-18: - Implementation update – Frank to look into a presentation during the SSC Meeting, suggested date November 12th or another date during the week if there is room on the agenda.

- July 4, 2007 - Faro Mine Tour & mtg with Deloitte and Touche (Carl)
 - Deloitte and Touche are in their 10th year of receivership
 - In February 2009 the water licence will expire, at which time Deloitte and Touche will be replaced.
 - There is a community liaison committee, and there are a number of options, but it is hoped that the liaison committee will take over the management,
 - The committee is made up of FNs and stakeholders, i.e. Ross River Dena Council, Selkirk FN etc.
- July 6, 2007 – Tour of Faro Mine (Gerry, Lorelei, Chuck, Dan, Ed)
 - The massive scale of the area had a huge impact on members who visited the site for the first time.

- Impression was that there was a Band-Aid approach being taken to managing the mine.
- The timeframes and the scale of work that has to be done, was a big concern.
- SSC members found the tour very informative to actually see everything, the site was a real eye opener.
- Members, who had previously visited the site, found some of the information provided in this tour was in conflict with the information provided by Deloitte and Touche tour.
- The size and the amount of destruction on the environment was a big concern to members.
- A positive note was members were please to see that the dam had been removed.
- It is hoped that Yukoners have learned from the mess of the faro mine, and it will not be repeated else where in the Yukon Territory and that a security will be required for future mine sites.
- It was also viewed on the historical side, the cost in dollars and lives, plus the length of time that the mine was in operation as an economic generator and during that time the development of a number of other aspect such as elective governments in the Yukon.
- July 11-12, 2007 – Workshop -The State of the Salmon program in collaboration with DFO (Lorelei)
 - Focused on compiling the information on the escapement monitoring programs in the Pacific region, priority was given to finding the data gaps on escapement projects in the Pacific and grading the level or quality of information.
- Frank Quinn provided an update regarding staff from Alaska Department of Fish and Game: two of the main individuals who have been strongly supporting the SNIPS program have now left Alaska due to job offers in Washington.

13. Review Calendar

- * September 18 – 20, 2007 – General Meeting – Whitehorse
- * October 1-5, 2007 - North Pacific Management Commission Symposium (Frank Quinn to inquire into getting representation from the Yukon Area) Blair Hodgson is the DFO representative participating as a guest.
- * October 16, 2007 – YFWMB Meeting
- * November 12, 2007 – SSC/ DFO Workshop
- * November 13 – 15, 2007 – General Meeting - Whitehorse
- * November 16, 2007 – Yukon River Working Group Meeting (tentative)
 - Draft Agenda Items
 - Yukon Queen II
 - Habitat Issues
 - Correlation of the mark recapture counting techniques
 - R&E
 - Date for next Preseason meeting
- * December 3-7, 2007 - Yukon River Panel – Anchorage
 - Suggest that the SSC look into a charter via the Salmon Sub-Committee
 - alternative options are chartering and travel by bus

- Carl to first look into contacting the FN and getting on the Leadership agenda to stress the importance of community and FN participation and try to get commitments.
- Suggest that if the interested FN/stakeholders can not attend that the FN's send letters to the Panel with their concerns.
- Carl to determine the number of individuals who would participate and commit one month before looking into options available. (Note: passport is required if flying).
- * February 26 – 28, 2008 – General Meeting – Whitehorse
- * March 24 – 28, 2008 – Yukon River Panel – Whitehorse

ACTION ITEM #61-19: Alek working group meeting, Chuck to check with Linaya, Mike, Craig, and Lawrence to set date for next meeting.

3:00 Coffee Break

310 Meeting brought back to order

14. Run Update, Mark recapture and Sonar (S. Johnston)

- Sandy notified the committee that a large pulse of Chum has been coming through Pilot station, about 10 days in length; the chum run is currently in the green zone.
- The mark recapture and sonar data are tracking fairly close approx 80-85K
- Q: On the correlation of the recapture figures and Sonar. A: The mark recapture and the sonar have correlated fairly closely, essentially the same.
- The numbers on the Porcupine are starting to bump up, not as strong a pulse, earlier this week about 22K, estimate is about 34K through the weir.
- The genetic samples from pilot station are showing that the stronger parts of the run are fish from the end of the river, the Porcupine portion is fairly weak, this has been the trend in the past, then you get a strong pulse closer to the end
- The White River and Kluana River pulse are quite strong
- Teslin salmon run is not expected to be very strong, it is hope that the run is stronger than anticipated
- The test fishery has been running and providing the tagging ratios, and will continue unless a commercial fishery takes place.
- Q - Is there logical answer to why there is a strong Chum run and such a low Chinook? A: They are separate cycles, and conditions in the Ocean maybe favourable for one over the other. Also the commercial market is higher for Chinook and low Chum.
- For Chinook the in season estimate was 23K, the sonar estimate provided a 40K number for Chinook, the preseason forecast was 45K, not clear on why the numbers did not come through, run came in a lot worse than anticipated. DFO trying to determine explanations or options on why the difference.
- DFO requested that the US take genetic samples from the Chinook on the Yukon River, it was declined this year, but it is anticipated that samples would be taken in 2008.
- The escapement counts were well below average.
- Generally the escapement goals were met in the lower part of the Alaskan side of the river.
- It was noted that the US commercial catch was cut back in comparison to last year's fishery.

- The JTC has recommended that stock id be made a priority, the technology and the sampling regime is there, not sure why it is not being used.
- There is no accepted Canadian management model in place which is being utilized, from the perception of the US.
- Members expressed their concerns based on this years run on the Canadian side where Canada did not meeting their escapement and the talk of US meeting escapement, should the R&E money be delegated for use at Canada's discretion? A- There are no penalty clauses within the Yukon River Agreement, not in the current way of managing the fish.
- Q: How many of the Dog musher's, feed Chinook salmon to their dogs? A: The understanding is that there are not very many, and the ones that are using fish are usually using summer chum.
- A number of Canadian commercial fishermen have been talking about looking for compensation for the lack of fishing in 2007. Should commercial fishermen be compensated for not being able to fish when there are no fish available? A- There has been previous discussion on a related issue, outcome was you do not pay a fisherman to not fish when there are no fish available to fish, this is a management decision. You may pay a fisherman to not fish if you want to increase the numbers to the grounds if the fish are there and the fisherman would have been fishing.
- There needs to be some sort of consequence for the US not managing the subsistence fishery where the subsistence is over fishing and the First Nation fishery is not able to get their numbers.
- SSC members need to put the presser on the US to ensure the inseason Chinook stock id is implemented in the US.
- Teslin FN have been managing their fishery with two day closures, based on the numbers of fish taken by the US, the elders are asking why they are restricting their fishery and are recommending that they discontinue their two day closure since the US is not restricting their fisheries.
- There are a larger number of Canadians who are showing resentment towards conservation, when the US is not considering the concerns of Canada.
- Could the high sea fishery impact size of the run, should there be stock id requirements in the high sea fishery to determine the impact on the Canadian and US fisheries?

15. Request for Community Meeting in Dawson

- Discussed the request from Dawson for a public meeting. Resent correspondence from the Dawson Steward, has notified the committee that the Steward had been approached a number of times requesting information and reasons for the poor Chinook run. The Steward emailed the SSC requesting that a community meeting be held in Dawson to answer some of the questions.
- A meeting was not held at the time meeting was requested because the data was not available to answer questions.
- Can the committee still hold a community meeting in Dawson to answer the Dawson communities concerns?
- Is it important to the SSC to hold a special meeting where the concerns can be raised, or do you use the other avenues in place ie. Working group meetings, RRC etc.?
- Strong opinion around the table was that the committee hold a meeting, to listen and try and give some answers to the general public.

- During the meeting the SSC will provide accurate data, and request the DFO provide to the committee the most accurate information that they have to date. Ensure that there is no finger pointing.

DECISION: SSC will participate in the public meeting postseason in Dawson, DFO is unable to attend and will continue to hold working group meetings as an avenue to communicate information and express concerns.

ACTION ITEM #61-20: Dawson Community Meeting – Need to contact Sebastian to advise that the Chair, Gerry and possibly Ed will be there and that the committee will sponsor the meeting.

16. Other Business

- **Possible R&E proposal from SSC**
 - October 12th, 2007 deadline is too close to submit a request for this year.
 - Suggest that any proposals that need to be submitted need to have more discussion prior to being submitted.
- **Organic Salmon Farming Standards**
 - Correspondence received from an environmental organization, states that they are concerned with a proposal that is being put forward to certify net cage farmed fish is certified as organic.

ACTION ITEM #61-21 : Organic Salmon Standards (correspondence in folder) - contact Catherine and advise that the Committee supports them, in their move to not make farmed fish as certified organic and ask to be put on the mailing list.

- **Youth Contest**
 - Esau to be the committee contact
 - Theme: “Yukon with out salmon”
 - Advertising to remain the same

DECISION: Youth Contest – Michelle M, to continue as per last year, revise theme to “The Yukon without Salmon”. Ie. What would the bears eat, nutrients for the trees to grow....?. Esau Schafer to be Michelle’s SSC contact for questions and clarification on items related to the Youth Contest.

- **Agenda for next SSC Meeting** (identify times for specific issues/presentations on agenda for interested parties to attend)
 - Workshop with DFO/SSC plus presentation
 - Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
 - Process for selecting candidate for the test fishery
 - How do the SSC address climate change in the development of management plans?
 - YRDEFA and other Association Membership
 - Approach to the Panel meeting
 - Update on “conservation units” in regards to the Wild Salmon Policy.

Gerry closed with Prayer.

4:45 Meeting Adjourned

Salmon Sub-Committee Habitat Consultant Update

September 2007

Yukon Queen II

The Yukon Queen II continued to operate on the Yukon River for the 2007 tourist season. However, the boat adopted new operating procedures as prescribed by the 2006 study conducted by Environmental Dynamics Incorporated. These new procedures included:

- Reducing the boat's speed when passing by highly sensitive creek mouths (as determined through a risk management matrix)
- Avoiding traveling planed within 75 m of the shoreline
- Avoiding accelerating from idle to operating speed near any creek mouth or sensitive shoreline
- Avoiding travelling at lower than normal operating speed when planed
- Operating with the vessels' bow trimmed down at all times

Holland America agreed to implement all of these changes for the 2007 operating year. These changes are intended to reduce the number of fish fry stranded and killed by the boat's wake. However, these are only voluntary measures so there was no enforcement or formally monitoring of the boat's activities during the summer.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has requested Holland America file for an authorization under Sections 32 and 35 of the *Canadian Fisheries Act* to allow for the killing of fish and the destruction of fish habitat before the 2008 operating season. This application will trigger a full assessment of the vessel under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act*. Over the summer of 2007, Bill Klassen of Gartner Lee Environmental Consulting began gathering information for this submission.

Also over this summer, Trondek Hwechin staff conducted some preliminary observations of the Yukon Queen II's operations. Salmon Sub-Committee staff conducted a series of interviews with commercial and First Nation fishers on the Yukon River to gather more local or anecdotal information on the boat's operations. The intention was to also determine if people had observed any improvements in the boat's operation over the past five years and if their opinions of the boat had changed.

Overall, the majority of the people talked to seemed to feel the boat was still a major impediment to their fisheries operations and that the boat was still destructive to fish and fish habitat. However, there appeared to be a general sense of resignation about the boat and several interviewees felt that, when it came to habitat destruction, the majority of the damage had already been done. That said, all interviewees still had major concerns with the boat and all thought it should be taken off the river. Several suggested a timeline for the boat to be taken off the river and replaced with either a different boat or a smaller fleet of boats.

Dawson Sewage Treatment Facility

The Yukon Government's Community and Transportation Services Branch submitted its proposal for a sewage treatment facility in Dawson City to the Yukon Socio and Economic Assessment Board in August.

The proposed facility would be an aerated lagoon system with three cells. This is less expensive than a mechanical treatment facility and it is believed that the community will be more able to pay for the operations and maintenance of the lagoon system. The site for the lagoons would be located on the southeast side of the Dome Road junction on the Klondike Highway, just north of the Klondike Bridge. The area consists of the remains of old tailings ponds and currently has no development on it. Two of the three cells would be fully aerated, with the third cell being only partially aerated to allow for settling. Sewage for the facility would be pumped from town or delivered by truck. Once the sewage moves through the facility, treated water would be pumped back to the existing outflow pipe and into the Yukon River.

Over the summer, a group of citizens concerned about the location of the lagoon formed a petition to stop its development. Their main concern was the location of the lagoon. They felt that the lagoon should not be situated right at the entrance to the town and that it was also too close to a First Nation housing development. There were also concerns raised about the lagoon's proximity to the town's drinking water source. Over 200 Dawson residents signed the petition. However, Dawson City Council rejected the petition last week because the wording and presentation of the petition was legally unsound. This does not necessarily end the issue, as the citizens could prepare another petition if they so choose.

In the meantime, the government's proposal will continue to be processed by the required regulatory agencies. This assessment process will likely take a minimum of 1 to 1 1/2 years to complete. The City of Dawson will then have to apply and obtain a Water License before starting construction. The Water License process could take between 6-12 months. Therefore, it could take up to 3 years before construction of any facility begins.

During the assessment process, the City of Dawson and the Yukon Government will be advancing the design of the facility in order to minimize delays and to demonstrate Dawson's continue diligence in addressing the Court Order regarding the disposal of raw sewage into the Yukon River.

Yukon Oil and Gas Call

In March, the Government of Yukon its fall Oil and Gas Rights Disposition Process. The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has received three Requests for Postings (RFPs) from oil and gas companies in the Peel Plateau. A public review of these RFPs is being conducted until the end of September.

During the public review, these areas of interest are referred to Yukon First Nations whose traditional territories may be affected by the RFPs, other Government of Yukon departments and special interest groups. As well, the Yukon public is invited to submit comments regarding environmental, socio-economic, and surface access concerns that could arise as a result of possible oil and gas activities in these locations. The deadline for comments was September 28, 2007.

After a review of the RFPs, it appears there are no major concerns from a Salmon Sub-Committee perspective. The areas are within the Peel watershed and do not appear to be on salmon bearing streams. That said, as a public advisory board, the Salmon Sub-Committee may wish to submit comments suggesting that these types of land dispositions should be part of an overall land use planning process as wider environmental and social considerations could be factored into the decision making process.

The next step in the process will be a call for work bids, which may happen as soon as October or November 2007.

YESAA 5-Year Review

A five-year review of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA) has been initiated by federal, territorial and First Nation Governments. Chapter 12 of the Umbrella Final Agreement and Yukon First Nations' Agreements stipulate a requirement to review YESAA five years after the legislation was enacted.

The review is a joint initiative by the parties to the UFA – the Government of Yukon, the Council of Yukon First Nations and the Government of Canada. Over the following few months, this review will be conducted and will include input from all levels of government, special interest groups and the public. The review is scheduled to be complete by May 2008.

The first step in the process is to develop the Terms of Reference for the review. A draft has been developed by the three parties. This document that sets out how the Five-year Review will proceed and covers items such as how the review will be conducted, the scope of the review and what will be covered in the final report. These draft Terms of Reference have been circulated for public review. The deadline for comments is October 5, 2007.

A review of the draft Terms of Reference does not raise any significant concerns from a Salmon Sub-Committee perspective. However, our participation in the review will be extremely important and the review committee should be aware of our interest in the process.