

**YUKON SALMON COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting #57**  
**September 19 – 21, 2006)**  
**Whitehorse, Yukon**

**MEETING DATES 2006-2007**

**Meetings to Date (2006-2007)**

Alsek River Working Group	January 17, 2006	TBA
YSC Meeting # 55	February 21-23, 2006	Whitehorse
Yukon River Working Group	March 3, 2006	Whitehorse
Yukon River Panel	March 20 (week)	Whitehorse
Placer Regime	March 27-28, 2006	Whitehorse
BNA Workshop	March 28-29, 2006	Whitehorse
Porcupine River Working Group & Old Crow Public Meeting	April 3, 2006	Old Crow
YSC Meeting # 56	April 4-6, 2006	Dawson
Dawson Public Meeting	April 4, 2006	Dawson
Yukon Queen II	May 11, 2006	Dawson
Whitehorse Public Meeting	May 24, 2006	Whitehorse
Porcupine River Salmon Gathering	June 2-5, 2006	Old Crow
Celebration of Salmon	August 26-27, 2006	Dawson

**Upcoming Meeting Dates (tentative)**

Ross River (tentative Carl to coordinate)	Aug 28-31, 2006	Ross River
Yukon Salmon Committee Meeting	November 7-9, 2006	Whitehorse
Yukon River Panel	December 11-15, 2006	Whitehorse
Yukon Salmon Committee	February 20-22, 2007	Whitehorse
Yukon River Panel	April 3-6, 2007	Anchorage
Yukon Salmon Committee Meeting, Public mtg	April 17-19	Old Crow, Dawson

**MEETING SUMMARY**

1. **Announcements**
2. **Review Agenda**

3. Consult with the public on the Conservation Units and the Bering Cisco
4. Consultation Update on Wild Salmon Policy – Sandy Johnston
5. C&P Update - Henri Ragetli (A/Chief C&P)
6. Review Minutes from Meeting #55 (Feb 2006) and #56 (April 2006)
7. Review Action Items
8. Correspondence
9. Review 2006 Budget – Louise Naylor
10. Training
11. Habitat Update – Kelly Hayes
12. Peel River Watershed Planning – Steve Taylor
13. Yukon River FN Chinook Fishery 2006 – Steve Smith
14. DFO Staff evaluation and Job Descriptions
15. Review Calendar
16. Members' Updates:
17. Basic Needs Allocation Update – Steve Smith
18. Negotiations for the Transboundary Panel (Alek) – Lorelei Smith
19. Negotiations for the Yukon River Panel (Escapement) – Lorelei Smith
20. Other Business
21. Youth Contest - Michelle Murphy
22. Announcements
23. YSC Operational Issues
24. Strategic Plan
25. Community Steward Presentation – Doris Dreyer
26. Community Update
27. Other Business cont.
- 28.

## MEETING MINUTES

**Day (i.e. Tuesday)      Date and Time (All bold, TNR 12pt)**  
**Location:                      (eg.) Large Boardroom, DFO/Waterboard – 419 Range Road**

**Present:**

Carl Sidney, Chuck Hume, Joe Johnson, Vickie Josie, Dan McDirmid (Day 2&3),  
Ed Kormendy, Gerry Couture, Lorelei Smith, Craig McKinnon,

**Absent:**

Esau Schafer

**DFO Staff:**

Steve Smith

**Observer:**

David Bunbury-LRRC

**Meeting was called to order at 9:10am**

**Tuesday                      September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 – 9:00 a.m.**  
**Location:                      Large Board Room, 419 Range Road, Whitehorse, YT**

### **Opening Prayer**

#### **1.      Announcements**

- Gerry C. has taken on an assignment with Yukon Conservation Society as a mining coordinator; if any of the issues that he works are perceived as a conflict of interest he will declare them and ask for advice from the YSC.
- YSC hoodie sweatshirts have arrived (cost of sweatshirts to be announce later)
  - Discussion occurred on sale of items for profit, and how the YSC is not able to receive other funds above their Contribution Agreement (CA) funds for mandated projects.
  - Questions rose whether there is an ability to change the CA, can the YSC not make a recommendation to change their CA.
  - The Fish and Wildlife board was able to double its budget by finding alternate funding why can't the YSC do the same, both are under the UFA? A - YSC is under DFO policies and the FWMB is under YTG.
  - Should do something about this, write a letter. We have an agreement (UFA) we are having problems with the way it is written. These agreements can be changed.
  - The Salmon Committee have a lot to do under the UFA such as integration of Traditional knowledge and scientific knowledge into decision making as per the UFA and whether or not DFO is carrying out this part of the agreement. Q – Is a FN person is sitting on committees when scientific and traditional knowledge is required. A -

Two examples from DFO in salmon management is the Wild Salmon policy, meetings with FN's on changes to fisheries.

- Suggestion that the Contribution Agreement be reviewed then discussed at another time.

## 2. **Review Agenda**

### Additions

- Consult with the public on the Conservation Units and the Bering Cisco (S.Johnston)
- Review Strategic Plan (L.Smith)
- YSC Contribution Agreement

## 3. **Consult with the public on the Conservation Units and the Bering Cisco**

- Sandy brought in a sample of a Bering Cisco for the committee to review.
- The Bering Cisco sample was taken from the Rampart Wheels
- The Bering C. is similar to a round Whitefish, with the exception of its nose, the Bering C. nose is rounded versus the Whitefish has a very pinched or pointed nose
- A series of letters and an information packages were sent out to Yukon FN's from DFO, asking if they wanted any further consultation on the Bering Cisco. Only one of the FN provided feed back on proposed listing.
- The Public have been consulted via two YSC meetings; as well the information is available on the web.
- Listing deadline had been extended to spring 2007.
- Q – Who initiated the decision that determined the Bering Cisco was endangered? A-A Committee on Status on Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), a report was done and the conclusion was that it should be listed as “a species of special concern”. A number of habitat risks were identified that were considered a threat to the species.
- The committee felt that the threats described are unrealistic in the near future and there is no current increase in the fishery, in actual fact the fishery is reduced. It should be declared as data deficient.
- Q – FN's should have been consulted in regards to the report, why were they not consulted? A - FN's were contacted by the consultant, but had a difficult time getting FN input.
- If Bering Cisco was deemed by the SARA as a species of Special Concern, then a management plan will need to be developed within 3 years.
- YSC needed to make recommendations via letter to DFO on Bering Cisco if they have concerns with the proposed status.

## 4. **Consultation Update on Wild Salmon Policy – Sandy Johnston**

- The main emphasis within DFO is to identify the conservation units in a consistent manner within Pacific Region.
- Blair Holtby is in charge to ensure the process is consistent

- DFO have met with YTG and DFO-Yukon to determine what data systems are available, not all the data sets are complete and usable until later in the year.
- Focus on the Yukon data sets will be during the winter period.
- DFO is developing the recommendations from the scientific community then consultations will take place to the communities.
- YSC concerned that conservation units will not be understood by the general public.
- Committee suggested that DFO provide information to FN's prior to finalizing the scientific numbers and consulting, to prepare them for consultations on conservation units to encourage a positive end result.

## **5. C&P Update - Henri Ragetli (A/Chief C&P)**

- Tethering – related to recreational fishing
  - Concerns raised previously in 2005, as a result the wording on the YTG Fishing synopsis was changed. New wording focussed on the humanitarian way of treating fish.
  - Discussed developing ethics or educational approach over developing regulations to stop tethering fish.

**ACTION ITEM 57-1: Tethering – Draft letter to C&P recommending change in wording in the YTG Fishing Synopsis. Wording to educated public that it is unlawful to release tethered fish and clearly state that live fish should not be tethered. Cc to YTG.**

- C&P Staffing –
  - DFO is going through a staffing process, in compared to last year when cuts were being made in the department.
  - Approx. 20 fishery officer positions are being recruited throughout the Pacific Region.
  - Questioned were raised on the training opportunities within C&P. C&P does not have an apprentice program, largely due to safety issues and having members of the public around firearms, and not wanting to put members of the public in harms way.
  - Individuals experienced in resources would meet part of the requirements for this process.
  - What is the level of commitment required for an individual applying on the process? There is no intent at this time to get a signed commitment from applicants at this time.
  - Concerns rose that FN's are under pressures that prevent them from staying in the program. DFO is recently involved in an initiative where 5 FN youth from the Yukon who have been identified as leaders in their communities are travelling to Edmonton for the Dream Catchers conference, one of DFO's fishery officers will be travelling with them as a chaperon and role model.
  - YSC suggested that a FN person sit on the hiring board, to show more of a commitment during the hiring process.

**6. Review Minutes from Meeting #55 (Feb 2006) and #56 (April 2006)**

- Minutes #55 – moved to adopt by Gerry Couture (No changes)
- Minutes #56 – moved to adopt by Vicky Josie (No changes)

**7. Review Action Items**

**ACTION ITEM #49-27: BVD to write a letter to the Water Board indicating that the YSC is recommending that no new or amended water licence be issued to Minto Resources until a thorough evaluation is done of the site and outstanding issues regarding care, maintenance and clean up of the site are addressed.**

*Mtg. #50: nothing received to date.*

*- No further action required as per meeting with Chair/BVD/Kelly Hayes*

**ACTION ITEM #51-7: BVD to contact the Yukon News to discuss the possibility of doing an article on YTG's mining reclamation process and water licencing.**

*Aug/05: Initial contact made with the Yukon News. They are undergoing a significant staff change/shortage and do not have an available report. BVD will contact them again in September when they hope to have new staff who could work on a story.*

*Sept/06: Mining reclamation complete. Water licencing process, comments and environmental assessment goes to YESAA then the completed process (package) goes to the Waterboard and the Waterboard issues the licence.*

**ACTION ITEM #57-2: Water Licencing Process: Kelly to review process on water licencing as per action item 51-7, and come back to the committee with presentation on the new revised process that includes both the Waterboard and YESAB.**

**ACTION ITEM #51-24: Steve Smith to draft a backgrounder on how to fix the Salmon Conservation Catch Card, laying out options and the benefits and impacts of each, for presentation at May meeting.**

*Steve advised that he will not have the requested information by the May 2005 meeting and has been placed on the September agenda.*

*Sept. 05: Henry Ragetli, new Acting Chief of C&P will provide the briefing.*

*Mtg. #53: S. Smith recommended that the YSC wait until after the DFO Dialogue Session (November 15<sup>th</sup>), to determine if proposed changes to the Fisheries Act will address this issue.*

*Nov 15<sup>th</sup> – It is expected to be addressed in new Fisheries Act. Changes will need to be monitored after Federal Elections.*

*Mtg#55: Need to wait on Elections, Secretariat to check with Don Toews to see if there is any new info.*

*- On agenda for discussion during September Meeting*

**ACTION ITEM #52-2: Secretariat to contact Hugh Monaghan via e-mail and request a copy of the technical report prepared by Access Consulting re: the Yukon Queen II.**

*Contacted during May meeting. He advised that the report had not yet been completed, but that the technical committee was anticipating being able to confirm timelines for availability of the report by May 25<sup>th</sup>. Requested further update June 30<sup>th</sup>, August 10<sup>th</sup>, August 29<sup>th</sup>, September 15<sup>th</sup>.*

*Mtg. #53: Hugh Monaghan provided an update to the YSC at the September 2005 meeting. The Management Committee is preparing an Executive Summary and will distribute all documents to the Working Group. The Working Group will then be re-convened and asked to come up with next steps. Earliest date for a community meeting would be December. Secretariat will obtain copy of all reports and include in YSC packages.*

*Mtg #54: Contacted but no response.*

*Mtg#55: Write letter to Hugh requesting copy of reports with cc Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, DFO, Steering Group Members*

*Mtg#56: Reports received and YQII Workshop scheduled.*

*No further action required*

**ACTION ITEM #53-3: Secretariat to extend the Habitat Consultant contract until the end of this fiscal year. Contract to be posted in the new fiscal year. Louise to look at developing a contract policy that is in line with YSC operating procedures. Mtg# 54: Louise contacted the YF&WMB to see if their policy could be used as a guide, still waiting to hear back from the board.**

*Still in progress.*

*Dan will ask Christine to send it over to Louise.*

*Mgt #55: Exec Sec to Ask for copy operating procedure and policies.*

*Apr 26 – copy of operating procedures requested, Board will fax a copy*

*Copy received - Done.*

**ACTION ITEM #53-5: Secretariat to contact ARRC to determine the date of their Open House. YSC member to make a presentation at this open house (if possible) in lieu of a Public Meeting in Haines Junction.**

*Emailed Oct 18<sup>th</sup> - No Response by email.*

*- Discussed during Alsek working group meeting, no date for open house was set at that time Suggested date was sometime during April.*

*- Meeting was held Monday March 20, no one from YSC was able to attend.*

*No Further action required*

**ACTION ITEM #53-11: BVD to draft a letter to the Water Board requesting on behalf of the YSC that they explore updating the standards, rather than grandfathering the existing requirements for the water licence for Minto Resources.**

*- No further action required as per meeting with Chair/BVD/Kelly Hayes*

**ACTION ITEM #53-15: YSC members to review BVD's draft 'Letter to the Editor' regarding Dawson Sewage and provide comments back to the**

**Executive Secretary. Executive Secretary to compile comments and finalize letter for review and approval by Chair.**

*Sent out Oct 10 to YSC members. Comment due by Oct 24.*

*Mgt #55 Need to finalize letter (Chair and Steve S)*

*Mtg #57, Sept2006:For discussion during Habitat Update on Sept 20. It was felt that Dawson sewage issue is moving along, and letter to editor is not required at this time, Kelly to monitor issue and bring concerns to committee's attention.*

**ACTION ITEM #54-1: First Nation Harvest Data - Carl to discuss with Mary Ellen Jarvis and Steve Smith the problems with reporting and low numbers and possible solutions, education with the Yukon River Working Group and educations on CHON-FM possible in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife management board.**

*Nov 16/05 – Problem addressed at Yukon River Working Group Meeting.*

*Mgt 55: Exec Sec to work with Yukon Fish Wildlife Management Board on radio announcements outlining the importance and need for harvest data, include weekly Yukon River teleconference.*

*Mtg#57, Sept06:Carl met with MEJ, discussed harvest data concerns and options. If issues continues then AD will assist. Being developed in part of consultation process.*

**ACTION ITEM #54-2: Best Practices - Bob Van Dijken to Draft at letter to Energy Mine and Resource with a General Recommendation that regulations accommodate the “Best Practices from Prospector and Developers Association of Canada” (cc: Yukon Conservation Society, Renewable Resource Councils, Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Council of Yukon First Nations, Klondike Placer Miners Association, Yukon Trappers Assoc, Yukon Chamber of Mines, Yukon Mineral Advisory Association)**

*No longer required.*

**ACTION ITEM #54-5: Protocol agreement concept for Ministerial Recommendations agreed to by Yukon Salmon Committee. Steve to follow up with Fisheries and Oceans with input from Carl Sidney if required.**

*Mtg#57 - Sept06: Draft recommendation prepared for new Area Director to discuss with Regional Director General.*

**ACTION ITEM #54-13: Job Shadowing – Executive Secretary to contact Environmental Steering Committee and First Nations to seek interest in taking part in the Habitat Job Shadowing.**

*Mtg#57, Sept06: On hold pending Kelly getting enough experience in habitat consultant position and outcome of options developed with YSC, Board and Yukon College.*

**ACTION ITEM #54-14: Chair to approach Anne Marie Swan and suggest that they start look into incorporating Traditional Knowledge in to the courses at Yukon College.**

*Mgt55: Carl supported to go to CYFN Grand Chief and discuss this issue and look at next steps. Idea of Elders Council resurrected to a minimum of 6.  
Mtg#57, Sept06: No need for this as Grand Chief is already aware of issue, as per Carl Sidney.*

**ACTION ITEM #55-1: YSC Public meeting - Carl to talk with Fish and Game association to see if YSC Public meeting could be coordinated with fry release.**

*Discussed during April Meeting, Craig to attend fry release on behalf of YSC committee to answer any questions; but no YSC presentation to take place during this event. New action required as per action item 56-3.*

**ACTION ITEM #55-4: McMillan River is a good salmon producer – Letter of support to the Selkirk RRC on the development of a Habitat Protection Area. Gerry to assist with letter.**

*Done – Letter Sent August 8, 2006*

**ACTION ITEM #55-3: Underline the need for consultation re: Dialogue session and Fisheries Act changes – write letter to identify need to be more informed and part of consultative process know things are setup in the Yukon. Point was made at meeting; do not need a copy of the legislation. Need to stress the importance of being part of the consultative process and receiving enough information so that meaningful input can be provided.**

*Mgt#57 – Sept06: This issue has been resolved, the Yukon office will coordinate consultations within the Yukon.*

**ACTION ITEM#55-6: Executive Secretary to organize a meeting, between Chair YSC, AD Fisheries and Oceans Canada, LSCFN, Parks Yukon to address garbage can and sign at Tatchun Creek.**

*Bev Brown (Steward who previously worked on this issue) was contacted, to clarify how far she had gotten on completing project.*

- *A sign is at the campground informing the users that the riverbed is a home to fish and to help preserve the habitat.*
- *The garbage issue not resolved, if garbage cans were placed around the area who would be the ones to provide maintenance. YTG highways was the most likely responsible department, whether they could coordinate a contract with the FN's who were managing the campground was a possible solution.*
- *(Note: when DFO FO's were visiting patrolling the area during the summer of 2006, there were individual going around and cleaning up the garbage did not appear to be as big a problem as it was in the past)*

**ACTION ITEM#55-9: Youth Contest - Recommendations for discussion on next agenda, i.e. new themes.**

*Reviewed during April meeting in Dawson, Michelle to meet with member during September meeting to get further direction for the new year.*

**ACTION ITEM#55-10: Operating procedures – Amend operating procedures to reflect maximum of two year term subject to a mid term review by the committee.**

*Done - Section 4.2 of operating procedures amended as follows:*

Chair and Vice-Chair term length, subject to review mid term by the committee, is for a maximum of two-years without an official election. During the course of the Chair's term, the Chair may ask another member of the Committee to co-ordinate all or part of a regularly scheduled meeting, for training purposes.

**ACTION ITEM#55-11: Yukon River Panel - Draft a second letter to the Minister regarding the appointment of the remainder of YSC members as advisors with the option of bring elders based on the specific issues being discussed. In extreme cases the Panel would be able to utilize the advisors as alternates. Under the Yukon River Salmon Agreement both parties agreed to provide resources to implement the agreement. I.e. Resources for the Panel and the management regime. The US receives \$6M to run the US portion of the Yukon River Panel as well as \$5M for the management regime, in comparison Canada has only provide funds to attend to meetings. Canada is not currently living up to its obligation.**

*Mtg#57 – Sept 06: Letter drafted for committees review, sent Sept 21<sup>st</sup>.*

**ACTION ITEM#55-12: Copyright “Yukon Salmon or Yukon River Salmon” – Secretariat to contact corporate affairs, and find out if the name can be copyrighted.**

*The name "Yukon Salmon" or "Yukon River Salmon" because it describes a product that is specific to a location and the location name "Yukon" could not be copyrighted. An exclusive right to the name is not an option.*

**ACTION ITEM#55-15: Conservation Units (WSP) - Add agenda item for Sandy during April meeting.**

*Done – discussed during April meeting in Dawson*

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

*Mtg#57 – Sept 06: Done - YRP asked but do not want to be involved with issue due to costs.*

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

*Done - Henri Ragettli (A/Chief, C&P), on September agenda to speak to tethering issue.*

## **8. Correspondence**

- Yukon Species at Risk Regime (Wildlife Management Advisory Council North Slope) – Gerry

- Gerry discussed letter with committee members and earlier presentation from Boyd Piper.
- Suggestion that a letter be sent to new minister with a concurrence of the content of the North Slope letter.

**ACTION ITEM#57-3: Yukon Species at Risk – Send letter to the new minister of Environment, outlining the previous work done in 2001-2002 on the Species at Risk and the committee’s concurrence that the previous work should be utilized in the development of the Yukon Species at Risk Act as per the content of the North Slope letter attached. Cc:YFWMB & RRC’s.**

**9. Review 2006 Budget – Louise Naylor**

- New bookkeeper has been hired to track expenses and write-up cheques.
- New format in budget forecast present, need to identify the details of meetings included in forecasted.
- Annual Budget and Forecasts for 2006-2007, expenditures based on earlier forecast is showing a 30K surplus, to be discussed and reviewed during Strategic Planning session November.
- Signature on Cheques - Concern raised on the number of days it has taken to get signatures on cheques from member that are out of time.
- YSC Contribution Agreement – YSC member requested a copy of the Contribution Agreement for review and discussion during the November meeting along with a copy of the Treasury Board policy on Contribution Agreements.

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**Wednesday                      September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006 – 9:00 a.m.**  
**Location:                      Large Board Room, 419 Range Road, Whitehorse, YT**

**10. Training**

- YSC members discussed the requirement for representative of public service, who sits in on the interview process and represents FN’s.
- Are there not requirements for 25% of staff to be First Nations
- Suggested that a letter from the YSC to the RDG be developed, requesting information on DFO’s involvement in training FN’s and the present of FN’s currently hired by DFO. Is there a system developed to increase the numbers of FN’s hired on by the Department and funding in place to provide for training in management positions etc. When hiring for positions in the DFO Yukon a member of the YSC or a FN staff member be involved in the process.
- Q - Is there a hiring committee in DFO? A - Managers are responsible for hiring within DFO with assistance from a Human Resources Advisor.
- Suggested that a Human Resources Advisor provide a presentation for the YSC.
- Discussion occurred on responsibilities of YSC and DFO.
  - Q from DFO - Does training fall under the mandate of the YSC, for management of Salmon?

- A - Training of FN's is part of the UFA, and therefore is part of the YSC and FN mandate.
- Comment to DFO staff "You should not be looking for answers; you should just take direction from us".
- There is a committee for fish management, is there not a committee for training and education identified under the UFA.
- The YSC is concerned with the number of FN's staffed within DFO, and would like some information on FN's employee stats within DFO.

**ACTION ITEM#57-4: Training - Request presentation from Human Resources Advisor for November meeting. Question to be put forward to Human Resources Advisor from the committee are:**

- **What efforts or programs have been initiated by DFO to encourage recruitment of aboriginal staff?**
  - **How many FN staff have been recruited?**
  - **How many have gone through the training**
  - **How many have gone through the training and left?**
- Concerns still present that there will not be a FN representative present on the hiring board of the Fishery Officer recruiting process.

**ACTION ITEM#57-5: Hiring of FO's – Letter to be sent to Director of C&P, requesting that a First Nation individual be part of the hiring committee.**

**11. Habitat Update – Kelly Hayes**

**Faro Mine**

The Anvil Range Mine Community Liaison Committee met in early July and were provided with an update on mine care and maintenance activities by Deloitte and Touche Inc, the mine's interim receivers.

Major activities for 2005/2006 included the following:

- Sludge management continues to be a major issue at the mine site. This March over 18,000 cubic metres of sludge was taken out of the polishing ponds and hauled to one of the intermediate ponds for storage. This is only an interim solution, and the same work will have to be done again each year until a more permanent solution can be found.
- One of the concerns raised at previous mine tours was possible degradation of the Faro Creek diversion that runs along the Faro Pit wall. Significant work was done during 2005 to improve roadway ditching and reduce seep and surface water runoff from entering the Faro Pit. This has reduced the inflow of water into the Faro Pit.
- Water treatment has now been carried out in all three pits (Faro, Vangorda, Grum).
- A fisheries study was carried out above the North Fork Rock Drain. White Mountain Environmental Consulting carried out the study, which showed

there was an abundance of fish in the area during both the summer and the winter.

The Faro Mine Closure Planning and Information Office was also in attendance at the mine tour. They have completed their initial information sessions with stakeholders on possible alternatives for the long-term remediation of the site. They are currently undertaking a peer review of these proposals and will be meeting with stakeholders again in the winter to discuss further details, such as costs, risks and how the different alternatives may perform.

There is a rush to get something in place being as the water licence expires in March 2007, an extension will be requested on the date.

- A CD rom is available with the pictures and information that was reviewed during the July meeting.
- Discussed the opportunity to see the Faro mine site available annually in July.

**ACTION ITEM#57-6: Faro Meeting: Look into a organizing a YSC meeting on the land in Faro during the spring (prior to fishing season) and tour the mine site.**

#### **Yukon River Queen II Fisheries Study**

This summer, the Yukon Queen II Steering Committee contracted a consultant to carry out studies on the effects of the Yukon Queen II on stranding immature fish and a literature search on the effects of potential fish loss from nets due to wave action. The work is now complete and a final report is being prepared. It will be available for review by the end of this year. Next meeting is not anticipated until January 2007.

#### **Dawson Sewage Treatment Facility**

This project continues to move forward. Currently, \$13.2 million has been earmarked for the project through the Federal Government's Community Strategic Infrastructure Fund. It has been determined that Dawson will use a lagoon system. However, the exact location of the lagoon has yet to be finalized. A decision on the location is expected sometime over the next month, based on the outcome of technical analysis. A number of delegations have toured a similar lagoon system at the North Pole that is in a residential area and the feedback is positive from the residents. The water will be processed with a purification system not a filtration system. The next court date to discuss the progress of this project is November 17, 2006 and a final plan will have to be in place by then. Dawson City Council has been holding public meetings to discuss this project over the summer and the next public meeting is scheduled for October.

#### **Yukon Energy 20-Year Plan**

Yukon Energy has filed a new resource plan outlining the Yukon's major electrical and transmission needs for the next 20 years with the Yukon Utilities Board.

The plan provides an overview of what Yukon Energy expects its short and long-term requirements may be. Four short-term projects are proposed in the plan.

They include:

Installing a third hydro turbine at Aishihik; building a transmission line from Carmacks to Stewart to connect the two power grids; extending the lives of the diesel generators in Whitehorse; and applying for an amendment to the Whitehorse Rapids water license to increase the amount of water that could be held back at Marsh Lake each fall. This water would be used to generate power during the coldest months of the year. The plan also includes proposals for potential activities that would meet the needs of various industrial developments in the distant future.

This winter, there will be a series of public meetings to discuss the proposed plan and there will be an opportunity to present concerns to the Yukon Utilities Board.

- Concern with higher levels of water being held back. There are populations of mainstem spawners of Chinook from the White River to Whitehorse in the fall the spawn in the mainstem gravel beds and sloughs.

**ACTION ITEM#57-7: Yukon Energy Plan – Kelly to gather further information, once information on water levels etc is gathered, have input into the plan.**

#### **YESAB Development of Standard Mitigative Measures**

The Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board who is independent from Government, has started a process to develop standard mitigative measures for classes of projects and geographic areas.

The YSC sent a letter to the board last week outlining some general areas where standard mitigative measures could be developed. These included all activities that have the potential to disrupt fish populations or their habitats. In addition, we commented on the work currently underway for the new Yukon placer regime. Ensuring enforceability of the measures was also a key suggestion.

YESAB will be taking the next steps in developing these Standard Mitigative Measures this fall, including the establishment of working groups and identifying specific project classes or geographic areas for consideration.

- Concern raised that once YESAB has developed the mitigative measures and if Government accepts them, then government has the ability to vary them if the regulations are not in place that allow them to impose the mitigative measures.

#### **North Yukon Land Use Plan**

The North Yukon Planning Commission is in the final stages of developing their draft plan. This plan should be available for review in late 2006 or early 2007. Extensive information on salmon and salmon habitat was gathered for the plan. This will be an important document for the YSC to review once it is released.

**12. Peel River Watershed Planning – Steve Taylor**

Steve Taylor as a representative of the Peel River Watershed planning commission explained how the commission is a subgroup of the Land Use Planning Council.

Explained that the planning process that is taking place with the Peel Watershed are being put into an interest report, where comments received to date are recorded. Issues raised to date are whether or not the DFO acts and regulations will be incorporated into the plan.

Commission is concerned that the rules and regulations will not apply.

ST suggested that Brian Johnston of the Land Use Planning Council be contacted for further clarification.

**13. Yukon River FN Chinook Fishery 2006 – Steve Smith**

- Trondek FN expressed a number of concerns to DFO during the early stages of the fishery on the status of the run and whether or not it was occurring as per forecasted.
- DFO received a request from Trondek FN to meet with them regarding the fishery concerns and whether the run was inline with the preseason estimates and how the fishery was managed and that the fishery was late.
- The meeting took place with DFO, Trondek, Selkirk and Na-cho Nyak Dun. The run came in during the time of the meeting, which lessened a number of the concerns previously expressed.
- Letter that was addressed to DFO and cc'ed the YSC was received after the meeting took place, although based on the date of the letter it was thought that the letter was composed prior to the meeting.
- Q - YSC concerned whether the issues in the letter have been resolved. A - DFO responded to the letter but no further concerns have been expressed. DFO has also indicated that they are interest in further communications with Trondek in a consultation process to address any concerns prior to the next fishing season.
- Q – YSC questioned why DFO is working with Trondek and other FN's, when the YSC should be involved with this? A – DFO has a UFA and constitutional obligation to consult directly with FN's.
- Q – YSC wants to know why they were not invited or consulted on the meeting.
- Q – YSC questioned how many government to government meetings occurred prior to the fishing season and the management was approved? A – Three to four, still determining what government to government meeting means.
- YSC as a courtesy were invited to previous meetings with FN to shut down fisheries, not clear why it would change now? A – If the meetings are in regard to limiting harvest, then the YSC is involved as outlined in the UFA.
- Some members are concerns with the interpretation of the YSC responsibilities. The feeling is that the YSC does not manage the fisheries they make recommendations on the management, it is then up to DFO to accept or vary the recommendation. This is not the perception in the community, which is most likely why the YSC was cc'ed on the letter, some think DFO gets their marching orders from the YSC.

- Concern raised on the number of FN's misunderstanding of the management matrix and if the methods used this year will work in the future.

**14. DFO Staff evaluation and Job Descriptions**

Concerns were raised by some YSC member in regard to DFO employees working with YSC and the need to provide input their job. YSC would like to participate in annual appraisal process or what mechanism can be used to provide direction, input and comments on assistance provide by DFO and on assessing annual goals of staff? Further Discussion to take place in camera on Thursday.

**15. Review Calendar**

- 2007 Invitation to Submit Research Proposals - Arctic-Yukon-Kusko kwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative (AYK SSI) Proposal submission deadline is Monday, 16 October 2006, with PI notification by 7 February 2007 (For committee info only)
- Yukon Fish and Wildlife Board – October 3-5, 2006
- YSC Meeting - November 7-9, 2006
- JTC (last week November?)
- Yukon River Panel – December 11-15, 2006 (Whitehorse)
- Yukon Fish and Wildlife Board Meeting – December 12-14, 2006
- Yukon Fish and Wildlife Board Meeting – January 23-25, 2007
- Yukon Salmon Committee Meeting – February 20-22, 2007
- Yukon River Panel – April 3-6, 2007 (Anchorage)
- YSC Old Crow/Dawson Public Meeting - April 17-19, 2007
- YSC Community meeting (Faro) – May 15-17, 2007 (one day Faro mine Tour)
- Yukon River Working Group – Tentative November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- Porcupine River Working Group – Tentative November 20, 2006 (In conflict with other meetings, another date to be determined)
- Alsek River Working Group – (Lorelei request that date be determined after conference call)

**16. Members' Updates:**

- Yukon Queen II Workshop (May 11) – Carl/Gerry
  - As per discussions under Habitat update
- Yukon Salmon Committee Public Meeting (Whitehorse) (May 24) – Craig/Joe/Lorelei/Gerry /Ed
  - Excellent turn out
  - Road salts in Whitehorse one of the main topics of discussion
  - Request from a member of the public to increase the retention rate of salmon in the recreational fishery on the years of good returns (Note: the retention rate was increased this year due to good returns.
  - Management matrix was discussed
- Salmon Gathering Old Crow (June 2-5) – Esau/Vicky/Carl
  - A large number of people came from down river

- Theme was *Unite in moving forward for Salmon and Our People*
- William Josie and Jennifer Smith gave a summary of 2005 salmon gathering event
- Bill Stevens from Fort Yukon spoke to about the success with the creative partnerships and relations and communications
- Carl Sidney gave an update on the YSC
- Rick Ferguson spoke on last years fishing season and this years forecasted returns
- Explanation on salmon DNA from Derek R. from Alaska
- Discussion on Yukon River Panel by Carl and Vicky
- YRDFA what they do and history and what they are involved in.
- Discussion on US management tools
- Science camp for youth
- Brandon Kyikavichik with assistance from Isaac Anderton gave a presentation on his involvement and experience with Salmon Research Training and Chinook /Coho Habitat Assessment projects.
- Clarence Alexander - Executive member of Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council, talked about Canada Ecotrust initiative, out of Portland Oregon as a point to access funding.
- Carl made a recommendation during the gathering that there should be a Canadian seat on YRDFA. (Gerry explained that the Yukon Commercial Fishing Assoc already has a life time member on YRDFA; Lorelei explained that it is open to Canadians on the Yukon River if they pay for a membership)
- Wild Salmon Policy Meeting (June 5) – Gerry/Lorelei
  - As per Sandy Johnston presentation on Sept 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Faro Closure Meeting (June 6) – Carl
  - Options being presented are: remove the tailings; leave the tailings in place or remove half and leave half where it is. The tails will be dumped in a large pit. No decision has been made yet.
- Habitat Interviews (June 26,27) – Carl/Gerry
  - Three candidates applied
  - Final candidate was chosen on ratings made by interviewers on most competent.
- Faro Reclamation Meeting (Jul 5) – Carl
  - As per presentation made by Kelly Hayes
- Ross River General Assembly (July 19) – Carl/Lorelei
  - Meeting was delayed, resulting in a rework of the agenda and Carl was scheduled to an earlier spot on the Agenda.
  - Lorelei who was unable to attend the earlier presentation provided the handouts at the original scheduled time.
  - Elders suggested to Carl to return and visit during fishing season
- Salmon Celebration (Aug 19) – Carl/Gerry/Ed/Dan
  - It was considered a success given the level of funding available.
  - FN's did not directly take part this time, due to the fact that they were overloaded with their Moosehide gathering. Although they provided knowledge information and space.

- An adhoc discussion took place on managing salmon with Yukoners and non-yukoners.
- A smoked salmon competition took place. Coop took first place
- Plan is to hold the Salmon Celebration every second year on the off year of the moosehide gathering, to encourage more FN participation.
- Suggested that the Management system be displayed during the next celebration.

**17. Basic Needs Allocation Update – Steve Smith**

- DFO is working on securing funding for the BNA process.
- A presentation was made at the General Assembly and a resolution was produced for CYFN to commit to working with DFO on securing funding.
- The obligation is on DFO to represent third party interest.
- Members of the YSC questions what forum could third parties informed DFO, to determine if their interests are being taken care of during negotiations. What is the process for input? Ie. Is a workshop being developed to inform solicits interests and input from other stakeholder.

**18. Negotiations for the Transboundary Panel (Asek) – Lorelei Smith**

The Annex under the Treaty is coming to an end 2008.  
Remainder of discussion took place in Camera.

**19. Negotiations for the Yukon River Panel (Escapement) – Lorelei Smith**

In Camera

**ACTION ITEM#57-8: YR Panel Committees - Executive Secretary to bring to the Area Directors attention the requirement to assign Canadian panel members to the Genetics and Strategic Planning committees. Find out how many Canadian members are needed for each committee? Request a conference call with panel members on subject or have Frank come to November meeting to discuss.**

**20. Other Business**

- **Website Review – Craig McKinnon**
  - Website needs updating with more current pictures and information
  - YSC are to review website prior to next meeting with suggestions for updating and content..
  - Need to verify if the Fishing Synopsis has the correct Klukshu diagram.

**ACTION ITEM#57-9: Webpage – Yukon Salmon Committee are required to review website prior to November meeting come back to November meeting with a plan and suggestions ideas for updating the webpage.**

- **Catch Card Update – Steve Smith**
  - The Catch card is under analysis by DFO, to clear up a number of legal questions and administrative processes.

- Looking at the operation of the catch card, once the information is clear then the committee will be consulted.
- If changes are going to occur prior to next year changes decisions will need to be soon.

**Thursday**                      **September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006 – 9:00 a.m.**  
**Location:**                      **Large Board Room, 419 Range Road, Whitehorse**

**21. Youth Contest - Michelle Murphy**

- Displayed appreciation certificates for sponsors to committee for review
- Do committees want to limit age categories to Elementary or High School, with the current setup some of the older ages were going to into high school?
- Suggestions that the contest is focussing on the younger age group, split up the groups by classes, daycare-grade 7.
- Direction on how to get more community involvement this year.
  - Suggest to meet with Community Steward coordinator
  - Contact RRC's
  - Send posters to salmon committee members for posting on communities
- Timelines should be similar to last years, distribution January, judging at February meeting, and display at Yukon Arts centre in March.
- Investigate options of coordinating art display at the salmon celebration during the summer.
- New Themes
  - Need to remember to target kids
  - Need to incorporate different individual values of fish (ie. Economic, traditional, etc) in order to protect fish we need to value salmon
  - There is a Yukon version of 'salmon in the classroom', suggested that Michelle work with the DFO education coordinator to see if further options are available.
- Suggested Sponsors to check with – Yukon First Nations (Chief and Council), Commercial Fisherman's associations, sport fishing guides, Yukon River Salmon Co-op, Sports Lodge, DFO Communications RHQ, YFWMB, Fish and game Assoc., KPMA, Pacific Salmon Commission and Chamber of Mines.
- Youth Contest Budget – Michelle to come back with breakdown of cost for November meeting

**22. Announcements**

- Frank Quinn the new Area Director for Fisheries was introduced to the Yukon Salmon Committee along with Laura Richards the Regional Director of Science.

**23. YSC Operational Issues**

In Camera

**24. Strategic Plan**

Existing plan needs to be reviewed, and updated with current information and priorities. One day to be put aside during November meeting to review and bring strategic plan up to date and prioritize workplan new direction.

**ACTION ITEM#57-10: Strategic Plan and Contribution Agreement – Committee members to review strategic plan and Contribution Agreement handed out during September meeting prior to next meeting for discussion on first day of meeting.**

**25. Community Steward Presentation – Doris Dreyer**

- Doris gave a information on her background and experience prior to being hired by the Fish and Wildlife Board.
- Explained how the stewardship program started with the HSCP program and then the Community Steward program was taken over in 2003 by the YFWMB.
- The Stewardship program is funded by mainly by YR Panel, YTG, YFWMB, Ducks unlimited, Canadian Wildlife Services Federal
- Stewards are located in Haines Junction, Mayo, Dawson, Old Crow. There is an interest in expanding the Stewards into other communities such as Ross River and Watson Lake.
- A three year review of the program has just been completed
- The program has been revamped to structure the program so that it is accomplishments etc can be measured and tracked.
- Example of community projects and activities of the stewards were shown as part of a PowerPoint presentation.
- If the YSC has any dates that they want published in the YFWMB Calendar or provide funding to let Doris know. Need info by to mid October.

**26. Community Update**

Chuck – YTG was looking into moving the creeks back to their original locations, upon review it is found that the Chinook and sockeye are spawning in the new creek beds. There is a big problem with grizzly bears, and the problem is increasing. No salmon is drying in the racks, and no salmon coming into the lake, the early run sockeye was poor.

Joe – One spawning area has been destroyed by a change in the river channel plus there is a problem with beavers, spring water is still there. A large number of fish spawn in Kluane lake.

Vicky – There are nets on the river, everyone got their fish and they are happy. A number of silver fish in the river.

Dan – There were mixed feelings on the run. Talked to six different people in camps. The larger camps with more people were not happy with the run as they had to fish longer to get their fish, the people with smaller camps that fished early were happy with the run and had no problem getting their fish. NND with help of the Dawson Steward will be looking for Chum spawning sites on the McQuesten

River and Stewart River, this was also carried out last year.

Ed – The first attempt at a Salmon celebration went off very well. There was a lot of participation in the fish camp, this program is very popular and good for the youth.

Gerry – Commercial fishery was slow this year, took up to three times as long to catch the numbers of fish. Original estimate was 1 week late when it reached Dawson it was more like 10 days late. The quality of fish has been high for the last two years; the majority of fish were small. A pilot project took place that used a selective fishing fish wheels; the experiment was a success a report will be forth coming. The size of the commercial fishery was smaller than it has ever been other than when a closure was in place.

Lorelei – Sport fishers were happy that the limit was raised. Not many fish fished on the Alsek. Mixed feelings on the Yukon some were catching average sized fish and some were catching smaller fish.

Craig – Fish on the Klukshu were late and slow. Observed extreme management measures in Alaska to protect habitat, within areas of fishing because of the larger numbers of fishers.

Carl – This was the first pilot year for a fish camp in Teslin funded by R&E funding not a lot of participation.

**27. Other Business cont.**

- Agenda for next YSC Meeting
  - Strategic Planning
  - Contribution Agreement
  - Road salts (Completed as per action 55-8, no presentation required)
  - Letter to Minister on Aquaculture (Action Item 55-13)
  - Water Quality
  - Synopsis and Management Plan

**Meeting was adjourned**

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