

**MINUTES
SALMON SUB-COMMITTEE
February 26-28, 2008, Meeting #63
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
DFO/YSC 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, Alaska
Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee	February 26-28, 2008	Whitehorse
Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association	February 25-28, 2008	Grayling, Alaska

Upcoming Meeting Dates (tentative)

Porcupine River Working Group	March 19, 2008	Old Crow
Yukon River Panel	March 31-April 4, 2008	Whitehorse
YFWMB	April 29 – May 1, 2008	
YFWMB	June 10 – 12, 2008	
YFWMB	October 7-9, 2008	
YFWMB	December 9-11, 2008	
YFWMB	January 27-29, 2009	

MEETING SUMMARY

1. **Announcements**
2. **Review Agenda**
3. **Review Action Items**
4. **Youth Contest (Michelle Murphy)**
5. **Update Yukon Placer Regime (Rob Thompson)**
6. **Habitat Update (Habitat Consultant Kelly Hayes) (Summary found under appendix I)**
7. **YR DFA Meeting**

8. Yukon College – re: Course on Yukon mine training, environmental monitoring (Carl)
9. Budget
10. Decide if there will be a working group of YSC and DFO to draft a joint response to Implementation Review. (Carl)
11. Review Action Items (cont')
12. Review Minutes from November 2007 Meeting #62
13. Update from DFO on the status of Domestic Commercial De-linking
14. Correspondence Review/Meeting Preparation
15. Discussion on preparation of power point presentation for CYFN leadership Chiefs' use at meetings. (Carl)
16. Members' Updates
17. DFO and climate change presentation (Al von Finster)
18. Power point presentation for CYFN leadership Chiefs to use at meetings. (Lorelei)
19. Review Calendar
20. Correspondence
21. Other Business

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday- 9:00am – 4:30pm –February 26, 2008

Location: Yukon Placer Secretariat, 206B Lowe Street

Present: Carl Sidney (chair), Gerry Couture, Chuck Hume, Vicky Josie, Dan McDiarmid, Lorelei Smith, Frank Quinn (DFO), Louise Naylor (recorder). Jerry Cruise (Selkirk Renewable Resource Council)

Meeting called to order by Chair Carl Sidney at 9:30 a.m.

Opening Prayer – by Gerry Couture

1. Announcements

- Four members terms on the Salmon Sub-Committee end in 2008 as follows: Esau Schafer, Joe Johnson (Feb 13), Chuck Hume (Mar 30), Ed Kormendy (Mar 30) and Gerry Couture (Mar 30) at the end of March. Members discussed limitations to the length of term such as the recommendation to limited members to two 5 year terms.

- YR DFA – Craig McKinnon is absent during SSC meeting as he was attending the YR DFA meeting on behalf of the committee, he has requested input from the committee members on issues on the YR DFA Agenda. To be discussed later.
- Transboundary Panel Agreement (Lorelei) - In January the Transboundary panel renegotiated and planned a bilateral agreement for the portion related to the Alsek annex. The agreement was based on managing Chinook. The agreement was made for 3000 sockeye plus escapement; no new commercial Chinook fisheries unless all parties are in agreement. Salmon Sub-Committee members asked for clarification on earlier concerns raised during the Alsek RRC meeting on over fishing on the Alsek during the commercial fishing, and requested that this concern be addressed in the renegotiated agreement.

The Northern Fund has approved a Transboundary Panel Salmon Gap analysis workshop to be initiated in April.

2. Review Agenda

Agenda reviewed and revised as follows:

- Feb 26th Include - Discussion on farewell for outgoing members.

DISCUSSION: Item not on agenda was 'Preseason update'. The Salmon Sub-Committee members would like to have preseason figures from Alsek and Yukon River Panel prior to attending meetings. A: DFO advised that the numbers are not ready prior to TTC and JTC. DFO will verify with STAD to see what numbers are available.

ACTION ITEM#63-1: Request for preseason figures from Alsek and YR Drainages prior to panel meetings, to be emailed or provided to committee members for review.

All present in favour of agenda, agenda approved as revise.

3. Review Action Items

Action items partially reviewed, remainder rescheduled to Feb 27th.

4. Youth Contest (Michelle Murphy)

- Half the number of entries were received in comparison to last year, not all the age categories submitted entries. Limited number of entries possibly due to difficult theme.
- Advertising was done through the schools email, in the Yukon News and Whitehorse Star.
- One of the suggestions from the school teachers was for a lesson plan to go with the guidelines; this would assist with the presentation in the classes.
- 2007/08 entry Categories were: Classroom plus Individual entries, the individual entries were broken down into age groups (pre-school to grade 1, grade 2 to 4, grade 5 to 7).

DISCUSSION: suggestion was to change the start timing, send it out at the beginning of school year (Sept).

DISCUSSION: suggested that a resource book or packages needs to be developed that will reach the age categories, to be a part of package given to schools in September. Theme would be developed on information that was already available in packages.

ACTION ITEM#63-2: Michelle to develop a proposal for the Youth Contest contract including the development of a resource package. Committee to review and approve. Intent is to have packages distributed prior to start of school year, but deadline to remain same. Have deliverables prior to March 31, 2008 including resource books and prizes.

- DISCUSSION: on having DFO Education coordinator to assist Michelle on putting packages together for ideas, Frank (DFO) agreed to coordinate as needed.
- Concerns expressed on the tracking of the trophy and making sure it is available for next winners.
- The art is scheduled to be displayed at the Arts Centre – March 9th to 24th, 2008.
- Committee suggested that the Youth Contest entries be posted at the YR Panel meeting March 31st to Apr 4th, 2008.

ACTION ITEM#63-3: Youth Contest entries to be posted at the YR Panel meeting end of March and selected entries to be printed in the Harvest Calendar.

- During previous Youth Contests the enthusiasm from sponsors has been high, last year it was difficult to get sponsors. Because of the low numbers last year, sponsors have not been contacted this year. It was decided that waiting until entries were received and determining the ages levels on prizes would be appropriate prior to contacting sponsors. Suggestion that Michelle contact FN's, RRC's and local resource gear retailers as possible sponsors.
- 2008/2009 Categories similar to 2007/2008, limited from ages kindergarten to grade 7.
- Suggest the theme is based on the benefits of Salmon, stay on a more positive note. How salmon relate to families and communities? Do we want to have a specific theme or do we want to open it up to what they think of salmon? What do you know about Yukon salmon?
- Discussion on various levels of interests in the schools, some communities are very good and others there have not been any entries suggested that once a package is available to contact Terry Markley to see if a brief presentation could be made to the teachers during the annual teacher's workshop to stress education about the salmon resource in the schools.
- **DECISIONS: Theme based on the question, *what do you know of Yukon Salmon?*** This question is intended to bring out the creative thinking in the classrooms etc.

11:45am – Adjourned for Lunch

Meeting called back to order – 1:30pm

5. Update Yukon Placer Regime (Rob Thompson)

- Previous presentation made to the committee on the Placer Regime was February 2007.
- The Regime was to be finalized by December 2007; this deadline was not met due to the fact that one of the major parties, the individual placer miners, were not being provided the necessary information that they needed to give feedback on the regime. The format of the presentation to miners was then revised which resulted in feedback and engagement.

- Further work was required to improve the Habitat suitability classification model, this has been completed and more accurately predicts the suitability of stream reaches of habitat in the Yukon.
- The timing delay has allowed the incorporation of traditional knowledge into the maps. The Traditional knowledge section of the book is almost completed
- Department of Justice has reviewed the guidebook chapters related to stream restoration, channel diversion together with a template for an authorization under section 35.2 of the Fisheries Act, written recommendation are completed with minimal changes.
- March 11 is the scheduled date of final review of the Guidebook of Mitigative Measures, to be completed with draft scenarios to ensure the workbook is as clear and transparent as it was promised it would be.
- The revised completion date is April 2008, and new water authorizations will be in place to replace the YPA;
- YTG has made a decision to keep the secretariat in place for a few more years to troubleshoot the process; DFO is contributing with funding for the first 2 years and will be adding one full time position dedicated to monitoring.

Q- In terms of present application, there are a large number of applications submitted to YESSA for approval under the old guidelines, what would be the timetable to bring these licences under the new regime requirements? A- Sediment discharge standards that would apply to them would be phased in by the 2010 operating season, the physical standards that would apply to structures will be a more difficult process if they are giving for 10 years and if the standards are not inline with the newer standards.

DISCUSSION on limiting the number of years, suggested that interventions be made on a case by case basis, it would be more prudent if all new license/permits issued would be limited to 5 years so that all authorizations would reflect the new standards by 2012.

SSC would like to recommend that the Yukon Water Board limit the new licence applications to a 5 year licence, until the new standards are in place.

ACTION ITEM#63-4: Kelly to review the placer applications submitted to YESSA. The committee recommend that the SSC intervene at the YESAB stage on Placer application with a recommendation that the licence be limited to 5 years until the new regime standards are in place with the rational, stressing the importance to get the new regime in place as quickly as possible.

ACTION ITEM#63-5: Kelly to draft a letter to DFO, with a formal recommendation requesting an intervention on each Placer licence to restrict the initial licence to 5 years until the new regime is in place.

ACTION ITEM#63-6: Kelly to draft letter to EMR with a recommendation that the 5 year limit be incorporated into all new applications until the new regime is in place.

- Original report to the minister described 19 watershed authorizations with the assumption that the Klondike would be divided in half, this assumption was deemed illogical. The final recommendation was changed to 18 authorizations with only one for the Klondike, and other watersheds that are still being developed are the Laird and Alsek which will be developed later. Any applications submitted prior to the authorizations being in place will be determined on an individual site specific basis.

- The drainage model that is used to predict suitability of habitat is based on 3 indicators: gradient of stream, how close the stream reached to a salmonid production area and a relative measure of water quality. All these are based on natural conditions. If an area has been developed by Placer mining, the new regime has a previous development designation, for current operations the habitat suitability standard is reduced and a more lenient standard is applied until the work under the previous development designation is finished to encourage miners to finish and restore it properly. Once the work is finished, any new authorizations issued on the stream would be issued under the new standards.
- Concerns were raised by committee members on the issue of individual miners who do not have a good restoration record, i.e. For the miners who are in non-compliance, there should be a request for a security in place, as part of their licence on a case by case basis with a solid argument. In BC it is thought that there is a mandatory bond in place for each application.

Update to be provided by the Yukon Placer Secretariat during next SSC meeting.

2:40 - Break

Meeting back to order 2:50

6. Habitat Update (Habitat Consultant Kelly Hayes)

- The habitat consultant reviewed habitat issues of concern to the Salmon Sub-Committee, a more detailed update of issues is found attached under Appendix I.

Dawson Sewage Treatment Plan

- The City Council is making a large effort to convince citizens that the current plan is the best option.

National Municipal Wastewater Strategy and Regulatory Framework - CCME

- Comments on potential issue are that the National Municipal Wastewater guidelines are being developed for larger systems. The Yukon is currently limited to small and very small systems. The results of an ad hoc risk assessment that was done on Dawson, shows that Dawson falls under a low risk, this would put them under the 30 year timeline to come into compliance. Dawson is currently developing their facility with these guidelines in mind.
- SSC raised concerns with regard to a number of wastewater systems in one water system, is a cumulative effect on the system being determined from multiple wastewater systems.

ACTION ITEM#63-7: CCME - Need to look at the proposed wastewater standards in regards to fish health and fish habitat. DFO to have a technical review of document, and provide the information to the Kelly in time to respond during the draft phase. (Frank/Kelly)

- Discussions on discharge from facilities that do not fall under the category of the municipal wastewater systems but are part of a big camp of 500 persons or more.
Q: How do they fit under the proposed strategy? A: Currently they are regulated by the Territorial wastewater standards; this would be implemented during part of the YESAB review.

ACTION ITEM#63-8: Mining wastewater standards - Kelly to provide an update on mining wastewater standards and who does the check and monitor.

Financial and Technical Guidelines for Yukon Mine Reclamation Policy

- Discussion on the amounts of public input, there needs to be a place where the public is informed of what is going on, as well as the risk and the costing of the risk. There needs to be a place for securities.

ACTION ITEM#55-7 – Reclamation Policy - Kelly to work with Gerry to revise draft letter for Carl’s review.

Yukon Queen II

- Anticipated that the application will be submitted to YESAB in March.

ACTION ITEM#63-9: Yukon Queen II – need to review and clarify discussion from May 2007 meeting minutes or recording during public meeting, what was said in regards to Yukon Queen II, confirm if discussion did or did not say that the Yukon Queen would have authorization in 2008 to be in operation, and if their operating licence would be suspended or they were to have the environmental assessment completed so that an authorization can be done.

- Question what could DFO do if an authorization is not made and it is determined that the boat is killing fish or destroying fish habitat? A: The minister would make the decision whether the boat would still operate or not.

Meeting adjourned – 4:00pm

Wednesday – 9:00am to 4:30 pm – February 27, 2008

Location: Yukon Placer Secretariat, 206B Lowe Street

9:00am - Meeting called to Order

7. YRDEFA Meeting

Carl reviewed the YRDEFA meeting agenda.

The YRDEFA agenda items that committee members requested to be highlight or brought forward by Craig during the YRDEFA meeting are as follows:

- Mark recapture - within the Yukon River Agreement it is understood that the agreed upon method of determining escapement numbers is based on mark recapture, the data from sonar numbers is not yet accepted as a method for determining the escapement numbers.
- Has the US already identified an outlook? What are the planned opening times for the US that are announced during the meeting ie. First quarter?
- *Icthyophonous* is still a concern in the Yukon River.
- By-catch update - The Yukon communities are still very concerned with the size of the bi-catch. There are seven options that have been presented for reduction of bi-catch in the Pollock fishery.
- Fish size is still a concern and needs to be addressed by the whole river.

8. Yukon College – re: Course on Yukon mine training, environmental monitoring (Carl)

Carl received a document from Liz Bosley at Yukon College in regards to a new course that is being developed. Liz Bosley contacted Carl to advise him that the SSC could have some input.

- Carl asked the committee if he could have the committee's approval to go ahead and work with Yukon College along with YFWMB.
- Committee expressed a concern that there is a need for environmental monitors within the communities; but a number of questions were raised ie. Where would the graduates of the courses be getting jobs? Would the mining companies be hiring the graduates to monitor the companies? If this is the case would this not be a conflict of interest?
- Suggestion that it should be the communities that are being affected by the projects that should be hiring the monitors from the program.
- Discussion on whether DFO would be able to help or provide input into this course.
- The impression from the committee is that Departments currently do not have the funds to monitor projects as often as is necessary.

ACTION ITEM#63-10: Carl to provide information to members, on the environmental monitoring program being developed by Yukon College.

9. Budget

- Expenditures 2007-2008
 - Based on the previous forecasted expenditures, a surplus was being forecasted to March 31, that was due to meetings cancelled or rescheduled in to the New Year, and not full membership attendance at meetings previously held.
- Items still to be incorporated into forecast to March 31:
- Assembly of First Nations meeting in Whitehorse (March 5-6) – Chuck Hume, Vicki Josie, Ed Kormendy, Craig to let us know by Monday his availability for meeting.
 - Yukon River Panel meeting (March 31) – Dan McDiarmid (plus other members available)
 - Inventory – committee reviewed inventory item summary.

DECISION: Salmon Sub-Committee requested orders to be submitted for the following promotional items: Pens, glasses, Adult T-Shirts, leather collared jackets, and hoodies. Numbers and details captured on inventory summary sheet.

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

ACTION ITEM#63-12: Budget expenses- Carl to purchase draw/promotional prizes for community meetings.

10:15am - Break

10:30am - Meeting called back to order

- Revised Forecasts 2008-2009
 - Include Watershed Plans in strategic plan
 - Revised forecast to include 5K for Vision 2020 Conference then reduce amount of honorariums by 5K.
 - Letter to F&WMB attached to 2008/2009 budget, include wording from Implementation plan on budget approval process.

Discussed budget forecast FY2008-2009 and what type of format to be submitted to the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Board for the Ministers approval, budget accepted as revised.

10. Decide if there will be a working group of SSC and DFO to draft a joint response to Implementation Review. (Carl)

- Committee member clarified that the original discussion was not for a SSC and DFO joint working group, a general comment was made on possible discussion options, correction was the submission would be limited to just the SSC doing their own submission.
- Discussion on whether the committee should be responding. A committee member or working group needs to review the IRG report and see if the recommendations from the IRG are administratively doable and achievable from the committee's perspective.

ACTION ITEMS#63-13: Gerry and Lorelei to review the IRG report and summarize the response in a letter for the committee to review.

11. Review Action Items (cont')

ACTION ITEM #58-3: Implementation Review - Invite the chair from the Implementation review group, to February 2007 meeting, to get briefing on the status of the review.

Oct 06: Letter sent.

Mtg#63 Feb 2008: Salmon Committee received IRG review Oct 2007, SSC discussed option of submitting comments on the review report to the decision makers. DONE.

ACTION ITEM #58-11b: Request that Frank present the AAROM information, at next Yukon River Working Group meeting also invite the Asek and Porcupine River working group, for half day FN discussion.

Mtg#63 Feb2008: YR working group did not request further info during Nov YR Working group meeting.- DONE

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

Done

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.

Mtg#63 Feb 2008: Report posted to website. – Done; Letter Sent-Done

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.

Done

ACTION ITEM #62-1: To confirm resignation. Carl to call Esau to request that a letter be received from the VGFN in regards to Esau's resignation.

DFO task.- remove from action items

ACTION ITEM #62-2: Dawson Sewage Treatment Plant - Kelly will draft a letter on behalf of the YSC expressing their support for the proposal.

Feb: Done

ACTION ITEM #62-3: North Yukon Land Use Plan - Kelly will be drafting comments by mid December for the YSC members.

Jan: Done

ACTION ITEM #62-4: Steve to find out what DFO is doing on climate change and management planning and request a presentation from DFO, in response to a comment on a report regarding Climate Change.

Feb: On Feb 2008 agenda, Done

ACTION ITEM #62-5: Budget Expenditures - Steve to send a letter by email to all First Nations and ask for their support to send a rep from their FN to support the Canadian delegation panel in Anchorage at 1pm on December 3 – 6 at the Marriott Hotel.

Nov 2007: Done

ACTION ITEM #62-6: Forecasted budget expenditures of promotional inventory and Youth contest expenses - Louise to purchase more t-shirts and check with Michelle on the sizes.

Done

ACTION ITEM #62-7: Louise to add a \$5,000 contribution to be identified by the YF&WMB for the Vision 2020 Conference plus the equivalent costs for a 3 day YSC meeting, Dan will ask Graham to contact Steve to coordinate YSC contribution.

Date not yet set, SSC members need to look at budget allocation (on agenda)- Forecasted on budget for FY2008/2009- Done

ACTION ITEM #62-8: Budget - Annual general budget with yearly projections will be submitted to the YF&WMB

Finalized by SSC during February 2008 meeting - Done

ACTION ITEM #62-9: From community meeting at Pelly Crossing – Concerns voiced about sewage leaking into Mica Creek. - Steve to set up a meeting with Carl, Benoit Godin at Pollution Control of Environment Canada, and Steve or Frank to explore what the YSC can do to help clean up the situation. Follow up with the RRC who raised the concern.

Done

ACTION ITEM #62-10: Porcupine Working Group Meeting - Steve to let Carl know which date – only Carl attends this meeting from the YSC

Done: Date set for March 19th.

ACTION ITEM #62-11: CCME Mtg in Whitehorse - Steve to check on Kelly's availability – registration by Nov 29

Nov: Done

ACTION ITEM #62-12: Steve to find out when the next YR DFA meeting is and let Carl know.

Nov: Done

The February Summary of Action items was reviewed and approved with revisions.

12:00 – Meeting Adjourned for Lunch

1:30pm – Meeting Brought to Order

12. Review Minutes from November 2007 Meeting #62

- SSC members requested that names are not to be put in minutes unless a member requests their name be put in the minutes or if they are designated in a action item or they asked that their names be identified as not in agreement.

Minutes approved with recommended changes, Dan McDiarmid approved, Vicky Josie seconded, and all present were in favour.

13. Update from DFO on the status of Domestic Commercial De-linking

Frank reviewed past actions taken, on the request to delink the commercial and domestic fishery. The final response to the SSC submission from the Minister was sent in 2005, setting it aside the request. It was determined that the request would have impact beyond what the committee had indicated in the recommendation. The delinking of the salmon fisheries would also impact the commercial and domestic freshwater species. Implementing the recommendations under the present Fisheries Act would require a comprehensive rewrite of significant parts of the Yukon Territories Fishery regulations, because they are closely tied to the freshwater fisheries. These impacts were not covered in the consultation conducted by the committee and subsequently were not outlined in the recommendation. No rewrite is currently planned and the recommendation remains set aside until such time that it can be incorporated into the rewrite.

Discussion: Committee members requested clarification on impact to the Commercial and Domestic licenses, there are a few salmon domestic salmon licenses issued but it was understood that the Territorial government are not issuing domestic licences and the commercial licences are being phased out. Committee members expressed their frustration with the response as the impact on the territorial fishery is not clearly defined, members could not recall this being the reason that the recommendation was set aside. It was previously understood by the committee that the reason for the set aside was for clarification on the change, which was communicated verbally to DFO.

Further discussion deferred until May meeting.

ACTION ITEM#63-14: Request to Delink Commercial and Domestic Fishery - Committee requested clarification on how the change impacts on the Territorial fishery with rationale. Committee would like to review the letter from the minister identifying the setting aside, locate minutes and tape with discussion on letter. For discussion during the next committee meeting.

14. Correspondence Review/Meeting Preparation

Discussion on processes for correspondence and implementing tracking of members reviewing correspondence.

- Identify any outstanding recommendations and formal responses.

- Request a read response from members if info is sent via emailed.
- Packages to be sent via post, to be received by members 14 weeks prior to meeting.

ACTION ITEM#63-15: Mail out meeting information to members 2 weeks prior to meeting, including agenda. Carl to follow-up with Habitat Consultant to request copy of the Habitat update 2 weeks prior to meeting to be included with packages.

15. Discussion on preparation of power point presentation for CYFN leadership Chiefs' use at meetings. (Carl)

- Carl expressed concern that not all Yukoner's clearly understand who the SSC are and their role. This confusion was made clear during a presentation made by one of the FN Chiefs.
- To help resolve this misunderstanding, CYFN has request that the SSC provide a presentation that chief's can use, that clearly defines how the sub-committee is structured, their mandate, where the sub-committee is derived from etc.
- It was suggested that a presentation previously developed by a few members for a YRDFA meeting be used as a presentation base template.
- Discussion took place on the poor general knowledge of who the SSC is across the Yukon, not just limited to FN's confused of the sub-committees role.

ACTION ITEM#63-16: SSC Presentation - Lorelei to bring the previously developed Yukon Salmon Committee presentation for the SSC to review and have input in revisions. - Done

16. Members' Updates:

- Nov 28-29, 2008 -Aquaculture Workshop – Vancouver, BC (Carl)
 - Carl reviewed a few points in regards to fish farms
 - The point made was not to shut down the farms, as the farms are required to take the pressure off the wild stocks. Focus is going to be on better containment systems.
 - Reports were also made from other countries
 - British Columbia to date has 120 farm sites
 - Vision for BC contains four main points – 1) special definitions - property rights on who owns the water area. 2) Finding further meaning - Request that DFO identify these things in Fisheries Act 3) Erase the uncertainty – give the authority to these groups to resolve, such as FN's. 4) Best Practices – Locate these farm sites so that they are not in the paths of the wild fish stocks.

SSC members discussed their previously developed internal policy on Aquaculture and next steps in the process that is still required. Need to clarify what items are still outstanding that may need reviewing by a lawyer.

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

- Yukon River Panel – December 2007, Anchorage, Alaska (Chuck, Craig)
 - The US expressed their apologies for the over fishing, reason for the over fishing was that three pulses of fish were expected, the first and second pulses

were fished, and the third pulse that was expected did not come through as expected.

- Q: Is there a consequence in the agreement for the over fishing? A: No. The only way to request consequence is through a bilateral panel.
 - Q: what is the Canadians definition of a rebuilt run? A: 33K to 43K are the numbers based on Mark Recapture model. It is know what the numbers are from mark recapture, but it is not known what the number would be if sonar was used.
 - The JTC is the panel technical committee, is made up of a scientific committee. Discussion took place on who the SSC thought were the appropriate members who should be taking part in JTC and panel meetings.
 - Don Toew the YTG representative on the Panel, requested answers for the Yukon Minister on the pour handling of the 2007 run.
 - *Ictyophonus* concerns were discussed, it is planned that there will be additional studies up river.
 - Catch in the Pollock fishery was reduced by 26%
- CCME Canada-Wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent, Whitehorse, Yukon (Carl)
 - Update provided by Kelly Hayes

Meeting adjourned 3:50

Thursday – 9:00am to 4:30 pm – February 28, 2008

Location: Yukon Placer Secretariat, 206B Lowe Street

17. DFO and climate change presentation (Al von Finster)

- Al von Finster made a presentation to the Salmon Sub-Committee on climate change and fish habitat. Geographic focus being on the Yukon River basin and the Asek River basin in the Yukon, the function portion focusing more on the habitat of the stocks in the areas. Present and future timelines were presented on. Fish habitat has remained a federal responsible, although certain actions regarding fish habitat have been delegated to the provinces and territories through agreements.
- It is expected that the temperatures of water will increase, plus trends in stream flow are showing that flow will be decreasing. There are a number of streams that still have glacier melt, but once the streams in the Yukon hits peak glacier melt, the stream flows will be moving in the downward flow direction, similar to streams in BC.
- A study done on the South West Yukon on specific areas, found that the land cover is changing, results implied that in the area studied the land is drying out.
- Previously there was limited data available on Yukon River water temperatures; there are now fairly accurate data loggers available that will collect accurate temperature data hourly for up to 5 years. DFO and the Panel are encouraging projects, where there is the ability for environmental monitoring, to also collect temperature data. DFO is housing the data until such a time that it can be put in a database and made accessible to the public.
- The high range temperature for Chinook based on literature in the south is 21 to 22 degrees Celsius.
- An irregularity in the Chinook distribution in the Yukon River watershed has showed up. Not clear yet if this irregularity was cause by climate change, other management

factors or both. One year an extremely higher distribution of returning Chinook showed up in the lower areas than in the higher areas of the river, this gives rise to a number of questions, since data shows that the higher percent of spawning areas is in the upper river.

- It was identified that YTG has done some work on land stability and thawing of permafrost and impact of erosion as a result of permafrost melting, results have shown that there may be immediate negative impacts with the silt in the spawning streams down stream of the erosion over a number of years, but evidence shows that over years the negative impacts are not permanent they can correct over time.
 - Q- Kuska Stream – Are there not positive effects on Beaver Dams, do they not filter water etc? A: - Beaver dams can have significantly negative effects in that they dam lakes and if the dam breaks the water pressure can cause significant damage to the habitat in the creeks and rivers.
 - Concerns raised on the rapid glacier melts and the materials from the glaciers being deposited in salmon bearing streams.

18. Power point presentation for CYFN leadership Chiefs to use at meetings. (Lorelei)

A presentation on the SSC and the YR Panel was reviewed by the SSC; suggestions on revisions were made as follows:

- Change name to Salmon Sub-Committee and SSC
- List fisheries – prioritise starting with the First Nations, etc.
- List of UFA sections – list *etc.* as separate bullet
- SSC Working groups – prioritise names i.e. Yukon First Nation Governments
- SSC Activities - include Environments issues, Development of watershed management, SSC strategic plan, remove Harvest Study.
- Clean-up communications page
- YRSA – Yukon River Salmon Agreement
- SSC fishery Concern – add bi-catch issues
- SSC Successes – add Yukon River working group, Aquaculture policy, revise strategic plan, Orphan Fuel tank removal from YR, Instrumental in moving Faro mine clean-up ahead, and remove grant funding

Presentation was accepted with revisions, Chair to provide to Leadership prior to their next meeting.

Selkirk FN requested that a discussion regarding Dooli traditional law be mentioned during the Chief discussions, note that the Selkirk FN are now recording harvest as it pertains to salmon on calendars.

19. Review Calendar

- * February 26 – 28, 2008 – General Meeting – Whitehorse
- * February 25 – 28, 2008 – YRDFA – Grayling, Alaska
- * March 19, 2008 - Porcupine River Working Group Meeting (Carl, Vicky)
- * March 26, 2008 - Yukon River Working Group (Tentative)
- * March 30 – April 3, 2008 – Yukon River Panel – Whitehorse (Dan, Chuck, Ed?)
- * April 29-May 1, 2008 – Fish and Wildlife Management Board
- * May 5, 2008 – Mayo (meeting with RRC, Chief and Council afternoon, plus a Public in evening) - tentative

- * May 6-8, 2008 - Salmon Sub-Committee General Meeting (contact RRC and Chief and Council to invite them to meet if interested) (travel days May 5 & 8?) - tentative
- * May 7, 2008 – Public meeting Dawson (evening) - tentative
- * Remaining General meetings to be scheduled once new membership appointed.

20. Correspondence

- Committee reviewed items in read file, no actions required

21. Other Business

- Community Updates
 - Gerry notified the committee that his input into salmon concerns is now from the perspective of a retired commercial fisherman; his commercial licence has been transferred to another owner.
- Agenda for next SSC Meeting
 - Alsek River Working Group (calendar item)
 - Yukon Placer Regime
 - De-link Commercial Domestic Fishery
 - Aquaculture Policy revisions
- Yukon Fish and Game Association (YF&GA)
 - Requested funding for revision to *No Boundaries* video intent is to present it at Fish ladder and YF&GA – Salmon Sub-Committee Chair to discuss with Fish & game association.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Carl Sidney.

Appendix I

Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee - Habitat Consultant Update

February 2008

Dawson Sewage Treatment Facility

The Yukon Government's proposal to build a sewage treatment facility in Dawson City is currently being reviewed by Dawson District office of YESAB. Earlier this month, YESAB requested additional information from YTG, specifically asking for more details on possible issues with leakage into drinking water wells and smell. YTG anticipates that it will be able to provide the additional information to YESAB within the next few weeks.

There will be a referendum held in Dawson regarding the proposed location of the sewage treatment facility on March 6. It is unclear how the outcome of the referendum will affect this process. However, YTG will be bound by the municipal bylaws of Dawson. There will be a public open house to view the proposal on February 26 and CBC has scheduled a townhall meeting for Friday, February 29 to discuss this issue.

The City of Dawson is still under court order to begin treating its sewage by the end of 2008. There will be a hearing in Whitehorse on February 28. The possibility of extending the timeline for Dawson may be discussed at that time.

National Municipal Wastewater Strategy and Regulatory Framework

Canadian Council of Environment Ministers National Strategy

The Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME) recently released its *Canada-Wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent* for public review. The main objective of the strategy is to harmonize and, in some cases update, existing regulatory structures across Canada. ***It only applies to facilities that discharge effluent directly to surface water.***

Concerns about wastewater management include effects on fish and wildlife, oxygen depletion and impacts on drinking water and recreational uses. Most wastewater treatment systems in Canada are owned and operated by municipalities. Others are under the authority of various levels of governments (federal, territorial, First Nation, etc...) These systems are subject to federal legislation, as well as applicable territorial legislation, permits or licenses.

The proposed national strategy includes:

- Approaches for managing effluents
 - national performance standards;
 - site-specific standards;
 - "one-window" for reporting, compliance, promotion, and enforcement.
- Approaches for managing sources
 - Model sewer use bylaw
 - Federal authority where appropriate (e.g. CEPA)

The strategy also identifies National Performance Standards for all wastewater treatment facilities:

- ***Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand*** (CBOD₅): a maximum of **25 mg/L** based on periodic average
- ***Total Suspended Solids*** (TSS): a maximum of **25 mg/L** based on periodic average

- **Total Residual Chlorine (TRC):** a maximum of **0.02 mg/L** based on periodic average

The responsibility for implementing the strategy rests with each jurisdiction. If the strategy is accepted, the Yukon government would be responsible for making any relevant changes to territorial legislation.

Yukon Wastewater System Size Categories

Size	Flow (m ³ /day)	Community
Very Small	≤ 500	Carmacks, Old Crow, Faro*, Haines Junction*, Teslin*
Small	< 500 – 2,500	Dawson
Medium	> 25,000 – 17,000	Whitehorse*
Large	> 17,000 – 50,000	
Very Large	> 50,000	

*Do not discharge effluent directly into surface water, or do not discharge with any significant frequency.

At present, the Yukon has only three wastewater facilities that would trigger the national strategy: Dawson, Carmacks and Old Crow. All other facilities do not discharge regularly to surface water. The remainder of Yukon communities use either small lagoon or septic systems.

Environment Canada’s Proposed Regulatory Framework

To implement the CCME strategy, Environment Canada is proposing to create new regulations under the federal Fisheries Act. The regulations would be applicable to all landbased water systems under municipal, territorial or federal government operation and those on federal land or on aboriginal land that discharge effluent into surface water. The regulations would define acceptable deleterious substances and effluent discharge levels (25 mg/L CBOD, 25 mg/L TSS, 0.02 TRC). This is equivalent to the standards for “secondary” wastewater treatment. The regulations will also include:

- Requirements for site-specific activities for wastewater systems under federal authority, on federal land or on Aboriginal land, including:
- Requirements for effluent monitoring (frequency for different effluents)
- Reporting (at minimum, reporting to the public would occur annually)

All new and upgraded facilities will need to meet the National Performance Standards. A risk management matrix will be applied to all existing facilities to determine the timeline for them to come into compliance.

Timeline to Achieve Effluent Discharge Levels

Risk Level	Risk Points	Timeline (years)
High	> 65	10
Medium	50 - 64	20
Low	< 49	30

While the regulations for wastewater effluent may not have a significant impact in the Yukon, there are a few issues raised by the proposed regulatory framework that the YSC may wish to consider and comment on:

- The national system and regulatory framework are developed to deal with large-scale problems (e.g. Victoria or Halifax). However, the risk management matrix for existing facilities may not adequately capture some of the issues facing smaller facilities (e.g. Dawson) and it is unclear what compliance timelines or enforcement standards would be in these cases. For example, would a 20 – 30 year timeline for compliance be appropriate? We may wish to maintain a high

degree of protection for water quality affected by small systems. It appears that under the draft regulatory framework, water quality may not have the same level of protection for those places with small wastewater systems. In the Yukon, almost all wastewater systems are considered small (except Whitehorse, Dawson and Watson Lake).

- It is unclear how public reporting will be conducted. It is also unclear how the public will be engaged in any monitoring and compliance activities.

It is expected that proposed wastewater effluent regulations under the Fisheries Act will be released in December 2008.

Financial and Technical Guidelines for Yukon Mine Reclamation Policy

In January, the Yukon Government approved *Financial and Technical Guidelines* for its *Yukon Mine Site and Reclamation Closure Policy*. These guidelines provide specific direction for many of the aspects related to the policy. However, there are still a few areas that may be of concern to the YSC:

- The guidelines do not include descriptions of how stakeholder and public participation will take place during consultations or review of reclamation plans, risk frameworks, securities. There is no information on timelines, details on the availability of documentation and information; how the reviews will take place; and processes for public input.
- The policy and guidelines still lack information on which government departments and agencies will be responsible for monitoring and enforcing the provisions of reclamation plans, including the provisions of security, submission of plans and reports, review of security and reclamation plans, monitoring site conditions and undertaking reclamation.

In the draft YSC letter on these guidelines, it is suggested that a compliance policy should also be developed that would outline compliance and enforcement options and timelines.

Yukon Queen II

Gartner Lee, the company hired to complete Holland America's submission to YESAB, has indicated that they have almost completed their submission. They expect to have something ready for YESAB in the beginning of March, 2008.