

MINUTES
SALMON SUB-COMMITTEE
July 30-31 2008, Meeting #64
Whitehorse, Yukon

MEETING DATES 2008-2009

Past Meeting Dates

Salmon Sub-Committee	February 26-28, 2008	Whitehorse
Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association	February 25-28, 2008	Grayling, Alaska
Porcupine River Working Group	March 19, 2008	Old Crow
Yukon River Panel	March 31-April 4, 2008	Whitehorse
YFWMB	April 29 – May 1, 2008	
YFWMB	June 10 – 12, 2008	
Dawson Public Meeting	May 20, 2008	Dawson City

Upcoming Meeting Dates (tentative)

Salmon Sub-Committee	September 3-4, 2008	Whitehorse
YFWMB	October 22-23, 2008	Whitehorse
Vision 2020 Symposium	October 23-25, 2008	Whitehorse
Salmon Sub-Committee	November 18-20, 2008	Whitehorse
Yukon River Working Group	November 21, 2008	Whitehorse
Yukon River Panel	December 8-12, 2008	Anchorage
YFWMB	December 9-11, 2008	
YFWMB	January 27-29, 2009	
State of the Salmon Conference	February 2-5, 2009	Vancouver

MEETING SUMMARY

1. **Announcements**
2. **Review Agenda**
3. **Review Action Items**
4. **De-link Commercial Domestic Fishery**
5. **Review Minutes from February 2008 Meeting**
6. **Administration**
7. **Strategic Plan**
8. **SSC Funding**
9. **Budget Process (Executive Secretary)**
10. **Kelly Hayes presentation**
11. **YFWMB Symposium (Graham VanTighem, Don Hutton)**
12. **Yukon Placer Regime – Rob Thomson**
13. **Fisheries Update (FAM)**

14. Members' Updates

15. Review Calendar

16. Other Business

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday - 9:00a.m. – 4:30p.m. – July 30th , 2008

Location: Large Boardroom, 419 Range Road

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

Opening Prayer

Meeting was called to order by Chair Carl Sidney at 9:00a.m.

1. **Announcements**

- Welcome of new member, William Asp appointed from the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board
- Individual comments on 2008 Fishery:
 - FNs doing a good job implementing restricted fishery, i.e. no or few nets in NND FN;
 - The fish that are being caught are small in size;
 - The US commercial Chum fishery was opened timing was when approx 90% of the Chinook run were through, although some incidental Chinook were caught. The commercial fishery upset the FN's since restrictions had been put on the Canadian FN fishery;
 - On average about 50% of the Chinook are of Canadian origin, the earlier fish are more likely Canadian origin than the later portion of the run. This is why when the run is poor and numbers allow it that a commercial fishery opening is delayed or opened later so that US origin fish are more likely to be caught than Canadian stocks.
- DFO Minister visit – Minister was unable to meet with SSC.

ACTION ITEM #64-1: New Member's binders: Steve and Carl to review new member's binder to determine necessary updates and revisions.

2. **Review Agenda**

Agenda reviewed and approved with additions

3. **Review Action Items**

ACTION ITEM #54-12: Executive Secretary and Dan McDiarmid to Work with YFWMB and Yukon College to see what is required to get accredited for the Job shadowing experience or at minimum incorporate more info on the relevant Boards and Committees and their responsibility within the Yukon into the Resource Program.

Mtg#57, Sept06: Pending, Kelly has previously looked at this concept. Dan and Steve to continue working on action item.

Mtg#58, Nov06: Steve has sent an email to Dan, to get his thoughts on this, work still in progress. Steve to setup meeting between Carl, Steve and Steve Smith.

Jan 07: Ex Sec discussed proposition with Steve Smith of Yukon College. He will discuss with his colleagues in Student Services and Ren Res program with the intent of setting up a meeting.

Feb 07 – Steve to follow up

Mtg#60 May 2007 –Executive Secretary to setup a meeting next week, May 7-11, with Steve Smith (Yukon College), Carl Sidney (SSC), Dan McDiarmid (YFWMB/SSC), and Frank Quinn (Exec. Sec.)

Mtg#61 Sept 2007- unable to setup meeting, Executive secretary to follow-up.

- Done: Carl and Frank met with YC rep, Frank pulling information together.

Mtg#62 Nov 2007- Kelly will contact Yukon College and suggest that the committee do a presentation to Yukon College on the Yukon Salmon Committee and their role as a committee. Kelly will send an email to Scott Gilberg, and cc graham, and Carl, and SSC.

Feb 07,2008: Presentation will be during a Monday lunch time session. Waiting for YFWMB to solidify their membership in order to do joint presentation (specifically the chair-Dan).

Mtg#63 Feb 26 –. Still in progress.

Mtg#64 Jul 30 2008 - decision: Job shadowing will be incorporated into Habitat Consultant work description “willingness to train...”. Incorporate Boards and Committees into Yukon College curriculum: Will work with FWMB to action.

ACTION ITEM#55-7: Reclamation Regulations – Bob Van Dijken to draft letter or ask Kevin Brewer to explain how or why the committee’s suggestions were not incorporated into the guidelines. – (Bob/Kelly)

Mtg#57 – Sept’06: Kelly to draft letter.

Feb 07 – Policy has already been adopted, the guidelines for the policy have gone through one round of consultation and comments are still being accepted (??). Have Kelly obtain a copy of the latest draft, find out where in the process they are and if further consultation is going to take place? As well as where the regulation is in the process. (if addition information is required Kelly can contact Carl).

Mtg#60 May 2007 - Waiting for this from Kelly Hayes.

Mtg#61 Sept 2007: The reclamation and closure policy are now in place, request that Kelly bring a copy of the guidelines and policy follow-up on initial request and bring back findings to November meeting.

Mtg#62 Nov 2007: Policy is in place and Kelly reviewed the two submissions Bob had made in the past and asked for further direction. Kelly to draft a letter for SSC to the Minister of EMR, cc to YF&WMB, RRCs, “everybody” (Carl).

Mtg#63 Feb 26/08 – Letter drafted for Carls review, revisions were discussed during Feb meeting, Kelly to work with Gerry on revisions.

Done

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.

Done

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.

Done

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.

Done, letter sent March 9, 2008

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.

Done, letter sent March 13, 2008

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.

Done, letter sent March 13, 2008

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.

Done – Recording made available to committee

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

Not relevant remove from action items.

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

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

Done – sample jackets received Aug 20008

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

ACTION ITEM#63-14: Request to Delink Commercial and Domestic Fishery - Committee requested clarification on how the change impacts on the Territorial fishery with rational. 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 next committee meeting.

Mtg#64 Jul 2008: On agenda for discussion - Done

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.

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

4. De-link Commercial Domestic Fishery

Tape recording from September 2005 and February 2006 meetings were provided for the SSC as requested, along with a chronology of what has occurred related to the de-linking of the commercial and domestic fishery. Included was a copy of the section 6(15) of the YT Fishery Regulations.

It was reviewed how the initial request to de-link the two fisheries would impact not only salmon but freshwater fisheries, because of the way the YT Fishery regulations were written.

There are new requirements in place for the process to change or implement new regulations, such as the requirement to have approval from the Privy Council, prior to a regulation change going forward; this is done in the form of a triage document.

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

5. Review Minutes from February 2008 Meeting

Minutes accepted with recommended changes.

6. Administration

- **Habitat Consultant Position**

- Contract End date: August 31, 2008 (consultant only available to July 31)
SSC members questioned what the responsibilities of the habitat consultant should include i.e.

- Should it also include office and admin responsibilities?
- Questioned whether the habitat consultant responsibilities of providing Habitat info be the responsibilities of DFO? A- DFO's responsibility is to provide support on habitat issues, so the committee can carry out their responsibilities.

ACTION ITEM #64-3: SSC to develop a letter requesting clarification on what are the specific responsibilities of DFO, as the SSC would like to look into hiring a position to take on the responsibilities not covered. – Lorelei

MOTION: The sub-committee to develop a job description that would include the responsibilities of a habitat consultant and possibly office administrator. Hold off on hiring a habitat consultant until a job description is developed. All in favour, Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #64-4: Admin to email previous habitat job description to Lorelei Smith.

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

- **Office Lease Agreement**

- End date: November 30, 2008
- Direction from Committee, they wanted to look into alternate locations.
YFWMB was suggested as an alternative option for office space locations.

ACTION ITEM #64-6: SSC to discussed availability of office space options with YFWMB.

7. Strategic Plan

- Postponed - Add on agenda for discussion during next meeting including discussion on a retreat to Alaska and to establish the Goals and Objectives with a full membership.

Thursday – 9:00am to 4:30 pm – July 31st, 2008

Location: Large Boardroom, 419 Range Road

8. SSC Funding

- **Expenditures 2007-2008 – Final Report**
 - SSC Financial summaries were provided in meeting packages and discussed
- **Expenditures and Funding 2008 – 2009**
 - Reviewed figures on current and forecasted expenditures

- SSC requested that forecast be amended to capture 10K cost for the vision conference
- SSC discussed previous request to develop a SSC medallion for use on mugs

MOTION: SSC moved to revise forecast to include 10K for vision 2020 conference, and for Craig and Carl to continue to explore option for a SSC medallion. All in agreement and carried.

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

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

- **Signing Authorities**

- SSC reviewed existing signing authorities list with TD bank.

MOTION: Moved to update current signing authorities at TD Bank by removing outdated signatures and replace with all of the current members. All in agreement, carried.

ACTION ITEM #64-9: Send letter to TD Bank revising signing authorities; include all the SSC members' names on signing authority list.

9. **Budget Process (Executive Secretary)**

Using the budget process recommended by the IRG report and the UFA. The Executive secretary explained to the SSC that for a contribution to be in place by April 1 2009 DFO would need to receive an approved budget from the SSC by January 2009.

10. **Habitat Update – Kelly Hayes**

Kelly provided an update on habitat issues to the SSC as identified within appendix A attached.

Kelly notified the SSC that due to personal commitments her term with the committee would end July 31, 2008 instead of the previously discussed August 31.

11. **YFWMB Symposium (Graham VanTighem, Don Hutton)**

Don Hutton updated the sub-committee on the direction that the board is going in regards to the management of Fish and Wildlife Board. The board is now moving towards a mandate that is more inline with the mandate as outlined within the Umbrella Final Agreement. The board will now be limiting the technical aspect that has previously taken up a lot of the board's time. This will allow for the RRC's to take on some roles that the board had previously taken.

Moving in this direction and due to some previous criticism from the public in the way the board has operated, the board is developing a symposium that is scheduled for Oct 23-25, 2008. The symposium is designed as a forum to obtain input from the public and to determine what is or should be the future of wildlife management in the Yukon for the

next 12 years, in a vision for the year 2020. A summary document will be developed from the symposium information, will be used as a strategic plan for the next 12 years. YFWMB would like to partner with the SSC on this conference.

The format of the Vision 2020 symposium will most likely be working groups broken down by issues, ie. one of the group would be salmon. A consultant has been hired to assist in putting together a package for the public and questions for the groups. This forum would also be a means of promoting the partnership of the three groups.

The information from the meeting will be taken as advice to the Board, SSC and RRC's. A comprehensive strategic plan would be submitted from the three parties to governments.

Discussed the SSC taking part in the meetings with the Board and RRC's, this would be a step in moving towards one partnership and being viewed as a sub-committee of the board as identified in the UFA.

Salmon Sub-committee discussed options on how the salmon panel could best work. Suggested that the forum use the history of salmon further back as one of the case studies.

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

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

ACTION ITEM #64-12: Carl to contact Frank Quinn to request assistance in getting Alaskan representative to attend the vision 2020 symposium.

Q to DH - SSC inquired if there was office space that the SSC could utilize, and if the committee could utilize YFWMB office help. A - The sub-committee were invited to check out the available office space and options. If the SSC is interested then the board would need to approach the whole board for approval.

LUNCH BREAK

12. **Yukon Placer Regime – Rob Thomson**

Rob provided an update on the implementation of the new authorizations in Yukon watersheds. On April 11th the old Yukon Placer Authorization was replaced in 15 of the Yukon watersheds with the new authorization, there are 3 watersheds still remaining with the old authorization.

In response to input from consultations, secondary documents are being revised which contain monitoring protocols, aquatic health monitoring protocol, water quality objectives monitoring protocol and adaptive management framework are being developed. A guide book of mitigative measures is almost ready to be published similar to the previous White book.

Some of the timelines have been impacted by shortages in staffing in government, within DFO and YTG in the areas that previously participated in completed a lot of the work of the Placer Regime, this workload has now been delegated to the Secretariat office until the staffing can be completed. The increased workload has slowed the process down to a small degree, it is anticipated that once the new staff are more familiar with the process things will speed up.

YTG (Fisheries Management Branch) and DFO are both monitoring as committed as part of the regime, some additional monitor will be taking place in areas that have not previously been monitored.

Third phase consultation meetings have taken place with a number of FN's, mostly the ones who had placer operations in their traditional territories. In the fall it is anticipated that a FN wide workshop will occur in Whitehorse that will describe what was heard during consultations.

There are three watersheds that have not had the old Yukon Placer authorization replaced with the new authorization; these are the Asek, Liard and the Mayo drainages.

Monitoring is being done by two teams one from DFO and one from YTG Fisheries Management. Some monitoring is taking place in areas that monitoring has not occurred before. The monitoring model is based on 154 sites; approximately 20 more sites are still to be added.

The Yukon Placer Committee is going to be replaced by a Placer advisory Council, it is anticipated that the council will be in place this winter.

As of April 1st when the YPA was replaced by the new regime, there were some delays in the initial few weeks of implementation of the regime. The delays occurred in processing the application due to the large number of applications being submitted at the last minute and limited staff to process the increased numbers of application.

Q – What type of funding is in place for the Placer Advisory Council, there were problems with the old YPC and participation of other non-government members due to funding problems, is this funding problem going to be resolved with the new council? A – It has not been clearly defined what or how the Advisory Council is funded.

Concerns were raised on the number of years that a stream can be repeatedly mined. A – A number of these concerns were previously expressed by the SSC and have been incorporated in the report.

13. Fisheries Update (FAM)

Sandy Johnson provided an update on the Yukon Fisheries including the Asek and Yukon River drainages. A number of restrictions were in place due to low returns and delays in runs.

Asek Drainage:

- Very poor returns to date, 10 sockeye versus an average of over 1000 for this time period.
- Chinook count to date is just over 250, close in numbers to 2006, but lower than last year count, run appears to be late.
- A number of fish have been viewed in Nascapin lake
- Tweedsmuir glacier is advancing fairly fast and it is anticipated that it may block off the Asek River if it keeps advancing at the current rate. Chris Larsen from Alaska is tracking the glacier.

- FN and recreational fishery has been closed for the Alsek on the Tatenshini, Blanshard and on the Takanni.

Yukon River Drainage:

- The Chinook counts appear to be spiking now,
- In a number of areas, the run appears to 3-6 days late.
- The run size is forecasted well below average
- Reviewed data information from ADFG, including data from their various monitoring projects.
- A summer chum commercial fishery took place after 75% of the Chinook had passed; a number of Chinook were caught in the bi-catch.
- The US have imposed restriction on the subsistence fishery
- There is an overlap of summer and fall chum, summer chum usually return at the same time as the Chinook. Full Chum are chum returning after July 19th although there is an overlap of the two.
- Weekly conference call have been occurring with the FN's, the only FN's that have expressed concerns are Old Crow. FN's are reducing their catches by half.

14. **Members' Updates**

- **Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (Craig)**
 - Made up of Alaskans mainly fishermen from all areas of the Alaskan side of the Yukon River
 - SSC now have a seat on YRDFA
 - YRDFA is an association to the Board of Fish
 - Heard reminder comments from participant on the requirement to get the fish back to Canada
 - Fishermen wanted to hear the fisherman story from the SSC. Maybe useful to provide a picture presentation from the SSC on the Canadian fish at the next meeting.
- **Assembly Of First Nations National Fisheries Committee Meeting (Vicky/Carl)**
 - Carl is part of the AFN committee
 - A vice-Chief usually brings any items/issues to the committee.
 - Only two meetings per year
 - Carl provided a report on items relevant to the Yukon to the Assembly of First Nations, ie. concern with numbers returning, size, no commercial domestic or recreational fishery last year due to low numbers; DFO not providing funding to implement the Yukon River Agreement
- **Porcupine River working group (Carl/Vicky)**
 - Discussed the possibility of restrictions being placed on the FN fishery
 - Old Crow representative wanted to know why their proposal to put a sonar on the Porcupine was refuse. A- There are a limited number of sonar's, possibly next year there may be an opportunity to try the Sonar on the Porcupine.
 - Old Crow suggested that Canada needed a stronger voice in meetings with US.
 - Old Crow were upset that the Panel had not funded their proposals.
- **Yukon River Panel (Dan)**
 - Reviewed R&E projects
 - Issues arose on which projects to cut

- A lot of apologizing from US side for over fishing in the 2007
- Discussion on the use of sonar numbers for inseason management, mark recapture number is 33-43K, decided that 45K would be the sonar number. Agreed to use sonar numbers to management, but continue to use mark recapture at the same time for escapement and determine a connection of the two. More discussion needs to occur.
- **Dawson Public Meeting – May 20th (Carl)**
 - Low participation, short notice was given for this meeting (note: Advertisement delay due to newspapers delivered later to Dawson)
 - Participants asked if fishers closed the fishery from the mouth of the Yukon River for one year, would it make a difference. Participants said that they would be in agreement of no fishing.
 - Fishers that were unable to attend the meeting and were interested in the information were provided the information by either mail or email.
- **Creative Salmon (Carl)**
 - Carl met with two representatives from Creative Salmon
 - Creative Salmon are still interested collecting gametes from the Yukon River
 - Low survival of the existing Yukon River farmed stocks
 - There is only enough survival for broodstock
- **Canadian Science Writers (Carl)**
 - Carl was invited to sit on a panel for Canadian Environmental writers; his role was to help address any questions on salmon or fish.
 - Impression was that the writers were not aware that salmon existed in the Yukon; discussions were more in the direction on Elk concerns.
- **May Gathering (Carl)**
 - Located in Pelly Crossing, provided an update on run outlooks, and the status of the SSC appointments.
 - No questions or concerns were raised
- **Yukon Fish and Game Association Fry Release (Carl)**
 - SSC provided promotional items for kids
- **Fish and Wildlife Management Board (Carl)**
 - Provided an update on SSC membership, 6 members
 - Run outlook for Chinook, with possibility of closures to all and restrictions on the FN fishery
 - Controversy on the test fishery, who should be catching the fish the commercial fishers or First Nation Fishers? This is an issue that should be discussed with DFO.
 - SSC invited to 2020 vision
- **Family Fun Day (Lorelei)**
 - weather was not great
 - located at the Hidden lakes
 - helped with activities such as fly tying and casting
 - Minister of Environment present (Elaine Taylor)
 - Provided SSC handout
- **Teslin Tlingt Council (Carl)**
 - Aware of recommendations to cut the fishery in half, Carl met with elders and discussed options.
 - Some wanted to close the fishery others were not in agreement

- Agreed to cut the fishery in half
- **Ta'an FN (Carl)**
 - Ta'an was concerned with the numbers from an average determined over the last 10 years, the numbers that were provided were half of their allocation. Totalling 47 Fish.
 - Meeting was between DFO and Ta'an FN, Carl was invited by Ta'an to participate in meeting.
 - DFO agreed to send out an email to all Yukon FN identifying that Ta'an was committed to conservation measures.

15. Review Calendar

- * SSC General meeting dates 2008/2009 plus tentative working group dates
 - Faro Mine Tour – Aug 20, 2008
 - SSC General – September 3-5, 2008 (Oct 7-9, 2008)
 - YFWMB – October 22-23
 - Symposium – October 23-25, 2008
 - SSC General Meeting – Nov-18-19-20
 - Yukon River Working Group – Nov 21, 2008
 - YR Panel – December 8-12, 2008 (Anchorage)
 - State of the Salmon 2009 Conference – Feb 2-5, 2009 (all members to attend)

16. Other Business

- Aquaculture Policy revisions (postponed to next meeting)
- Community Updates
- Agenda for next SSC Meeting
 - Office Space
 - Rob Thomson – Placer Regime Report
 - State of the Salmon presentation
 - Policy development in regards to waterways re: Yukon Queen
 - Youth Contest resource package
 - BNA Update
 - 20:20 symposium update
 - Habitat Update

Meeting Adjourned 4:40

APPENDIX A

Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee Habitat Consultant Update

July 2008

Yukon Forest Resources Act

Since devolution of forest management, the Yukon government has been working to develop the framework of an appropriate forest management regime for stewardship of Yukon's forests. In developing the proposed regime the Yukon government has worked closely with the Successor Resource Legislation Working Group, which includes representation of the Council of Yukon First Nations, Kwanlin Dun First Nation, the Kaska First Nations and Yukon

government. The government has also benefited from the reviews and participation of a Forest Industry Focus Group that is composed of local Yukoners involved in the territory's forest industry. The proposed regime has also received input from a Forest Values Focus Group that includes non extractive forest resource users like wilderness tourism operators and big game outfitters, as well as the Yukon conservation groups, and wood harvesters.

Yukon government has tried to ensure that the proposed new regime for forestry reflects:

- the provisions of Chapter 17 of First Nation Final Agreements;
- the vision and intent of previous policy work completed in the Yukon;
- Yukon's commitment to the National Forest Strategy;
- the work undertaken with first nations without final agreements;
- existing Yukon legislation like YESAA and other resource management legislation;
- the principles of stewardship and sustainability; and
- the current practices of forest management in the Yukon.

The primary reason for this Act is to promote "sustainable forest ecosystems that continue to provide for all living things while providing for environmental, economic, social and the cultural needs of present and future generations of Yukon people" (Forest Policy Framework 2004), the specific intents and purpose of the act are to:

- Establish a planning regime that ensures the values and needs of all users of Forest Resources are being considered and integrated when planning for timber resource harvesting;
- Establish a tenure and compliance and enforcement regime that allows for the development of a viable forest sector that is sustainable and appropriate in size and scale to the Yukon;
- Ensure that management and use of forest resources is done in a manner that respects and protects the rights of first nations; and
- Provide Yukon residents, first nations and local governments a defined role in decision making respecting the planning, use and protection of forest resources.

The Yukon government held a public consultation on the concepts for a new Forest Resources Act beginning in February, 2008. Upon review of the consultation document, there was nothing that should raise any specific concern for the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee. Some related issues could be raised regarding the participation of other UFA mandated bodies such as RRCs. However, according to the framework presented, there will be opportunity for the YSSC to participate in areas where salmon habitat may be a concern.

Yukon Species at Risk Act

Since 2001, the Yukon government has been working on a territorial Species at Risk Act. This spring, the government released a discussion document to review its latest version of the act. The Yukon Species At Risk Act (YSAR) will apply to almost all lands in Yukon, including private and Settlement Lands. YSAR will not apply to lands administered by the federal government and national parks, which will continue to be subject to the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA). YSAR is similar to species at risk legislation in place elsewhere in Canada.

The YSAR does not apply to species listed as "fish" under the federal Fisheries Act, so therefore will not apply to salmon species. However, there will be opportunities for federal and territorial managers to work together on recovery strategies where appropriate.

Yukon State of the Environment Report 2005

The State of the Environment Report is a requirement of the Yukon's *Environment Act*. The *Environment Act* requires a State of the Environment Report to be completed once every three years along annual interim reports. The report's purpose is to track potential environmental issues using a series of standard indicators. Compiling the information in the report also allows the Yukon public to monitor progress toward the achievement of the objectives of the *Environment Act*. It also provides baseline information for environmental planning, assessment and regulation.

The report tracks indicators in several different areas including air, land, water, and climate change. Indicators are key measurements that can be used to monitor change. Comparing these indicators on a regular basis over time gives a picture of how each aspect of the environment in question is doing.

Of interest to the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee is the section on water quality.

The Yukon has three sites where water quality is monitored using the Canadian Water Quality Index. These include: the Porcupine River upstream of Old Crow, the Liard River at Upper Crossing, and the Dezadeash River at Haines Junction. In 2004, all sites registered water quality that met the “good” to “excellent” standards of the index.

In 2005, Environment Yukon and Environment Canada began monthly sampling at new or re-established water quality monitoring sites. The new sampling stations are located on the Klondike River, the McQuesten River and the Yukon River (one upstream and one downstream of Whitehorse). This expanded water quality monitoring network will enable a more representative cross-sectional analysis of Yukon’s waters and a stronger basis for establishing a Water Quality Index for the Yukon.

Dawson Sewage Treatment Facility

The Yukon Government is working on a new plan for the Dawson sewage treatment facility. In March, the community voted against the development of a lagoon system that would have been located near the intersection of the Dome Road and the Klondike Highway just south of town. There are two options now being considered, including a mechanical treatment plant and another lagoon system, only this time in another location. In a court hearing following this decision, Judge Heino Lilles suggested that the town must have a new plan in place by the time of their next court hearing on September 22, 2008.

National Municipal Wastewater Strategy and Regulatory Framework

Following comments provided through the national consultations held over last winter, the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment is currently redrafting its National Municipal Wastewater Strategy. It is expected that this final draft will be approved at the CCME’s upcoming fall meeting. The strategy and regulatory framework should then be Gazetted by December 2008. During this time, the SSC will have 60 days to comment on the proposed regulatory framework.

Yukon Queen II

Gartner Lee has made its initial submission to YESAB on behalf of Holland America. The YESAB review will examine the impact the Yukon Queen II is having on salmon populations and habitat along the Yukon River. YESAB has requested additional information from Holland America before moving forward in the review process. At this time, there is still no opportunity for public comment on the project. In the meantime, the Yukon Queen II is still operating on the Yukon River.