

MINUTES
YUKON SALMON COMMITTEE
February 21-23, 2006, Meeting #55
Whitehorse, Yukon

MEETING DATES

Meetings to Date (2005-2006)

YSC Meeting #50	February 22-24, 2005	Whitehorse
Yukon River Working Group	March 15, 2005	Whitehorse
YSC Aquaculture Workshop	March 16-17, 2005	Whitehorse
Old Crow Public Meeting	April 4, 2005	Old Crow
YSC Meeting #51	April 5-7, 2005	Dawson City
Dawson Public Meeting	April 6, 2005	Dawson City
YSC Meeting # 52	May 17-19, 2005	Whitehorse
Whitehorse Public Meeting	May 18, 2005	Whitehorse
YSC Meeting # 53	Sept. 20-22, 2005	Whitehorse
YSC Meeting # 54	November 1-4, 2005	Whitehorse
DFO Dialogue Session	November 15, 2005	Whitehorse
Yukon River Working Group	November 16, 2005	Whitehorse
JTC	Nov 21-23	Anchorage
Mining Reclamation	Nov 23	Whitehorse
Yukon River Panel (Vickie, Gerry, Lorelei, Carl)	Dec 5-9	Anchorage
Porcupine River Working Group	December 15, 2005	Old Crow
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

Upcoming Meeting Dates (2006-2007)

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
Ross River (tentative Carl to coordinate)	Aug 28-31, 2006	Ross River
Yukon Salmon Committee Meeting	September 19-21, 2006	Whitehorse
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) Review Action Items
- 4) Review Minutes from Meeting #54 (November 2005)
- 5) Review 2005-2006 Budget – L. Naylor
- 6) Review Calendar
- 7) Environmental Impacts of Dawson Sewage – V. Enns
- 8) Faro Mine site - Technical aspects of dealing with the Faro Mine site (tailing and the pit) – V. Enns
- 9) Members' Updates:
- 10) Preseason Review/Update (Yukon) – P. Milligan
- 11) Tatchun Creek – C. Sidney
- 12) Preseason Review/Update (Alesk)– S. Stark
- 13) Bio-engineering – P. Tobler
- 14) Habitat Update – B. van Dijken
- 15) Mt. Nansen – F. Patch (YTG)
- 16) How Human Health Issues Are Addressed With Regards To Contaminated Sites – H. Copland (YTG)
- 17) Road Salts Mgmt Plan Update – C. Harwood, YTG
- 18) Youth Contest Judging – M. Murphy
- 19) Operational Procedures (terms 1yr vs. 2 yrs)
- 20) Yukon River Panel Members (Co-Chair, Alternates etc..)
- 21) Copyright/property right of the name “Yukon Salmon”.
- 22) Aquaculture Policy Recommendation – S. Smith
- 23) Presentation on Intent of Umbrella Final Agreement
- 24) Conservation Units Wild Salmon Policy (WSP)
- 25) Contract for Audit
- 26) Habitat Stewardship Update – J. McDowell
- 27) Territorial Species at Risk – B. Pyper
- 28) "Bering Cisco Consultation" (Postponed to April meeting)
- 29) Other Business
 - Minister Response – CBM (In Camera)

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday **February 21nd, 2006 – 9:00 a.m.**
Location: **Large Board Room, 419 Range Road**

Opening Prayer

Guests:

David Bunbury (Labarge RRC)
Stan Peters (White River First Nation)

Present:

Ed Kormendy, Carl Sidney (Chair), Gerry Couture, Lorelei Smith, Joe Johnson, Chuck Hume (9:36 am), Vicky Josie (9:45am)

1. Announcements

- No new announcements

2. Review Agenda

- Berring Cisco – postponed to April meeting
- Presentation from three parties on Intent of the UFA – add to other Business
- Agenda adopted as is.

3. Review Action Items

ACTION ITEM #49-5: YSC Performance Questionnaire should be distributed and responses requested by June 15. Secretariat to perform analysis of results for presentation at meeting ‘on the land’. Everyone who completes the questionnaire to be entered into a draw for either a round trip to Vancouver (if possible through Air North flight credits) or \$500.

YSC Admin staff have the ability to book flights online with existing credits, bookings are only limited to seats available and the balance available on account. Suggestion that the committee make-up a certificate for the round trip flight to be used by a preset date. Contacted “Consumer Affairs” regarding lotteries licences, if the person is required to pay to get entered into the draw then a lotteries license is required, in the case of a free draw then no license is required.

Performance Questionnaire has been distributed via letters to catch card holders and questionnaire has been posted on YSC website. Questionnaire was also e-mailed to the YSC’s distribution list.

Mtg. #50: Members of the YSC and immediate family members are excluded, and the option of \$500 is an alternate prize. One year’s deadline for travel.

Mtg. #51: Performance questionnaire to be brought to Whitehorse public meeting. Secretariat to send out reminder e-mail.

Mtg. #52: Deadline extended to August 31st 2005 and reminder sent out to YSC distribution list. Item added to agenda for November YSC meeting.

Mtg#54: Winner selected during November meeting, official winners notification sent out Feb/06.

ACTION ITEM #50-4: Carl to contact Chief Morris to clarify the information that he was looking for regarding fish in the lakes. DFO may have the information that Chief Morris is looking for but need to clarify his concerns first. Follow-up letter to be sent to Chief Morris with some information.

Not completed. Carl will provide update at September meeting.

Mtg #54 Chair and Secretariat to draft a letter to x-morris seeking clarification and interest.

Mtg#55 – Clarification no longer required

ACTION ITEM #51-14: BVD to work in cooperation with the Secretariat to compile a history of the YSC's involvement in the Dawson Sewage issue for presentation at the next YSC meeting. Invite a representative from YRITWC and YFWMB to the meeting and take steps to develop a strategy to address this issue.

Presentation to be held in conjunction with EC briefing (see 51-15) at June YSC meeting.

Mtg #53: BVD is conducting a review of his files. Louise sent summary of YSC involvement (excerpts from minutes, correspondence sent and received) to BVD Aug. 30th. Briefing will be organized for November meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

Mtg #54: EC presentation postponed until February 2006.

Mtg #55: EC presentation on agenda for February 2006, both YFWMB and YRITWC were invited.

ACTION ITEM #51-15: Secretariat to arrange a briefing from Environment Canada on the environmental impacts of the Dawson Sewage for June YSC meeting.

EC has suggested that the Yukon's Chief Medical Health Officer or the Department of Health and Social Services provide the briefing. See letter from Dan Lindsey, Dec. 24 2004.

Sept. 05: (See 51-14) EC has been contacted and advised that Vic Enns, Head of Pollution Abatement Unit, is the most appropriate person to conduct the briefing. Briefing will take place at November YSC meeting due to scheduling conflicts

Mtg# 54: Vic Enns was unavailable to present during November meeting, he is on assignment in Vancouver.

Mtg#55: Vic Enns EC on agenda to present during February 2006 meeting.

ACTION ITEM #52-4: Secretariat to contact Cher Lacoste, Federal Contaminated Sites Accelerated Action Plan representative for Health Canada, to request a briefing on how Health Canada will be addressing human health issues with regard to contaminated sites in the Yukon.

Deferred to November agenda.

Mtg #54: HC contacted, Meghan Roushorne ('meghan_roushorne@hc-sc.gc.ca') is the support of departments that handle contaminated sites. Federal contaminated sites. Technical support to those that manage the site. Human health risk assessment and conduct a peer review. HC sent a letter explaining their role in contaminated sites, letter received Oct 25, 2005. Copy in packages.

Mtg #54: Lead agency to explain how human health issues are addressed with regards to contaminated sites. HC may provide support.

Mtg#55: Assessment and Abandoned mines branch, YTG on Feb 2006 agenda.

ACTION ITEM #53-12: BVD to contact the Type II Mines Office to determine if there is any value in the YSC providing a letter of support to them recommending that they receive funding for the development of a reclamation plan for Mt. Nansen.

Done

ACTION ITEM #53-16: Issue of garbage around the fishing site at Tatchun Creek to be added to the next YSC public meeting agenda.

Yukon River Working Group Meeting Nov16, 2005: Issue committed to be added to next Yukon Salmon Committee meeting.

Mg #55: on agenda

ACTION ITEM #53-17: DFO to compile and submit a Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement (RIAS) for the de-linking of the commercial and domestic salmon fisheries.

Arlene Yeulet to work on for Secretariat. Request to get it out of this office ASAP.

- Regulatory Impact Analysis statement submitted Late Dec.

ACTION ITEM #53-19: Secretariat to invite Stanley Njootli, Hardy Ruf and Steve Taylor to the November YSC meeting (Thursday) for recognition of their contributions to the Committee. Chair to discuss with Louise the purchase of gifts.

Invitation sent Oct 14, Stan and Steve have confirmed attendance, and Hardy is out of the Yukon.

Mgt#54: Stanley attended, continue to extend invite to Steve and Hardy.

Mtg#55: Both Steve and Hardy were invited to Feb 2006 meeting, but were unable to attend.

ACTION ITEM #54-3: Class II to Class I - Bob Van Dijken to seek clarification on Class I to determine if there is actually no timeframe associated with the Classification, need more clarity and if there is notification required in the class I.

Done

ACTION ITEM #54-4: Tintina Mines Application - Deadline for response on the Tintina Mines application is Nov 15. YSC Chair to work with Bob Van Dijken on developing a response to application. Suggestion that a moratorium be placed on further activity until the information is correct (ie no fish).

ACTION ITEM #54-6: Federal Contaminated Sites - Seek clarification from lead agency (DIAND/Yukon Territory Government) as to how they are addressing human health issues on contaminated sites (Acceleration Action Plan)

Mtg#55: see action item #52-4 – YTG to make presentation during Feb 2006 YSC mtg.

ACTION ITEM #54-7: Bio-Engineering: Executive Secretary to Arrange with Environmental Dynamics Inc. (EDI) to have Bio-engineering presentation for next YSC meeting.

Mtg#55: EDI on YSC Feb 2006 to make presentation to committee on Bio-engineering.

ACTION ITEM #54-8: Carl to check with Siegi/Della to see if there are any extra seats available on the charter for the Panel trip.

- Limited seats were available

ACTION ITEM #54-9 – Request presentation by EC on the technical aspects of dealing with the Faro Mine site (tailing and the pit).

Mtg#55: EC on agenda to make presentation to YSC on Faro Mine site (tailings and pit)

Action Item #54-10: Mt. Nansen - Ask Environment Canada to answer question on toxicity issues and whether or not the dam could be removed.

Mtg#55: YTG (Frank Patch) on YSC February 2006 mtg agenda to make presentation of Mt. Nansen toxicity and dam removal option.

ACTION ITEM #54-11: Job Shadowing – Need to develop and write up a clear work description, possibly get Youth Contest consultant to assist with this if workload is high.

Youth contest consultant was asked regarding availability, responded yes if given a clear outline of what is wanted.

ACTION ITEM #55-15: Letter advising Environment Canada Minister and Fisheries and Oceans Canada Minister of their obligation to consult and seek a recommendation for Bering Cisco listing. Cc Fish and Wildlife Management Board, YRP, Yukon Territory Government Environment Minister. All Yukon First Nations.

Done, Mailed out Nov 22.

Need COSEWIC report on Berring Cisco. Steve Smith to provide today.

ACTION ITEM #54-16: Secretariat Develop Recommendation Letter re: Yukon Salmon Committee Aquaculture Policy.

Recommendation letter sent, response received in readfile and emailed to YSC members.

ACTION ITEM #54-17: Road Salts request presentation from Environment Canada or YTG.

Mtg#55: YTG, Catherine Harwood on Feb 2006 YSC meeting agenda to give presentation on the new Road Salts Management Plan.

4. Review Minutes from Meeting #54 (November 2005)

- Noted that the dates identified within the minutes, should be revised if dates change after the original meeting date.
- Addition to minutes from Nov1-4, 2005: Discussion about Carl working for Placer Secretariat and that the Yukon Salmon Committee members did not perceive a conflict, the position was to be strictly as a liaison. It was felt if a conflict developed members would bring it up at that time.

Motion to accept by Joe Johnson, seconded by Ed Kormendy

November Minutes adopted with above addition.

5. Review 2005-2006 Budget – Louise Naylor

- Annual Budget and Forecasts for 2005-2006
 - * Balance Sheet provided and reviewed.
 - * Expenditure and Forecast Sheet provided and reviewed.
 - * Remaining expenditures to be focused on Travel identified in Calendar depending on \$\$ remaining.
 - * Concern raised by members the inability within the CA to carry forward funds that are unused
 - * Synopsis to be put hold until new fiscal year
 - * Agreement not to work on Habitat Job Shadow Work Description until next fiscal year.
- Habitat Consultant
 - * Bob van Dijken contract ends March 31, posting soon if committee want to have someone in place by April

6. Review Calendar

- JTC - Feb 27/28/Mar 1, 2006 (Alternate from YRP to attend – for Carl – Lorelei, Gerry will make last two days)
- Northern Nations Alliance Workshop - Feb 27/28, 2006 (Lorelei, Chuck) Northern Native Alliance (meeting Whitehorse Feb 27-28) – YSC suggested that someone attend who is familiar with wildlife management between Transboundary FN's and government. Gerry Couture to talk to F&WMB and Teslin RRC about NNA meeting in Whitehorse. Concerns rose about current minister's process of not carrying through with recommendations without following consultative process.
- Yukon River Working Group – March 3, 2006 (Carl, Ed (to confirm), Joe, Lorelei, Gerry, Dan(to confirm))
- Yukon River Panel – March 20-23, 2006 (Joe, Chuck and others that can go)
- Yukon Placer Session – March 27-29, 2006 (Gerry & Ed, possibly others)
- Basic Needs Allocation – March 28-29, 2006 (Carl, Lorelei, Chuck, others)
- Yukon Salmon Committee Meeting April 5/6 Dawson
- Yukon Salmon Committee Dawson Public Meeting April 4
- PRWG & OC Meeting April 3
- Salmon Gathering June 2-4, 2006 – Old Crow
- ASLO Summer Meeting (American Society of Limnology and Oceanography) – June 4-9, 2006 (Early registration deadline May 5) Not of interest to Committee.
- New Yukon Salmon Committee meeting dates.
 - BBQ, Fish Release, Public Meeting coordinated it with the fry release. June ish
- Celebration of the Salmon July (27-30) ish (Dawson) meeting on the land (Moosehide Gathering July 27-30)
- Yukon Salmon Committee Meeting, Whitehorse - September 19-21, 2006
- Yukon Salmon Committee Meeting, Whitehorse - November 7-9, 2006

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.

7. Environmental Impacts of Dawson Sewage – Vic Enns

- Since 1984 Dawson got its water licence. Condition was if effluent was found toxic they would have two years to get a water treatment facility. In the hands of the Yukon Territory Government at the time.

- 1992 Licence review. Waterboard reminded Dawson of the requirement. Currently only screened effluent.
- August 2000 Dawson charged and they plead guilty. Appeared in court Feb 2003, a 5K fine and ordered Dawson to construct a sewage treatment plant that would bring them in compliance with the Fisheries Act by Sept 2004.
- In Fall 2002 City applied for water licence which mirrored court order for sewage treatment plant by September 2004
- In August 2004, they came back to court to request an amendment on the original court order
- Dispute over cost of building and O&M costs increased 9M to 19 M and O&M 400K to 630K
 - O&M costs funded by the city, Capital costs by Yukon Territory Government
- It is said that the Association of Yukon Communities supports an amendment to Dawson's O&M costs for a block funding increase.
- Court agreed to allow Dawson (now Yukon Territory Government) to explore alternative cost effective treatment process.
- Now have until 2008 to complete a Sewage Treatment Plant.
- There is now a memorandum of agreement between the Territorial Gov and the City of Dawson giving unfettered control to the Territorial Gov.
- Review possible sites for sewage lagoon. All sites have issues, not much flat land around Dawson. Lagoon is usually cheaper but due to associated costs Batch Plant may actually be cheaper.
- Presented "test" ponds in Dawson, site A is only one that YTG has legal access to and would require a minimum of 25 million for construction of project.
- Type of Lagoon that they want to build is new to the Yukon in part. It would be made up of three ponds. The two smaller ponds would hold the sewage for about 15 days each and the big pond would hold the sewage for 60 days more. The smaller ponds would accelerate the treatment process by blowing air into the ponds.
- Ran pilot ponds, Summer months is the focus of the test, winter there is much dilution due to the bleeding of water into system to prevent freezing of pipes.
- The water tested after the treatment showed Ammonia reduced, and surfactants (in soaps) reduced
- Capital Costs of ponds depending on site range from 15-25 Million.
- Next court appearance in June, Whitehorse
- Questions came up whether to challenge YTG with non-compliance of the existing water licence, and under the existing waters act and quantity, quality and rate of flow.
- Question of using UFA Section 14.8.8, where a Yukon FN has the cause of action against any person in respect of any Use of Water in violation of the terms and condition of a licence to use water or contrary to Laws of general Application....
- There are lots of municipalities across Canada that are not treating their sewage or treating it effectively. There is now a National Municipal Waste water standards being developed across Canada with the provinces and territories.
- Likely result in a Fisheries Act regulation. Intent is to provide municipalities time to come into compliance resulting in improved water quality throughout the nation.
- Question on whether the YSC could sit in on the court case on and if a letter would be required to sit in on the case.

ACTION ITEM #55-2: Dawson Sewage - Carl will bring up issue in his meeting with Grand Chief in trying to figure out how to move forward.

8. Faro Mine site - Technical aspects of dealing with the Faro Mine site (tailing and the pit) – Vic Enns

- Involved in the technical review committee that looks at various options for closing the site in a way that will meet the environmental protections risks
- Tailings pose the most environmental risk
 - All the tailings at the Faro Mine site are reactive, they are chemically unstable (when they are exposed to the air it produces acid and the acids dissolves the metals in the tailings and once they are in a liquid state they can filter into the ground water below the tailings and further into the creek).
 - A diversion needs to be designed to handle the biggest flood that could happen, need to look at resizing, the cost of doing this is very high. They are looking at building a diversion to prevent a flood from washing out the dam and earthquake proofing the dam.
 - Another option is to move the tailing back into the pit, and put the tailings underwater. Metals in the tailings could be treated with lime as they are moved.
 - The waste rock will continue to generate contaminates for in perpetuity. Need to look at a cover for the waste rock that will slow down the contamination.
 - At today's prices over 1Billion dollars worth of zinc are in tailings. Question on whether they could find a smelt that would take the mixed concentrate.
 - Lime needed to treat the zinc could possibly be accessed locally.
 - Closure means stabilizing to the best you can, but maintenance will always be required.

9. Members' Updates:

- DFO Dialogue Session – (Carl/Lorelei/Chuck/Gerry) Useful in that it educated RHQ staff on our system and what is done up in the Yukon. YSC members found it annoying that they needed to educate DFO. Focuses on BC. Not enough information was provided to provide input back.
- YRWG – (Carl/Gerry/Joe) Main issue was Harvest Data reporting and problems with specific FN's, Bering Cisco was discussed, and May Gathering invited DFO to work more closely and have a salmon gathering.
- Oil and Gas Workshop – (Gerry) Put on by the Pembina Institute. Eventually there will be a Yukon Pipeline (economics). Included testimony from people on the land in Alberta. Need to make sure we (Yukon Gov.) get the benefits for the Yukon from their oil and gas (like Norway). Skilled workforce for pipeline is work specific and even if trained would end up following the next pipeline out of the Yukon. Companies, when forced to live with stringent environmental standards have met those standards, therefore demand high environmental standards. Recommend others go to workshop if they come back up. Group was: Pembina Institute. Question: How do we as a Yukon Salmon Committee prepare and protect salmon from development. Need to identify areas of importance, and make them part of the environmental standards etc.
- JTC – (Gerry Couture) May get another report on “Big fish” issue that shows more detail from Chris Stark. Generally technical info other than that business as usual.
- Yukon River Panel – Craig Unavailable (defer to next meeting)
- PRWG – (Esau, Vicki, Carl) Discussed preseason. Talked about cycle rebuilding goal 27K. High number of 4 year olds returns. Wild Salmon Policy and DNA. Talked about 3 projects that were approved (R&E). Projection for next year. Need more inseason Harvest Data. Porcupine Salmon

Gathering June 2-4, Old Crow. Suggested the YSC could do a presentation in the school at next meeting.

- Yukon Placer – (Carl) New Chair George MacKenzie-Grieve (interim) until the Placer Regime is in place, reviewed rationales for Stream Classifications (5).
- Alsek Working Group – (Chuck/Lorelei/Carl) Update from Linaya on Village creek enumeration project - Problems with bears and the equipment. Klukshu murkiness and high water is problematic. Little Klukshu lake fry out migration – limited assessment. Got funding for monitoring this up coming season. Possibility of salmon up the Alsek system (Turnback canyon & glacier) 3.5K Sockeye and 1.1K Chinook (did not make escapement for either). Gaffing workshop occurred. Focused on gaff making due to low fish numbers. CAFN was never included in the LGL Harvest Study. Alsek Public Meeting was discussed with members of the RRC to attempt to coincide the YSC meeting with Renewable Resource Council meeting in spring.
- Selkirk Renewable Resource Council (Habitat Protection Area – McMillan River) – (Carl) - Preliminary session to see if there was interest in having a habitat protection area, if so they would take it forward to government. First nation elder fish camps, not currently in use could be used in the future. Falls under the Wildlife Act and any one or body can propose a HPA. Discussion was about supporting the Renewable Resource Council on the HPA. Meeting was attended by Miners. The idea of a HPA is that it should be developed it is worthwhile. Mayo has been working on one; present Government has concern that HPA will limit development.
- Community Updates
 - Stan Peters: We use to go out and just do what we needed to do, i.e. Just go up the Yukon River and the Klondike and do all our fishing and camping and fishing with fish wheels. Now there is so many laws. We use to fish any side (Canadian/American). Worked with US First Nations, explaining that they need to let the fish through if they wanted to continue to get fish.

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.

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.

Wednesday **February 22rd, 2006 – 9:00 a.m.**
Location: **Large Board Room, 419 Range Road**

Present: Carl Sidney (Chair), Gerry Couture, Lorelei Smith, Ed Kormendy, Chuck Hume, Joe Johnson, Stan Peters (Observer WRFN), Vicky Josie (late arrival)

10. Preseason Review/Update (Yukon) - Pat Milligan
Chum – post season 2005,

- Upper Yukon River one of the strongest returns in 30 years. Chum were spawning in great numbers in areas that we have not seen them in for years.
- Porcupine system 125K return. Porcupine could have been influenced by both marine and freshwater survival, when previously it was thought that only marine survival was a large influence. Age class was 91% 4 year olds, this is a big concern.
- DNA results showed high % for Minto and Kluane area

Chum – preseason, 2006

- Upper Yukon (above the border around Dawson area) same as last year approx 126K
- Upper Yukon escapement goal for 2006 shooting for the higher goal of 80K instead of the 55K
- Porcupine projection is higher than last year but still relatively low. Concern that the old numbers in the model may not account for a return like last year. Will manage more to in-season numbers.
- Porcupine escapement projection is 42.8K.

Total chum run last year was close to 2M and average is usually less than 1M.

Chinook – post season, 2005

- 90K Canadian component
- Last years CDN catch 10K, with a 35K escapement
- Genetic DNA analysis of fish taken at fish wheel, timing and proportion of run showed Shandindu run was early.

Chinook – preseason, 2006

- Estimated total Chinook 186K US+CDN fish expected in the river.
- Below average to average run strength expected
- Based on harvest share arrangement, proposed total CDN return will be 93K (CND Component): 51K US and 15K CDN Estimated Total Allowable Catch 66K fish. Recommended Escapement goal looking at 28K

ACTION ITEM#55-4: FN Commercial Fishing Licences - Carl will bring it up as an awareness item for the Grand Chief, i.e. Commercial fishing is not a guarantee every year, and you fish in the good years and not in the low return years.

11. Tatchun Creek – Carl

Issue is to control problems at site, mostly garbage, driving four wheelers threw the creek, people fishing in the non-fishing area of creek, i.e. Canoers who can not see the regulation and restriction signs on the trees, garbage around boat launch...

DFO is responsible for enforcing the fishery, but are not responsible for managing other areas of issue. Need a coordinated approach, to resolve problem with the three parties involved and the Chair of the YSC.

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

12. Preseason Review/Update (Alek)– Sean Stark

Presented Alek drainage system forecasts.

Sockeye estimated Early 2577+ late return 15439=18016; this is below average but within the escapement goal range.

Chinook estimated 3072, above average return expected

Coho estimated 16848, above average return expected

13. **Bio-engineering – Pat Tobler**

Presented Techniques and provided examples of Bio-engineering in practice with Yukon Examples. Bio-engineering is the use of living plant material to perform an engineering function. Ie. Willow used for site reclamation and restoration to address an engineering concern. Provides a natural approach with a more ecological effect.

Used for:

- erosion control
- sediment control
- stream site reclamation and restoration

Examples of Bio-engineering techniques:

- live staking (using Willow and Balsam Poplar branches sticks in the ground)
- wattle fencing
- live palisade
- modified brush layers
- live smiles
- live pole drains
- live reinforced earth
- live brush layers in a fill, live brush layers in a cut
- gravel bar staking

14. **Habitat Update - Bob van Dijken**

Bob provided the committee an update on United Keno Hill Mines, Tintina, Reclamation Regulations and identified a Placer Workshop. A written detailed update was provided to members.

As well he notified the committee that he would no longer be able to continue working for the Yukon Salmon Committee due to other work commitments as of March 31, 2006.

United Keno Hills Mine: Elsa Reclamation and Development Corporation have agreed to purchase the site. This is a new sub-company created by Alexco. The company will put 10million forward to put towards reclamations. YTG has been hiring contractors to handle the care and maintenance to date. Once the sale is completed Elsa Reclamation will be taking over the care and maintenance using “secret technology” that they are not willing to divulge at this time. A number of concerns were identified to the committee that the New Consultant will need to keep up to speed on.

Tintina: Comments were prepared from YSC on an application by Tintina to build road and do some bulk testing at their mine site off the South Canal Road near Boswell River. There are some concerns over Salmon habitat and metal or suspended solid contamination of waters. Referred to YESAA but had not shown up on registry as of last week.

Reclamation Regulations: YTG has put their reclamation regulations into place. Latest version do not contain the changes recommended by the Yukon Salmon Committee. According to the YTG EMR

website “Further public consultation will be undertaken to finalize the guidelines, which were slated for completion by April 2006.”

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 where not incorporated into the guidelines.

15. Mt. Nansen – Frank Patch (YTG)

Actual mine site is looking better, YTG has taken over looking after the site. Moving into the closing down phase. Developing a closure plan for submission to YESAA for submission next year, with a preliminary close date of 2011. Closure plan objectives are currently being put together by the governments.

- A number of technical studies have been conducted on the Water balance for both the tailings, the watershed and around the big pit.
- Water Treatment in Pit; Evaporation and fertilization (to lock the contaminated metals in the algae)
- The dam is separate to the pit, about 400metres between the two. There was seepage from below the dam; a secondary dam was built to catch the seepage.
- Water quality has changed significantly since 1999. Cyanide was treated for 4 years; levels of cyanide have now dropped significantly and are staying below water quality standards. There are still small amounts present, but the Cyanide issue is felt to be mostly dealt with.
- Arsenic is the outstanding issue (mostly in the tailings) More technical studies will be used to plan for how to deal with the arsenic.
- Prospect that at some day we will be able to walk away from the site and long term treatment won’t be necessary.
- Question on the stability of the tailings dam, there was some work done, has this taken care of the stability issue? The site is being monitored and no concerns have been raised, if a concern came up then it would be dealt with.
- Seepage from the dam is being collected and tested; the results are showing that the quality is safe to be released.

How to avoid in the future, need to be diligent ensure that a clear plan and adequate security is in place. The company didn’t follow their licence plan that was put before the Waterboard. Regulators did shut down the site in the end.

16. How Human Health Issues Are Addressed With Regards To Contaminated Sites – Hugh Copland (YTG)

- Hugh provided a brief summary of how health risk assessments are carried out and further details on the federal commitment.
- Funding is provided by the federal government, under a program called Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan. Environment Canada is the lead department that runs the program, Health Canada’s is also involved as member on the Action Plan committee.
- Human Health and Ecological Screening Level Risk Assessments were conducted on all Type II sites in 2003 as a requirement of the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan funding.

- More detailed complex site specific risk assessments are completed as required, for instance: Faro Tier 2 Ecological and Human Health Risk Assessment of Remediation Scenarios, Clinton Ck airborne asbestos assessment
- SENES consultants were hired to conduct the assessment on all the 4 sites in the Yukon. Looked at the chain of effect, exposure assessment. Assessments are done to determine if there is a risk and if the risk is there then action would be taken to minimize the risk
- Fisheries assessments were done at UKHM in 94/95 and assessment to be conducted in 2006. Faro assessment done in 2004, Mtn. Nansen collected in 2005 (report pending).
- Concern rose that assessments are done only after the fact; the First Nations have rights under UFA that stipulated requirement on the issuing of a water license should cover this concern. (Presentation provided, on file)

17. Road Salts Mgmt Plan Update – Catherine Harwood, YTG

Catherine from Highways and Public Works, Transportation and Maintenance Branch, presented the Road Salts Management Plan for the City of Whitehorse.

- Question on Roads salts addressed were: How bad is it? How is it affecting salmon? What is Highways doing about it?
- Salt is expensive so Highways tries to reduce its usage. It is the most effective de-icer.
- Highways mainly uses the salt to keep sand piles from freezing. This is called “pickling the pile”. 84% of salt is used to pickle. 2500 tonnes used in the Yukon. In comparison to the rest of the Canada the salt is used sparingly and is based on a number of circumstances (weather, activities, etc).
- Use less than 0.5% of the rest of the country. Application rate is 1.2 tonnes/km in Yukon compared to other extremes from other areas 80 tonnes/km, the difference is partly due to consistent weather conditions in the winter where the Yukon remains below freezing.
- Road “Salt Management Plans” are submitted with Environment Canada. It’s the first plan.
- The City does use snow dumps but the Yukon Territory Government does not use snow dumps. In the spring gravels are vacuumed up. Threshold for filing a plan is 500 metric tonnes per year.
- The YTG highways plan is working toward Best Management Practices. The plan provides a bit of a history and where they are going. The Ministers that asked for these plans said “highway safety must not be jeopardized”.
- Alternative products have been looked at and will be continued to look at
 - Ice Ban: costs 5 times as much, range of temperatures is limited, storage is hard (liquid);
 - Calcium Magnesium acetate: costs 23 times as much, less toxic to fish but more toxic to vegetation and can deplete oxygen in the water;
 - Potassium Acetate: cost 27 times as much, it performs similar to salt but depletes the oxygen in water and can enrich the phosphorus
- Increasing weather monitoring tools (a road weather information system will be located at Jake’ corner and Fish Lake road).
- More efficient methods of blending salt and sand - Blending at a more consistent rate and controlled pile.
- Training sanders to limit the amount being distributed.
- Testing “pre wetting” wetting sand before it hits the road, causes the sand to stick better to the roads and reduces the amount of salt required.
- Developed bridge cleaning guidelines (vacuums)

- Increasing the use of Electronic weather road systems will continue to be used to help predict the need for the.
- Each year salt levels will be decreased in the sand piles to determine how little they can get away with.
- Efforts are made to reduce the loss of salt from storage and over usage. It is in highways best interest to reduce the usage of salt as it is costly.
- Calcium chloride is used on the major highways in the spring to reduce dust on the roads. Alternatives are being looked at.
- Concerns raised on the salt that is being distributed by tires over the bridges, and the effects on the rivers. Concentrations of salt is minimal and Bridge washing is done during a time that minimizes the impact, ie. During spring freshet.

ACTION ITEM#55-8: Road Salts - Contact the City of Whitehorse to determine the quantity of salt being distributed and request a copy of their management plan if they are required to submit one.

Thursday February 23th, 2006 – 9:00 a.m.
Location: Large Board Room, 419 Range Road

Present: Carl Sidney (Chair), Gerry Couture, Lorelei Smith, Ed Kormendy, Chuck Hume, Joe Johnson, Vickie Josie, Stan Peters (Observer – WRFN)

18. Youth Contest Judging – M. Murphy

Michelle provided a number of recommendations (included in Yukon Salmon Committee package)

- Leave the contest at the same time, so that schools and communities know when to expect it
- Come up with a new theme; to make it more exciting for kids that have participated in previous years.
- Suggested to narrow the age categories to either elementary (13 & under) or high school (14 & older) or alternate years.
- Looking for ways to improve “getting it out to schools”
- Look at the possibility of getting the contest as part of the curriculum or running a family entry
- Suggested that coordinator work more closely with DFO educator
- Summarized the advertising/promoting effort
- Need to have everyone involved in doing more leg work to promote contest (i.e. Inform family, friends & neighbours, etc.)
- All artwork to be displayed at the Art Centre (during March)
- Recommendation: Certificate of appreciations to sponsors, & No boundaries DVD to the schools.
- Michelle was asked to continue with the contest for future year(s), she was acceptable to the idea.

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

19. Operational Procedures (terms 1yr vs. 2 yrs)

Discussion on the length of term for the chair and vice chair, should it be one year or two years.

- Some members thought that one year was only enough to bring the chair up to speed.

- Others members thought that one year would be enough for each term
- Members approved an amendment to operating procedures to reflect the term length to a Maximum term of two years for Vice Chair and Chair, subject to a mid term review by the committee.

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.

20. Yukon River Panel Members (Co-Chair, Alternates etc..)

Concerns raised on the numbers of Yukon Salmon Committee members who have been identified as alternates. Individuals are being identified as members of the Panel but their terms on the Panel are not connected to their terms on the Yukon Salmon Committee. The Yukon Salmon Committee have sent a letter requesting a number of members of the Yukon Salmon Committee to be identified as alternates.

Other issues of concern discussed:

- Interpretation of the Yukon River Panel Bi-Laws can impact on how far these discussions go
- Co-Chair – As per the Panel bylaw ‘the co-chair of the Canadian Section shall be selected by the Canadian Section from its members’.
- Members of the Panel – As per the UFA ‘Representatives from the Sub-Committee shall form the majority of the Canadian representatives to any Yukon River panel...’. (Carl Sidney, Gerry Couture, Lorelei Smith and Victoria Josie). Two other members of the Panel are YTG (Don Toews) and DFO (Previously Gordon Zealand now Sandy Johnson acting until another person is named).
- Alternates – The Yukon Salmon Committee have put forward to the minister 3 names for alternates (Joe Johnson, Craig McKinnon & Dan McDiarmid). As far as the committee is concerns no current alternates for YSC members have been officially named.
- Advisors – Remaining YSC members should be appointed as advisors and some FN elders should also be used as advisors.

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 provided funds to attend meetings. Canada is not currently living up to its obligation.

21. Copyright/property right of the name “Yukon Salmon”.

This originally came up under discussions on the Aquaculture policy and concerns that the name is used for salmon.

- Check with Corporate Affairs; want a world wide copyright on Yukon River Salmon, not just Yukon wide.
- Yukon River Salmon Co-op or Yukon River Salmon Company is currently A registered trade name or product name.

- Yukon Salmon, Yukon River Salmon need a world wide search for a trade name and determine if there is a copyright on it.

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.

22. Aquaculture Policy Recommendation - Steve Smith

The committee understood the policy, what was unclear to the Committee and local Fisheries and Oceans officials was how the Yukon Salmon Committee could provide input in the process. Discussions are still confidentiality.

ACTION ITEM#55-13: Aquaculture Policy - After extensive consultation it has become abundantly apparent that the Yukon public do not like this practice.

23. Presentation on Intent of Umbrella Final Agreement

Committee discussed their option under the UFA, where they can request of the three parties a presentation by CYFN, DIAND, Yukon Territory Government on intent of Umbrella Final Agreement as per implementation of CH 16. Once set up invite Renewable Resource Councils and others that may wish to attend. All three representatives need to be present and require a full day.

ACTION ITEM#55-14: Presentation by Three Parties request presentation – Coordinate presentation if possible for Sept meeting, allow 1 day for presentation and discussions. Invite RRC and others to attend.

24. Conservation Units Wild Salmon Policy (WSP)

DFO need to start consulting with Yukon Salmon Committee on these units OR at minimum need to have a Technical discussion on it from Sandy. Do not want it to become a political issue. This has come up in Transboundary and Yukon Panel discussions.

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

25. Contract for Audit

Explained the realm of the contract and that member may be contacted.

26. Habitat Stewardship Update – Jocelyn McDowell

The program started as the Habitat Stewardship Program supported through Yukon Salmon Committee but funding ended in March 2003. The program then was continued with Fish and Wildlife Management Board, funding has been provided through the YRP, Ducks unlimited, FN’s and RRC’s and other ints.

Stewards are now located in Old Crow, Dawson, Alsek and Mayo.

Work to incorporate traditional knowledge, Local, and technical knowledge.

Support communication amongst user groups.

Dawson: Sebastian Jones, focus is mostly salmon in the Dawson Area, (i.e. First Fish event organized with Trondek FN, community based program);

Alsek: Elsabe works many different projects, freshwater fish, salmon, ducks, and lichen;

Mayo: Russell McDairmid (now moved on to YESAA) Mayo River rearing salmon project, Devils, Elbow recreation site (celebration of the site, culturally significant to Northern Tutchone);

Old Crow: Jennifer Smith, Chum test fishery, geese/peregrine population on the eagle + others

Concentrated on the communities. Program works well because of the Stewards. Stewards' jobs are not 9to5 they work when the community needs them.

Challenges: Build capacity in the communities, Keep Staff, Find \$\$\$, inspire commitment in era of decreasing reliance on/connection to nature.

A review of the program has been completed. Objectives need to be updated but program is really appreciated.

27. Territorial Species at Risk – Boyd Pyper

In 2001/2002 consultations resulted in draft legislation. The legislation stopped because of a change in government. Since then a Federal Species at Risk Act was passed. The Federal Act changed some of the applicability of the aspects of the Territorial Act. With no Territorial Species at Risk act in place all aspects of the Federal act stands. The Territorial risk act gives the Territory input into species at risk in the Yukon.

In the fall of 2005 a package was sent out requesting comments by end of Oct for tabling. Due to the level of annoyances expressed and the limited timeline the table time was postponed. The plan was to amend the Wildlife Act but the issue around "meaningful consultation" and the direction on timing of this is to go steady and slow, but to do it right. Therefore it would up in at the earliest in 2007 but due to elections the timeline is uncertain.

There was a strong indication for the need for more consultation with stakeholders. Currently developing a consultation plan with input from CYFN.

Remaining Timelines are:

March - Draft Consultation Plan

May - Process Protocol

Summer - Work on SAR Regime

Fall – Election

Fall – Spring Final draft

Spring 2007 – Cabinet Submission

Spring/Summer – Drafting Legislation

Fall 2007 – Sitting

Salmon Committee members requested continued involvement in the Yukon species at risk process.

28. "Bering Cisco Consultation" – Sandy (Postponed to April meeting)

29. Other Business

- **Minister Response – CBM**

In Camera

ACTION ITEM#55-16: Ministers Response Coal Bed Methane - Confirm moratorium on CBM as in article and insure when the Yukon Government develops regulatory options the Yukon Salmon Committee request a commitment to be consulted.

- **Agenda for next YSC Meeting**

- Bering Cisco
- Salmon Habitat Protection Areas: Oil & Gas
- Youth Contest Recommendations
- Technical Aspects of Conservation Units: WSP.
- Copyright of “Yukon Salmon”
- Road Salt: City of Whitehorse
- Expansion of Habitat Position. Duties?
- Calendar Items
 - JTC
 - Yukon River Working Group
 - YRP
 - Basic Needs Allocation
 - NNA
 - Yukon Placer Session
- TTC Salmon Gathering (Carl)
- Tethering Fish (Lorelei)