

**YUKON SALMON COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting #50**  
**February 22-24, 2005**  
**Whitehorse, Yukon**

**MEETING DATES 2004-2005**

**Meetings to Date (2004-2005)**

Yukon River Working Group	February 4, 2004	Carmacks
YSC Meeting #46	February 24-26, 2004	Whitehorse
Yukon River Panel	March 8-11, 2004	Whitehorse
Yukon River Working Group	March 11, 2004	Whitehorse
Dawson Public Meeting	March 24, 2004	Dawson City
Yukon Placer Committee	March 30, 2004	Whitehorse
Porcupine Working Group & Old Crow Public Meeting	April 21-22, 2004	Old Crow
Alsek Working Group and Haines Junction Public Meeting	April 26, 2004	Haines Junction
YSC Meeting #47	May 11-13, 2004	Whitehorse
Whitehorse Public Meeting	May 12, 2004	Whitehorse
YSC Meeting #48	August 24-26, 2004	Klukshu
YSC Meeting #49	November 22-25, 2004	Whitehorse
Yukon River Working Group	December 10, 2004	Whitehorse
Alsek River Working Group	January 28, 2005	Whitehorse
Porcupine River Working Group	February 17, 2005	Old Crow
YSC Meeting #50	February 22-24, 2005	Whitehorse

**Upcoming Meeting Dates (tentative)**

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 18-19, 2005	Whitehorse
Whitehorse Public Meeting	May 18, 2005	Whitehorse
YSC Meeting #53	June 14-16, 2005	Whitehorse
Meeting with Ross River Dena Council	July 21 (tentative)	Ross River

**MEETING SUMMARY**

- 1. Announcements**
- 2. Review Agenda**
- 3. Review Action Items**
- 4. Review Minutes from November 2004 Meeting**
- 5. Transboundary Panel Update – Lorelei Smith**

6. **Wild Salmon Policy Briefing – Mark Saunders and Jim Irvine**
7. **Update from CYFN Leadership (Steve Taylor and Chuck Hume)**
8. **Yukon, Porcupine and Alsek River Updates - Pat Milligan and Bill Waugh**
  - Pat Milligan summary of Yukon River
  - Bill Waugh summary of Alsek
9. **Update from Executive Secretary**
10. **Outstanding Business**
11. **Youth Contest Update – Erin Spiewak**
12. **Yukon River Salmon Cooperative (YRSC) - Gary Wilson/Jake Duncan**
13. **Members’ Updates:**
  - Yukon River Panel Meeting –Dec/04 (Carl, Vicki, Chuck, Lorelei, Gerry)
  - Yukon River Working Group (Carl, Gerry, Lorelei, Chuck, Steve)
  - Teslin RRC Meeting (Carl Sidney)
  - Yukon Placer Mtg. Dec 22 (Carl Sidney)
14. **Catch Card – Don Toews**
15. **Conservation and Protection Update – Steve Smith**
  - De-linking of the commercial and domestic fisheries
  - Yukon River Commercial Salmon Fishery Agent Authorization
  - Update on consultations on ‘*Invitation to Comment on Regulatory Amendments to Expand the Use of Ticketing, Pacific Region*’ document
  - Enforcement of Mining Reclamation
  - Minto Resources
16. **Sport Fishery Issues – Lorelei Smith**
  - Catch Card
  - Creation of a Salmon Synopsis
17. **‘Smart Regulations and Modernization’ – Steve Gotch**
18. **2004-2005 Budget**
19. **Review Calendar**
20. **Members’ Updates Cont’d:**
  - Yukon Environmental & Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) - developing Designated Office “assessment rules (Chuck Hume) (Jan 13)
  - Alsek River Working Group Jan 28 (Chuck Hume, McKinnon, Smith)

- JTC Meeting – Feb 9-11 (Vicki, Gerry, Carl & Lorelei)

## 21. Other Business

### MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday**                      **February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005 – 9:00 a.m.**  
**Location:**                      **Large Board Room, 419 Range Road**

PRESENT:

Stanley Njootli              Gerry Couture  
Lorelei Smith                Joe Johnson  
Hardy Ruf                      Chuck Hume  
Vicky Josie                    Steve Taylor  
Carl Sidney

ABSENT:

Craig McKinnon

DFO Staff:

Louise Naylor

**Meeting was called to order at 9:05.**

**Opening Prayer – Gerry opened with prayer.**

#### 1. Announcements

- Gerry Couture is attending as an advisor and not a voting member, since his term with the board ended on Feb 13 and another member has not been appointed. All members accepted that Gerry sit in as an advisor.
- Request that we review operating procedures to ensure that the operating procedures reflect that members have a vote until a new member has been appointed. Operating procedures are to be reviewed at the Dawson meeting.
- Lorelei, Gerry and Carl to meet by conference call with Bob Hayes regarding the aquaculture workshop
- YSC has been invited to the CYFN leadership meeting, at 3:45 Tues. Feb. 22. Chuck and Steve to attend on behalf of the committee. Issues of priority, 8 commercial Licences, aquaculture. Ensure that CYFN realize that the workshop is not for net cage farming but transferring of eggs and milt for commercial purposes. A concern raised is that there is a federal policy that allows for the transfer of gametes, the YSC is looking for input from the public and providing to the Ministers the Yukon point of view. Invite CYFN and any FN to attend the YSC and present any issues that they may want the committee to address.
- Discussion occurred on the Wild Salmon Policy briefing, concern raised that the FNs are not being consulted directly.

#### 2. Review Agenda

- Include in agenda presentation to Leadership at 3:45 and aquaculture workshop conference call at 4:00
- Include under other business Gord Zealand's retirement;
- Include mining reclamation update under from DFO, ie. Mess under Cold Creek. Include in next meeting agenda items Icy Water update from DFO.
- Revised date of YRDFA meeting

Agenda approved with changes and additions.

### 3. **Review Action Items**

The following items were discussed at the meeting, but do not require any further follow-up. All action items that are ongoing are included under the "Summary of Action Items".

**ACTION ITEM #44-16: Conduct Consultations for the de-linking of the commercial and domestic fisheries with a view to providing site-specific boundaries for the domestic fishery.**

*Steve will report to YSC at February meeting on wording. Item included on agenda of Yukon River Working Group.*

*Mtg. #46: Steve Smith to develop for the YSC a mock variation order that would show how the wording would restrict the fisheries, and develop two mock licenses (one that is site specific and one that moves the boundaries). YSC will then begin public consultations on this. Issue was presented to the Mayo RRC March 22, and at Dawson Public Meeting March 24<sup>th</sup>.*

*Mtg. #47: Andrea to draft a document summarizing consultations to date and laying out plans for the consultation for presentation at the November meeting.*

*Mtg. #49: Steve Smith will provide an update at the February meeting.*

*Mtg. #50: DFO to proceed with paperwork for changes to regulations.*

**ACTION ITEM #46-16b: YSC to begin consultations on the draft Yukon River Commercial Salmon Fishery Agent Authorization (with amendment to Condition #2). Steve Smith to explore the possibility of having this Authorization incorporated into regulations.**

*Mtg. #47: Andrea to draft a document laying out plans for the consultation.*

*Mtg. #48: Steve Smith unavailable for November meeting but will provide full briefing at February meeting. Consultation overview provided by Secretariat for review.*

*Mtg. #49: Steve Smith will provide an update at the February meeting.*

*Mtg. #50: the Agent Authorization will be incorporated into Licence Conditions and will be at the discretion of Fisheries Officers. DFO conducted consultations with FN, RRC and fishers on this issue.*

**ACTION ITEM #46-17: YSC members to review the 'Invitation to Comment on Regulatory Amendments to Expand the Use of Ticketing, Pacific Region' document, and bring comments to next meeting for discussion, need to advise DFO what is expected in regards to consultation given the impacts of this document.**

*Mtg. #47: 16.6.10.9 – DFO will need to consult with individual RRCs on this issue. YSC would also like a briefing on this proposed regulatory change. e-mailed Steve Smith Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> requesting update on status of consultations and briefing for YSC November meeting.*

*Mtg. #48: Steve Smith is on a course November 22-26 but will provide a full briefing at February YSC meeting.*

*Mtg. #49: Steve Smith will provide an update at the February meeting.*

**ACTION ITEM #46-20: BVD to draft letter to YTG requesting that they develop a process for mining production licences.**

*Draft letter completed Nov. 19 and submitted for review and approval. Letter Sent December 7, 2004.*

**ACTION ITEM #46-24: BVD to draft a letter to the Prime Minister, c.c. Treasury Board, recognizing their commitment to the remediation of abandoned mine sites in Canada.**

*A draft letter will be completed before Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> and submitted for review and approval. Received November 25. Sent December 2, 2004*

**ACTION ITEM #47-25: Viceroy - BVD to draft letter to Environment Canada re: signage in areas where release of toxins into the environment is a health concern.**

*Draft letter completed Nov. 19 and submitted for review and approval. Letter sent December 3, 2004.*

**ACTION ITEM #47-26: Viceroy - BVD to draft letter to the Board for signage in areas where consumption of fish and wildlife is a concern due to toxins from abandoned mines.**

*Draft letter completed Nov. 19 and submitted for review and approval. Letter sent December 3, 2004*

**ACTION ITEM #47-28: Viceroy - BVD to draft letter to YTG regarding the amendments to the productions license, pointing out that it may be problematic for the company to now meet the conditions of the production license without the necessary data being collected. Need to monitor more often and on a more complete basis.**

*The draft article will be completed before Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> and submitted for review and approval. Received November 24th. Letter sent December 9, 2004.*

**ACTION ITEMS 47-29: Mount Nansen and Keno Hill - BVD to draft a letter to DIAND and cc: a letter to Treasury Board on the governments decision to market Mount Nansen, requesting some answers to questions that have been raised from this decision.**

*Draft letter completed Nov. 19 and submitted for review and approval. Letter sent December 7, 2004.*

**ACTION ITEM #49-1: Secretariat to provide details to YSC members on insurance coverage of individual members i.e. for travel to YSC meetings, inside offices etc.**

*Current coverage is strictly for liability insurance for office space, it covers property damage or if the committee received a request for damages because a member or visitor was injured when visiting within their premises. The coverage for the F&WMB is strictly for travel and if a person is dismembered or dies from the accident, it does not cover vehicle damages etc.*

**ACTION ITEM #49-2: Secretariat to draft a letter to Yukon River First Nations laying out the YSC's plans to propose the de-linking of the commercial and domestic fisheries. Advise First Nations that the YSC will meet with them if they have additional concerns. If the FNs have no objections or do not reply back, the YSC will proceed with a recommendation to the Minister. Allow First Nations until January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005 to provide comments.**

*Drafted and reviewed at Meeting #49. Letter sent December 1, 2004*

**ACTION ITEM #49-3: Aquaculture Workshop to be organized for February 9-10, 2005. Presenters from DFO, Creative Salmon, BC FNs (for and against), YRCFA, YRDFA, Suzuki Foundation. Working Group comprised of Carl, Gerry and Lorelei. Wide range of invitations to be sent. Working Group to develop Terms of Reference. Contractor to be hired to organize this workshop. Facilitator to also be hired.**

*Bob and Caroline Hayes were contracted to facilitate and co-ordinate the workshop.*

*Quote was received and approved by working group. Revised date of Workshop to March 16-17. Working Group to provide an update at February meeting.*

*YRCFA will not be presenting. First day will be presenters, second day will be questions and around the table discussions..*

**ACTION ITEM #49-4: New Members package to be added as an appendix to operating procedures and Chair responsibilities amended etc.**

*'Procedures for New YSC Members' added as Appendix 1 to the YSC Operating Procedures. 'YSC Roles, Responsibilities and Code of Conduct' amended to reflect the requirement of the Chair to provide a half day training session to new members.*

**ACTION ITEM #49-6: CYFN newsletter submission to be drafted about YSC performance questionnaire.**

*In progress.*

**ACTION ITEM #49-7: Secretariat to draft a letter to the Minister of Fisheries & Oceans Canada indicating that the YSC is formally recommending that they would like DFO to partner up with the YSC to resolve the issue of the Yukon Queen II in a timely way.**

*Letter drafted for review Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> and submitted to Carl and Gerry for review. Sent Feb 14, 2005*

**ACTION ITEM #49-8: Secretariat to draft a letter to the DRRC thanking them for all their work in trying to resolve the issue of the Yukon Queen II.**

*Letter drafted for review Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> and submitted to Carl for review. Sent Feb 14, 2005.*

**ACTION ITEM #49-10: YSC to recognize Bob Van Dijken for his efforts. YSC Jacket to be presented to him at next YSC meeting.**

*Jacket presented to Bob at the end of Meeting #49.*

**ACTION ITEM #49-11: Secretariat to contact CAFN to ask for an outline of the gaffing workshop including budget. The YSC will provide a max of \$5k towards this, dependent upon the budget for the whole project. This project needs to be completed by March 31.**

*E-mail sent to Linaya November 26<sup>th</sup>, requesting that she provide an outline of the workshop and budget, and advising that the project would need to be completed prior to March 31<sup>st</sup> in order for the YSC to provide funding assistance. Linaya replied indicating that CAFN was seeking \$2k for curriculum development and that the workshop would not occur until next fishing season. Her e-mail was forwarded to YSC members November 26<sup>th</sup> for approval of the request. Members who responded to the email approved 2K for curriculum development.*

*Curriculum overview received from Linaya January 24<sup>th</sup> and amount of \$3000 was approved and cheque issued to CAFN.*

**ACTION ITEM #49-12: YSC will pay half the travel costs for Esau Schafer to attend the upcoming Panel meeting. Secretariat to contact Esau to coordinate.**

*Lorelei contacted Esau via e-mail November 25<sup>th</sup>. Esau Schafer attended the Panel meeting, costs were split with Vuntut Gwichin FN. YSC have been paid by VGFN for \_ the costs*

*Mtg#50 – suggested that this not be done again, because of Political issues.*

**ACTION ITEM #49-14: Secretariat to contact Albert Genier to see if the YSC can pay his travel expenses for making the presentation on coal bed methane.**

*E-mailed November 26<sup>th</sup> advising him that the YSC were willing to pay his travel costs and asking him to contact Louise to arrange details. Details received, Albert was refunded for his mileage costs.*

**ACTION ITEM #49-15: Secretariat will purchase prize items, similar to last year for Indian bingo (\$1k).**

*Working on getting accounts with suppliers like Canadian Tire. Wal Mart in Whitehorse is not currently setup to allow account. Items still to be purchased.*

**ACTION ITEM #49-16: Secretariat to contract coordinator for the Youth Contest. Youth Contest Working Group to be comprised of Hardy and Craig. Working Group to develop terms of reference for Youth Contest contract and supervise contractor.**

*Andrea provided contractor name and contact info to Hardy and Craig November 25<sup>th</sup> via e-mail and requested that they contact contractor to finalize details and provide instructions. Also provided Erin Spiewak (contractor) with info from past years' contests. Hardy and Craig coordinated details with Erin, a contract was setup for \$2500.*

**ACTION ITEM #49-17: Secretariat to coordinate attendance of YR Panel members to the next JTC Meeting in Whitehorse, as observers.**

*The next Yukon JTC meeting is February 9-11, 2004 in Whitehorse. Confirmed are Gerry, Carl, Vicki and Lorelei.*

**ACTION ITEM #49-18: Secretariat to change banking arrangements so that Lorelei, Carl, Chuck, Hardy and Craig are signatories. Members are to contact Louise prior to any trips to Whitehorse to determine if there are any items requiring signatures.**

*Banking signatures were revised November 26, 2004.*

**ACTION ITEM #49-19: YSC credit card to be requested in the name of Lorelei Smith.**

*Credit card application submitted November 26, 2006. Final approval received Jan 13, 2005.*

**ACTION ITEM #49-20: Secretariat to make travel arrangements for Hardy Ruf, Joe Johnson, Stanley Njootli for the Yukon River Panel meeting December 8-9, 2004.**

*Travel arrangements were made for Hardy, Stan, Craig and Chuck. Chuck attended the YR working group meeting.*

**ACTION ITEM #49-26: Secretariat to obtain details of the Fisheries Act Streamlining, B.C. Workshop, January 27-28 in Vancouver. (see Bob's e-mail). Chair or Vice Chair to attend, if possible.**

*E-mailed BVD November 28<sup>th</sup> for details. Details distributed to Carl, Lorelei, Steve and Chuck November 28<sup>th</sup> and advised that they were to coordinate with Louise if they were interested in attending. No one attended.*

Dwayne Broeren from White River FN, joined the committee meeting at 10:15.

Joe approved and Lorelei seconded Summary of Action Items.

**ACTION ITEM #50-1: Secretariat to write a letter to the Minister, recommending to the minister the proposed de-linking of the commercial and domestic salmon fisheries.**

**ACTION ITEM #50-2: Discuss overlap of term positions and possibility that the new terms position may not be filled for over 1 year. On agenda for next meeting.**

#### **4. Review Minutes from November 2004 Meeting**

- Note when recording attendance, include when individuals are present as well as absent.

All in favour of adoption of minutes, approved as written.

**ACTION ITEM #50-3: Executive Secretary to draft a letter congratulating Kwanlin Dun FN, on the completion of their final agreement.**

#### **5. Transboundary Panel Update – Lorelei Smith**

- Transboundary Panel met in January and end of February. This is the first time that the Panel has come to an agreement on an Annex language for Chinook salmon on the Stikine and Taku Rivers catch shares;
- Chinook, Sockeye and Coho on the Alsek the Panel came to an agreement better language on the existing agreement and an agreement to develop a cooperative based management program, as well a test fishery if the funding is available. This fishery would not exceed 500 chinook.
- Panel agreed to collect data on Genetic stock identification to be done on all rivers.
- Also looking at developing an abundance-based management regime.
- Agreed to a US subsistence fishery on the Stikine river.
- The Northern Boundary and Transboundary Rivers and Restoration and Enhancement Fund (Northern Fund)
  - Worked on the priorities of the fund, highest priority is improved information (data), and set recommendations for upcoming year.
  - The one fund provides funding for three areas (North and Central British Columbia, South East Alaska and drainages of the Alsek, Taku and Stikine), it does not come split by Area.
- Q- Do we have escapement goal for the Alsek? Canadian escapement goal has been established, but Sockeye is close to development of an abundance based management plan. The Chinook numbers are limit to specific rivers systems they are not yet drainage wide.
- Q- Is the Genetic work going to be done this season? Samples will be taken this year, we do not have complete baselines yet.
- Q- What happens is if there is an extremely low run on the Tatshenshini, is there any mechanism in place that will close the US Commercial fishery completely so that they do not fish? There general requirement is for the US and Canada to work together to reach the escapement and management goals.

Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:00.

Meeting re-convened at 1:30

All present with the exception of Stan Njootli and Craig McKinnon.

#### **6. Wild Salmon Policy Briefing – Mark Saunders and Jim Irvine**

Mark Saunders (Policy-DFO) and Jim Irvine (STAD-DFO) presented to the Yukon Salmon Committee. Carl introduced committee members and provided some background on the YSC.

- The WSP was part of the new Directions policy directive which came in to place in 1998. The first draft policy was released in 2000 with extensive consultation. The first draft identified some issues:
  - More inclusive ecosystem approach was needed.
  - Support for conserving genetic diversity
  - Question about what level to conserve to
  - Need to consider impact on fisheries and communities
- Q – Concerns raised by the committee on where consultation has occurred and are FN being consulted at the top level? Initial consultation has occurred to see where the initial draft document is lacking. Consultation is ongoing.
- Q – What would be the interest of the FN? Interest would be from all directions not specific to FN.
- The policy is a framework to guide future decisions about conservation of wild pacific salmon.
- “Wild” Pacific Salmon – a wild salmon must be at least one generation removed from culture.
- Why define “Wild” Salmon? To protect genetic diversity in naturally spawning salmon populations that mix with salmon from hatcheries and enhancement programs
- Q- Can an escaped farmed salmon that has spawned be considered a wild salmon? A wild salmon is one where the parents were spawned and raised in the wild, at one time a previous generation could have been raised at a hatchery or in a netpen. Atlantic salmon have escaped and spawned in BC streams but this policy is specific to Pacific salmon not Steelhead and Atlantic Salmon. Noted that Atlantic Salmon can not interbreed with Pacific salmon, because they are of a different genes.
- One of the biggest concerns is escaped pacific salmon, i.e. Chinook that are domesticated. The focus is on wild salmon not domesticated salmon.
- Q – Comment made that the Yukon wild Salmon is unique and should be treated differently from BC salmon. The chance of a Yukon salmon being enhanced is much lower than BC Salmon, other than the small unit from the Whitehorse Hatchery Salmon.
- WSP Goal: *to restore and maintain healthy and diverse salmon populations and their habitat for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of Canada for perpetuity.*
- Objectives:
  - *Safeguard the genetic diversity of wild pacific salmon*
  - *Maintain habitat and ecosystem integrity*
  - *Manage fisheries for sustainable benefits*
- Guiding principles:
  - *Conservation of wild salmon and their habitat is the first priority in resource management decision-making;*
  - *Resource management decisions will be made in an open and transparent manner;*

○ *Biological, social and economic benefits and costs will be balanced.*  
(Note: the term *balanced* suggests equality, all are to be considered but may not be considered equally or balanced. The term *Balance* will be replaced so there is no misconception, possible replacement is *will be thoughtfully considered*).

- Q- Has an assessment of habitat and monitoring already been done? No, the assessment still has to be done and the commitment is there but a re-alignment of responsibilities will have to take place.
- Q-What will be used for the baseline on the implementation strategy? Will it be information from 10 years ago? Dependent on what year cycles, the numbers returning vary greatly. Restoration and full utilization of available habitat will be the goal, key thing is this policy is about conserving wild salmon.
- Strategies: 1) Define and status of CUs; 2) Status of Habitat & Data Management; 3) Status of Ecosystem; 4) Strategic Planning & Interim process; 5) Annual Operational Planning.
- Q – On “Status of Habitat and data management” has something started yet on the data management, ie. Is there a committee? No. On some levels it has started. Ie. An MOU is in the works with the Province and DFO-HEB for sharing of information, on a higher level that is currently happening.
- Conservation units (CU) is not unique to Canada and the US. There are discussions with the US and Canada. There is an attempt to include conservation management units with Transboundary Panel stock agreements.

Strategy 1 - Standardized monitoring of wild salmon status: Define and status of CUs

- *identify Conservation Units (CUs) “Geographic and genetic basis for management*
- *develop criteria to assess CU’s and identify benchmarks to represent biological status*
- *monitor status of CUs*

Conservation Units:

- will define “geographic or genetically distinct populations”
- Are the genetic and production basis for Pacific Salmon
- Are largely irreplaceable evolutionary lineages of salmon
- Allow for local re-colonization.
- Are necessary for the replacement of local spawning groups if lost and adaptability to the future
- Are necessary to provide full habitat use and fullest production of Pacific salmon
- Important for protecting cultural, social, economic and intrinsic values within regions.
- Q- When there is talk about losing local spawning groups or CU’s, what is the timeframe, how long does it take for a CU’s to replace its self? This is a where they are trying to identify where a conservation unit fits within this hierarchy. It is not practical to commit to the preservation of every demes at the stream level.

- Benchmarks and Biological Status Zone, are indicators of probability of management intervention.
  - Red zone is when there is concern of extinction.
  - Local concern is what benchmarks are being used; recognize that management plans should be developed at a local level and if possible should include restoration to a more historic level; the Yukon should have different benchmarks than BC.
  - Jim suggested that written items by Robert Lackey should be referenced, about educating and changing a person's perspective or attitude.
  - When looking at North Pacific salmon combined there is a need to look at the biomass with and accumulated outlook approach.
  - Lower and Higher Benchmark options were identified.
  - Fraser watershed sockeye and coho was used as an example in identifying conservation units:
    - Sockeye – 20-25 CUs that are generally identified in individual lakes and also populations.
    - Coho and Pink and Chum are more difficult to identify boundaries around the CUs – With Coho there are 2CU's within the interior Fraser and lower Fraser that are comprised of multiple populations.
    - Wild Salmon policy is concerned with diversity; may have large distribution geographically within one CU, as identified with Coho in the Fraser.
    - Multiple populations are just below or part of a conservation unit, within each population unit there is very little mixing, they are not so distinct that they are each considered one conservation unit. A conservation unit could be considered a species under the species at risk strategy.
    - Point being made is that because a CU covers a large area it does not mean that the smaller demes are going to be written off, but benchmarks need to be identified for the smaller demes.
    - Lower Benchmarks numbers for populations need to be identified from a genetic perspective as well as subpopulations from a geometric perspective.
  - Develop a link with Habitat and CU's. Habitat management programs will increase emphasis on early intervention and monitoring, with particular focus on sensitive and important habitat.
  - Question raised that the habitat will be destructed and the management will be reactive and not protected? Intent is to focus in the short term populations but the habitat has to be dealt with productively so that habitat is not destructed. Need to include benchmarks for habitat status.

Strategy 2 – Status of Habitat:

- Develop regional scales of habitat sensitivity for Pacific salmon by species and life history
- Habitat management programs will increase emphasis on early intervention and monitoring, with particular focus on sensitive and important habitat

- Assess and monitor habitat status within CU's.
- Promote and support linkages to develop an integrated data system for watershed management

#### Strategy 3 – Ecosystem values and monitoring

- Strategy to be developed over the next 2 years. Local knowledge and traditional knowledge to be input.
- Identify indicators to use in monitoring the status of freshwater ecosystems
- Monitor annual variation in climate and ocean conditions, integrate with assessments of marine survival, and incorporate knowledge into annual salmon management
- Recognize the role of salmon in the ecosystem
- Question is how do you determine the value of fish in the ecosystem
- Suggested that the FN knowledge be incorporated into strategy development, the Northern ecosystem would be a good area to use as a start in developing an example; there are a number of factors and interest groups that are involved with the Porcupine watershed that would be able to give the necessary input.

#### Strategy 4: Integrated Strategic Planning

- Development of an effective structure and procedure that respects the interests of people at local and regional levels
- Describes an interim process before full development
- Information from Strategies 1-3 will be used to develop fully integrated plans for salmon management that will:
  - Include specify long-term biological and other goals for CUs and groups of CUs
  - Identify a mix of management actions recommended to achieve these goals
  - Establish time frames and priorities for action
  - Inform annual planning (strategy 5)
  - Be subject to regular performance monitoring (strategy 5)
- Integrated strategic planning will cover all stages of Pacific salmon life history – ie. Watershed Planning; Marine Coastal Planning; Harvest Planning
- Develop a structure that will bring all plans together
- Q - What are the standards that are going to be used in monitoring CUs in red zones etc..? Not all CU's are impacted, so the intent will be to have certain conservation units grouped together that have similar risk status, so the units that are in the red zones will be monitored more conservatively.
- Q - How do you monitor units that are not managed actively? Units may be grouped by the amount of management activity in each area.
- Q - How is the WSP going to be integrated into the IFMPs? Or is it going to be integrated or run on its own? The whole design process is going to be over a long period of time, and it will be implemented within existing systems such as the YSC within the Yukon system.
- Revised document to be completed by mid-may, but still open to further changes after this date.
- Changes from original 2000 document are:

- Commitment to maintain and restore biodiversity in Pacific salmon, their habitats, and ecosystem values.
- Salmon management will focus on geographic and genetic diversity of wild salmon (in CU's), for production and future adaptability
- A stock assessment framework and benchmarks will be used to monitor the status of CU's
- Habitat management programs will increase emphasis on habitat monitoring – for both status trends and effectiveness of restoration and regulatory measures
- Salmon and habitat management will develop an agreed framework for inclusion of ecosystem values
- Strategic plans for CUs will provide objectives for conservation, harvest and habitat management, and integrate production goals with land and water stewardship, and development (egg-to-egg management).
- Plans will be developed through an open, inclusive process that will give thoughtful consideration to social, economic and biological benefits and costs.
- Regular review of performance to meet goals and objectives.

Process to date:

- Document released Dec. 17, 2004 and posted on the internet
- Jan-Feb. 2005 – FN bilateral meetings, information meetings with aggregate bodies, briefings
- Jan-Feb. 2005 – meetings with stakeholder groups
- March 2005 - Multi-interest dialogue forum focused on strategies and strategic planning process
- Revision and release of the policy is the next step

**Meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm**

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**Wednesday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005 – 9:00 a.m.**  
**Location: Large Board Room, 419 Range Road**

PRESENT:

Steve Taylor	Hardy Ruf	Vicky Josie	Lorelei Smith
Stan Njootli	Gerry Couture	Joe Johnson	Carl Sidney
Chuck Hume			

ABSENT:

Craig McKinnon

GUESTS:

Dwayne Broeren      David Johnny Jr.

## **7. Update from CYFN Leadership (Steve Taylor and Chuck Hume)**

- Steve gave a presentation from the YSC to the Leadership on Feb 22, 2005.
- Emphasized to the leadership that the YSC needed to make presentations on a continual basis.
- CYFN agreed to develop a letter to the YSC on transferring of genetic material out of the Yukon for Salmon net cage farming;
- 8 YR Salmon fishing Licences - CYFN has agreed to hold a workshop with the intent to find a solution to how the 8 licences will be utilized, no timelines given. As special committee will be developed to pursue this issue;
- IFMP - need to have more ongoing dialogue and they want to participate in the IFMP process and in continuing with the harvest data collection program.
- General feeling was that there was a big interest in what the YSC had to present. A number of comments, one from Roddy Blackjack was that the FN need to track their catches and recommended that funding needs to be made available to track catches and collect harvest data.
- Comments were also made on the development of the fish plant in Dawson as possible employment opportunities and expansion of the market.
- The Assembly of First Nations has developed a Chiefs committee on Fisheries.

**ACTION ITEM #50-4: Carl to contact Chief Morris to clarify the information that he was looking during his discussions with Steve Taylor regarding fish going in the lakes, what happens to the fish etc..? 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.**

**ACTION ITEM #50-5: Letter to CYFN Leadership, advising that the YSC appreciated the time on the agenda and found the discussions to be very useful. Would like to be included on the agenda on a regular basis.**

## **8. Yukon, Porcupine and Alsek River Updates - Pat Milligan and Bill Waugh**

### Pat Milligan summary of Yukon River

- Chinook – 108K outlook, is below average return but similar to last year, a higher return is expected for the poorer brood years.
- Chum, run less than what was seen in 2004, dominant brood year (4 and 5 year old) were not strong, expected run of 130K.
- The US pilot station sonar gives a good idea of strengths of the run pulses that are coming to the Yukon and Porcupine system. DFO also runs a tagging program in the Dawson area.
- Chum salmon escapement goal for the Upper Yukon is 80K.
- The US assessment includes a number of stocks that may be going to other river systems. DFO is thinking about using the run assessment numbers in the US to calculate the in-season numbers.
- The Porcupine weir counts have exceeded 300K fish, but recent numbers have been significantly lower. In 2000 the run was down to 5.1K fish. DFO was been working

with VGFN to close the later part of the fisheries. 19.6K fish were counted through the weir in 2004, which was significantly higher than anticipated. Forecasted return for 2005 year is 34K, but DFO would like to rebuild the stock up to 50K. DFO and YSC met with VGFN last week to discuss reduced fishing again for next year.

Average take for VGFN is 6K.

- Outlook for 2005 is much higher than it was for 2004, still working on conservation with the VGFN during this year's fishery.
- VGFN Elders would like to fish in 2005.
- Question has been raised whether there is more than one stock in the Porcupine River. Returns have been found in some smaller systems within the Porcupine watershed.
- Suggested that VGFN apply for funding they need to document what they know of the US fishery and determine if their perception of the Fort Yukon fishery is accurate, need actual numbers of nets etc. not perceived number.
- Questions raised on accuracy of earlier high numbers now that the numbers are significantly lower. Suggested that the commercial fisheries were over fishing in 1970's until there was a crash.

#### Bill Waugh summary of Alsek

- For 2005: Chinook outlook is 16.4K, expected Klukshu contribution is 3K; the outlook for sockeye is well below average at 47.7K the Klukshu component is about 13K, estimated only 11K will be early run and about 12K late run.
- The Projects for 2005, all similar to previous years, with the exception of the mark-recapture program that is normally funded by ADF&G, at this time there is no funding for this project.
- Q – There is sonar technology utilized on the Yukon River system, can this technology not be utilized on the Alsek? The Alsek is a highly glacial and abraded stream, not a good candidate for that technology at this time. Mark recapture is a short term solution, DNA and catch per unit effort in the test or commercial fishery is better.
- Baselines have been developed for sockeye and Chinook in the major areas, but the small stocks still need to be developed.
- Suggestion that habitat changes and the water temperatures rising in the Tatshenshini and Alsek areas that were not previously accessible may be opening up for spawning.
- With current forecasts there is no foreseen closures anticipated.
- The early run sockeye is preferred by the commercial fishers and CAFN, but if the numbers are not there the fishing will be restricted.
- Q - Is there a difference genetically between the early and late run sockeye? In one early study, a difference was identified, but there has not been any recent tests done to confirm this.

## **9. Update from Executive Secretary**

- Harvest Data – best approach
  - Under section 16.5.1.12 YSC has annually been sending out a letter to each FN requesting information in-season. YSC needs to determine how to address

the issue of data quality and timeliness. Some FNs provide excellent, timely data and others do not provide adequate information.

- S. Taylor advised that Leadership is in favour of the collection of data by the FN's, but there may be funding issues. C. Sidney to be the main contact for CYFN Leadership.
- A number of issues need to be addressed, irregularity of some of the data submissions, delayed data submissions etc..
- The YSC need to ensure that data collection is ongoing and actively communicate to CYFN Leadership (FN's) the need to provide complete data as well as in-season data, as well as continue communicating to each FN Lands Manager the importance of providing complete data.

**ACTION ITEM #50-6: Chair to meet with each Chief or Chief and Council where there is very limited or no Harvest Data submission. Chair needs to express the importance of providing consistent and complete harvest data annually.**

**ACTION ITEM #50-7: Executive Secretary to draft letter, in cooperation with DFO, to FN's reminding them of the importance of submitting timely and complete in-season harvest data, and thanking them for their efforts in 2004. Include in the request that if First Nations anticipate problems with data collection and submissions, that they contact Mary Ellen Jarvis (DFO) for assistance.**

## **10. Outstanding Business**

- Correspondence from YF&WMB re: YSC Election process.

**ACTION ITEM #50-8: YSC requested that a response be written to the YF&WMB, advising that the Yukon Salmon committee is following the election guidelines of the UFA to the best of their ability.**

**Adjourned for lunch 11:55**

**Meeting re-convened at 1:30**

## **11. Youth Contest Update – Erin Spiewak**

- Erin gave an update to the committee with where she was at with the Youth contest coordination.
- Same sponsors are involved as last year.
- Presented Youth Contest poster to committee members.
- Will be visiting the schools to promote the Youth contest.
- All participants receive a T-shirt; individual prizes are for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>; group prize is first place only.
- Requested of the committee if she could hire Tanya Handley to design certificates for the winners, Tanya would still be in the existing budget previously given for the design of posters.
- Erin requested of the committee a commitment from members in the communities to promote the Youth Contest within the schools in their areas.

- Advertising budget same as last year.
- Carl to go to CBC and CHON-FM.
- Clarification was give to Erin on promoting the group as a classroom entry, not as small groups from within the classroom.
- Recommendation made that the Youth Contest be implemented near the beginning of the school year in September.

## **12. Yukon River Salmon Cooperative (YRSC) - Gary Wilson/Jake Duncan**

- Jake and Gary presented to the YSC an explain of what the Cooperative are doing and how they are marketing the business to the FN's, RRC's, communities and generally any interested parties.
- The Cooperative approached the R&E fund last year; to implement a value added fish processing facility. Last years project through the R&E fund approved additional marketing work which included getting samples made and taking the marketing end of the business one step further. The YRSC also brought samples of the intended product for the Yukon Salmon Committee to taste.
- Gary Wilson has been hired as a Business Manager; previous Business experience was working for Chief Issac and with the Han Fisheries. Jake would be considered as a founding member, who has had background in commercial fishing, habitat stewardship and DDRRC.
- Funding has been from a number of different sources.
- The YRSC is a value added fish processing cooperative that will produce premium quality smoked salmon products to local, regional, and national markets.
- Estimate of 5K Chinook which is based on the 10-year average catch of Chinook as well as 13K chum.
- Membership of the YRSC is made up of Yukon River Commercial Fishers, it is a cooperative open to who ever wants to join. Who ever signs in becomes a partner, it gives them the ability to have value added to their fish.
- Public concern - Would the YRSC be seeking the allowable catch allocation and limiting the allocation to FN? Explained that this is a cooperative that would be seeking commercial catch to make it viable. A business does not fall under the federally designated entities that are allocated a percent of the annual returns. The only source of their product would COME from commercial fishers.
- The presentation gave the perspective of Salmon Management from a commercial fisher's point of view. Included when the collection of data started, FN catch share, implementation of the UFA, Canada/US Agreement.
- There are 21 existing licenses plus the 8 new licences from the FN once they are allocated by the FN's.
- The current average age of the present commercial fishers is 50 years, FN's have a significant interest in Commercial fishing.
- Identified changes in fish management from 1980, such as there is now the shared management regime and the IFMP, and decisions related to Yukon salmon have input from a lot of other sources ie. Governments, FN's, YSC, RRC's and other stakeholders.

- With the Yukon River US and Canada Treaty, there are obligations identified that ensure the Canadian catch share get to the border, the number of salmon on the fishing grounds has gone up when compared to historical information. Both the US and Canada are now work together collaboratively.
- Q - Concern rose that if the allowable catch for one year is zero, how will the product be labelled. This could be considered false marketing if it is labelled Yukon River Salmon Co? Identified that if there is zero catch available from the Yukon River the product will be attained from another river system and labelled as such.
- Current company plan is to only utilize commercially available salmon.
- Projected plant start up date is spring of 2007.
- Followed a strong business planning process with work being built on results of previous findings, all financial projects and management based on sustainable business and biologic models.
- This is a community based business, not a corporate business. Community Economic Development focussed on the development of business and economic institutions which increase income locally; the provision of increased and improved employment opportunities, both inside and outside of the community.
- A cooperative is an enterprise that is collectively owned and democratically controlled by its members for their mutual benefit; each member has one vote, regardless of how much investment they have made in the cooperative; generally the cooperatives are community-based organizations; Cooperative means: people working together to meet common goals and needs.
- Outlined the advantages of cooperatives – survival rate is higher because they are more cooperative and flexible; generally a whole business is based on abundance, conservative and realistic estimates.
- Common Questions: Why build a business when runs have been low, and how have the business expectations changes from the Han Fisheries era? (The plan is to provide a product with fewer fish of higher value). Canada and Alaska manage using an abundance-based model because of the Canada/US agreement which was not in place at the time of the Han plant. Escapement goals are increasing and we are getting more fish to the spawning grounds – generally managing runs more sustainably.
- Common Question: Is this a good time? Yes, it is a good time because of all positive changes in fisheries management from both the UFA and the CAN/US salmon treaty.
- Showed the potential design of the processing plant, also available on their website along with further info. [www.yukonriversalmon.com](http://www.yukonriversalmon.com)
- Do you believe that this will take fish away from the subsistence fisher? No, it will not affect the subsistence needs. Commercial harvest will not interfere with the Aboriginal Food Fishery, because the current management system is abundance-based and subsistence needs will be satisfied prior to commercial.
- Common Question: The previous processing plant didn't work, or isn't around anymore... what makes you think your fish processing plant will work out any better? We are managing salmon together more sustainably; Treaty obligations for the US to get escapements + catch shares to border (management on an abundance based too, with larger catch shares); Allocations priority is to Aboriginal subsistence

fisheries is very clear; Members must contribute significant \$'s and this translates to commitments; Plan is based on realistic run regimes and tempered expectations.

- Question: In what way will the community benefit from the processing plant? Even though the plant is owned by the community of commercial fishers, benefits will make it to the community in the form of jobs, community members spending their benefits in the community, building of the community.
- Have Tr'ondëk First Nation become members of the corporative or bought into the plan? Initially they were involved yes, but until all Yukon FN have been brought up to date on the plan they are holding off. The plan has been developed so that if Tr'ondëk choose to be a part of the cooperative they still can.

### **13. Members' Updates:**

#### Yukon River Panel Meeting –Dec/04 (Carl, Vicki, Chuck, Lorelei, Gerry)

- The JTC reported first and Tracy Linque talked on the 2004 run, expressed a concern in the large fish not making it to the spawning grounds.
- Pat Milligan gave an update on 2004, larger ratio of female to male.
- Talked on the DNA samples, and radio tagging and run time estimates.
- Draft video was presented on the Yukon River fisheries.
- Reviewed the Yukon River exchange trip for 2004. The 2005 exchange program will not be run in 2005 but will continue again in 2006
- The members of the Panel cut of the conceptual R&E proposal down to about 10% of the target, the conceptual have now developed into proposal that are now within 100K of the target, the final proposals are coming in February.
- The lower river people and some Alaskan Managers are not very interested in the reduced size of fish being caught in the net fisheries. The reduced size of fish is a big concern for the majority of fishers, net fisheries are reducing the size of fish “there are no more big fish, fish are smaller than they used to be”.
- Suggested that YSC ask DFO to compile a report on the ages of fish now. Ie. There are no more 7 and 8 year old salmon.
- YSC all in favour of presenting to the Panel their concerns regarding the decreasing age of salmon due to gillnet fisheries. Chris Stark would be a good presenter of these issues, Chris from the University of Fairbanks has done a literature review on the affects of net fisheries on populations and the evolution of those populations.

**ACTION ITEM #50-9: Gerry to work with Hugh Monaghan on getting the Chris Stark on the Yukon River Panel agenda to present a literature review report to the Panel on the decreasing age of salmon. Secretariat to request the age class data from Sandy required for information during panel meeting.**

#### Yukon River Working Group (Dec/04) (Carl, Gerry, Lorelei, Chuck, Steve)

- When the working group met, it was essentially a preliminary meeting to get on track for the upcoming season.
- There were some issues with regard to consultation the Fishing Agent authorization.

- Peter Nagano (Dawson RRC), would like more briefing from C&P
- Basic needs allocations were discussed.
- Ross River requested a meeting with the YSC during the fishing season.
- Next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Feb 7, has been rescheduled for March 15.

#### Teslin RRC Meeting (Carl Sidney)

- Carl gave an update on the current YSC issues and activities (Salmon Net Cage Farming, Regulator Amendment, R&E funding...) and clarified what is the role of the Salmon Committee.

#### Yukon Placer Mtg. Dec 22 (Carl Sidney)

- This was supposed to be the last meeting of the Yukon Placer Committee.
- All of the application for classification that were before the committee were dealt with.
- Supposedly by April the new regime was to be in place, but it looks like the regime will not be in place so they anticipate more Yukon Placer meetings to take place if YESSA is not in place.
- Question raised on some of the salmon streams and whether they were deferred or re-classified during this meeting. Minutes from the last Yukon Placer committee were available for review to answer the question.
- During the last meeting, there were stream classifications and rationale for re-classifications;

### **Meeting Adjourned at 4:30pm**

**Thursday**                      **February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005 – 9 a.m.**  
**Location:**                      **Large Board Room, 419 Range Road**

### **Meeting was called to order at 9:05**

#### **14. Catch Card – Don Toews**

- 4-5 years ago YTG talked with YSC re: reciprocity with Alaska on licence fees
- This is an arrangement with Alaska whereby Yukon residents can buy Alaskan licence at Alaskan resident rate and vice versa.
- Yukon did the regulation review in 1999, but it was not passed until 2003
- There were concerns that YSC could not make changes to fees of catch card as DOJ had indicated this was not possible.
- In fact, no changes to fees were made to existing fees; Alaskans were simply included under Yukon residents.
- Alaskan licences can now be purchased in the Yukon at Canadian Tire, Sport North and Hougens.
- For Alaskans to get a Yukon resident rate, they need a valid Alaska fishing licence and photo id, as proof of residency.
- This will be a positive development for Yukon.

## 15. Conservation and Protection Update – Steve Smith

44-16: de-linking of the commercial and domestic fisheries. Wording to limit the fishery.

- Only one response was received from First Nations – they did not want FN fish camps to be impacted, but were otherwise fine with the proposed change
- Some questions came up re: how to separate the two fisheries
- What would the fishery look like if the boundaries were changed?
- Could we restrict individuals or groups to certain areas within the boundary of a fishery?
  - Once the fisheries were de-linked, the fisheries would be established through variation orders.
  - Fishers would be notified of the boundaries through Public Notice, radio broadcast or in person
  - Any individual or group can be restricted to specific areas or zones within the boundaries of a fishery through licence conditions
  - There is the authority within the licence conditions to restrict area fished
  - Consultations would be part of any change to fishing area and would be included in the IFMP
  - Licence conditions would spell out where each fisher could fish
  - This de-linking would likely take about two years to come into effect
  - Once de-linking was complete, one would not have to change the fishing area, but would have the ability to do so.

**(See Action Item #50-1)**

44-16b: Yukon River Commercial Salmon Fishery Agent Authorization

- This gives someone the authority to fish another person's licence under certain conditions
- Last season was the first time that these conditions were formalized under which someone could fish another's licence
- Authorization must be done in advance
- In 2004 three people applied, and two people actually did it, both for medical reasons
- DFO and YSC have received multiple requests from the DDRRC and the public about this issue
- DDRRC had some concerns re: some of the conditions
- The request came originally from the YRCFA
- The final decision regarding this authorization rests with the Fishery Officers
- Since the Yukon River Working Group, Steve Smith met with the DDRRC, and they now have an understanding of how this authorization works
- YRCFA originally wanted the ability to form a partnership for a licence; this is not going to happen in the short term, but this satisfies the need to have someone else fish your licence if you are not able to;
- There were a number of concerns raised through the Yukon River Working Group;
- Outstanding issue is 'employment' i.e. requesting the authorization with the reason that you cannot fish the licence as you have other commitments to employment;

- It is being contemplated to including the condition that employment must be seasonal.

Update on consultations on ‘*Invitation to Comment on Regulatory Amendments to Expand the Use of Ticketing, Pacific Region*’ document.

- This was a document that Pacific Region of DFO is consulting on.
- Steve Smith requested the list of those who had been consulted.
- This change was supposed to be in place in summer of 2004, but it will not likely be in place until 2006.
- This new regulation will allow Fishery Officers to use fines, rather than having to take people to court, which has been very expensive for both parties
- The fines are voluntary, so people will still have the option of going to court
- Government is responsible for the consultation and implementation of this change.
- If the YSC has any additional concerns re: this, comments can still be made
- Q – Is there a process in place whereby people can request additional time to pay the fine? Yes, this is discretionary.

Enforcement of Mining Reclamation (Steve Smith)

- YSC had some concerns regarding enforcement.
- Joe indicated that at Quill Creek, where a mining camp had been located, there is still a large amount of equipment and refuse, which no one is cleaning up
- Enforcement has to do with the type of permit that a mine operates under i.e. a water licence, land use permit etc.
- Fisheries Act doesn’t give us the authority to move things that are unsightly, unless they are impacting fish habitat.
- Need to know who to contact regarding these various sites.
- Need to also examine the conditions of a permit i.e. if it required full clean up of the site etc.
- The government that issued the permit is responsible for making sure that the conditions of the permit are met; if the company no longer exists, it is the responsibility of the government that issued the permit.

Minto Resources

- There were several stream crossings associated with the road that was built
- Recent water licence amendments were requested, this was a very minor amendment request.

**16. Sport Fishery Issues – Lorelei Smith**

Catch Card

- First issue is the catch card: over a year ago we agreed to make the catch card a licence; is this a possibility?
- Steve Smith currently has a decision paper drafted regarding whether or not the Area Director would support making the Catch Card a licence.
- DFO Pacific Region has recommended that pursuing making the Catch Card a licence would be the best way to resolve the issues around the catch card.

- Once the DFO Area Director approves this course of action, Steve Smith would come to the YSC to try to develop a plan for consultation.
- The other possible course of action would be for the YSC to make a recommendation to DFO to make the Catch Card a licence.
- At present, the Catch Card, according to a legal opinion, it is not enforceable; for this reason DOJ also refuses to make changes to the Card i.e. fees
- The Catch Card is an important tool for management of the fishery
- There are numerous questions about the legality and enforceability of the Catch Card; the question is if we can bring the regulations into line with the practice that is already in place? Given the current consultation requirements, the opinion is we would still need to conduct additional consultations on this, even though it is an administrative change.
- When will there be an answer from Gord re: this? Not certain.
- This item should be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

#### Creation of a Salmon Synopsis

- Would like to create a synopsis in partnership with DFO
- A Synopsis is included in the decision paper that is being considered
- Some of the costs associated with making the Catch Card a licence, could be recouped through the production of a synopsis
- These two issues will be discussed at the June YSC meeting.

Other Question re: salt use on highways etc. How much of that material is being flushed into the Yukon River and, if so, does it do any damage to fry? This is a national issue that has been identified, although it is more dominant in larger centres; this issue is being looked at by Environment Canada

- This issue could be presented in more detail at the next YSC meeting.

**ACTION ITEM #50-1: Chair to request that BVD explore the issue of chemicals and salt being used on the roads and their impacts on water quality.**

### **17. 'Smart Regulations and Modernization' – Steve Gotch**

- Steve G. gave a general overview of the process as well as some of the areas that are of particular relevance to DFO
- this is a national initiative to improve Canada's regulatory system, which although functional, was out of date
- an external, non-governmental Advisory Committee was established in May 2003
- the Advisory Committee were to identify recommendations for the reform of the regulatory system to align it with the 21<sup>st</sup> century practices and systems
- in September 2004 a formal report was presented to the Government of Canada which defines a strategy for improving the regulatory system.
- this report is available online at [www.smartregulation.gc.ca](http://www.smartregulation.gc.ca)
- among the recommendations:
  - manufacturing and product approval, biotechnology/Life Sciences
  - Enabling FN Economic Development
  - Environmental Assessment Process

- Oil and Gas Exploration and Development
- underlying principles:
  - effectiveness
  - cost efficiency
  - timeliness
  - transparency
  - accountability and performance
- Recommendations to DFO pertained to the Fisheries Act and the way that fish habitat is managed.
- Recommendation 62 "Fisheries & Oceans Canada should accelerate its implementation for planned improvements to its fish habitat system and related involvement in environmental assessment"
- Smart Regulations are embodied within the YESSA process
- DFO's response was the Environmental Process Modernization Plan (EPMP)
- Q – Are the recommendations mostly geared towards habitat? A – yes
- Over 1/3 of the recommendations produced were very general , and are applied across the board
- The concept of Smart Regulations is being considered in much of the work being done by DFO now i.e. revisions to the Fisheries Act
- PRMP is a risk assessment process
- Some of the concerns that warranted a new approach
  - Lack of clarity in the Fisheries Act
  - Lack of consistency in project review processes i.e. companies are treated differently in different areas of the country
  - Review of projects which have no apparent implications for Fisheries & Oceans Canada
  - Lack of timely and consistent action by enforcement authorities
- The EPMP
  - Significant program and policy renewal
- Strategic priorities:
  - DFO receives 10k-12k referrals per year, nationally; this area receives more than any other, proportionally.
  - Approximately 7k have a potential to effect fish habitat
  - Roughly 6k of these can be addressed through mitigation measures, while 1k require authorization
  - Some authorizations are for routine works and contain similar conditions
  - Movement towards referral streamlining and integrated planning, stewardship, monitoring
- 5 key points to the EPMP:
  - risk management framework
  - streamlining Referral (project review) practices
  - improving predictability and coherence i.e. hope to achieve a more proactive approach, so that the proponent knows what is involved in the process
  - renewed emphasis on partnerships

- new approach to environmental assessments and major projects i.e. Pacific Region has established a Major Projects unit, to deal with large scale projects i.e. Tulsequah Chief Mine
- Q: How does a Risk Management Framework relate to Precautionary Management? The precautionary Principle is still in place, and the RMF is based on this principle.

#### Risk Management Framework:

- A systematic, science-based approach to the delivery of DFO's regulatory responsibilities for managing habitat referrals under the Fisheries Act, based on risk
- RMF has 2 components:
  - Pathways of Effects – structured framework to identify and mitigate aquatic effects
  - Risk matrix – identifies management tools and level of protection necessary to protect fish habitat based on risk

#### Pathways of Effects:

- Process to define the specific effects to fish habitat from a proposed activity
- Focus on common activities that may be components of larger projects
- Transparent identification of cause-effect relationships
- So far, 18 pathway of effects models have been developed nationally (each applies to a specific activity i.e. grading)
- There are many land (i.e. vegetation clearing, excavation) and water (i.e. dredging, wastewater) based activities
- Focuses on physical, rather than chemical impacts on habitat i.e. does not address chemical contamination issues
- Objective of pathway is to break the links between the activity and the effect i.e. alteration of riparian vegetation > loss of shade; by requiring that the project has a set back, you reduce the effect

#### Objective of Pathways of Effects – to mitigate effects to fish habitat:

- Step 1 – select the appropriate pathway of effects model for the activity proposed
- Step 2 – determine if the mitigation measures proposed eliminate all adverse effects
- Step 3 – if adverse effects remain, additional review occurs and a level of risk management is applied

#### DFO Risk Matrix

- Used to evaluate the sensitivity of habitat: aquatic habitats vary in their sensitivity. Some habitats are more resilient and activities in these areas may be considered lower risk
- Used to evaluate the scale of negative effect: criteria to determine if the potential impact is low, medium or high based upon factors such as size, intensity, duration and reversibility i.e. effect of a dock v. a hydro dam
- Positive effects are considered as well, although less formally

#### Risk Management

- Once the risk has been evaluated through the Pathway of effects and the Risk Matrix, regulatory tools can be developed and applied in different risk categories
- Low risk – operational statements, guidelines, partnerships, certification

- Medium risk – regulations, class Authorizations, environmental assessment class screenings etc.
- High risk – site specific authorizations – better tools to select effective compensation options, standardization of authorizations

Main objectives of this approach:

- Standardized approach
- Provides a transparent decision process to proponents and partner agencies
- Permits clear communication and understanding of aquatic effects and management approaches
- Assists in identifying knowledge gaps in science

Habitat Streamlining

- Using the Pathway of Effects that tools are being developed, will provide definitive guidance on Fisheries Act requirements for low-risk activities without a site specific review.
- Also allow for reallocation of time spent on low-risk to higher risk referrals and monitoring activities.
- Operational Statements communicate requirements up front.
- Industry groups may choose to incorporate DFO requirements into guidelines or codes of practice.
- Proponents may incorporate requirements directly into the project proposal permitting processes.
- Objectives of streamlining is to move from a fragmented/reactive approach to a cohesive/proactive approach
- DFO hopes to have Operational Statements available to address minor proposals i.e. beaver dam removal, by 2005
- DFO currently does very little in the way of early intervention, but this will change in the future.
- Streamlining tools do not represent reduced level of protection of habitat. These tools are just a single part of the cycle.

Next Steps

- Increased collaboration internally and externally
- Integrated use of new tools
- A strengthened monitoring and auditing program
- EPMP performance measures to monitor/adapt

**Meeting was adjourned for lunch at 12:10**

**Meeting was re-convened at 1:30**

- Many of the concepts in the new placer regime are fundamentally based on this risk assessment framework
- There are still concerns with cumulative effects, if you are looking at individual effects, rather than a series of effects which, together, may have large impacts even if individually they have little effect.

**18. 2004-2005 Budget**

#### Expenditures and Forecasts 2004/2005

- Need to include YSC honoraria for Aquaculture workshop
- Marshall meeting x 2 person
- Non-Panel members to Anchorage (?)
- Yukon River Working Group
- Need to update the budget with all current expenditures
- Pre-purchase of transportation for State of the Salmon is an option
- State of Salmon (Joe Johnson (own transport), Vicky Josie, Lorelei Smith, Chuck Hume, Craig McKinnon (own transport), Carl Sidney

**ACTION ITEM #50-11: Secretariat to arrange for YSC members to fly via Air North to the State of the Salmon Conference, as this is the least expensive option. Driving members to be paid mileage only equivalent to the cost of air flight.**

#### 2005-2006 Budget

- To be discussed with Strategic Plan
- Need to include new member training/orientation

### 19. Review Calendar

- \_ March 7-10 YRP – Anchorage; March 9-10 (non-Panel members)

**ACTION ITEM #50-12: Secretariat to make arrangements for Joe Johnson, Stan Njootli, and Chuck Hume to attend YRP in Anchorage (March 9-10).**

- \_ Yukon River Working Group March 15 – All YSC members to attend
- \_ Aquaculture Workshop – all members to attend
- \_ March 21-, YR DFA 2005 Annual Meeting in Marshall
  - 2 members to attend (Lorelei and Chuck)

**ACTION ITEM #50-13: Lorelei and Chuck to attend the YR DFA Annual Meeting in Marshall, Alaska.**

- \_ April 4 – Old Crow Public Meeting (PRWG)
- \_ April 5-7 YSC meeting – Dawson
- \_ April 6 – Dawson Public Meeting afternoon 1-5 (cultural centre)
- \_ April 8, 2005 - Michie Creek Chinook Genetics – KDFN
  - If members are interested, please advise.
- \_ YSC meeting May 18-19 and Whitehorse Public Meeting (May 18)
- \_ State of the Salmon Conference. April 17-21
  - Decided to travel by plane (regular schedule)
- \_ May 24-26 Northern Latitudes Mining Reclamation Workshop
  - Ask if Bob Van Dijken is available

**ACTION ITEM #50-14: BVD to attend the Northern Latitudes Mining Reclamation Workshop May 24-26 in Dawson City, if available. Advise Carl.**

### 20. Members' Updates Cont'd:

Yukon Environmental & Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) - developing Designated Office "assessment rules (Chuck Hume) (Jan 13)

- Only three people in attendance

- Reviewed the draft rules and looked at how meetings coincide
- YESAA needs input on salmon habitat, when assessing an area, so timing of meetings is critical
- If there will be a requirement for the YSC to hold additional meetings to assess YESAA requests, need to consider costs
- Need to re-visit timelines and ensure there is input from the YSC when dealing with salmon issues
- YSC should be on YESAA distribution list and should be notified of any assessments involving salmon
- Need to provide sufficient time to evaluate information and develop comments
- YSC will need to develop a system to review requests, as it is not feasible to hold meetings for every request
- Possibility of developing a matrix to assess requests?

**ACTION ITEM #50-15: letter to YESAA board addressing concerns from the Yukon Environmental & Socio-Economic Assessment Board meeting that Chuck Hume attended January 13<sup>th</sup> re: developing Designated Office assessment rules.**

Alsek River Working Group Jan 28 (Chuck Hume, McKinnon, Smith)

- Raised issue with the video enumeration system; in 2005 they will move the camera from the weir, further upstream to see if the location is more effective
- found sockeye and coho fry
- Also raised issue of Takhini river and why it has not been included in Yukon river chinook surveys
- Linaya advised that Kokanee salmon in Kathleen lake are being depleted and asked if the YSC will take on this issue;
- KNP and ARRC are both looking at this issue
- There was a recommendation that the YSC have a presentation on the issue, by Kluane National Park Management Board
- YSC can send a letter to the Board, advising them of the issue and asking them to investigate it, as it is a freshwater issue

**ACTION ITEM #50-16: Secretariat to draft a letter to the Kluane Park Management Board advising that the issue of Kokanee salmon in Kathleen Lake was raised through the ARWG, and asking the Board to explore this issue as it is not within the jurisdiction of the YSC. c.c. ARRC, and ARWG.**

JTC Meeting – Feb 9-11 (Vicki, Gerry, Carl & Lorelei)

- It was apparent that the Panel had been misled about what genetic stock assessment was going to accomplish.
- Need to deal with the issue of how funds identified for genetic stock assessment work were going to be spent.
- JTC needs to bring clear direction to the Panel, rather than ask them to act as referees
- JTC also needs to look further at ‘big fish’ issue
- There is an ongoing battle on which method to use for genetics work
- Micro-satellite work is more precise than the ‘snips’ method

- Chinook technical committee is in favour of the micro-satellite method
- There is a need for clarity of how money will be spent

## **21. Other Business**

- FN Harvest Calendar – Request to use the Youth Contest Photos
  - This is OK with the Committee

**ACTION ITEM #50-17: Secretariat to provide pictures of Youth Contest winners for use in the Harvest Calendar.**

- Gord's retirement:
  - Suggested giving YSC jacket or slippers

**ACTION ITEM #50-18: Joe Johnson to arrange for home tanned slippers for Gord. Andrea to provide outline of foot. Secretariat to arrange for jacket in appropriate size. Lorelei to provide card.**

**ACTION ITEM #50-19: Secretariat to try to arrange for Gord Zealand to attend April or May YSC meeting to provide briefing on outstanding issues, prior to his retirement.**

- Agenda for next YSC Meeting:
  - Legal Briefing (Hugh MacAulay)
  - Follow up from Salmon Open Net Cage Farming Workshop
  - Icy Waters (from Water Board hearing)
  - Overlapping Committee members in the operating procedures (terms)
  - Update from Job shadowing
  - Making the Salmon Catch Card a licence (June)
  - Salmon Synopsis (June)
  - Impacts of salt on fish (Steve Gotch)
  - DAP Socio-Economic Assessment Workshop Feb1-3 (Chuck, Lorelei)
  - Alsek RRC Public Meeting – Craig McKinnon
  - Porcupine River Working Group (Feb 17) (Hume, Josie, Njoolti)

**Meeting was adjourned at 3:50.**