

YUKON SALMON COMMITTEE
Meeting #43
June 25-26, 2003,
Whitehorse, Yukon

MEETING DATES 2003-2004

Meetings to Date (2003-2004)

Meeting #41	January 21 - 23, 2003	Whitehorse
Yukon Panel	March 10 - 14, 2003	Whitehorse
Meeting #42	March 17-18, 2003	Whitehorse
Public Meeting	March 17, 2003	Whitehorse
Public Meeting	April 8, 2003	Dawson
Public Meeting	April 9, 2003	Old Crow
Public Meeting	April 16, 2003	Haines Junction
Meeting #43	June 25 – 26, 2003	Whitehorse
Conference Call	August 27, 2003	

Upcoming Meeting Dates (tentative)

Meeting # 44	October 7-9, 2003
Meeting #45	November 25-27, 2003
Meeting #46	February 24-26, 2004

MEETING SUMMARY

1. **Review Agenda**
2. **Review Minutes of Last Meeting**
3. **Review Action Items**
4. **Review Calendar**
5. **Members' Updates:**
 - YPC – Steve/Frank/Lorelei

- Northern Latitudes Mining Reclamation Workshop (Fairbanks, Alaska - Carl)
- World Summit on Salmon (Stan/Lorelei)

6. **Habitat Issues Briefing (2:00pm) - Bob Van Dijken**

7. **Creative Salmon**

8. **Public Consultations – Yukon River Working Group**

9. **Run Outlooks (Sandy/Pat)**

10. **Other Issues**

- Yukon Queen Working Group rep
- Transfer of HCSP assets to Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board

11. **Budget Review – Louise Naylor**

12. **YPA Presentation – Graham Van Tigham**

13. **Implementation Review**

14. **Conflict of Interest Guidelines (moved to October meeting)**

15. **Placer Update – Gord Zealand**

16. **Other Business**

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday June 25, 2003 – 9:00 a.m.

Location: Yukon Inn, Whitehorse

Present:

Gerry Couture
 Stan Njootli
 Carl Sidney
 Steve Taylor
 Lorelei Smith
 Chuck Hume (9:30)

Absent:

Craig McKinnon
 Hardy Ruf
 Vicki Josie
 Frank Patterson

DFO Staff:

Andrea Wilson
Louise Naylor

Meeting was called to order at 9:10am.

Opening Prayer was said by Carl Sidney.

1. Review Agenda

Agenda was reviewed. The following changes requested.

- Requested that Bob provide briefing on the July Faro TAC meeting.
- Item 16 – Other business was added. This to include Community Updates.
- Under #5 Members Updates include World Summit on Salmon, LS to discuss letter that YSC is to draft.
- Requested that Opening Prayer always be included as an agenda item

The agenda was approved with changes.

2. Review Minutes

Minutes from January and March were reviewed.

- No changes to the January minutes, from present committee members
 - ❖ Approved as written.
- March Minutes:
 - ❖ Concern raised regarding wording “anecdotal evidence”, wording was presented by a member of the public, to be left as written.
 - ❖ Some questions on action items to be reviewed during Action Item review.
 - ❖ No changes by members present.
 - ❖ March minutes were approved as written
- Minutes to be sent out, once absent committee members have confirmed that no changes are required.

3. Review Action Items

ACTION ITEM #35-9: Bob Van Dijken to research further into how the National Fire Code and Yukon Land Act and Regulations work together. Findings are to be reported back to the YSC at the next meeting.

Mtg. #36: BVD continues to work on this issue and is trying to determine if the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) applies to the Water Board. A progress report will be presented at Meeting #37.

Mtg. #39: To resolve this, the committee would probably need a legal opinion. The Water Board has one legal opinion on this matter, DIAND another and others BVD talked to have different interpretations.

Mtg. #43: is there anything further the YSC would like to do on this? (It is related to fuel storage). Because of work done on the Sparkling Creek all tanks old and new are now tagged, it is illegal to put fuel in tanks unless they are properly inspected. This action item now closed.

ACTION ITEM #39-1: Secretariat to ensure that there is an intensive advertizing campaign in communities one to two weeks prior to the IFMP Public Meetings.

Mtg. #42: Posters were distributed for Whitehorse meeting to all catch card vendors, and advertised on radio ads and in newspaper. Community meetings were advertised via radio, newspaper and posters.

ACTION ITEM #39-2: Secretariat to contact relevant Boards, Committees, Councils, Departments etc. well in advance to advise of Public Meeting dates and to try to avoid conflicts.

Completed.

ACTION ITEM #39-3: Haines Junction Public Meeting should be held in conjunction with an RRC meeting with issues identified on the poster.

E-mailed the Alsek RRC to see if they would be in agreement, as their next meeting is scheduled for Sept 18. RRC have agreed to hold a joint meeting. YSC to contact closer to date to co-ordinate. In progress – Angie Charlebois is working on this.

YSC public meeting took place in coordination with RRC meeting and open house.

ACTION ITEM #40-9: Secretariat to review and summarize strategic planning material generated and this is to be used as a starting point for the YSC at their next planning session.

Done. Secretariat summarized information, which was reviewed during January meeting.

ACTION ITEM #40-15: Respond to November 10th AMT letter indicating that this is the first we have heard from them and that we would welcome the opportunity to meet with him and be briefed on AMT's activities. C.c. to everyone the original letter was copied to. BVD or DFO HEB to provide a summary of the effects that the mine is having on salmon.

Mtg. #41: Committee still felt that a letter needed to be sent to clarify that there was no record of ever having been contacted: Letter Required.

Mtg. #43: AMT is no longer active here, company has withdrawn from process. No longer required.

ACTION ITEM #40-16: BVD to draft a letter to the new government reminding them of their responsibilities for the reclamation of abandoned mines.

Mtg. #43: This is no longer necessary as YTG provided a briefing. We will continue to monitor.

ACTION ITEM #41-2: List of past prominent delegates and Chiefs to be sent around the table for the committee members to review and filled in with past delegate names missed. Copy of complete list to be given to Gordon Zealand.

List completed and provided to G. Zealand.

Mtg. #42: The opportunity to recognize those involved in the Treaty negotiations is still open, as a few individuals were missed. If YSC members have anyone else they feel should be recognized, please contact the YSC Secretariat ASAP.

ACTION ITEM #41-3: Secretariat to explore with Kelly Hayes cost of Salmon Symposium.

Angie Charlebois worked on estimates based on cost of 2002 Trout Symposium (Canada/US.)

Mtg. #42: Costs are based on information received from David Petkovich (coordinator of the 2002 Trout Symposium) the cost is 41K including 4 keynote speakers. Table done to outline details.

ACTION ITEM #41-9: Porcupine River Escapement: P. Milligan to bring back to the committee an interim escapement goal for discussion at the March meeting as well as a verification of how the numbers were developed, to help clarify how the escapement goal of 20K-50K was reached.

Provided during Meeting #42.

ACTION ITEM #41-10: Louise to forward a copy of the most current report and spreadsheet to Sandy for his review of the numbers as well as Lorelei's e-mailed comments to Edwin Blewitt.

Copy of e-mails sent to Sandy for his review. Sandy reviewed the document briefly and advised that the changes hadn't been made, and there are still further small changes required. Edwin has been notified of these concerns, Sandy will pursue this in April.

Discussed this with Sandy, report was published and distributed, Edwin has finished his part on the report, any changes that are still required will need to be done by DFO. Report was distributed to Panel.

ACTION ITEM#41-15: Spokesperson – revise Operating Procedures to include a section 6.1 that reads “Prior to the issue of a formal press release on major issues, made on behalf of the committee, the chair or spokesperson under Section 6.1 should contact members of the committee, and he/she is required to attempt to follow the requirements for a quorum under Section 1.1.”

Operating procedures revised and copies of revised operating procedures provided in members packages during meeting #42.

ACTION ITEM #41-16: World Summit on Salmon – Two committee members to attend. Craig and Lorelei, and Stan recommended as an alternate.

Registration submitted for Lorelei and Craig. Craig unable to attend so Lorelei and Stan attended.

ACTION ITEM #41-17: Honorariums – Update Operating Procedures to include \$100 prep time for each day of regularly scheduled Salmon Committee meetings.

Operating procedures updated and copies of revised operating procedures provided in members packages during meeting #42.

ACTION ITEM #42-2: Secretariat to Provide Frank Paterson with a list of Working Group members.

Provided at meeting #42.

ACTION ITEM #42-4: YSC Meetings for 2003-04 will be as follows:

- **June 25-26, 2003**
- **August 20th 2003 – Conference Call**
- **October 7-9, 2003**
- **November 25-27, 2003**
- **February 24-26, 2004**

Secretariat to include in next YSC newsletter, send to e-mail distribution list and post on YSC website.

ACTION ITEM #42-6: Secretariat to obtain agenda for World Summit on Salmon and explore the possibility of the YSC doing a presentation on their management and structure.

Agenda obtained, organizers contacted May 3, 2003. Members were advised that the agenda was set many months previous and that presentations were to be science-based.

ACTION ITEM #42-7: Secretariat to confirm July 9th date for Faro TAC and make arrangements for Carl and Frank to attend. Carl Attended.

ACTION ITEM 42-8: Amend minutes to make sure that Lorelei is not referenced as ‘elected’ onto the Transboundary Panel.

Done.

ACTION ITEM 42-9: Secretariat to clarify terms of reference and nomination process for Transboundary Panel. Also rationale for selecting Lorelei. Clarify Gord’s role on the Panel.

Information sheet provided to YSC members at March meeting outlining structure of the Panel, roles and nomination process.

ACTION ITEM #42-11: For Dawson Public Meeting, Secretariat to complete the following:

- **advertise in Yukon News and local Paper;**
- **book Heritage Hall;**
- **Individual letters to all commercial fishers;**
- **Invitation letters to RRC, THFN and Yukon River Commercial Fisher’s Association;**

- **Co-ordinate with RRC;**
 - **Distribute posters via YSC members;**
 - **Arrange for DFO staff from C&P and HEB to attend to answer questions;**
 - **Include agenda item on Klondike River Recreational Fishery;**
- Completed.*

ACTION ITEM #42-13: For Old Crow Public Meeting, Secretariat to coordinate informal information session during the afternoon with info on approved R&E projects.

This proposal was not feasible, given time and staffing constraints.

ACTION ITEM #42-14: Old Crow Public Meeting – Secretariat to arrange the following:

- **Book Community Hall;**
- **Contact community members to arrange for dinner;**
- **Advertise via General Store, CHON, Yukon News, new radio station;**
- **Posters to YSC members for distribution.**

Done

ACTION ITEM #42-15: Haines Junction Public Meeting – with details of above. Secretariat to arrange the following:

- **Add to agenda item on Enforcement and changes to Dalton Post boundaries;**
- **Focus on the Alsek River, bring handout on the Yukon River**
- **Continue to co-ordinate with RRC re: logistics.**

Done

ACTION ITEM #42-17: Steve Taylor to coordinate meetings with Yukon River First Nations, with the objective of coming together to come up with a planning process for consultations on, and development of, the Yukon River IFMP. Other alternate committee members to assist are Frank, Carl, and Craig.

This item was put on hold following the March meeting due to uncertainties as to whether S. Taylor would continue to sit on the YSC.

Steve has a report to submit to members, presented on agenda item #6.

ACTION ITEM #42-18: Secretariat to develop a briefing package for First Nations on Integrated Fisheries Management Planning. Package to be reviewed by all YSC members and completed by April 1.

On hold. See #42-17.

ACTION ITEM #42-19: Secretariat to develop a brochure which explains the mandate, composition, roles etc. of the YSC.

Brochure was drafted, reviewed and printed for distribution at Public Meetings.

ACTION ITEM #42-20: Lorelei and Craig to be registered for the World Summit on Salmon, from the current year's budget.

Registration submitted, but was unable to charge fee against 2002-2003 budget.

ACTION ITEM #42-21: YSC authorized LN to expend any remaining budget from 2002 – 2003 on office supplies, promotional materials etc.

Done. Brochure, promotional items and office supplies were purchased with remaining budget as well as travel expenses.

ACTION ITEM #42-22: Budget to be amended to reflect new meeting schedule and commitments to FN consultations re: IFMP.

Completed for review at June meeting.

ACTION ITEM #42-24: The YSC needs to issue a press release clarifying the original Press Release re: the Minister's decision of the YPA.

Following a special YSC meeting, the Committee directed the Secretariat to place an ad in the newspapers clarifying the YSC's lack of unity regarding a position on the original Yukon Placer regulation press release. DONE

ACTION ITEM #42-25: Secretariat to draft a list of FAQs (based on questions from the Whitehorse Public Meeting and other concerns) and the YSC's responses to them.

Prepared and for review during June meeting.

ACTION ITEM #42-26: Re: Tatchun Creek signage, Secretariat to draft a letter advising that the Steward has permission to use the YSC logo, providing that the sign is amended to reflect that it is the FN that is not in favour of Catch and Release fishing. Also include letter of support.

Letter sent May 23, 2003. Sign is in its final phases of development.

ACTION ITEM #42-27: Secretariat to select Youth Contest finalists in each category. YSC members to review finalists during Public Meetings to choose winners.

Committee members who attended the public meeting reviewed finalist. Winners were posted in the Yukon News and on the committee webpage. Prizes awarded.

ACTION ITEM #42-28: June YSC meeting to be held at the Yukon Inn, on a trial basis. Secretariat to provide assessment of costs and impacts of changing meeting location.

To be discussed during June meeting.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

March 24, 2003 – Letter from Jim Kenyon (Minister of Environment) cc: Fentie and P. Jenkins (in read file) – Letter requests copy of sent letter to Thibault after Dec 16 announcement, and who was consulted on the committee prior to acceptance of the new regulatory regime.

4. Review Calendar

- TAC – Faro, July 9: Carl and Frank tentative
- July 7-12: CYFN GA (Carcross)
- August 19-21 – Yukon River Inter-tribal Watershed Meeting – Fort Yukon
- August 20 – conference call
- October 7-9: YSC meeting
- Nov. 13-14: YPC (tentative)
- Nov. 25-27: YSC meeting
- Dec. 8-12 Yukon River Panel – Anchorage
- Feb. 24-26, 2004: YSC meeting
- March 8-12: Yukon River Panel - Anchorage
- Community Aboriginal Science & Technology conference (CASTS) – Sept. 18-20 (Saskatoon) (attendance to be discussed with budget)
- Old Crow General Assembly – would be nice to have a YSC representative present.

ACTION ITEM #43-1: Request info on upcoming Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Summit meeting at Fort Yukon, August 19-21.

5. Members' Updates:

Northern Latitudes Mining Reclamation Workshop (Fairbanks, Alaska – Carl Sidney)

- There were very few FNs in attendance to present the users of the land and resource side.
- Mining was promoted by participants, mostly American participants
- Next one is in Inuvik in 2005
- 3 tours of mines/reclamation sites, they try to build rivers through the sites, but the building of rivers doesn't work very well. The reclamation of sites did work.
- Discussed changing regulations in the Yukon with Alaskan miners present; it was noted that regulation changes in Alaska had very little impact.
- Industry thinks that they are very successful with reclamation efforts
- It was a very technical meeting, present were botanists and other scientists and technologists. It was a very big eye opening especially the visits to the reclamation sites.

ACTION ITEM #43-2: Look into deadlines etc. for presentation at the 2005 Northern Latitudes Mining Reclamation Workshop (Inuvik).

Yukon Placer Committee Meeting – Steve/Frank/Lorelei

- Meeting occurred in Dawson: May 13-14, 2003
- Steve and Frank attended mostly as observers and to promote good will
- YSC and Fish and Wildlife Management Board have not been invited or included in the new Committees that have been formed out of the new YPA implementation process.

- It was a good learning experience, to see the type of agenda items covered such as stream classification, as well as the Interactions between members were interesting to observe
- There were letters from FNs concerning specific streams and projects
- ST became aware of how business was conducted at these meetings
- From the minister's instructions, the YPC is to operate as it always has, the new regulations aren't a part of it, the YPC operate under the old YPA.
- Task force (government and industry) YTG, DFO, CYFN, and KPMA
- Minister has created a Strategic Implementation Steering Group (with above three levels of government and KPMA representation) to develop the new regime.
- There is concern that other stakeholders won't be well represented in this regime, and that the outcome will be unsatisfactory; Previous Authorization was also developed behind closed doors
- Ie. Creeks should have effluent standard based on their classification
 - On the 50-mile, there is a new interpretation as to what a Type 2 stream was – KPMA is proposing that there should be a new way of looking at things
 - On the 40-mile – there was a deferral given to do an experiment on a diffuser; YSC was on record saying that they didn't like to see \$ spent on technology to help miners get around the effluent standard, rather than meeting the standard.
- Minister proposed that the placer committee become a forum for consultation and advice, when this was proposed at the YPC there is little appetite for this role or forum.
- Terms of reference are available for the Steering Group, but not the Working Group. Should be able to get all terms of reference
- If all stakeholders aren't at the table in the development of the new regime, it might be a one-sided regime.
- Steering Group was created by the 3 levels of government: CYFN, YTG, GC; Ione Christenson will likely Chair the Working Group as Gerry McCormick will also be present.
- YPC will stay as it is for 2003 and will possibly be a consultation group in future
- Issue of concern is that the KPMA is trying to reinterpret the classification of streams different than was intended; Going to court may be the only way to clarify this.
- Copy of YPC minutes in read file

World Summit on Salmon (Stan/Lorelei)

- Overall, it was good but very scientific; at times it was very depressing, appears to be crashing globally
- Copy of proceedings and abstract of presentations available in read file
- There were representatives from all over the world (Russia, Ireland, Japan,
- Mostly scientists attended
- There are declines of stocks happening all over the world

- No one knows what's happening in the marine environment, it is not necessarily over fishing.
- Herring is the most resilient, in terms of recovery
- Best feeding areas are coastal, which are being depleted very fast
- Ocean exploitation is increasing, fish size are decreasing
- In economics it takes 1.8 tons of fish per ton of fuel
- Recommended solutions: Reduce fishing effort, marine protected areas, find other sources of protein, find other sources of income stop perverse subsidies, aquaculture of the right type and choose seafood wisely.
- Carl Walters (UBC) claimed that protection of the ocean was the most important thing – freshwater habitat protection is not very effective. Claimed that freshwater habitat protection was an economic slide creating local jobs. Marine survival rates are the biggest risk, hatchery and wild fish are affected by marine survival the same.
- Presentation from Alaska: Affects of Japanese hatcheries on how they are affecting the wild salmon runs in Alaska (Jennifer Nelson)
 - Up to 6 billion pacific rim fish being released, hatchery fish make up 50-98% of commercial fish being caught
 - Problems with fish hatcheries: fish health, stock and abundance shifts, inbreeding (genetic swapping), artificial selection (loss of diversity), behaviour modification (changes in run timing), role as exotic species
- Fewer wild salmon are returning.
- 59 million fewer wild fish,
- Talked about destruction of fisheries along the coast.
- Presentation on Habitat was geared towards BC and habitat and ocean; ie. Logging on rivers causes erosion of the banks: presented an example of one river where an R&E projects took place on one of the logged rivers, and the rate of success. Rivers presented as restoration and enhancement were shown as sand dunes after 10 years.
- Fish Farms are having lots of problems with sea lice on the BC coast, not a lot of detail was discussed,
- No real changes/solutions were suggested
- This was mostly educational – no next steps or follow up suggested; no one from government were present to propose or present changes to policy.
 - Who sponsored the Summit? SFU – this was an academic symposium
 - There was one presentation on the precautionary approach; this approach was very similar to how the Yukon is handled.
 - Possibility for the YSC to help to structure the next summit, to ensure that it is effective; these are academic summits, government are not present and the government need to be made aware of the suggestions.
 - There was no one in charge of the big picture, concern rose that the same is going to happen on the west coast that happened on the east coast cod fishery.

ACTION ITEM #43-3: World Summit on Salmon – YSC to write a letter to the Minister recommending that Canada take a lead role in creating an International congress on Fisheries Science and global management.

It was noted that Thursday's meeting would begin at 8:30.

6. Habitat Issues Briefing (2:00pm) - Bob Van Dijken

United Keno Hill Mines:

The proposed sale of the United Keno Hill Mines property has fallen through. Nevada Pacific, the company which had been considering the purchase of the site, withdrew its offer due to concerns regarding environmental liabilities on the site. Currently, under the terms of the Devolution Transfer Agreement (DTA), the federal government is providing funds to deal with care and maintenance of the site while the territorial government ensures that the work gets done. The territorial government has made arrangements with the Na Cho Nyak Dun First Nation to do the work in the care and maintenance at the site. There appear to be 3 options being considered for the site:

1. Status quo, federal government provides funding, territorial government arranges for work to be done, site remains in care and maintenance status;
2. Federal government pays for site to be cleaned up to acceptable standards as defined in DTA, then releases the site;
3. The territorial government is reportedly considering taking over all responsibility for the site if the federal government gives the territorial government 5 million dollars. The territorial government would then be responsible for reclamation of the site. Within YTG there are currently no reclamation standards in place.

The territorial government has hired Sam Wallingham to handle the UKHM file.

The water license for the UKHM property expires December 31st, 2003. There has been no application for renewal, filed to date.

Q – The AMT bid failed because they couldn't come up with the cash, the understanding was that Nevada Pacific had the cash but couldn't get clarity on what their environmental liability would be. It seems stupid that the federal government would have 100% liability if no one takes it over, but they make it so difficult for anyone to take over even a part of the work. Is this not correct? Yes, there has been some discussion over the past 3 years on abandoned and orphaned mines. One of the concepts was Good Samaritan legislation, where you take over a property you agree to do some of it, but you are not saddled with the entire liability of the site. There is some concern about setting precedents for 80 year old properties and how they would be required to deal with other properties of 20 or 7 years of ages. Right now the Federal Government is responsible for the expense to clean it up and YTG is responsible for making sure that the work is done.

ACTION ITEM #43-4: United Keno Hill – BVD to draft a letter to the Minister of DIAND, with cc: YTG, affected FN's, and Auditor General regarding the liability and the chance to discharge a portion of the liability. Issue under discussion was Nevada Pacific not wanted to take on the full liability responsibility.

Faro:

Removal of freshwater dam

Plans are going ahead for the removal of the freshwater dam. A draft screening document was released for comment earlier this spring. Work is scheduled to take place later this year with the reservoir being drawn down during the fall and the dam being breached late in the year. Work will be done on the channel downstream of the dam and re-vegetation will take place in the reservoir area. There do not appear to be any major concerns with this project.

Renewal of water licence

The Faro and Vangorda water licences expire Dec. 31, 2003. The bankruptcy trustee continues the process of obtaining a new licence. The plan is for the two licences to be combined into one care and maintenance license with a 5 year term. The 5 year period would be used to develop a reclamation plan for the site. The Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) for the project has been completed.

Reclamation planning

The Type II Mines Project Office has issued a report on the Anvil Range Mine Complex Closure Planning Project Management. It details the process which will be followed in the closure planning process:

3.2. CLOSURE PLANNING MANAGEMENT

DIAND and the Yukon Government have agreed to take a co-operative approach to the environmental management of Type II mine sites listed in the Devolution Transfer Agreement (DTA), that are under government care. This includes activities undertaken for interim care and maintenance through to the closure and final reclamation of these sites. A joint Steering Committee has been established to provide senior level leadership and direction to a project management team with respect to the Type II sites.

3.2.1. ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

In January 2003 DIAND and the Government of Yukon acknowledged that the Anvil Range mine was not going to reopen and stated publicly that closure planning would be the responsibility of the two governments. The Type II Mines Project Office, established by DIAND and the Yukon Government, will be responsible for overseeing mine remediation planning at the Anvil Range site and ensuring intergovernmental coordination and involvement, including First Nations involvement. These responsibilities include:

- Reclamation planning including development of abandonment options;
- Development of the Faro Final Closure and Reclamation plan;
- Preparation of the environmental assessment report for review under YEAA or YESAA;
- Ensuring all regulatory authorizations are in place;
- Remediation of the site; and
- Follow-up monitoring.

An important component of these responsibilities will be communication and consultation throughout the process with affected communities, interested parties and groups. The Type II Mines Project Office¹ recognizes the need to maximize continuity, momentum and stability for closure planning at this property during a period of transition. The Project Office will utilize previous planning efforts to the extent possible in the development of the FCRP.

3.2.2. ROLE OF FIRST NATIONS

Four First Nations are specifically identified, under Chapter 6 of the DTA, as “Affected First Nations” with respect to final abandonment of the Anvil Range Mine Complex. First Nations’ involvement will be integrated into the closure planning process, to ensure that the obligations set forth in Chapter 6 of the DTA are met. Invitations have been sent out to the four First Nations to meet to discuss key considerations regarding planning for closure and abandonment of this site and First Nation participation. The specifics of the involvement of First Nations will be determined through these discussions.

3.2.3. LINKAGE TO INTERIM RECEIVER

The Interim Receiver has overseen the management of the Anvil Range property under the terms of the existing water licences since its appointment in 1998. There are outstanding legal issues to be resolved with regards to the property and its administration, which the Interim Receiver must address. The Interim Receiver will continue to have the responsibility for environmental care and maintenance operations at the site, until these issues are addressed and the interim receivership is wound up. Additional activities planned by the Interim Receiver for the next licence period include the continued collection and provision of data regarding on-going site characterization work.

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting and Site Tour

The annual TAC meeting and tour is scheduled to take place July 9th in Faro.

Clinton Creek

Further work is scheduled to take place at the site this summer. DIAND officials were onsite last week for project planning purposes. Some work will be done on

Wolverine Creek with gabions being rebuilt or replaced. More work will also take place on Clinton Creek with more gabions being constructed. The work is being done by Han Construction. Longer term plans being examined include the stabilization of the asbestos tailings slumping into Wolverine Creek.

Mining Reclamation Regulations

There has been no apparent activity on this YTG initiative since a workshop held on March 14th, 2003. Follow-up documentation has not yet been made available.

Mt Nansen/BYG

The territorial government is now responsible for activity at the site with the federal government providing funding. It appears that regular care and maintenance work will take place this year. There does not appear any work going on to develop a closure and reclamation plan.

Ketza

There will be no activity at this site. There does not appear any work going on to develop a closure and reclamation plan.

There was a sulphur dioxide spill about 5 years ago.

- Main concern at the site was ammonia levels
- Salmon is not a major concern at this site – more fresh water fish
- Would be worthwhile for the YSC to advise the Board to take the lead on this project.

ACTION ITEM #43-5: Letter to be drafted to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board requesting that they take the lead on the Ketza file, due to the implications for fresh water fish and wildlife.

Dawson Sewage

A new water licence for Dawson City was signed on April 17th, 2003. It calls for a new sewage treatment facility to be in place by August 31st, 2004. Construction must be complete and the facility commissioned and operating. The licence has no discharge standards in place between the date the licence was signed and Sept. 1, 2004 when new, stricter standards will come into effect. When asked about this gap, the Water Board stated “The Water Board was asked for a water licence for the new treatment plant, what was issued was a water licence for the new treatment plant.” The price for the system has gone up and the City of Dawson has already written the Water Board stating that the project cannot be completed without more money from the territorial government. Apparently negotiations are taking place on this topic.

The City of Dawson was convicted of a single charge of depositing a deleterious substance under section 36 of the Fisheries Act. The judge imposed a small fine and ordered that a treatment facility be built within a certain timeframe. The City of Dawson is appealing the conviction with the support of the territorial government.

- Possibly draft a letter requesting that this issue be concluded ASAP.

ACTION ITEM #43-6: Letter to be drafted to YTG asking about the status of the funding agreement that is now 2 governments old, regarding the 90% and 10% cost of building for the Dawson Sewage treatment plant find out if it is still valid, and the need to complete the facility immediately.

Brewery Creek/Viceroy Resources

A draft screening of the closure and reclamation plan for the Brewery Creek site. The main outstanding concerns appear to be the possibility of metals leaching from one of the small open pits and the issue of selenium toxicity downstream. The company has asked for a site specific standard for selenium. There are concerns that selenium may accumulate downstream of the site in the wetlands adjacent to the North Klondike River. Selenium can be toxic to fish. There are 2 types of selenium, one of which is bio-available. Selenium is a heavy metal that does not biodegrade. There is a possibility that it can be converted back and forth between the bio-available and non-bio-available form. Accumulation occurs over 50-100 years.

- Q - Is there going to be a requirement for continued care and maintenance of this site? Possibly they will look at monitoring this site for 4-6 years and then make a decision as to whether the site required long-term care
- Q - Where does the selenium come from? From the ore. The cyanide mobilizes the minerals. As you detoxify ore, you change its physical characteristics. Toxicity is dependent upon water temperature and other factors – selenium has a fairly complex chemistry. Selenium build up in the wetlands could eventually be mobilized into the North Klondike, which is a very important spawning and rebuilding habitat.

ACTION ITEM #43-7: BVD to draft letter to Brewery Creek stating the YSC's concern about the possibility of selenium build up in the wetlands eventually being mobilized into the North Klondike, which is a very important spawning and rebuilding area. Request that they keep the YSC informed about this issue.

Stewardship Conference

There is a conference entitled: The Leading Edge: Stewardship & Conservation in Canada 2003 taking place at the University of Victoria in Victoria, BC, July 3-6, 2003. There is a water and fisheries component to this conference. Further details are available at the site website at: <http://www.stewardship2003.ca>.

Information has also been provided to the Salmon Committee.

- The Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board will be attending this conference.

7. Creative Salmon

Introductions were made around the table from committee members present, DFO staff, Gord Zealand also present, from Creative Salmon Bill Vernon, Spencer Evans, guest Chohachi Kashima.

- Bill Vernon gave an overview of his new role, which is to maintain past relationships and effectively pass on the spirit and cooperation etc. of Creative Salmon.
 - Spencer Evans in the new Director of Creative Salmon as of September 2002
 - Mr. Evans has a broad background in aquaculture and salmon farming, in Spain, Chile and several years in BC.
 - A customer of Creative Salmon was also brought to the meeting, Director of Kashimaya Company Ltd from Japan.
 - Creative Salmon offered to answer any questions that the Committee had regarding their plans and activities.
- Q** - How are things going with the development of the Yukon River stock? Survival rates right now for the 2 groups of fish (brood year 2000, 2001), that are currently in the water are much higher than they have been in the past; There is a marked improvement in their performance.
- Q** - As of the last briefing, Creative Salmon was still some distance away from a marketable product in this genetic line, is this still the case? Creative Salmon are hoping to have fish available to market by 2007; this project is still in the pilot stage.
- Q** - In terms of survival rates, do the farmed fish mirror wild stocks at all? There is no known correlation between survival rates; In order to be profitable, Creative Salmon must achieve 90% survival. The Yukon Stock has been in the 20% range and is only just moving up to 50% range.
- Q** - Is Creative Salmon still interested in giving us some assistance by providing expertise for a Yukon initiative for fish farming? Creative Salmon has always tried to find ways to repay the resource in the Yukon. Jake Duncan has discussed with Creative Salmon the possibility of getting assistance with a fish plant project.
- C** - Concern was raised about a commercial company taking salmon milt when there was no commercial fishery allowed.
- If Creative Salmon was successful at domesticating Yukon stocks, there should be enough space on the market for both farmed and commercial fish, they should not be competing on the market.
- C** - The background for the concern: some constituents have raised concerns about taking milt from the fish hatchery, which was supposed to be paying back to the resource from the damage done by the power dam; If a commercial fisher wanted to use those spent fish, would it not be possible? The fish would not be used otherwise; Creative Salmon considers using the milt from the Hatchery spent fish to be a value-added initiative.
- From the Minister's point of view, the more value there is added and the more people involved with the resource, the higher the priority.
 - There is also the scientific perspective that fish farming is ruining the natural resource; there is a lot of discussion about whether or not fish farming is an environmentally safe practice; The YSC has to make a

decision on something that is very contentious and which is not fully understood.

- This is an emotionally charged issue and one that is hotly contested on both sides. The job of salmon farmers is to minimize as much as possible the effect that they could have on wild fish. Everyone effects fish, the commercial fishers and fish farmers, the issue is to minimize the effect; it is difficult to balance all the opinions and issues.

Q - Do you see a future in fish farms, given that many First Nations are so strongly opposed to them? There are a number of examples of cooperative approaches between fish farms and First Nations. There is a real struggle in BC because FN's are trying to resolve the whole land issue. They need as many levers to finish them, in order to finalize land issues, First Nations need to take active stewardship of their lands and need to be involved in industry right away. There are good examples on the coast areas where employment has been created where in the past there was limited employment, it would be a good opportunity to have someone come down to the coast and view some of the cooperative initiatives that are on going. There are some areas where tribes are split. Many elders are strongly opposed to fish farming and 'playing with fish' and the younger citizens are recognizing the need for change and evolution over time. Creative Salmon has visited with both sides. One good example of success is the Kitasoo Band.

- YSC wants to protect the resource and represent their constituents the best they can.

Q - This discussion needs to take place somewhere. Where best is that? The question is do we debate whether it is sea lice or spread of disease, Creative Salmon can tell you their information and the other side can give information from other foundations that are totally opposed. The emotional discussion makes it difficult for scientist to do their jobs, because a lot of the information to date is only anecdotal and the fish farming association has a responsibility to respond to information even in the anecdotal form, such as the Sea lice issue, scientist are currently studying this but to date they do not have scientific information in a finalized form.

Q - What is Creative Salmon putting before the Committee? What are they asking and how does it affect the Yukon? If you are really good at what you are doing you should be able to take a fish that is 15K miles from the Ocean and make it worth more money, wild salmon should always be worth more than farmed fish. If Yukon River Chinook are being promoted from outside, the wild fish will become even more valuable. Industry has a stronger voice and a more powerful voice when it comes to protect the resource.

Q - Where is Creative Salmon getting their eggs? Creative Salmon has their own brood stock. Over past years we have taken eggs from wild stock, to bring in wild genes.

Q - How close is the farmed Yukon Stock to the Wild Yukon Stock? The Yukon famed stock is very close to the Yukon Stock. On the farm you can definitely see a difference between the Yukon Stocks and the other stocks. Given the collection practices, a mixed stock is being developed, not a pure stock. The

stock would be very similar to the hatchery stock. There is no manipulation of genetics within the stocks, other than the selection of fish for spawning.

Q – If there is a commercial fishery would creative salmon want to take samples from fish in the Dawson area? Creative Salmon only wants to take from the same location as they have in previous years.

Q - Is Creative Salmon looking into being more stock specific? There is no discussion currently about becoming more stock-specific in the future. If one of the bands is looking for an economic opportunity, then they would need to get a hold of Creative Salmon directly.

- Farmed Chinook are grown up to about 28lb, normally fish take about 14 months to reach harvestable size, average size of Yukon fish harvested are 7.3 pounds.
- Creative Salmon offered to send up samples of farmed fish for people to try. Creative Salmon guaranteed that their fish were not organic, but they were the closest to organic salmon as they could get. No antibiotics, hormones etc..

ACTION ITEM #43-8: Creative Salmon offered to send up some Chinook for the YSC to sample. Possibly coordinate with the Yukon Panel meeting if the meeting is in Whitehorse.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Thursday June 26, 2003 – 8:30 a.m.

8. Public Consultations – Yukon River Working Group

• Update on Dawson Chief & Council Meeting (Steve)

- Mary Ellen Jarvis, Pat Milligan and Steve Taylor met with Tr'ondek Hwetchin chief and council. Meeting appeared to go very well, participants agreed to have additional talks.
- Chief and Council felt they hadn't been communicated well with in the previous years about conservation and management concerns.
- Steve did a follow-up meetings one on one with some of the Councillors that had attended the meeting.

Q - Did the councillors and chief say anything during the individual meetings about the presentation?

- Steve found that even though a very simple decision matrix was presented, there was still some distrust of the numbers and system. Found that some of the councillors were missing information or reading more into the information given, Steve tried to explain the matrix in a different format, explained that they should not read too much into the matrix and what they need to decide and inform DFO. Tried to pass on the message that all news from fisheries is not bad news, the news maybe that an opening was to take place and the councils needed to have a plan in place to notify fishers, instead of fishers being notified late because no plan was in place.
- Seemed to have a fairly good understanding of the decision-making process after the one on one discussion.

- **Update on Mayo Community Meeting (Steve Taylor, Frank Paterson, Carl Sidney)**
 - 2 meetings held in Mayo; one with Lands and Resources staff, and one with council.
 - ST – felt that staff still tended to read a bit more into what was presented – This will be a challenge.
 - Chief and Council – questioning was more intense and again the issue of lack of trust of the info presented.
 - ST - held a follow up meeting – outcome was that they wanted to follow the lead of Trondek Hwechin Chief and Council
- Q - Chief and Council wanted to know about accuracy of fish counts at the mouth and border crossing?
- Q - Chief and Council wanted to know the biggest predator of salmon?
- Q - C&C wanted to know if a contingency plan was in place in case of a low run?
- Q - C&C wanted to know if there is compensation for giving up Yukon River Salmon if the FN fishery is closed, will they be compensated or allowed to get fish from someplace else.?
- Q - C&C questions on Ichthyophonus have come up, wanting more information.
 - Gerry commented on his experience at the May gathering in Pelly where the FN especially elders talk about things that concern them. Gerry was called by Doug Urquhart to talk during an afternoon discussion on salmon.
 - No paper and no technical terms were allowed to be used
 - A presentation was developed that was very very simple but effective.
 - What the elders wanted to know, is how to trust the white guy science or numbers.
 - At the end, the Gathering developed a policy for how they would manage their fishery this year:
 - The FN at the end decided to keep up to date with all of the information: using DFO #s, traditional knowledge, observation etc., all of the information would be taken into consideration.
 - This agreement happened last year as well, but it wasn't communicated to the YSC or DFO
 - Information is not getting communicated to fisher's in-season i.e. updates from DFO are getting stuck at the office level and is often not in language that is understandable to those who are actually using the resource.
 - They do not react well to being lectured too; it is a better approach to empower them to manage the resource themselves, as self-governing First Nations.
- C - Pat commented that some FNs have had the experience where they want to conserve, but they don't want to enforce it within their community, so they have asked DFO work with them on the enforcement side.

- C - Carl suggested that we should recognize those FNs that have the best management plan. Try and make the development of a management plan an attractive item, by presenting an award at the CYFN leadership.
- Steve still believes that he should go on the road and talk to individual First Nations about their plans and follow-up with FN's.
- Impression from DFO was that the working groups have not been a total failure; everyone has accepted the conservation issue.
- First Nations are developing plans; ones that do not already have a plan in place are looking for some help with the development management plans.
- Chuck is in favour of holding a salmon symposium for First Nations to work together on their management plans, make it into a working group symposium where they can come up with some ideas. Including the 8 licenses in discussions.
- The Yukon River Panel is working on a symposium type of idea
- DFO raised a concern that came up in some of the working group; the biggest concern was that the people who came to the meetings were not empowered to go any further with decisions. That is why DFO and the YSC have been meeting with Chief and Council now.
- Need to communicate not just with FN staff and Council, but with fishers as well.
- In past years the fishers and elders have been included in developing the plans and have agreed to the draft plans, but the chief and council who make the final decision chose not to agree to the plan.
- Carl noted that the people who make the decision in Teslin re: management are the elders. They also enforce laws.
- If we do plan a gathering, need to focus on elders.
- Concern rose that in the absence of specific decisions from individual First Nations, DFO still needs to put something in the management plan.
 - Draft at present for FN's that do not have a plan is: should FN restrictions be required, each FN will be provided with a harvest share, based on what the total run size is and each FN's historical catch.
 - Written in the plan that DFO will continue to work with individual First Nations to implement their own management plans, recognizing their management authority.
 - DFO recognizes that each FN is at different levels in the development of their plans.
 - Note made that individual FN's do not all or want to be implementing their individual plans in the IFMP's.
 - When the fishery is within the yellow zone, DFO would develop the guidelines harvests and provide the guideline harvest to each FN, for each FN to manage their own fisheries.

Q - How are we going to get to an understanding with FN's on fishery management requirements within their own FN's?

- There is no solution to the Harvest study dilemma, conference call scheduled to take place with DIAND. Each FN has been notified that it is now their

responsibility to collect Harvest data. Different FN's are approaching it in different ways. Some FN's have contacted DFO and have submitted proposals. A request has been submitted to hire someone to aid FN in coordinating the collection of data if needed. There are still questions and clarification is needed of how a long term plan will be developed about how FN harvest data will be collected.

- Carl noted that some FN's would like see the harvest data collection to continue to be funded by DIAND. The UFA identifies it as each FN's responsibility but the funding of the data collection needs to be gradually phased out so that First Nations get used to running their own programs.
- It was suggested that Canadian tags are not being returned with the present setup and should be changed: The US tags are set up as a draw where a persons name can gets put in for a draw of \$500; currently the Canadian tags are worth \$5 per tag.

Recommendation made to increase tag returns; the Canadian tags should be reduced to \$2.00 per tag and the person would also be given a chance to win \$500 or \$1000 in a tag lottery, specific to be worked out.

9. Run Outlooks (Sandy/Pat)

- Pat noted that Chinook have been caught in Old Crow and Eagle, Alaska.
- There was a radio announcement in Alaska that said it was a record run this year; there have been a few peak pulses of fish through the river so far, but this does not mean that the run is strong
- The run is below average, but it is stronger than in the last few years
- There are numerous conference calls with the US, and daily email updates that keep us up to date.
- There have been two commercial openings in the lower 2 districts which have caught 28K Chinook, 8K more than last year.
- Radio tagging information shows that the fish are moving very fast this year, some are moving as fast as 40 miles per day.
- Water has been quite low; there was some high water in the lower US portion of the river.
- The US thinks the run is early, but there were no catches yet in Canadian wheels.
- Usually around June 26-28, is when first fish shows up at the Canadian fish wheels.
- The early US test fisheries CPUE's may have given the US of an early run; the test fisheries are just a tool and can be affected by many factors such as water levels.
- No one has any confidence in the numbers from Pilot Station. There are varying views on the accuracy of the run information, some conservation measures were practiced on the earlier pulses.
- It was suggested that DFO-STAD make a public announcement to clarify that there were record pulses, not a record run and that this statement needs to be

made clearly to the communities. Unfortunately the source the media used on the US side was not verified and the information was overzealous.

- There are already raised expectations in the communities, we need to ensure that the information that gets out is accurate, and a mechanism is in place to be more aggressive by calling up the media to correct the information error. Action against the individual should be taken on the Alaska side.
- Re: *Ichthyophonus* – There are reports of females having a less infection rate than in previous years. But data from the mouth is showing a higher infection rates than previously seen on the lower river this year, females 22% and males 30%. Concern rose that the rate of infection usually increases as the fish move up the river. The increased infection may be due to the fact that fishers are getting better at identifying the infection.

Q - Gord asked for clarification of who would be issuing press releases re: runs – in the past it has been the YSC.

- A - Joint press releases are the best way to go

- There is a need to clarify to the public the truth about the current status of the Yukon River run.
 - Sandy asked to confirm wording for sport fisheries in the IFMP: *“If preliminary in season run strength indicators, from Alaska and Canada, confirm that preseason expectations of a below average run of Chinook salmon and it appears run strength will be insufficient to meet escapement and First Nation fishery requirements, the daily catch and possession quota’s for the recreational fishery would be reduced to zero in late June and remain in affect until in season projections occur consistently in the green zone. If on the other hand the preliminary in season indicators suggest that restrictions are not likely to be required in the First Nation fishery then normal daily catch and possession as outlined in the table....”*
 - There were no issues with the wording for the Yukon River IFMP recreational fishery. Recommended that it include wording to the affect *that by mid July an assessment of can be done as to continuing or discontinuing the sport fishery.*
 - The commercial fishery would be worded as follows: *“The commercial fishery would remain closed until in season run projections in the green zone are consistently achieved. It is expected that reliable in season forecasts for Chinook salmon will not available until after mid July”*
 - Domestic is worded same as the commercial fishery.
- Q - What happens if the run crashes and we have to close everything? Closures will occur in the commercial, recreational and domestic fisheries. If this is not enough, then restrictions or closures in FN fisheries will occur.
- Q - How does DFO carryout all the above? Last year we called the affected First Nations and explain the situation, and came to an agreed schedule of closures.
- Q - Will there be actual enforcement actions? First Nations will be asked if they want DFO’s assistance with enforcing the closure.
- Need to have a contact person – this is Mary Ellen and she has been very proactive in talking with each FN to make plans for the season

- If there are FN closures required we will have to go on the road to spread the news and offer assistance
 - Pat and Mary Ellen went to Old Crow for a meeting about this year's fishery. It went very well.
 - Met first with the RRC and then had a public meeting. Stan and others presented to the community what is happening and explained the various R&E projects.
 - Isaac Anderton explained all of the R&E projects etc.
 - There will be dog food available and looking for fair ways to deliver the program and to distribute the food to community members
 - Old Crow community and First Nations wants to manage their own fishery, but may call in DFO to assist with enforcement
 - C - There has been open water the last few years in a stream near the north fork of Fishing Branch; the weir is located on the South Fork, there might be fish heading in this fork.
 - C - Bluefish river is dried up this year; there has always been water in this river, not sure how the other rivers will be affected.
 - Q - Was a new average for the Porcupine set yet? The Panel set a new minimum of 15k; Long-term rebuilding target is 50-120k.
- First sockeye and Chinook are through the weir on the Alsek
 - Run appears to be about average for both Chinook and Sockeye
 - Fish are above O'Connor and should be well into the system by now, especially the Chinook above the Blanchard
 - So far the Alsek/Tatshenshini run looks fine

10. Other Issues

- **Yukon Queen Working Group rep**
 - YSC has always had a representative on this group. Initially it was Gerry until he was contracted to act as Chair and facilitator. Then it was Jake Duncan, who was the YSC Habitat steward for Dawson
 - Since Jake is no longer an employee of the YSC, we need to choose a new representative.
 - Gerry recommended that Steve Taylor would be the obvious representative, as he is already located in the community.
 - Steve indicated that he did not think at this time that it was a good idea for him to be the represent; Steve suggested that it might be a better idea to put someone fresh in, without any of the prejudices of the community; He feels that he would be a very emotional participant and would request more drastic measures.
 - It was suggested to rotate the YSC representative, and have someone from outside who may be more objective.
 - We do not get any updates from the Working Group, at present. Gerry will request that we get on the distribution list and an official letter will be sent requesting updates.

ACTION ITEM #43-9: Secretariat to advise Yukon Queen Working Group that we do not need to have a permanent representative on the Working Group. When there is a Committee member available, we will attend meetings. We would like to receive all background material and be on the distribution list for the minutes.

ACTION ITEM #43-10: Stanley to attend the Yukon Queen Working Group on Saturday, June 28th, 2003 to represent the Yukon Salmon Committee.

- Gerry gave a bit of background on the Working Group's activities, to date: Group is setup by the Dawson district Renewable Resource Council. The group is made up of representative from DDRRC, Holland America, Yukon River Commercial Fishers Association, Trondek Hwechin First Nation, Klondike Visitors Association, the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, and the Yukon Salmon Committee.
 - Group is currently looking into short term and long-term solutions that meet the communities concerns, some progress has been made to date, it would be beneficial for representative from the Salmon committee to see the progress to date and see if it is sufficient.
 - It has been proven that the boat harms fish, question is how Holland America can adjust its operation to eventually come to a boat that will not harm the fish and still remain on the river and provide the economic benefit to Dawson.
 - The Working Group was set up to try and solve the problem in the community first. Because if the Federal Departments were asked so solve the problem, the resolution most likely would not be what the community would expect or want, once the Departments step in they can not easily step back if the results are not what the community wants.
- **DDRRC** - Steve brought up the issue of how Sebastien got removed from the DDRRC; Sebastien had been temporarily appointed for 1 year, to fill the remainder of a term, but Sebastien was not re-appointed. Chris Ball was appointed in his place. The decision was made by Minister Kenyon based on Cabinet input.
- C** - Comment made that the YSC could include the process of appointments, there are supposed to be communications and a consensus developing with the affected First Nations. As far as everyone is aware the Trondek Hwechin First Nations was not consulted and could put forward a complaint if they wanted.
- **Transfer of HCSP assets to Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board**
 - Board is in the process of interviewing and hiring Stewards, should be in place in a number of communities within the next few months (Mayo, Dawson, Old Crow)
 - Stewards funded by R&E and Ducks Unlimited. Depending on the community is on how the funding is taking place I.e. in Champagne Aishihik the steward is being funded strictly with Duck Unlimited.

- Concern raised on where the YSC HCSP assets will be used recommended that the Stewards will be working on salmon issues.
- Q - Will the assets not be in the community, or will they be sitting in an office in DFO? The YF&WB has requested that the Stewards utilize the items in the communities and they would have be control of the items.
- Committee agreed that the capital items (computers, faxes, scanners etc.) would be given to the Stewardship program at the Fish and Wildlife management Board, the one exception is the Digital Camera, and a video camera if it was an asset, which the committee would keep for their use as needed. Old Crow Assets never came back to DFO because the purchase price was lower than the limit.

ACTION ITEM #43-11: Secretariat to advise Fish and Wildlife Management Board that they can have the capital assets from the HCSP program for use in their stewardship program, with priority to those stewards that will be doing work with salmon. The only exception will be the digital camera, which will be kept by the YSC.

11. Budget Review – Louise Naylor

- Current Expenditures for 2003-2004 and planned expenditures summary.
 - 27K spent to date.
 - Summary forecasted remaining does not include items, not include addition items recommended during the March meeting.
 - Monthly Forecasts of Draft Budget for 2003-04,
 - Includes 5 committee members visiting communities for consultation; leave in budget until YSC asks for it to be removed.
 - Given current commitments, the remaining forecasted surplus is only \$4988
 - This forecasted breakdown does not include participation in the Placer Committee, should include participation of 1-2 YSC members until DFO comes through with funding for YSC members to attend.
 - It was noted that the YSC feels strongly about moving out of DFO for meetings, current forecast includes meetings outside of DFO at an additional expense of approx. \$400/day. June meeting was administered outside of meeting. Noted that the June meeting was found to be very noisy and distracting. **Recommendation was for October meeting to be held in Water board boardroom, and Secretary to come up with additional options for meeting rooms, along with advantages and disadvantages for presentation to the whole committee.**
- C - **The committee can not cut down on meeting times to accommodate the longer days for DFO staff, as the YSC is barely getting through what is currently on the agenda. If the committee cuts back and doesn't get anything done due to time restraints then the perception that the committee is getting paid for nothing is worse. DFO staff would prefer a three day meeting if given the option of a three or four day meeting.**

- It was noted that the YSC does not have as much funding as the YF&WB so not all options are not available to the committee that are available to the Board; **Recommend that this issue should be mentioned in the Implementation Review.**
- Suggests that prep days be given up for additional expenses of holding meetings outside of DFO.

ACTION ITEM #43-12: Next YSC meeting to be held in the Water Board boardroom. At this time Secretariat to provide a list of cost options for meeting spaces outside of the Federal building.

- Given current budget status, the YSC cannot afford to send any members to additional meetings, conferences etc. including the CASTS Conference September 18-20, 2003 in Saskatoon.

Meeting adjourned for Lunch at 12:00

Meeting was called to order at 1:30

12. YPA Presentation – G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem and Gerry Couture made their presentation on the Board's decision to support the Minister regarding the Yukon Placer Authorization.

- The YF&WMB has multiple species to deal with and they have a lot of questions, so inevitably the board forms a lot of working groups and they deal with these things on the working group level. The working group compiles the information reports to the board on a regular basis and get further instruction from the board on the direction to go,
- The boards participation in the Placer Authorization review came out of the mediation and Gerry Couture was assigned by the board as a working group of one to deal with it, this presentation was made up for the Board to explain the decision to the Board and the information used to come to that decision.
- Presentation included items such as the mandate under the UFA, roles of members of the YPC as per the YPA, the Yukon Placer Authorization process and review, explanation of placer terms such a deferrals and ministers requests, scientific studies on effects of sediment, historical and present information on affected fish species including habitat, food and stages of development, examples of historical and present mining operations, and examples of restoration and enhancement projects and success ratios.
- Committee members and DFO staff were very impressed with the thoroughness of the presentation, the amount of information and the attention to detail that was part of the presentation, it was obvious that a large amount of work had gone into the presentation.

Stan rejoined meeting at 1:40; Carl rejoined meeting at 1:50

13. Implementation Review

YSC discussed concerns and areas requiring improvements as well as shortfalls in the current setup of the Yukon Salmon Committee as setup under the UFA.

- Need to summarize the YSC accomplishments over the last 9 years, lean on success in habitat
- Need for additional \$ for part time staffing that are independent of DFO
- Need for more arms-length relationship with DFO
- Control and responsibility for budget that is adequate to our needs or funding that is not limited to fiscal year; Ability to carry forward
- Name change? Legality of Yukon Salmon Committee name versus the Salmon Sub Committee.
- Perhaps a reinstatement of the connection with the Board
- Ask if a representation from the YSC can be present when they make their presentation to the Minister; Gord commented that there most likely will not be a presentation in Ottawa, the DIAND representative who are part of the review committee are the key people that you need to convince.
- Training for Board and Committees – some funding is important. Currently it is only available to FN.
- Process change on administrative issues ie. budget – we are required to submit them to the Board, but our \$ are part of an internal account of DFO and the YSC has no control over this.
- The original intent when the UFA was being drafted was for the YSC to be a stand-alone committee, this needs to be addressed.
- Need for committee members to participation in review processes, YPA etc.
- Need for increase in funds to allow the YSC to travel to communities; Because of increased obligations re: consultations with First Nations
- One of the best ways to correct the public perception that the YSC is tied to DFO is public education.
- Contact Kelly Hayes re: her concise presentation for the Implementation Working Group.
- Staggering of appointments to ensure continuity
- Who will do the presentation? Last time the Chair and vice-chair made the presentation. Recommendation that Lorelei and Stan present to the review committee (Carl is an alternate)

ACTION ITEM #43-13: Secretariat to draft a submission for the Implementation Working Group outlining the YSC's concerns regarding UFA provisions and their implementation. Submission to include highlights of the YSC's accomplishments over the last 8 years.

ACTION ITEM #43-14: Lorelei and Stan to make presentation to the Implementation Working Group re: changes to the UFA under the Yukon Salmon Committee.

14. Conflict of Interest Guidelines

Will be discussed at next YSC meeting.

15. Placer Update – Gord Zealand

- The Steering committee is policy development at a very high level made up of YTG (Archie Lang), CYFN (Ed Shultz), KPMA (Tara Christie) and DFO (RDG- John Davis);
 - Steering committee is to come up with recommendations for the working group by April 1, 2004.
- Q** - Is there a terms of reference for the Steering Committee? Yes, Gord will ask Gerry Cormick if we can get a copy of terms of reference.
- Working Group is comprised of YTG (Rob Thompson and Don Toews), CYFN (Stewart Van Bibber, Darren Lease), KPMA (Tara Christie and Stuart Schmidt) and DFO (Gord Zealand and Sue Farlinger)
 - It has not yet been decided how other interest groups i.e. YSC, Board, YCS etc. will be involved, this will be decided at the steering committee level.

ACTION ITEM #43-15: Gord Zealand to provide copy of the terms of reference for the Placer Steering Committee, if it is available.

- Q** - Has the Minister's decision been changed? No, they will be working on implementing the changes.
- The YSC hopes that they will be invited to take part in this process; otherwise, they can use their ability to sit as an 'Interested Party'
 - It might be useful to communicate directly to John Davis advising him of our mandate (habitat) and asking him how he sees our participation in this process, given the fact that we have a mandate to take part in this.

ACTION ITEM #43-16: Lorelei to call RDG, with letter to follow to John Davis advising him of our mandate (habitat) and asking him how he sees our participation in the new placer process, given the fact that we have a mandate to take part in this.

16. Other Business

- **Habitat Consultant** - need to conduct interviews and hire habitat consultant. Lorelei and Craig to sit on hiring committee, Carl alternate if Craig is not available.
- **Creative Salmon** – does the YSC approve the Creative Salmons application to take milt?
 - The YSC reviewed the proposal and seems to not be very supportive of fish farming. How can they then support this application?
 - Creative Salmon has the ability to hold milt that is accessible to the Yukon if the stocks are depleted.
 - Suggestion that Creative Salmon may have the ability to assist industry in other ways

- Carl, Steve, Gerry, indicated that they supported Creative Salmon's application to collect milt this year.
- The YSC did not feel they were in a position to make a clear recommendation one way or the other, so are deferring any decision and letting the Minister make the decision regarding this application.

ACTION ITEM #43-17: Letter to G. Zealand advising him that the YSC cannot reach consensus on Creative Salmon's application to collect milt. The YSC is deferring making any recommendations on this application at this time. They will continue to work towards developing a position on aquaculture and look forward to making future recommendations.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:20.