

YUKON SALMON COMMITTEE
Meeting #52
May 17-19, 2005
Whitehorse, Yukon

MEETING DATES 2005-2006

Meetings to Date (2005)

Elsek River Working Group	January 28, 2005	Whitehorse
Porcupine River Working Group	February 17, 2005	Old Crow
YSC Meeting #50	February 22-24, 2005	Whitehorse
Yukon River Working Group	March 15, 2005	Whitehorse
YSC Aquaculture Workshop	March 16-17, 2005	Whitehorse
Old Crow Public Meeting	April 4, 2005	Old Crow
YSC Meeting #51	April 5-7, 2005	Dawson City
Dawson Public Meeting	April 6, 2005	Dawson City
YSC Meeting # 52	May 17-19, 2005	Whitehorse
Whitehorse Public Meeting	May 18, 2005	Whitehorse

Upcoming Meeting Dates (tentative)

YSC Meeting #53	June 13-16, 2005 (Postponed)	Whitehorse
Meeting with Ross River Dena Council	July 21 (tentative) (Postponed)	Ross River

MEETING SUMMARY

1. **Announcements**
2. **Review Agenda**
3. **Review Minutes:**
4. **Review Action Items**
5. **Review Correspondence**
 - Minister response re: YQII
 - Board request for update on Salmon aquaculture consultations
 - Health Canada's Contaminated Sites Programme
 - Coal Bed Methane

6. **Briefing: Environmental Management of Road Salts – Benoit Godin, Environment Canada**
7. **Review 2005-2006 Budget – Louise Naylor**
8. **Review Calendar**
9. **Review Agenda for Public Meeting**
10. **Review of Public Meeting**
11. **Other issues**
12. **Update from Executive Secretary**
13. **Fishing Branch Management - Pat Milligan**
14. **Outstanding Business**
15. **Update on Status of Creative Salmon application – Sandy Johnston**
16. **Members' Updates:**
 - ← State of the Salmon Conference (Joe, Craig, Vicky, Lorelei, Chuck)
 - ← Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (Johanne, Joe)
 - ← Wild Salmon Policy Workshop (Carl and Gerry)
 - ← Oil and Gas Workshop (Carl Sidney)
17. **Other**
 - ← Aquaculture package
18. **Briefing on Placer Regime (IN CAMERA)**
19. **Other Business**

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday **May 17th, 2005 – 9:00 a.m.**
Location: **Large Board Room, 419 Range Road**

Present:

Steve Taylor	Hardy Ruf	Joe Johnson
Lorelei Smith	Carl Sidney	Johanne Koser
Vicky Josie	Chuck Hume (9:15)	Stan Njootli (9:30)

Absent

Craig McKinnon

Staff

Andrea Wilson

Guests:

Lori Graham Laberge RRC Gerry Couture (ex-officio YSC member)

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 am

- Carl introduced and welcomed Johanne Koser, the new member to the YSC from the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board.
- Gerry Couture will be mentoring Johanne for the first meeting.
- No Ministerial appointments for YSC members have been received to date.
- Andrea clarified that YSC funding is currently held up as the Treasury Board submission for the next ten years is new, and that there is a recommendation to move to a Flexible Transfer Agreement, which would allow for carry forward etc.

Opening Prayer

- Steve Taylor said an opening prayer

1. Announcements

- Steve Smith will be taking over as Regional Negotiator/Executive Secretary for the YSC as of late June
- Andrea Wilson will be continuing to provide some support to the YSC, and will then be taking a year leave, starting in October.

2. Review Agenda

- Agenda was reviewed and some minor amendments made
- Lorelei suggested that the Youth contest should be implemented earlier in the year (talk to schools in September), further discussion on this in June
- Stanley noted that VGFN is holding a Salmon Gathering in June and has invited the YSC

ACTION ITEM #52-1: Secretariat to find out details of VGFN Salmon Gathering in June 2005 and pass on details to YSC members.

- Minto Gathering is also being organized, and the YSC are welcome to attend.
- Celebration of Salmon is being held in Dawson, in August, and Sebastien has asked the YSC for support

3. Review Minutes:

From February 2005 Meeting

- Reviewed and some minor changes made. All in favour. Minutes accepted with changes.

From April 2005 Meeting

- Reviewed and some minor changes made. All in favour. Minutes accepted with changes.

Meeting was adjourned for break at 10:10am

Meeting was re-convened at 10:25 am

4. Review Action Items

Action items were reviewed and updated.

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

ACTION ITEM #50-1: Secretariat to write a letter to the Minister, recommending to the minister that the commercial and domestic salmon fisheries be de-linked in regulations.

Draft letter and backgrounder prepared April 21st. Letter sent May 12th, 2005.

ACTION ITEM #50-5: Letter to 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.

Drafted for review May 10, 2005. Letter sent May 12th, 2005.

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. Letter to request that if First Nations anticipate problems with data collection and submissions, that they contact Mary Ellen Jarvis (DFO) for assistance.

Letter will be sent out in coordination with DFO AFS Coordinator, in late April or early May.

Mtg. #51: Letter drafted for review May 10th, 2005. Letter sent May 12th, 2005.

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.

Letter sent May 11th, 2005.

ACTION ITEM #50-14: BVD to attend the Northern Latitudes Mining Reclamation Workshop May 24-26 in Dawson City, if available. Advise Carl. BVD is not available to attend.

Mtg. #51: Gerry Couture to attend on behalf of the YSC, providing his term is renewed.

Mtg. #52: Due to limited funds, no one from the committee will be attending.

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

Letter drafted for review May 11th, 2005. Letter Sent May 24.

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.

Letter drafted for review May 12. Letter send May 13th, 2005.

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

Digital pictures were provided as requested

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.

Gord was unable to attend meeting in Dawson and is already committed to meetings for the Northern Fund in May.

Mtg. #51: Gord is on the YSC agenda for June 15th.

ACTION ITEM #51-1: Louise to make amendments to the financial report, to reflect the Air North credits that the YSC brought into this fiscal year.

Updated budget reflects requested changes.

ACTION ITEM #51-2: Louise to include a balance from accounts when presenting financial information.

Updated budget reflects requested changes.

ACTION ITEM #51-3: Carl will not attend the State of the Salmon Conference.

Arrangements cancelled.

ACTION ITEM #51-12: Carl to contact the Chair of the Placer Working Group to find out the status of the Placer Authorization and determine when the YSC will be briefed.

Carl did not speak with the Chair, but DFO has approached the YSC and will be providing a briefing during the YSC May meeting.

ACTION ITEM #51-16: Secretariat to contact Christine Cleghorn to arrange a meeting to discuss a joint recommendation re: coal bed methane extraction. BVD, Carl and Andrea met with Board Chair and Executive Director April 15th.

ACTION ITEM #51-17: BVD and Carl Sidney (Stan Alternate) to attend Oil and Gas Symposium (April 25-27) on behalf of the Yukon Salmon Committee.

No one was available to attend on behalf of the Salmon Committee.

ACTION ITEM #51-19: Secretariat to draft a letter to the Minister requesting that no aquaculture permits be issued in the Yukon until the YSC has completed their public consultations and drafted their policy regarding salmon aquaculture in the Yukon.

Letter drafted for review May 10th. Letter sent May 12th, 2005.

ACTION ITEM #51-20: May YSC meeting to be extended to three days (May 17-19).

Completed.

ACTION ITEM #51-21: Secretariat to compile information package on aquaculture consultations. Included summary of all public comments received, University of Alberta Sea Lice Study on west coast of BC, minutes from Hatchery Committee, proceedings from aquaculture workshop etc. for May meeting.

Available for May YSC meeting.

ACTION ITEM #51-22: June YSC meeting to be extended to include June 13-16, with one day devoted to discussion of aquaculture and Yukon Wild Salmon Policy and watershed template.

Completed.

ACTION ITEM #51-23: Secretariat to draft a letter to the community of Marshall and the Marshall School, thanking them for their hospitality in hosting the YR DFA Annual Meeting.

Letters sent May 12, 2005

5. Review Correspondence

Minister response re: Yukon Queen II (YQII)

- YSC sent letter to the Minister recommending that he instruct staff to meet with the YSC to come up with next steps for resolution of this problem.
- Minister's response was to suggest that Hugh Monaghan brief the YSC
- YQII Working Group has still not produced a report, deadline was April.
- Technical work done to date has not been very favourable to the boat
- Regulations are in place that should prevent the boat from operating

- Impacts of Yukon Queen II are not limited to the Dawson area; fry that are being killed could be from many different areas. Mitigation plan will need to address this.
- Dawson residents have been frequently left out of the loop, with regard to this issue.
- Study Plan was supposed to be reviewed by the Working Group, but the plan has not been completed and the Working Group has not been re-convened.
- Once report is received, it was suggested that the YSC utilize the dispute resolution process of the UFA
- Gerry clarified that Access Consulting is developing the report, which includes a presentation (this was to be presented to the Working Group in Dawson)
- YSC will need to find a representative to attend any briefing provided by Access Consulting to the Working Group in Dawson.

ACTION ITEM #52-2: Secretariat to contact Hugh Monaghan via e-mail and request a copy of the technical report prepared by Access Consulting re: the Yukon Queen II.

Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board request for update on Salmon aquaculture consultations

- YSC will be discussing this issue in June, so will present to the Board in October, if possible.

ACTION ITEM #52-3: Secretariat to draft a letter to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board indicating that the YSC will not be able to provide an update on the aquaculture consultations at their June meeting, but will be reviewing the consultations during their June meeting and will brief the Board as soon as possible.

- Once the YSC has reviewed the comments from the consultations, they will have a better sense of how to proceed
- The YSC will need to ensure that appropriate consultation is completed, prior to making a recommendation
- YSC has consulted extensively on this issue and will be reviewing all of the information received, reports reviewed, comments etc.
- Concern that the general public has not been fully consulted. This was refuted in that the YSC has printed newspaper ads, done public meetings, radio ads, website.
- Both the Board and YSC are empowered to make decisions; at some point the YSC will need to make a recommendation on this issue and the YSC will need to make the best decision that they can. The YSC has looked at this issue in great detail, and needs to make the right recommendation, rather than the most popular.

Health Canada's Contaminated Sites Program

- Federal Contaminated Sites Accelerated Action Plan involves Health Canada to address issues of impacts on Human Health re: contaminated sites.

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

Coal Bed Methane

- YSC discussed with Fish and Wildlife Management Board the possibility of doing a joint recommendation regarding coal bed methane
- The Board indicated that they would like to receive an additional briefing to see the whole picture re: coal bed methane, before making any recommendations
- The YSC would like to proceed on their own, and provide a letter to the Department of Oil and Gas.
- “*Coal Bed Methane (natural gas from coal)*” to be used in wording of letter
- YSC also to explore the issue of a joint briefing on coal bed methane with the Board.
- Fish and Wildlife Management Board should further explore this issue as well
- Suggested that the YSC write a letter to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board thanking them for meeting, indicating that they will proceed with their letter (copy to the Board) and that the YSC encourages the Board to continue to explore this important issue.

ACTION ITEM #52-5: Secretariat to draft a letter to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board thanking them for meeting, indicating that the YSC will proceed with their letter regarding Coal bed methane (copy to the Board) and that the YSC encourages the Board to continue to explore this important issue and keep the Committee apprised of their progress.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 for lunch.

Meeting was re-convened at 1:30.

6. Briefing: Environmental Management of Road Salts – Benoit Godin, Environment Canada

- YSC concern with road salts being dumped into streams and the possible impacts on fisheries
- City of Whitehorse dumps plowed snow near streams and rivers
- Benoit Godin provided an overview of Environment Canada’s Code of Practice for the Environmental Management of Road Salts (copy of presentation available in YSC May - Read File)
- Q – what portion does the chloride make up of the road salts? Would need to do some calculations to discern this.
- Many other substances being released into the water i.e. anti-freeze, oil, other chemicals etc.
- Right now it is difficult to monitor levels of chloride

- Current monitoring indicates that the levels are quite low, but monitoring has been patchy to date and EC is not certain if they are measuring at the best times or locations
- Q – Has EC done any monitoring at the City dump sites? No – not certain if testing is being done by City or YTG?
- Q – Standards for individuals, but are cumulative impacts addressed? No, these are not really addressed in the Code
- Q – What is the process if someone does exceed the allowable levels? Problem with the Code of Practice is that it is not legally enforceable
- Snow has to be dumped someplace, it is a matter of finding an area with the least impacts
- Q - How are areas designated as ‘vulnerable areas’? EC consults with the relevant agencies to determine areas where fish or wildlife are present
- Salt use in Whitehorse dates back many, many years
- Salt is added to gravel to aid in dust suppression – salt holds water.
- Q – Why isn’t just gravel or sand used? By adding salt to the gravel, it holds it in place more, as salt holds some moisture.
- Additional information <http://www.ec.gc.ca/nopp/roadsalt> or <http://www.tac-atc.ca>
- Q – How can a group like the YSC aid in this process? It could be helpful to ask City of Whitehorse or YTG to report on their management plans for salt use to the YSC
- Do measurements of salt use include private use? No, if these were included total would probably increase to about 1000 tons
- Q – How often are samples taken from McIntyre Creek? It was only sampled once.
- Q – Are the results of testing available? Right now EC is trying to compile all the data that has been collected by various agencies and individuals
- Q – In best practices, are the distances of dump sites from waterways covered? No. other factors such as volume and intensity of salt spreading are considered.
- Letter to the Department of EC recommending that further monitoring take place, would be beneficial
- Might be worthwhile to involve RRCs, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Board and First Nations in this issue.
- Suggested that this presentation be given to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board and local RRCs
- Also suggested that the YSC collaborate with EC to submit a proposal to the R&E fund, for funding to the test dump sites.

ACTION ITEM #52-6: Secretariat to draft a letter to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board suggesting that they contact Benoit Godin of EC, for a briefing on road salt management and its impacts on fish and wildlife.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 and re-convened at 2:45pm

7. Review 2005-2006 Budget – L. Naylor

- At the April YSC meeting, there was some uncertainty re: where the YSC stands with the YSC bank account and funding.
- YSC was not expecting their funding to arrive by April 1, so arranged a loan of \$45k from the Yukon Panel
- Since April 1, \$38k in expenditures
- With approx. \$18k on account as of April 1, remaining balance after expenditures and with loan, current balance is approximately \$25k.
- YSC has a number of outstanding invoices and claims, including the cost of the May YSC meeting
- After these are accounted for, the YSC would have approximately \$7k in the account, prior to the June meeting.
- Some invoices for items spent in March, were not received until April, so are included in this current year i.e. advertising for aquaculture workshop etc.
- Forecasted cost of June meeting is approximately \$23k.
- Treasury Board has advised that the YSC will not have their new funding until July, as the 10-year Treasury Board submission still needs to be approved.
- YSC cannot afford to pay members at the June meeting
- YSC will only cover accommodation costs for June meeting
- YSC's current funding is received quarterly, rather than in a lump sum
- The claim that will be put forward will cover all costs incurred to date, and forecasted costs for the next 6 weeks or so
- Once funding is received by the Region, it will take 3-7days to process.

Forecast for FY2005/2006

- Based on draft forecast, YSC would be forecasting a surplus of \$14k
- UFA requires the YSC to submit a budget to the Board annually
- Louise requested direction from the Committee in terms of how funding is to be allocated
 - August meeting on the land is not included in draft forecast, nor youth contest, Ross River meeting in July, additional meetings and other items from the Strategic Plan
 - In 2004-05 the YSC held only 4 regular meetings, but for 2005-06, will likely have at least 5 and possibly 6 meetings
 - Some funds should be allocated to Youth Contest and job shadowing as well
 - Youth contest to be allocated \$4k for advertising and coordination; additional \$10k to be put towards additional meetings (travel, honoraria etc.)

8. Review Calendar

Invite to meeting and Presentation on aquaculture to YF&WMB – June 7-9 or Oct 5-7, 2005

- YSC members on the board can provide an update at the Board meeting in June
- Carl would like to attend the meeting in June

ACTION ITEM #52-7: A YSC member to provide an update on aquaculture consultations to the Board at their October meeting. Secretariat to write a letter to the Board advising of this.

Dawson Public Meeting (schedule in evening for 2006?)

- tabled until June pending finalization of YSC appointments

YSC meeting dates 2005-06

- tabled until June pending finalization of YSC appointments

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission Thirteenth Annual Mtg. (October 24-28, 2005, Lotte Hotel Jeju, Jeju Island, Republic of Korea)

- YSC will not attend.

ACTION ITEM #52-8: Carl to draft a letter to the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission introducing the YSC and requesting an invitation to their 13th Annual Meeting in October.

Northern Latitudes Mining Reclamation Workshop

- (Dawson City, May 24-26, \$250 registration fee (Action Item #50-14)) – YSC will not attend.

Salmon Gathering (Old Crow) – June 3-5

- Carl will attend, if invited. Vicky or Stan to attend on behalf of the YSC

Celebration of Salmon (Dawson)

- Date has not been announced yet; likely in late August.

ACTION ITEM #52-9: Lorelei/Andrea to contact Dawson Habitat steward asking for details on the Celebration of Salmon in Dawson. Ask for clarification of participants, concept, activities etc.

Andrea e-mailed Sebastien for details May 18th.

May Gathering (Pelly) – May 24-26

- ← Joe to attend

ACTION ITEM #52-10: Joe Johnson to attend the May Gathering in Pelly May 24-26, 2005.

9. Review Agenda for Public Meeting

- Agenda was reviewed and some adjustments made.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Whitehorse Public Meeting – 7:00pm – High Country Inn

Wednesday **May 18th, 2005 – 9:00 a.m.**
Location: **Large Board Room, 419 Range Road**

Meeting was called to order at 9:05am.
All present with the exception of Craig McKinnon. Chuck Hume (9:15).

Guests:

Lori Graham (Laberge RRC)
Gerry Couture

10. Review of Public Meeting

- Very poor attendance at Public meetings, particularly in Whitehorse
- When there are no issues, the public does not attend
- If there were fisheries closures or major issues to discuss, it would be different
- Holding the meeting earlier might provide better turnout
- YSC also needs to celebrate successes
- Need to also consider when stock assessment numbers are available – usually late April or early May at the earliest
- YSC needs to highlight the issues of interest to the public.

11. Other issues

- Joe Johnson brought up the issue of the Nisling River, for which there is very little data available
- Accessibility of this area is very limited, so it is difficult to survey
- Joe requested that this issue be placed on the agenda for future consideration
- Possibility of working with the First Nation and DFO technical advisors and put together an application to the R&E fund
- Gerry noted that there is actually quite a bit of information available, that was collected by DFO in the 1970s
- First step might be to collect the existing data
- Tincup Creek (Donjek and Kluane systems) is used as an index stream
- Carl will speak with Al Von Finster to discuss the best approach.

ACTION ITEM #52-11: Carl Sidney to speak with Al Von Finster regarding available data on the Nisling River and about the possibility of accessing R&E funding to collect additional data.

12. Update from Executive Secretary

Audit

- Copy of the full Audit to be made available to members, if requested. All members requested a copy of the summary.
- Possibility of sending out audit electronically prior to the meeting

- Steve T. feels that the audit was out of line and that the YSC should have been exempt from it
- Hardy disagreed and noted that the Government provides funding for the YSC to operate, and the YSC is obligated to be transparent. Maybe some useful information will come out of the audit.
- Make sure to note obligations in terms of audit requirements
- Summary requested of findings of the audit
- Stan suggested an ad hoc committee be formed to review the findings of the audit to the Committee
- Chuck noted that the YSC was placed under the Fish and Wildlife Management Board, and the board should be administering the YSC's funding. Suggested that the Fish and Wildlife Management Board should be doing the auditing
- Some members feel that the YSC should not participate in any further performance audits.
- YSC should not be audited by DFO and their procedures; just because the funding comes from DFO, should not mean DFO auditors conduct the audit
- Suggested that the YSC first look at the audit before deciding whether they should be taking part in any further DFO audits.
- Andrea clarified that for the most part the audit focused on DFO and their financial practises. DFO was aware that prior to a new Treasury Board submission going through an audit was to take place; the audit was not an unscheduled event.
- Question that will need to be answered is "are YSC members required to take part in questioning as part of a DFO internal audit?"
- There is a concern that the jurisdiction of the YSC could be hampered by DFO interpreting what the YSC's mandate is.

ACTION ITEM #52-12: Secretariat to arrange for a briefing of the results of the YSC Audit for the June meeting. If possible, briefing to be provided by those who conducted the audit. Copy of the full Audit to be provided to members for review.

13. Fishing Branch Management - Pat Milligan

- Last year there was a test fishery and a substitution fishery in Old Crow
- This year, the community would like to hold a regular fishery, if runs allow, so need to have a plan in place for management
- Question of when to start the fishery, as the weir is located about 400km from Old Crow
- Usually by Sept.15 about 53% of the fish pass through the weir (this corresponds to them going by Old Crow about August 30)
- On Sept. 15 at the weir, most of the fish would be past Old Crow, but many would be enroute to Fishing Branch
- Problem is that in the period after Sept. 15 ice can be starting to run

- Is there still some \$ available to get some dog food? No – VGFN withdrew the proposal for this year; community felt that they were bearing the brunt of conservation and would prefer to fish this year
- Mark Recapture program is going very well, but program needs to be in place by August 15th or earlier, in order to catch all of the run
- Vicky indicated that fishing usually start fishing around the 8th of September
- There are a number of tributaries off of the Porcupine
- Test fishery usually runs 5-6 weeks (near Old Crow, just downstream 24km)
- Weir operates 375km further away in Fishing Branch, and operates for about 6 weeks
- There is a 2 week lag between fish passing Old Crow and arriving at the weir
- Q – Where does the bulk of the fishery take place? From 12 miles above to 14 miles below.
- Q - How does VGFN feel about the management? Last year, VGFN had a voluntary closure, which took some time to get people to stop fishing.
- VGFN would like to have DFO make a formal announcement, in terms of opening or closing the fishery and provide enforcement support, if a closure is needed
- Locally it is very difficult to enforce, as it is a small community; this is why VGFN has asked for DFO's assistance
- Need to decide at what point the data is reliable; last year data at the beginning of the season was very patchy and not very reliable
- Tagging location and recovery point of the test fishery are too close together – would be more effective to move the sites farther apart to provide more reliable info
- Q – Has Old Crow developed a salmon management plan? No
- Elders have requested a fishing opportunity; as a result, VGFN support opening the fishery.
- Community is upset that they feel they are conserving fish for the Americans, who do not take steps to conserve the resource
- Yukon Panel has recommended 24k for escapement
- Stan has always advocated for a lower escapement goal
- Suggested that fishery be opened early in the season and cautiously approach a set target i.e. start with a 2-day per week opening and if run does not materialize, close the fishery and let remaining fish pass.
- If fishery is opened too late in the season, the river starts to ice up by the time people are able to fish
- It is also possible to retain the fish caught in the mark-recapture program (usually about 1000 to 1200 fish). If there is a test fishery with no fishery for citizens, there is a lot of resentment in the community
- Is there a target for the fisheries? i.e. max number of fish harvested
- If management approach was truly to put conservation first, fishery would not be opened until Sept. 15, at which point there would be very little time left to fish before ice up.
- It's possible to have the community run the test fishery and retain the catch

- If escapement goal is 24k, is there a certain date by which time a certain number of fish must reach Fishing Branch in order to meet this goal? Yes, we have a long history of counts for FBR, but the earlier date that you choose, the more risk there is that the run structure and timing might not be correct
- By Sept. 1, you usually only see 5-7% of fish through the weir; the longer you wait, the greater the confidence in the run timing i.e. Sept. 8 about 15%
- Q – Who do you mean when you say ‘First Nation’? In the Porcupine River Working Group, VGFN is represented by their Lands and Resources Department.
- One or two days of fishing makes a big difference in Old Crow, as the fishing season is very close to the time of slush running.
- The US will be fishing these fish as well, which provides additional pressure on the stocks.
- It seems that the best approach would be to start the season with limited fishery and then open fishery more, if run strength allows.
- Q – Does DFO have a handle on the harvest levels at Old Crow? Historically, Old Crow fished quite heavily.
- Today, the community harvests approximately 6k fish.
- About 500 fish are used for human consumption and the remainder are for dog teams
- Q – Isn’t there a glitch in your estimates, as there are often pulses of fish? Yes, the numbers presented are averages
- Need to take a very cautious approach with this fishery, as the tools to assess the fishery with confidence are not in place and we don’t want to risk further harming these runs, which already need to be rebuilt
- It is probably preferable to have local fishers supplying data

Dawson Test Fishery

- Sebastien Jones sent an e-mail to the YSC about the R&E project for the test fishery in Dawson.
- The steering committee for the R&E project, composed of reps from Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in FN, Yukon River Commercial Fisheries Association, DDRRC, and Dawson Steward recommended in 2005 that if the runs for 2006 were good i.e. an unrestricted FN fishery and meeting escapement goals, that the test fishery would be eliminated and the commercial fishery be used in a very restricted basis to replace the test fishery.
- Problem is that if you make a mistake in the estimates, it is very difficult to ask the FN to restrict the fishery, if the commercial fishery has been opened
- Sebastien raises a good point, in that the commercial catch effort could be controlled and monitored. Difference is that the commercial fishers would be able to market the fish under their licences instead of the fish going to the First Nations.
- The suggestion would be that you would go into the season with all fisheries open.
- Yukon River fish go through American fisheries a month before they cross the border, so fisheries managers have a good idea of run strength

- Option would be that if the numbers do not materialize, the commercial fishery would be closed and the test fishery would resume
- Need to also consider views of community members in this as well
- There are over 100 different spawning stocks and fish are travelling to many different areas
- Need to authorize the fisheries managers to make in-season management decisions, as it is impractical for the YSC to try to make these decisions in-season
- Also need to ensure that the fishery is limited at the beginning, to ensure that stocks are protected.
- Closing the test fishery will also save a lot of money, as the project costs approx. \$40k annually from the R&E fund.
- Radio telemetry studies have shown that the first fish in Dawson are Klondike origin fish; traditional knowledge also supports this.
- DNA sampling is providing more detailed information on stock composition
- Effort of the commercial fishery is also a factor to consider, as we need to ensure that fishers will not fish hard for a short period and catch the same amount of fish
- **YSC Recommendation is to authorize the DFO fisheries managers to make decisions as to whether or not there is a test fishery based on the best management information and practices available.**

ACTION ITEM #52-13: Carl to contact Sebastien via e-mail to communicate the management decision regarding the Dawson fishery.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50am for lunch.

Meeting was re-convened at 1:40 pm

14. Outstanding Business

Aquaculture – results of consultations to date and next steps

- Members were polled to see how best to approach this issue; it was decided that members wanted to review the contents of the consultation packages over the next month and have a day of discussion at the June meeting, as previously discussed.

‘Standing’ of YSC at other Boards and Committees

- YSC may need to use ‘standing’ to ensure that Land Use plans etc. have the proper info with regard to salmon and habitat information
- Other Boards and Committees need to be made aware of the fact that the YSC exists and has a mandate relevant to these issues

15. Update on Status of Creative Salmon application – Sandy Johnston

- Application was sent to the Transplant Committee (DFO and YTG) and application was approved subject to approval from the Hatchery

- What happens with this now, is that the application goes to DFO for a response to the applicant
- Hatchery has indicated that the fish will not be available this year
- There is still some uncertainty with the Hatchery
- Concern of the Hatchery is that the US would not provide R&E funding, if the hatchery supported the application
- Transplant Committee looks solely at scientific risks with Transplant i.e. infection, contamination
- YSC is supposed to have input into the permitting process
- Gerry requested copy of the letter from the Hatchery to DFO, to verify the reasons for their refusal
- The reasons cited by the Hatchery for not providing fish to the proponent (Creative Salmon) were not correct
- YSC would need to request a copy of the letter from the Hatchery
- Yukon Energy is not required to provide reasons for not giving access to Hatchery fish for collection by Creative Salmon.
- Process for approval of the permit: Proponent submits application, application is technically reviewed by the Transplant Committee, and Minister (Area Director DFO) considers technical recommendations and other factors i.e. input from the YSC, First Nations, Hatchery, Community etc.
- From the Yukon River Panel Reference Manual, Appendix 1 Principles and Guidelines for Restoration, Conservation and Enhancement Programs and projects section 7 – “The Yukon River Panel shall apply the most stringent of the fish genetics and fish disease policies of the management entity of either Party to restoration or enhancement programs and projects”.
- Coded wire tagging project also provides funding for student employment at the Hatchery
- If the Hatchery does not grant access to fish for Creative Salmon, CS will have to submit a new application to the transplant committee and start the process again.
- Creative Salmon have 15K straws of frozen milt. The viability of the frozen milt in storage decreases with time.
- Why is DFO pushing the Hatchery to re-think its reasons for not allowing Creative Salmon access to fish? DFO supports sustainable aquaculture and does not feel that Yukon Energy’s stated reasons for denying access (fear of losing R&E funding) are valid. Hatchery’s concern re: questions in the Yukon about the practice of transferring genetic materials are, however, valid
- Conditional approval of the permit (i.e. conditional on getting access to fish) may not be satisfactory to Creative Salmon
- Problem remains that the Minister has ultimate authority in this matter; YSC can only make recommendations
- Minister is required to provide written reasons for varying or turning aside the YSC’s recommendation.
- Public opposition to the transfer of genetic materials is very strong; there were very few organizations and individuals who support this practice

- YSC has already made a recommendation to the Minister (or his representative) about the application for this year. At this point the YSC must wait for the Minister's response and then will have the opportunity to respond to the Minister. A formal UFA mechanism has been activated and the Minister has time to review the YSC's recommendation; in turn, the YSC will have time to reply to the Minister's response
- Minister's representative is aware of the substance of the YSC's recommendation and is aware of its confidentiality
- Transplant Committee is a technical body, whose task is to review the risk of the Transplant from a scientific perspective; their recommendation is only a piece of the information used to make the final decision. The Minister's representative (DFO Area Director) also considers input from the YSC, First Nations, public etc.
- Sandy will look into the possibility of including Traditional Knowledge in the Transplant Committee
- YSC's consultations include Traditional Knowledge and the other side of the equation i.e. public input beyond just the technical input of the Transplant Committee
- Chuck suggested the need for a Yukon Fisheries Act, which incorporates the obligations of Final Agreements
- If the Minister accepts the YSC's recommendation, the Minister has an obligation to Creative Salmon, which will need to be addressed by the Minister
- Q – Is it possible for Creative Salmon to get the milt from a FN fisher? FN harvest is only for personal use and milt cannot be sold commercially.

ACTION ITEM #52-14: Sandy Johnston to look into the possibility of incorporating Traditional Knowledge into the Transplant Committee, through a new representative.

16. Members' Updates:

State of the Salmon Conference (Joe, Craig, Vicky, Lorelei, Chuck)

- (VJ)All different countries were brought together, so it was an excellent way to see the different management systems and to open the door to information sharing
- (CH)Over 200 scientists in attendance from across the world
- (CH)Japanese have been studying ocean conditions and have indicated that they will be phasing out some of their enhancement work
- (CH)The meeting was more for scientists than lay people
- (CH)Would have been worthwhile for DFO to attend
- (JJ)There was very little discussion about habitat and conservation
- (JJ) Everyone discussed their concerns with global warming
- (JJ)Meeting was very informative

- Q – Any discussion on high seas fishing, gear used and crossing boundaries? Yes, there was a little discussion but most of the discussion on scientific knowledge.
- Q – Was there any discussion of ichthyophonus? Yes. Russia indicated that they did not have the infection, but Japan indicated that they had some problems; there was no consensus on the infection and where it is from.
- Chuck left some information from the Conference in the YSC office

Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (Johanne, Joe)

- YFWMB Chair would like more information on Coal Bed methane
- Joe suggested the possibility of flowing the YSC's funding through the Fish and Wildlife Management Board
- Placer regime is of interest to the Board, as the Board doesn't feel that they have been consulted on the regime; they have been 'informed' on occasion, but have not had direct input.

Wild Salmon Policy Workshop (Carl and Gerry)

- April 30th Carl and Gerry attended the workshop and went through the recommended changes that had been added to the policy
- Consultation still needs to be completed on this
- If wild salmon is to be protected, DFO needs to develop a implementation plan that accomplishes this
- R&E money may be used to do some of the things required from this policy
- Political decisions will still be made outside of the Policy

Oil and Gas Workshop (Carl Sidney)

- April 25-27, Hosted by Government; Carl attended on behalf of **Selkirk First Nation**
- Presentation on Artic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)
- Provided a showcase for Industry

17. Other

Aquaculture package

- missing Creative Salmon presentation; will be forwarded to members ASAP
- video from Suzuki foundation is available
- Proceedings from the workshop – should they be sent out immediately? Post Workshop proceedings on YSC website.

ACTION ITEM #52-15: Secretariat to post proceedings from Aquaculture workshop on YSC website and send notification to participants of its availability.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm

Thursday **May 19th, 2005 – 9:00 a.m.**
Location: **DAP Board Room, 419 Range Road (#210 - Upstairs)**

All members present with the exception of Craig McKinnon, Lorelei Smith and Chuck Hume.

Wayne Hrynuik from the Fish and Wildlife Management Board also in attendance
Meeting called to order at 9:10 am

18. Briefing on Placer Regime (IN CAMERA)

19. Other Business

- Chair expressed concerns with DFO ‘running the YSC’; taking direction from DFO staff;
- Johanne noted that she would like to see a closer relationship between the Board and YSC; there are many things that could be done to foster a closer relationship between the two
- Need to also be in concert with other Boards and Committees i.e. YESAA, Water Board; closer coordination on specific issues is required
- Invite Chair and Executive Director of Board to attend YSC meeting for 1-2 days
- Ongoing relationship with DFO will continue to evolve
- Need to work on collaboration between Board and YSC, as well as other Boards as communication is weak
- With the increase in development there will be a need for increased coordination between boards and committees
- Possibility of planning a ‘meeting on the land’ with the Board, which would foster better discussions among members between each meeting. Each committee would have their own agenda for specific issues, but develop a better working relationship between the two groups.
- Gerry Couture thanked the Committee members for their efforts and expressed his appreciation for the hard work and time they spent together.

- **Agenda for next YSC Meeting -June 13-16 (June meeting postponed, due to member availability and funding issue)**
 - Legal Briefing (Hugh MacAulay - June)
 - Straw dog for Salmon Management Plan – Lorelei Smith
 - Enforcement Update – Steve Smith
 - AAROM Update – Mary Ellen Jarvis
 - Impacts of Contaminants (Dawson Sewage) see 51-15
 - Aquaculture
 - Costs and Benefits of Creating a ‘Salmon Synopsis’ – Lorelei Smith
 - Youth Contest
 - Dawson Public Meeting (schedule in evening for 2006?)

- YSC meeting dates 2005-06
- Habitat Update
- YSC Audit
- In-Camera session for members

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10.
