



Yukon Salmon Committee Update

Volume 1, Issue 6

January 2001

Meeting Highlights

The Yukon Salmon Committee met in Whitehorse January 16-18, 2001. Following is a brief overview of some of the items that were discussed at the meeting:

☆ **Yukon Territory Fishery Regulations Re-Write**

The YSC received a briefing on the ongoing re-write of these regulations. This initiative will not change the substance of the regulations, but will make them easier to administer.

☆ **Responsible Fishing Awards for Youth**

The YSC has launched this fun contest in Yukon schools to get kids thinking about the importance of salmon. The contest will run January 22nd – March 9th.

☆ **Yukon River Drainage Basin Harvest Study**

The YSC viewed a presentation from LGL Ltd. on their findings from the fifth year of this study. For details see pg. 2.

Contact Us!

We want to hear from you!

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, or if you would like to make a submission or include an item in our Calendar of Events, please don't hesitate to contact us. We can be reached at:

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Salmon Committee members are always glad to talk to you. Here's where they can be reached:

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Yukon River Drainage Basin Harvest Study

2000 Update

The year 2000 marked the fifth year of the Yukon River Drainage Basin Harvest Study, a five to seven year study which is gathering annual catch and effort estimates, as well as historical information, for Yukon First Nations salmon subsistence fisheries.

Interviews of First Nations members in the regions of Dawson, Mayo, Pelly Crossing/Minto, Carmacks, Ross River, Whitehorse, Teslin and Burwash were conducted during both the chinook and chum fisheries. Information collected in these interviews was used to make the following estimates for the 2000 season:

Estimated catch of chinook and chum salmon by region fished.

Numbers are the percent effort multiplied by estimated catch by First Nation.

	Dawson	Mayo	Pelly	Carmacks	Whitehorse	Ross River	Teslin	Burwash	Total
Chinook	318	660	1,147	1,654	0 ¹	124	165	0 ¹	4,068
Chum	1,447	0 ²	827	643	0 ²	0 ²	0	0 ¹	2,917

¹ No interviews obtained from this region.

² No fishery in these regions.

The total estimated effort of 20,655 hours was the lowest on record since the beginning of the study (1996).

Some comments from First Nation fishers include:

“I would like to see stricter regulations to ensure healthy salmon populations for future generations to benefit”

“I heard on the radio the fish are disappearing so I pulled my net out.”

“They are trying to regulate the salmon fishing too much.”

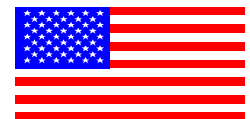
“The government should listen to the native people more”

International Negotiations

The Yukon Salmon Committee, as members of the Canadian portion of the currently inactive Yukon River Panel, is continuing to seek a resolution to Canada-U.S. Yukon River salmon negotiations. Although the Yukon River Panel has not yet been formally re-established, this may occur in the near future. In the meantime both Canadian and U.S. governments, and in particular the previous Alaskan and Yukon co-chairs of the Yukon River Panel, want to prepare for a Yukon River Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Program to be re-activated in 2001.

To achieve this, the co-chairs have approved a call for proposals now, with actual approval processes being subject to funding confirmation.

The next negotiation session is tentatively scheduled for March 12-16, 2001, in Whitehorse.



The Yukon Habitat Conservation & Stewardship Program (HCSP)

YSC will feature regular updates from our Habitat Stewards in the Communities. This month we hear from Brad Wilson in Mayo and Stephanie Muckenhiem, the HCSP Coordinator in Whitehorse.

Brad Wilson Mayo

HCSP has been very exiting in its first six months in the Na-Cho Nyak Dun traditional territory. The Habitat Steward has assisted with ongoing projects such as the test incubation box program, and the McQuesten River logjam diversion project. He has initiated the Restoration and Enhancement Sub-Basin Planning Process on key streams within the traditional territory, and has also begun discussions on salmon and salmon habitat with the community. This communication has led to the identification of a number of projects that the community can pursue in the future. The Habitat Steward has also been assisting various individuals and groups within the community to write funding proposals for projects such as an Upper Stewart River, and a Moose Creek, Stock and Habitat Assessment.

The Jr. Ranger organization and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun have been, and continue to be, invaluable to the HCSP in Mayo. These organizations recently began working together to take a proposed salmon incubation box project one step closer to realization, and the Habitat Steward would like to thank them for their commitment to salmon restoration and enhancement initiatives such as this. Community partnerships continue to be the backbone of the Habitat Conservation and Stewardship Program.

Stephanie Muckenhiem Whitehorse

The YSC-Habitat Conservation and Stewardship Coordinator is critical to the overall administration of the Yukon's HCS Program. The Coordinator handles financial matters associated with the program, and oversees and reports on its implementation.

Communication between the Habitat Stewards is an integral component of the Habitat Conservation and Stewardship Program. A key role of the HCS Coordinator is to set up conference calls and meetings between the YSC Habitat Stewards, the DFO Habitat Auxiliary, and the City of Whitehorse Habitat Steward. These meetings or "Steward Summits" provide a forum for discussion and updates on community initiatives. The coordinator organizes and administrates these meetings and acts as a liaison between all groups.

One of the HCSP's latest successes has been the recent Conservation and Stewardship Workshop that was held in January 2001 at the Yukon Inn. Over 50 people attended the 2-day workshop, to participate in presentations and discussions about working together to encourage conservation and

FROM THE SALMON COMMITTEE KITCHEN...

Smoked Salmon Quesadillas

Ingredients:

1/4 cup fresh goat cheese

1/4 cup cream cheese

1 avacado, thinly sliced

1 anaheim chili, roasted, peeled, cored, & seeded

1 red bell pepper, roasted, peeled, cored, & seeded

1/4 cup chopped scallions

4 oz. smoked salmon (or more if feeling decadent)

3 flour tortillas

Directions:

Mash goat cheese and cream cheese together. Spread 1/3 of cheese mixture on 1/2 of tortilla. Layer 1/3 of remaining ingredients in the following order: chili & pepper, avacado, scallions, salmon. Fold tortilla and press to seal.

Repeat with remaining 2 tortillas and ingredients. In skillet (pref. non-stick) toast both sides of quesadilla till light brown. Cut into 4 wedges and serve immediately.



HABITAT ISSUES

Faro Mine

After a brief period of compliance, water quality has once again deteriorated at the mine site. Issues of concern include ice-making ability, water levels, discharge, long-term water treatment ability, water licence amendments, abandonment and reclamation. The Yukon Salmon Committee is now exploring the legal obligations of all the parties involved prior to taking any further action.*

2001 Yukon Placer

Authorization Review

The 2001 YPA review continues to progress and the Yukon Salmon Committee is taking an active role. The YSC has requested funding commitments from the Minister to ensure that a comprehensive and complete consultation is conducted. It is apparent that in order to complete a proper consultation, deadlines will have to be extended. The YSC is also recommending that an independent body conduct the consultation. *

United Keno Hill Mine

UKHM continues to hover on the edge of bankruptcy, and has recently been granted an extension, until January 16th, 2001, to raise funds for its creditors. The Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation has expressed interest in the purchase of the mine, and will be looking for investment partners at the upcoming Cordilleran Roundup in Vancouver. The Yukon Salmon Committee will continue to monitor the situation at this site. *

Clinton Creek Asbestos Mine

Representatives from DIAND and UMA (the engineering firm hired to develop solutions for the treatment of the mine site) briefed the YSC of the issues surrounding this site. The YSC was advised that while funding is not presently available for permanent solutions, short-term measures are being considered to stabilize the site. The YSC will recommend to the Minister that immediate action be taken to ensure safety at the site, and that a long-term plan must be developed and initiated. The YSC will further advise the Minister of existing UFA obligations to provide local First Nations with a clean water supply. *

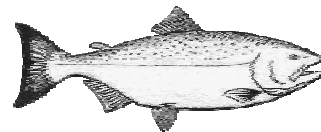
Mine Site Tour

The YSC is planning to organize a site tour of the Faro Mine this spring. The YSC hopes to bring together local First Nations chiefs, the Yukon River Tribal Watershed Council, and others to coordinate pressure for clean up of the site. *

Upcoming Meetings...

The Yukon Salmon Committee plans to hold a number of meetings, including those open to the public, in Yukon communities in the coming months. Following are the tentative dates:

- April 3-5, 2001 - Dawson City (public meeting)
- April 6-7, 2001 Old Crow (public meeting)
- May 1-3, 2001 - Haines Junction (public meeting)
- May 4-6, 2001 - Whitehorse (Lions Trade Show)
- June 5-8, 2001 - Whitehorse (public meeting)



If you have any issues or concerns you would like to have addressed, please do not hesitate to contact us!