



Yukon Salmon Committee Update



Volume 1, Issue 3

April-May 2000

Meeting Highlights

The Yukon Salmon Committee met in Dawson City and Old Crow April 5-8, 2000. Following is a brief overview of some of the items that were discussed at the meeting:

✧ International Negotiations

The YSC discussed the upcoming International Negotiation session and confirmed YSC representation.

✧ United Keno Hill Mines

The YSC reviewed a number of concerns with this operation and received an update on the status of charges against UKHM.

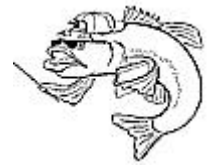
✧ Yukon River & Porcupine River Salmon Management Plans

The YSC held public meetings to review and discuss the proposed Salmon Management Plans for the Yukon and Porcupine Rivers. All aspects of these fisheries were discussed and the YSC and Fisheries and Oceans Canada answered questions from the public. ✧

Fish Facts

During the first summer of their life, many juvenile Yukon River Chinook salmon migrate upstream into tributaries where they feed and grow. They may migrate more than 10 kilometers upstream during the summer.

Many juvenile Chinook salmon that spend their first summer in small streams will spend the winter there. Most will leave the small streams to start their long migration to the ocean by mid-June of the following year.



International Negotiations

Salmon Committee representatives attended Yukon River Salmon negotiations, April 26-29 in Fairbanks, Alaska.

The negotiations were extremely successful, with substantial progress being made.

As part of the meeting, stakeholder representatives met separately and prepared a summary of their expectations for successful conclusion of the negotiations and identified problems that are impacting Yukon River Fisheries.

Following productive negotiations, the Delegation prepared a draft text of a Yukon River Salmon Agreement, which addressed all conservation and management issues except harvest shares. The Canadian delegation also explained its catch share proposal for the years 2000-2001 and 2002-2005.

The next round of negotiations is scheduled to take place October 31–November 4, 2000 in Whitehorse. It is anticipated by the Delegations that the complete Agreement could be concluded at that session



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Meeting Highlights
- 2 Contact Us
- 2 Salmon Conservation Catch Cards
- 3 Yukon River Salmon Management Plan
- 4 Habitat Update

SALMON CONSERVATION CATCH CARDS

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:

Yukon Salmon Committee
 100-419 Range Rd.
 Whitehorse, YT
 Y1A 3V1
 867-393-6719 (phone)
 867-393-6738 (fax)
salmon@yknet.yk.ca (e-mail)

www.yukonweb.com/government/salmon/

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

Carl Sidney (<i>Chair</i>)	Teslin	390-2532 Ext. 225
Gerry Couture (<i>Vice</i>)	Dawson	993-6487
Chuck Hume	Haines Jct.	634-2288
Llew Johnson	Stepping Stone (Minto)	2M-3984
Joni MacKinnon	Whitehorse	667-2843
Stanley Njootli	Old Crow	966-3606
Steve Taylor	Dawson	993-5385
Craig McKinnon	Haines Jct.	634-2329 Ext. 272
Vicki Josie	Old Crow	966-3709
Clyde Blackjack	Carmacks	863-6331

2000 Salmon Conservation Catch Cards Now Available

The Yukon's Salmon Sport fishing season is quickly approaching. Salmon Conservation Catch Cards are now available for sale at the following vendors:

WHITEHORSE

Airliner Convenience Store
 Canadian Tire
 Fisheries & Oceans – Range Rd.
 Kopper King Services
 McCrae Petro Canada
 Pumpers Service Station
 Renewable Resources – Whitehorse Branch
 Riverside Grocery
 Sports North
 The Sportslodge
 Trails North Car & Truck Stop
 Yukon Fish & Game Association

CARMACKS

Tatchun Centre

DAWSON CITY

Dawson Trading Post

HAINES JUNCTION

Dalton Trail Lodge
 Madley's General Store

RURAL YUKON

Johnson's Crossing Lodge
 Tagish Stores
 Tom's Variety

Salmon Conservation Catch Cards are also available in the

Returning your 1999 Salmon Conservation Catch Card

The Yukon Salmon Committee is working to obtain the best information possible on the Yukon's Salmon Sport Fishery. In order to achieve this objective, all salmon anglers are required by law to return their 1999 Catch Card before they can be issued a 2000 Catch Card. Vendors have been provided with a list of anglers who have not returned their catch cards as of March 15, 2000. **All anglers included on this list who wish to clarify their fishing status for 2000 must come to Fisheries and Oceans, at 100-419 Range Road. ♣**

What do fish say when they hit a concrete wall?

Dam!

2000 Yukon River Chinook and Chum Salmon Integrated Fisheries Management Plan

Long Term Goals & Objectives

- * **Finalize a Canada/U.S. agreement** regarding Canadian-origin Yukon River salmon;
- * **Conserve & restore** spawning and rearing stocks and habitats;
- * **Determine the basic needs** of the aboriginal fishery as per the UFA;
- * **Develop sustainable** aboriginal, sport, domestic and commercial fisheries;
- * **Strategic enhancement** of selected stocks

2000 Goals & Objectives

- * **Achieve escapement goals.** Suggested for 2000:
 - more than 28,000 chinook salmon;
 - more than 80,000 upper Yukon chum salmon;
 - more than 50,000 Fishing Branch chum salmon.
- * **Meet the needs of the aboriginal fishery for food, social and ceremonial uses.** 10-year averages:
 - 7,500 upper Yukon chinook; 2,500 upper Yukon chum
- * **Allow remaining users reasonable access to salmon resources subject to conservation and aboriginal needs.**

Allocation Principles

- **Conservation requirements** are paramount;
- Next to conservation, priority in allocation is to the **aboriginal fisheries**;
- **Sport, domestic and commercial fisheries** are equal in priority, subject to conservation and aboriginal fishery requirements;
- Commercial fishery has highest potential to impact returns and therefore tends to get the most intense management attention.

1999 Season Review and 2000 Expected Outcomes

Chinook

	1999 (approx.) (000)	2000 (expected)	
		From (000)	to (000)
Total Run	96.2	91	128
U.S. Catch	72.6	59	83
Border Escapement	23.6	32	45
Spawning Escapement	11.1	28	28
Cdn. TAC	0	0	17
FN Catch	9	4	8
Domestic & Sport Catch	0.5	0	1
Commercial Catch	3	0	8

Chum

	1999 (approx.) (000)	2000 (expected)	
		From (000)	to (000)
Total Run	106.6	107	334
U.S. Catch	27.1	31*	97*
Border Escapement	79.5	76	237
Spawning Escapement	66.1	80	80
Cdn. TAC	0	0	157
FN Catch	3.2	2	8
Domestic & Sport Catch	0	0	1
Commercial Catch	10.2	0	148

* if U.S. harvest rate = 29%

FROM THE SALMON COMMITTEE KITCHEN...

Ingredients:

Fresh Yukon salmon
Fresh Peppercorns

Olive Oil (optional)
Lemon Wedges



Directions:

Wash and dab dry the salmon with cloth or paper towel. If from small or not too oily salmon, rub all sides with olive oil. If from large and oily salmon, such as a big King, this is not necessary. Grind fresh peppercorns over salmon until at least covered with a thin coat, or to taste. Slice into 2-3 inch wide pieces. Place salmon, skin side down, on a VERY hot BBQ grill, using solid Mesquite charcoal. (Pressed charcoal will not give enough heat on a small non-commercial grill). BBQ 5 minutes per inch. Take off salmon when golden brown. Serve with rice and lemon wedges.

2000 Porcupine River Chinook and Chum Salmon Integrated Fisheries Management Plan

Vision Statement

- Salmon conservation/ habitat protection;
- Sustainable use;
- Improved decision making by broadening the consultative process

Aboriginal Fishery Plan

- Expected to be unrestricted unless conservation concerns arise;
- The fishery would only be restricted after actions have been taken in all other fisheries;
- Consultation with the Yukon Salmon Committee and First Nations would preclude implementing restrictions.

Porcupine River Chum Expected Outcome

	From	To
	(000)	(000)
Expected Run	28	150
U.S. Harvest Rate *	8	44
Border Escapement	20	107
Minimum Spawning Escapement target	50	50
Likely Canadian TAC	0	57
Likely First Nations Catch	4	8
Likely Fishing Branch Count	16	99

* Assuming a U.S. harvest rate of 29%

For additional information on either the Yukon or Porcupine River Management plans, please contact Fisheries & Oceans Canada.

HABITAT ISSUES

Blue Book

The Yukon Salmon Committee feels that the current review process for the Blue Book has not been open and transparent, which has forced stakeholders to adopt a reactive posture in its review. The YSC is also concerned that during the Territorial election, some political parties have pledged to implement it, even though stakeholder comments had not yet been considered. The YSC continues to work on its response and has asked for a review of the Blue Book at our next meeting.

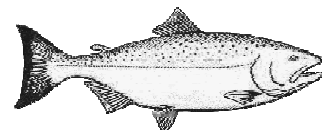
Placer Operators Licence Requirements

Letters have been sent to DIAND and the Yukon Territory Water Board outlining the YSC's concern with the lack of proper compliance with placer water licence requirements. A review of approximately 300 valid placer water licences shows that only 4% of operators submit the required reports. The YSC is also seeking assurance that enforcement action will be taken if these requirements are not met.

At Our Next Meeting...

The Yukon Salmon Committee will meet in Whitehorse June 20-23, 2000. Some of the issues that will be discussed include:

- Bio-diversity and Salmon Gene Banking
- Habitat Concerns



If you have any issues or concerns you would like to see included on our agenda, please do not hesitate to contact us!