



# Yukon Salmon Committee Update



Volume 1, Issue 2

March 2000

## Meeting Highlights

*The Yukon Salmon Committee met in Whitehorse February 22-24, 2000. Following is a brief overview of some of the items that were discussed at the meeting:*

- ✧ **Habitat Conservation & Stewardship Program** – The YSC reviewed the progress of this program to date including the hiring of 3 habitat stewards and 1 local steward.
- ✧ **Salmon Conservation Catch Card** - The Committee received a report on the inaugural year of this program and discussed options for improving it. They also reviewed the preliminary data collected from anglers.
- ✧ **Review of the Yukon Electric Facility in Mayo** – an overview of the facility was presented to the YSC, followed by a discussion of plans for the future.
- ✧ **Domestic Licence Transfers** – The YSC will make recommendations to the Minister regarding two requests for transfer of Domestic Salmon Fishing Licences. ✧

## Fish Facts

Did you know that the average female sockeye salmon returning to Klukshu, is five years old, swims through Alaska, British Columbia, and Yukon waters before laying over 3500 eggs in Klukshu lake.



## Meet and Greet Workshops and Meetings

*Salmon Committee representatives attended the following meetings and workshops:*

Meeting with Minister of DIAND re: Mine site reclamation – February 25-26

HRSEP Workshop – Feb. 29 – March 2

Meeting with Yukon Energy re: Mayo dam re-licensing

UFA Training Policy Committee meeting – March 21-22

Yukon Placer Committee Meeting – March 28



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# SALMON CONSERVATION CATCH CARDS

*A Review of the Inaugural Year*



## *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 Conservation Catch Cards – Recommendations for 2000

The Yukon Salmon Committee received lots of feedback from anglers, regarding the catch card program. Following are some of the most frequently heard comments and YSC's response to them:

**“There were no salmon”** YSC - The Conservation Catch Card was developed to enable fisheries biologists to better manage salmon stocks and ensure the long-range health of Yukon's salmon resource. The information collected will help to identify those salmon stocks that need to be protected and enhanced with the objective of improving run strengths in future years.

**“The Catch Card is too difficult and confusing to complete”** YSC – The success of this program lies in the quality of the information provided to us by anglers. With this in mind we have done our best to provide resources to help anglers accurately complete the Catch Card. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask one of our Conservation Officers in the field, or contact us at the YSC office. We will be glad to answer any of your questions on how to fill in the card.

**“The October 31<sup>st</sup> return deadline is too soon”** YSC – in response to the many requests from anglers to extend the deadline for return of catch cards, the YSC will recommend to the Minister that the deadline be extended to November 30<sup>th</sup>. This change to the regulations is expected to take effect for the 2001 fishing season.

**“The cost of the Catch Card is too high”** YSC – The Yukon continues to offer some of the most affordable salmon fishing opportunities in the world and the benefits of this program far outweigh the costs. In response to input, however, the YSC will be consulting with the Yukon public this spring regarding the possibility of a reduction in fees for Senior Citizens and reciprocal arrangements between Yukon and Alaska.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

YUKON RIVER SALMON NEGOTIATIONS  
MARCH 20-21 (GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT)  
VANCOUVER

YUKON SALMON COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 5-6  
DAWSON CITY

YUKON RIVER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC MEETING  
APRIL 6  
DAWSON CITY

PORCUPINE RIVER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC MEETING  
APRIL 7-8  
OLD CROW

ALSEK RIVER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC MEETING  
DATE AND LOCATION TBA

## FROM THE SALMON COMMITTEE KITCHEN...

### YUKON SALMON PARMESAN

- 4 sheets (12x18" each) Heavy Duty Aluminium Foil
- 4 (4 to 6 oz. each) Yukon Salmon fillets (unthawed)
- 2 medium red bell peppers, cut into strips
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Cayenne pepper

Preheat oven to 450°F or preheat **grill** to medium-high. Spray foil with non-stick cooking spray. Centre one Yukon Salmon fillet on each sheet of aluminium foil. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese and cayenne pepper and vegetables. Bring up sides of foil and double fold. Double fold ends to form a packet, leaving room for heat circulation inside packet. Repeat to make four packets. BAKE 18 to 22 minutes on a cookie sheet in oven OR GRILL 10 to 12 minutes on covered grill. Makes 4 servings.



# HABITAT ISSUES

## BLUEBOOK

It is anticipated that the Yukon Placer Authorization's "Bluebook" will be released soon. A comment period for stakeholders will follow the release of this document. The YSC has requested a briefing on the Bluebook. ♣

## United Keno Hill Mine

Indian and Northern Affairs have laid a number of charges against UKHM for violations of the Yukon Waters Act. These charges are due in court in April. The company continues to have trouble finding water treatment and has failed to submit the required monitoring data to the Water Board. More charges may be laid. The YSC plans to begin a letter writing campaign to raise awareness of the issues surrounding this site. ♣

## Placer Mining

At present, many placer miners are applying for water licences and submitting mining land use plans. Many, however, have not yet submitted their annual reports. The YSC has requested the Chief Mining Land Use Inspector to ensure that proper licensing and compliance occurs. ♣

## Dawson Sewage

The Yukon Territory Water Board has forwarded Dawson's water licence to the INAC Minister for signature. The licence will require Dawson to have an operating sewage treatment system by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2002. This licence has not yet been signed and the INAC Department of Environment is now conducting a screening of the licence. The YSC will continue to pressure the City of Dawson to ensure that sewage becomes their #1 priority. ♣

## BYG

INAC has identified continuing problems in the operation of the treatment plant, and is using the winter period to try to determine the best way to treat and release tailings pond water and spring freshette. YSC has requested that a stakeholder committee be set up and INAC has indicated that any concerns can be addressed during the water licensing process. ♣

## Fuel Spills

At present, a protocol is being developed between INAC minerals, INAC water resources and Environment Canada regarding inspection and clean up of spills. EC is also informing fuel distributors that they cannot refill tanks that are not properly registered. Guidelines for fuel storage have been developed but are not yet being enforced. ♣

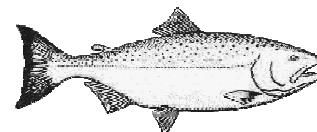
## Class A Water Licences

The Water Board has started to develop a standard application form for Class A mining water licences. The YSC is drafting a list of concerns, which they will present when they meet with the Water Board. ♣

## ***At Our Next Meeting...***

**The Yukon Salmon Committee will meet in Dawson City April 5-6, 2000 and in Old Crow April 7-8, 2000. Some of the issues that will be discussed include:**

- Yukon River Fisheries Management Plan
- Fisheries Allocation
- Porcupine River Fisheries Allocation Plan
- 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!***