

YUKON RIVER Salmon Stewards Summit

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PREPARED FOR:

Council of Yukon First Nations,
Yukon First Nations, and
Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Yukon River Salmon Stewards Summit (Salmon Summit) was organized by the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) and the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC) as a result of a resolution coming from the CYFN 2010 Annual General Assembly, which was put forward by the Teslin Tlingit Council and endorsed by other Yukon First Nations. Funding for the Salmon Summit was secured from the Yukon River Panel's (YRP) Restoration & Enhancement (R&E) Fund. The goal of the Salmon Summit was to gather Yukon First Nations' Elders, youth, and fish & wildlife staff so they can: discuss the current crisis of the declining Yukon River Chinook Salmon stock; share information and ideas for stock rebuilding initiatives; work on a strategy for enhancing the health of the Yukon River Chinook Salmon run and their habitat; as well as improving communication with all salmon users (Cdn/US) and fisheries management bodies. The agenda was developed in partnership with the Yukon First Nation Caucus (FNC), the YSSC, and CYFN. The Salmon Summit was held June 28th to 30th, 2011.

The participants included representatives from 11 of the 14 Yukon First Nations, the YSSC, CYFN, the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC), Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA). [See Appendix 7 for more info.] The First Nations' representatives included youth, Elders and First Nation government fish and wildlife staff members. Angela Walkley (Cambio Consulting) and Debbie Trudeau provided facilitation and note taking services.

Salmon Summit participants believe that there is not enough being done to address the current Chinook Salmon crisis and that action needs to be taken. Yukon First Nations and other groups participating in the Salmon Summit believe that in order to bring back the salmon they need the support and collaboration of their Alaskan neighbours. Yukon First Nations are at the headwaters of the Yukon River and at the farthest point in the Chinook Salmon's migratory journey. Many Yukon First Nations feel that they have little influence over the decisions that are made downriver, yet they are directly impacted by decisions regarding the amount of salmon harvested and the yearly salmon management regime. Yukon First Nations recognize that Yukon River Chinook Salmon are also important to Alaskan First Nation's culture and nutrition and it was mentioned by participants that they would like to work together to take action and restore the population.

The Salmon Summit included the following topics:

1. Looking back at the changes in the Chinook Salmon run
2. Open discussions by Elders, youth, and First Nation fish & wildlife staff
3. Salmon management activities undertaken by each First Nation and other fisheries organizations
4. Involvement in the Yukon River Fisheries In-Season Management Teleconference
5. Communication about the value of Yukon River Salmon to the First Nations, with Yukon Member of Parliament (MP) Ryan Leef in attendance
6. The importance of Yukon River Salmon Fisheries along the entire Yukon River
7. Identifying all the people involved in salmon management
8. Identifying priority actions for restoring the Chinook Salmon stocks in the Yukon River Drainage

The Salmon Summit included a mix of short presentations by participants, round-table discussions and break-out group exercises.

Yukon River Salmon and Yukon First Nations

All First Nations along the Yukon River have seen the decrease of the number of Chinook Salmon over the last several decades. Restoring the Yukon River Chinook Salmon stocks is a priority for many Yukon First Nations in the Yukon River drainage. Salmon Summit participants spoke of the cultural and nutritional importance of salmon for First Nation people. Salmon are an important part of First Nations' identity. One Participant shared that fish camps are a time that bring families together more than Christmas: a time to gather, share, and practice traditions.

Each First Nation government participating in the Salmon Summit, as well as some other organizations attending, dedicate time in their yearly work to salmon management. The Salmon Summit was an opportunity for participants to share what they are doing. Some of the Salmon management activities included: [See Appendix 2 for more info.]

- Collect harvest data
- Research
- Water quality testing
- Habitat restoration and enhancement
- Fish stocking
- Citizen communication
- Support cultural practices such as fish camps
- Licensing
- Participate in management discussions
- Youth engagement
- Public education
- Commercial fisheries

Yukon Member of Parliament Ryan Leef

Yukon MP Ryan Leef attended the Summit for half a day to hear from participants. During his presentation he noted that he sits on the Government of Canada's Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans and participates on the Northern Caucus with other northern MPs. He can also provide input to Minister Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs. MP Ryan Leef's role is to take the collective grassroots knowledge from the Yukon to the Federal Government. He encouraged Salmon Summit participants to identify clear priorities and to bring them to him in the fall so he can bring them forward. Salmon Summit participants shared why Yukon River Salmon is important to them and several commented on what they feel needs to be done from their own perspectives. MP Ryan Leef acknowledged to participants that he understands the importance of their relationship with Yukon River Salmon.

[See Section 6.0 & Appendix 6 for comments]

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Salmon Summit participants recognize action is required in order to bring back the Yukon River Salmon. The following priorities were identified through a group process and everyone had a chance to provide input on the actions identified:

ONE

International Yukon/Alaska Meeting of all Salmon Fishers along Yukon River

An international salmon summit would bring together stakeholders from both sides of the border to raise awareness and discuss how to restore and enhance the Yukon River Chinook Salmon run. Yukon First Nations, CYFN, YSSC and the YRDFA can support an application for funds through the Restoration and Enhancement fund, government funding, and other funding sources.

Salmon Summit participants have identified early November 2012 as a good time and suggest that the summit would take place over 3-5 days. Fairbanks is the recommended location for the summit because it's location and ability to host 250-300 people (the location also recognizes that few Alaskans have passports that would allow them to travel into Canada).

TWO

Media Campaign

Yukon First Nations and the YSSC suggested launching an awareness campaign around the lack of salmon and the importance of salmon to First Nations. The awareness campaign can raise the Canadian profile across the border for those Alaskans that don't understand that there is an issue for Yukoners. It could also get the message to southern audiences and possibly make it a political issue.

[See Section 9 & Appendix 4 for more details on priorities for action]



THREE

Lobby Yukon
and Alaskan
Politicians

There are three key messages that Yukon First Nations would like to deliver to governments on both sides of the border. They are:

1. Honour the treaty obligations.
2. Protect the first pulse every year. Alaska and Yukon to help protect 1st and 2nd pulse (mainly Cdn origin) Yukon to support Alaskans for doing this.
3. Conserve the salmon all along the Yukon River including the ocean. i.e. Pollack fishery by-catch, fish caught unintentionally in a fishery, should be given to the Yukon River communities.

Each First Nation representative at the Salmon Summit will take these messages back to their First Nation for review. The messages can then be delivered through the YSSC, the Chiefs, Grand Chief Ruth Massie, and the Yukon Salmon Sub Committee to the appropriate government representatives and leaders.

FOUR

Open Yukon River
Salmon Agreement

Further discussions about the Yukon River Salmon Agreement is a complex topic and needs to be discussed by senior First Nation officials. It is one that Salmon Summit participants recognize is important but not one that participants felt comfortable putting forward recommendations on. Two changes that were initially identified were: 1) the need for penalties/compensation for non-compliance of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and the Yukon River Salmon Agreement; and 2) Increased funding from the R&E Fund (which has not increased since it was established).

FIVE

Research Cause of
Declining Salmon
Population

First Nations would like the Minister of Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to investigate what is causing the decline of the Chinook salmon. Yukon First Nations believe they have sacrificed a lot by reducing and limiting their fisheries throughout the past several years and do not believe ceasing of all their harvesting would restore the salmon run to increased populations, although in order to conserve for future generations, having all fishers cease harvesting maybe one of many solutions. The accumulative effects need to be reviewed in more detail in order to address the real issues causing the decline.

First Nations would like to request that DFO look into this and work with US government and US fisheries counter parts. It was suggested that DFO be asked to produce a large comprehensive “cumulative impact assessment report” outlining all current information to answer the question, “Why are the salmon disappearing?”

INTRODUCTION

Brian Bell welcomed everyone to the Yukon River Salmon Stewards Summit on behalf of the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN). CYFN followed through on a General Assembly (GA) resolution, put forward by the Teslin Tlingit Council, and secured funding for the Salmon Summit from the Yukon River Panel's Restoration & Enhancement (R&E) Fund (now under the Pacific Salmon Commission). Funding and assistance also came from a partnership with the YSSC (YSSC).



Opening Prayer was offered by Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Elder Frances Woolsey. CYFN Grand Chief Ruth Massie welcomed everyone to the Traditional Territory of the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. She was pleased that the Salmon Summit was being held and looked forward to the outcomes. This Salmon Summit came from a 2010 General Assembly Resolution that asked for CYFN and related Yukon First Nations to take the initiative to develop and administer a proposal to the Yukon River Panel Restoration and Enhancement Fund for funds to host a Yukon River Salmon Summit for Yukon First Nations. The intention of the resolution is to make all stakeholders aware of the significance of the salmon depletion, share information, and collectively discuss a rebuilding initiative for future generations. The Grand Chief mentioned that the Atlantic Aboriginal Salmon Agreement negotiation process was completed. Grand Chief Massie stated she will encourage the National Assembly of First Nations to share their information as well.

Roundtable introductions were done by all participants with an invite to share at what age participants were when they caught their first fish and what species it was.

1.0 WORKSHOP PROCESS

A total of 53 participants attended the three-day Salmon Summit which took place June 28th to 30th, 2011. The agenda was developed in partnership with the Yukon First Nation Caucus (YFNC), the YSSC, and CYFN. The participants included representatives from 11 of the 14 Yukon First Nations, YSSC, CYFN, the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC), the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). The First Nations representatives included youth, Elders and First Nation government fish and wildlife staff members. Angela Walkley (Cambio Consulting) provided facilitation services and Debbie Trudeau provided note taking services. [See Appendix 1 for a complete list of participants].

The Expected Outcomes for the Salmon Summit included:

1. Identify common issues, experiences and concerns;
2. Identify common messages:
 - with the Salmon Summit participants,
 - with Yukon government (YG) / Canadian government
 - with Alaska
3. Identify key actions
4. Identify actors [See Appendix 3 for map of players]
5. Pass down knowledge; opportunity to share between Elders, youth and staff.

The Salmon Summit included a mix of short presentations by participants, round-table discussions, break-out group exercises, participation in the weekly “Yukon River Fisheries In-Season Management Teleconference” and an opportunity to meet with Ryan Leef, the Yukon Member of Parliament and member of the Canadian government’s Standing Committee on Fisheries & Oceans.



Outside of the scheduled agenda, people participated in a water sampling/testing demonstration led by the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC), campfire talks, walks drumming with Ross River Elders and youth, and great meals which were prepared by Joan Graham and Marlene Smith.

2.0 LOOKING BACK

Small groups of 5 or 6 participants identified the changes that have taken place in the last 200 years ago, 100 years ago, 50 years ago, 20 years ago, and 10 years ago with a focus on the Yukon River Salmon. Each group then posted their results in front of the room to create a timeline showing the decline of the salmon population throughout the Yukon and in some cases the loss of the species all together.

200 years	100 Years	50 Years	20 Years	10-15 Yrs	Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of beaver dams • Clean healthy water • Lots of fish • Salmon were big • Dooli laws (First Nation traditional laws) had strong effect • Used fish skins for making canoe, pants, bags, and other things • Dogs were used to pack fish • Fish traps – all (people) lived in one camp • Used gaff hook with moose skin ropes • Traded with the Russians to get new tools, at the mouth of the Tanana River • Late 1700s volcanic eruption – “summer never came” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in human population • More fishing to feed the newcomers • Strong stewardship of land and water • No shortage of fish - abundant • Used fish skin and bones for gun case, pants, water bucket, and other things • Strong traditional/ Dooli laws • People used and shared food • Trees/new plant growth • Started losing the balance of traditional life • Do not kill bear and throw in creek • All people in one fish camp! • Traded with Alaskans – caribou for salmon • Hydro dams • Harvested the smaller fish, didn't have the means to harvest the big fish • No salmon during some years on the Porcupine River 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too much commercial fishing • Used to fish other species - white fish. We don't get that now. • Fish travelled up Chandidu River • Used to get lots of Lingcod (Burbot) • 1000 people used to come to fish before the border was put in. Nobody comes now • Parents used to help Percy DeWolfe • Got lots of sand • Dawson area – changed • Used fish for human consumption • Could hear salmon jump during the night • So many fish in the net they would pull the boat upstream • Lower water levels • 1954 (1958) – Whitehorse dam built and affected the salmon migration (fish ladder was not built until the next year) • Loss of the big fish • Abundant numbers, fish getting smaller • 200 fish a day at camp • Dooli law in effect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial fish plant in Dawson • Lots of fish, but fewer (large) fish • Noticeable decrease • Before 20 years ago families/ Elders never remember having a bad run • High cache for storage • Dried fish for winter use • Tanning of skins • Many more fish camps • Concerns with climate change and water flows • Used to get lots of Lingcod (Burbot) - Yukon Queen boat wash away eggs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fish size is smaller • Still caught big ones but not very many. • Down to about 25-30 salmon each run • Later season run • Agriculture, mining, beavers, development • Commercial fishing effecting salmon runs • Spruce beetle kill • TTC put in restrictions • Erosion on the Porcupine -sediment changing channels • Lots of flooding • VGFN can't use fish wheels like the ones in Alaska • 40 salmon a day at camps • Dooli law starts to slip • Limited FN fishing • Warming waters and climate change • Land erosion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-3 salmon per camp a day • Dooli laws slipping rapidly • Water too warm • Soft fish • Shallow water • No more big fish • Small fish

3.0 PEARL KEENAN

Comments from Teslin Tlingit Elder



The following is a special address to the Salmon Summit made by Teslin Tlingit Council Elder Pearl Keenan.

The words below were captured as best as possible by the note taker as she spoke:

It took 17 years to negotiate an agreement with Alaska. It was a tough fight. And is still a tough fight today; all kinds of commercial fishermen in all rivers. Stikine, Yukon, Taku. They all come to fish here.

We know, as First Nation people, about the depletion of the salmon. About 10 years ago or so. I live at the headwaters (of the Yukon River), Teslin. They go up behind that. The most beautiful thing to see the salmon coming back.

My mother said thank you, good to see you come home again. They go long journey, around the ocean, and then they come home. We used to take a female. And let her go.

Our creator put us here and give us different foods to eat; salmon, caribou, everything. They are there for us to use, but also to take care of. He

put us over the animals, and we take care.

People used to hunt beaver in the spring, hunt wolf, they leave one or two. We have to do this for salmon. We have to look after that.

People along Yukon River – this is why I come today – it's not only us. We never took any salmon last year; we don't even know what went by, nobody fished. We bought fish. And made substitute; it was great to do that.

Athabaskan People along the Yukon River; settlement along the mouth of the Yukon, Athabaskan people. They felt the crunch last year. Their livelihood depends on that salmon. If you can think how to help them out; they need it.

There are people down river, no road in there. They are Athabaskan, and have a really hard time with the young

people, the whole community depends on the fish. I came this morning to ask you about that. We can do it, peacefully. Just take a few; our lives doesn't depend on it like they do. If there is some way we can make it and give them a priority. The rest of us along the Yukon, we can cut back. Carmacks, Pelly, Dawson – all of us can sacrifice – and let those people have the priority.

Give it a lot of thought. And give it everything you have.

To our people, there is a leader that comes every year, salmon – they say he is deformed, but he isn't, he's a leader and you're very lucky if you catch one.

Thank you for listening to me. Give it everything you have, the Lord gave it to us, and you are the master of the salmon.

I encourage you to do something.

4.0 SALMON MANAGEMENT

What is Everyone Up to?

Throughout the three days each First Nation and organization attending the Salmon Summit made a brief presentation on the salmon management work they are involved in. The following chart is an overview of the result [See Appendix 2 for more details].

	VGG	NNDFN	TH	TKC	TTC	CTFN	RRDC	WRFN	LSCFN	YSSC	CYFN	YRDFA	YRITWC
Collect Harvest Data	√	√	√	√	√	√			√	√		√	
Research	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√
Water Quality Testing	√	√	√	√	√					√			√
Habitat Restoration & Enhancement	√	√			√				√	√		√	
Fish Stocking				√	√	√				√			
Citizen Communication	√	√	√	√	√			√	√	√	√	√	√
Support Cultural Practices	√	√	√	√	√	√			√	√		√	√
Licensing	√		√		√			√		√			
Participate in Mgmt Discussions	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Youth Engagement	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√		√	√
Public Education	√			√	√					√		√	√
Commercial Fisheries			√							√		√	

5.0 YUKON RIVER FISHERIES Teleconference Call

Every week during the Yukon River Salmon run there is a “*Yukon River Fisheries In-season Management Teleconference*”, hosted by the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA). These conference calls typically last from 1-2 hours. The purpose of the teleconferences is to discuss fishing conditions and management strategies with fishers and managers throughout the Yukon River Drainage. Managers and fishers from the entire length of the Yukon River participate in this call weekly. Several Yukon First Nations participate in this teleconference on a regular basis but some Yukon First Nations were not familiar with it.

Salmon Summit participants joined in the teleconference to introduce conference call participants to the Yukon River Salmon Stewards Summit and explain the purpose of the Salmon Summit. Taking part in the teleconference also gave people, who had not participated before, an understanding of what is talked about and how they can join in the call themselves. Carl Sidney (TTC) introduced all the Salmon Summit participants and Coralee Johns (TKC) explained the purpose of the Salmon Summit to the listeners from Alaska. Several Yukon First Nation representatives then provided the fisheries report for their Traditional Territory within the Yukon River watershed.



The number to join in the Yukon River Fisheries In-Season Management Teleconference is: 1-800-315-6338 (Yukoners enter participant code number 98566 #). The calls take place each Tuesday from June through August at 2pm Yukon Time.

6.0 WHY IS SALMON IMPORTANT

Member of Parliament Ryan Leef

Yukon's Member of Parliament (MP) Ryan Leef attended the Salmon Summit for two hours on the second day of the Salmon Summit. MP Ryan Leef sits on the Government of Canada's Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans. To date they have held one meeting but in the future will be exploring national issues of importance and he has an opportunity to speak to the situation in the Yukon.

In introducing himself, MP Ryan Leef spoke about his memories growing up in the Yukon and of Yukon River Salmon in North Fork and Moosehide. He remembers First Nation people using salmon in the Moosehide area. MP Ryan Leef closed his introductory comments by saying that he looks forward to working with everyone to improve our relations and salmon stocks in the territory.

Each Salmon Summit participant was then asked to introduce themselves and comment on why Salmon is important to them. [See Appendix 6 for participants' comments]

Final Comments from MP Ryan Leef

Thanks for going around the table and providing your comments. Your heartfelt relationship hasn't missed me. As a young guy growing up here, I can relate to what was said and recognize the importance of this Salmon Summit. I am here to listen and I took seven pages of notes and hope to get reports and minutes from this (Salmon Summit). David's comment that salmon is a way of life and more important (family time) than Christmas, struck me. It is a means of getting people out – shared by all in this room. I recognize the importance of Yukon River Salmon.

I will speak of what role I can play. Carl mentioned this is grass roots; you know the salmon better than anybody. You are living it every day and have lived it for generations. My role is to take your collective knowledge and take that package to (people in the federal government in) Ottawa. I'm excited to see a diverse group of people, in geographical location and age – it demonstrates the importance. I appreciate your willingness to help me.

**“ I can relate to what was said and
recognize the importance of this Salmon Summit ”**

I am not part of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO); I am on the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans – with a parliamentary secretary and reports to Minister of DFO. We have a direct line to the Minister. We have had one meeting, procedural. We were getting guidelines of how we are established. As the meeting progressed, we diverged a bit and got into issues that matter. i.e. one member from the East Coast said (some of the) same things of what we heard today about the Atlantic and the cod fishery. He tried to run the priorities of the East Coast, and I got into the trans-boundary issues and issues on Yukon. We got reined in.

It is an issue for us here; and a national issue. There are big issues going on nationally. We need to address this with DFO – a lot (needs) to be done to improve – and recognize the trans-boundary (issues). DFO needs to appreciate how we feel helpless. I recently brought my son to the Wolf Creek salmon release; we put thousands (of Chinook Salmon fry in the creek) yet may never see them (return) back. We are helpless to release and (not know) what happens to them.

My role in Ottawa is to take information, bring it up as a priority and convince the committee to set timeframes to work and bring forward to parliament and Ministers. I say to you; if you can establish priorities, bring them to me before the fall. We have no agenda as yet on the Standing Committee. So if you bring critical priorities to me, I (will) bring them to the Standing Committee in the fall and try to (move forward on them).

Secondly, I also sit on the Northern Caucus with other northern MPs and we heard earlier about global picture. Fisheries and Oceans stand on its own, but we heard as we go around the table about tradition and culture, and that speaks of health and wellbeing in communities. The traditional culture then falls into northern and Aboriginal affairs. In the Northern Caucus, we have direct line to the Prime Minister. We meet once a week and then table issues once a week to the Prime Minister. The Minister of health is a strong supporter of pan northern relationships. We have a good relationship. Although it is just in the discussion phase, I may chair the Northern Caucus in the fall. So I am a voice potential in the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans and the Northern Caucus. It is another avenue to be heard.

A third opportunity for me to provide input is through Minister Duncan, Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA). The salmon are tied to this department because of the link to tradition and culture. Salmon are not just a resource, it's traditional and cultural. So I have a third venue to bring to the Minister. I encourage you to think globally and how I can bring priorities to DFO, and how to message this to the Northern Caucus and to the Minister of ANA. The more webs on the spider web, the more likely I can get some ground with it.

Thanks.

7.0 MAPPING OUT THE PLAYERS IN SALMON MANAGEMENT

There are many governments, groups, and individuals involved in salmon use and salmon management. The people involved are found throughout the Yukon, in Ottawa, throughout Alaska and in the decision-making centres of the United States. In order to get a clear picture of who (is) involved in Salmon Management a mapping exercise was done to identify everyone involved.

Salmon Summit participants then identified who the key individuals are, who needs to be involved in efforts to restore the salmon, and who are the key decision-makers that need to be targeted with messages for Yukon River Chinook Salmon restoration.

[See Appendix 3 for a map of the players in Salmon Management].

8.0 BRAINSTORM OF POSSIBLE ACTIONS



Salmon Summit participants met in small groups to brainstorm the priorities that they'd like to take action on to restore the Chinook Salmon stocks in the Yukon River drainage. Many participants met with people from their First Nation, while others joined up with people with common interests or from the same region. Each group was asked to identify their top five priority actions. Then the participants formed new groups with different people and shared with each other what they had discussed in their previous group. The five top priority action items from each group were posted up at the front of the meeting hall and organized by theme. Each Salmon Summit participant then voted on the action item that they most wanted to see happen. The results of this exercise were counted up and used to inform what actions the group would like to focus on. [See Appendix 4 for the brainstormed list of potential priorities].

**One key point to note is that the Council of Yukon First Nations is often identified as the organization responsible for carrying out the work. This is because the 5 priorities are all priorities that are addressing the collective interests of Yukon First Nations. It is important to note however that CYFN is a non-profit organization and needs to raise funds to cover off the costs of any work they do.*

9.0 ACTIONS FOR TOP 5 PRIORITIES

PRIORITY ONE

Yukon/Alaska International Meeting of all Salmon Fishers along the Yukon River

What

Organize a Yukon/Alaska international salmon summit to raise awareness and discuss how to restore and enhance the run

Who

This will be a large summit with many people attending from both the Yukon, Canada and Alaska, United States. It will include the following people:

- Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC)
- Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN)
- Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)
- Yukon River Panel (YRP)
- Yukon First Nations and Alaskan Tribal Councils
- Leaders, youth, and Elders
- Fishers
- Salmon (Fish) Managers
- Processors
- Tribal groups

How

The suggestion was for the Yukon First Nations, CYFN, and the YRDFA to apply for funds through the Restoration & Enhancement fund, government funding, and other funding sources (for example, Mitsubishi has indicated they were willing to put some funds towards a proposal by YRDFA, with CYFN as a partner, for a meeting next year - 2012). The YSSC can also support these applications for funding.

Existing groups and stakeholders (a stakeholder in this case is anyone who has an interest in Chinook Salmon, be they a government, industry, fisher, group, or citizen) should be engaged to take the lead on fundraising and organizing the event.

Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee

Council of Yukon First Nations

Yukon First Nations

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (coordinate with groups in their region)

A great facilitator will be needed to manage the number of people and the diverse interests.

When

It will take time to raise the funds and organize all the details. Workshop participants suggest early November 2012 as a time that they would be available and when the weather is not yet too cold for long distance travel. It was suggested that the summit would take place over 3-5 days.

Where

Fairbanks was the recommended location for the summit. This is because it is a good central location, there are facilities and infrastructure needed to host 250-300 people, there are great options for entertainment, and it addresses the fact that many Alaskans don't have passports and Fairbanks is also located in a place that many of the remote communities can access.

PRIORITY TWO

Media Campaign

What

The suggestion was that Yukon First Nations and the YSSC launch an awareness campaign around the lack of Chinook Salmon and the importance of salmon. The awareness campaign will be intended to raise the Canadian profile across the border for those Alaskans that don't understand that there is an issue for Yukoners. It will also get the message to southern audiences; to make it a southern issue and a political issue.

Concept: "imagine if salmon are no more.... It was folklore"

- imagine if ...
- imagine if ...
- imagine if ...

These can be for a future outlook that is both positive and negative. -ie. "Imagine if ...the salmon came back and all can eat"

The media campaign should aim to be hard hitting, raw, gritty, real, (i.e. dog food display/smoking ads)

- high impact visuals
- Video, social media, broadcast news, website, posters, billboards, ads, rallies
- integrated campaign

The Target Audience

- US / Canadian citizens
- Southern media outlets
- All along the Yukon River: fishers, youth, Elders, managers, politicians

How

- Youth film-making
- Work with youth perspective (video, stories, visuals)
- youth rapper
- hand them flip cameras – interview Elders, fishers, other youth, managers
- Shoot video, mentor with filmmaker

July – November (2011) youth start shooting content

Oct – March (2011/2012) solicit support, funding, filmmakers, visual identity, campaign

April – August / Aug – Dec: shoot, edit supplement

Partners

- First Nations
- Council of Yukon First Nations
- Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
- Yukon College
- Bringing Youth Towards Equality (BYTE)
- Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee

Cost

\$50-80,000 total; can be broken into little pieces – also seek funding through youth funding opportunities.

PRIORITY THREE

Lobby politicians on both sides of the Yukon/ Alaska border

What

Send the messages:

- Honour the treaty obligations.
- Protect the first pulse every year.
 - Alaska & Yukon also to help protect 1st and 2nd pulse
 - Yukon to support Alaskans for doing this
- Conserve the salmon all along the Yukon River including the ocean. i.e. Pollack fishery by-catch, fish caught unintentionally in a fishery, should be given to the Yukon River communities instead of thrown back in the water dead.

Who

- Council of Yukon First Nations
- Yukon First Nations
- Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
- Yukon Government
- Yukon's Member of Parliament
- Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Fisheries Congress
- Yukon River Panel

Target Audience:

- Council of Yukon First Nations
Grand Chief
- Yukon First Nations' Chief & Councils
- Governor of Alaska
- President of United States
- Premier of the Yukon
- Canadian Prime Minister
- Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Senators
- Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister

How

The YSSC, Yukon First Nations, Yukon's Member of Parliament, etc, can lobby the Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Foreign Affairs as well as the Prime Minister.

- Send a common letter/message (This could be done immediately)
- Arrange a meeting
- Raise funds for political meeting – get other partners involved
- Tie into other political meetings (i.e. Ottawa, Standing Committee of Fisheries and Oceans)
- Work with the media campaign (see priority #2)
- Meeting of international fisher people (see priority #1)
- All aspects need to work together
- Budget for a salmon working group
- Lobby for money to have a partnership meeting

Who

Draft letter – not sure who

Suggestion for CYFN to take the lead since it is a Yukon-wide issue; send a letter to the Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans

When

Council of Yukon First Nations – next time Chiefs go to Ottawa, meeting with DFO/ Minister
Get DFO Minister to send a letter to Alaska – Governor

Each First Nation representative at the Salmon Summit will take these priorities to their own First Nation. They need a chance to review the outcomes of the Salmon Summit and to decide what to do on the next steps.

PRIORITY FOUR

Open Yukon River Salmon Agreement

While this issue was identified as a priority, there was not a group that chose to work on this priority. Everyone felt that the discussions about the Yukon River Salmon Agreement was a very complex topic and needed to be discussed by senior officials. It is not one that that Salmon Summit participants felt comfortable putting forward recommendations on. Two changes that were initially identified were: 1) the need for penalties/compensation for non-compliance of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and the Yukon River Salmon Agreement; and 2) Increased funding from the R&E Fund (which has not increased since it was established).

Brian Bell (CYFN Natural Resources and Environment Coordinator) has hosted several First Nation Caucus meetings about salmon where this has been a focus of conversation. His summary of what has been discussed in the caucus meetings can be found in Appendix 5.



PRIORITY FIVE

Research Cause of Declining Salmon Population

What

First Nations would like to provide the Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans with the request to find out what is causing the decline of the salmon and speak to the idea of reducing or stop fishing.

The message to the Minister is Yukon First Nations have sacrificed a lot by reducing and cutting their fisheries over last several years; they don't believe that if we fully stop fishing it will restore the salmon run. It needs to be looked at deeper; there are a number of issues. (i.e. spring Chum are healthy this year, what is causing them to be okay while the Chinook salmon runs are declining?)

Who

CYFN, Yukon River Panel, independent researchers, and/or the Department of Fisheries and Oceans were identified as the groups to produce the report.

Yukon First Nations play key role in defining clear direction, terms of reference, for the report.

How

Pressure DFO to look into this and work with US government and US fisheries counter parts.

Ask DFO to produce a large comprehensive "cumulative impact assessment report" outlining all current information to answer the question, "Why are the salmon disappearing?"

1. Yukon First Nations approach DFO immediately with the request in a letter
2. Yukon First Nations meet with DFO to define the terms of reference
3. Objectives of chapter 16; And all the rights to force

Ask DFO, Yukon River Panel etc. to engage with US to do the same on their side of the border.

Incorporate Yukon First Nations history, culture and objectives.

Who

Yukon First Nations and DFO define terms of reference

Yukon First Nations and DFO determine strategies for recovery including the use and traditional management methods

When

Development of Terms of Reference can be done as soon as possible

Time line for project completion: 1 year from date of announcement

10.0 CLOSING OF THE YUKON RIVER SALMON STEWARDS SUMMIT

The Yukon River Salmon Stewards Summit closed with a round table of comments from each participant. Participants noted the concrete outcomes, the opportunities for sharing, and the hope for restoring the salmon population in the Yukon River in the future.

Elder Frances Woolsey of Ta'an Kwäch'än Council led the Salmon Summit participants in a closing prayer.





APPENDICES

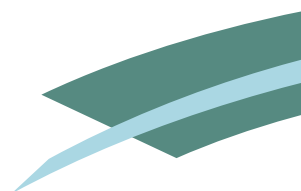
APPENDIX 1 – Participant List

1. Ruth Massie, Council of Yukon First Nations, Grand Chief
2. Angela Demit, White River First Nation, Deputy Chief
3. Coralee Johns, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council
4. Glenn Stephen, White River First Nation
5. Frances Woolsey, Ta'an Kwach'an Council, Elder
6. Ryan Toohey, Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
7. Leah Mackey, Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
8. Adam Wrench, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun
9. Roberta Joseph, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
10. Peggy Kormendy, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Elder
11. Tyler Rear, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Youth
12. Jason Hale, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
13. Robert Moar, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation
14. Johnny Sam, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation
15. William Skookum, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation
16. Eddie Skookum, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation, Chief
17. Roger Alfred, Selkirk First Nation, Councillor & Deputy Chief
18. David Silas, Selkirk First Nation
19. Danny Joe, Selkirk First Nation, Elder
20. Kusher Baker, Selkirk First Nation
21. Kathryn Porter, Teslin Tlingit Council
22. Tracy Boyes, Teslin Tlingit Council
23. Richard Dewherst, Teslin Tlingit Council
24. Wolf Riedl, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee
25. Dennis Zimmermann, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee, Executive Director
26. Frank Thomas, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee, YK Fish& Wildlife Mgmt Board
27. Pauline Frost, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee
28. Carl Sidney, Teslin Tlingit Council
29. Amos Dick, Ross River Dena Council, Elder
30. Robertson Dick, Ross River Dena Council, Elder
31. Patrick James, Carcross/Tagish First Nation
32. William Josie, Vuntut Gwitch'in Government
33. Jessica Jacobs, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council
34. Gail Barnaby, Council of Yukon First Nations
35. David Tom, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation
36. Wayne Jim, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee, YK Fish& Wildlife Mgmt Board
37. Robby Dick, Ross River Dena Council
38. Shane Dick, Ross River Dena Council
39. Brian Bell, Council of Yukon First Nations
40. Ann Marie Swan, Council of Yukon First Nations
41. Sandy Smarch, Teslin Tlingit Council
42. Linaya Workman, Champagne & Aishihik First Nations
43. Ron Chambers, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee
44. Jessie Stephen, White River First Nation
45. Sharon Keaton, Council of Yukon First Nations
46. Norma Shorty, Kwanlin Dün First Nation
47. Rosa Brown, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council
48. Emmie Fairclough, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council
49. Paul Birckel, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee
50. James McDonald, DFO Aboriginal liaison, YSSC Executive Secretary
51. Don Henry, Teslin Tlingit Council, Elder
52. Pearl Keenan, Teslin Tlingit Council, Elder
53. Ryan Leef, Member of Parliament for Yukon

Facilitation:

Angela Walkley, Cambio Consulting
Debbie Trudeau

[illegible]



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