



**Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee Regular Meeting  
Meeting Minutes**

Dawson City - Eldorado Hotel – May 6, 2013 6-9pm and  
Oddfellows Hall – May 7, 2013 9:30am – 6:00pm

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**DAY 1: IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Sub-committee Members**

Tara Christie – Chair  
Ron Chambers  
Wolf Riedl – Secretary – Treasurer  
Paul Birckel  
Frank Thomas – via conference call  
Pauline Frost – via conference call

**Absent (Day 1):**

Emmie Fairclough  
Wayne Jim  
Ed Long  
Stan Njootli Sr.

**Monday May 6, 2013 6pm**

1. MINUTES

Executive Director reviewed the minutes from November 21-23, 2012 with no questions.

*Frank Thomas – Motion to accept, Ron Chambers – seconded, approved.*

Action items were reviewed with all previous action items completed.

2. CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW and BUDGET

Executive Director reviewed all correspondence. There was discussion around Dropbox and the need for numbering items.

There was a discussion around partnering with the TKC on a video project for \$2K and a video at the International Summit for \$6-8K.

*Ron Chambers – Motion to accept, Pauline Frost – seconded, approved.*

### 3. RULES AND PROCEDURES

Executive Director reviewed the revised rules and procedures and pointed out the minor grammatical changes. They were reviewed and accepted with a few additional grammatical changes.

*Frank Thomas – Motion to accept, Pauline Frost – seconded, approved.*

### 4. BUDGET and FINANCIAL

Executive Director reviewed the work done on honorariums for members. Information was presented to the members from both YTG funded UFA committees and non-UFA committees. Given the YSSC receives funding from DFO directly they were not subject to the same process as YTG funded NGOs.

It was discussed that there should be an escalator of 2% to account for inflation. This would mean \$425 for the Chair and \$300 for members. This would be discussed further in-camera.

### 5. YRDFA

There was discussion regarding re-initiating our formal non-voting position at YRDFA. It was decided that Pauline Frost would be the official member with Ron Chambers acting as cultural ambassador.

*Tara Christie – Motion to accept, Wolf Riedl seconded and approved.*

### 6. YUKON RIVER PANEL

There was a discussion about the Yukon River Panel selection process. Official members at this point are: Frank Thomas, Tara Christie, and Pauline Frost. There was an interest in confirming official alternates. All members will be asked if they want to be on the committee.

**Action Item:** *Ask all members if they want to be alternates on the Yukon River Panel.*

**Action Item:** *Send a letter formalizing YSSC composition and people who are willing to stand as YRP Members.*

### 7. HUMAN RESOURCES

Executive Director discussed the upcoming leave. There were no objectives from the committee as long as the work is covered.

### 8. OTHER ITEMS

There was discussion around the need to do more in the Alsek Drainage. The Klushu River is a good indicator river. Runs are down and few people fish there anymore. The YSSC would like to hear more from CAFN. It would be good to meet with the CAFN more frequently. We don't want to lose this resource.

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**DAY 2: IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Sub-committee Members**

Tara Christie – Chair  
Ron Chambers  
Wolf Riedl – Secretary –Treasurer  
Paul Birckel  
Emmie Fairclough  
Wayne Jim  
Dennis Zimmermann – Executive Director

**Absent:**

Pauline Frost – Vice Chair  
Frank Thomas  
Ed Long  
Stan Njootli Sr.

**Public Members and Guests**

Beverly Brown, CRRC  
Jordan Mullet, CRRC  
Mary-Ellen Jarvis - DFO  
Gerry Kruse, SRRC  
Sebastian Jones, Commercial Fisherman  
Maggie Wright, YFWMB  
Graham Van Tighem, Ex Dir YFWMB  
Susan Antpoebler – DFO  
Maria Kartveit, Heritage Dept & Student  
Roberta Joseph, Tr'ondek Hwech'in  
Tim Gerberding, Commercial Fisherman  
Jeff Hamm, DLUCP

**Tuesday May 7, 2013 9:30am**

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA

*Wolf Riedl – Motion to accept, Emmie Fairclough – seconded, approved.*

2. OUTREACH/COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA REVIEW (Executive Director)

The Executive Director provided an overview of the marketing campaign. There are three more Alaskan posters in the “Salmon Know No Borders” series.

The YSSC has put together some pop up banners with testimonials that will be used at the Environment Fair in Whitehorse. We have the photography of five or six Alaskans to finally cover the Alaskan side.

There are Plans for an International Salmon Summit. The projected date is for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in April of 2014 with fishermen from Alaska and Yukon. James Macdonald with CYFN will announce it once confirmed.

There is a May gathering with Selkirk First Nation and we asked them as to whether we can participate but they wanted no external parties there. We will provide some materials for them to present.

There are plans to work with the Ta'an Kwach'an on a video project. It would focus on a cultural fishing camp for youth and families engaged in fishing and salmon culture.

YSSC YRDFA Exchange video (was presented – 10 minutes).

The inventory and the images make an impact. We will capture more attention outside the Yukon as this can be circulated at a very low cost. The presentation at the panel meeting went

well. Members felt it can be too expensive to travel all over Alaska and videos provide an inexpensive marketing opportunity.

## MACBRIDE MUSEUM

There is a suggestion to do a joint venture with the MacBride Museum. We have an opportunity to put a major salmon display in the museum that could be in place for as long as one year. The Macbride museum does a series of large exhibits and they did one on the North Slope. This is similar to what we are looking for.

They will host informative events and set up tent displays. They have a large facility and can get the message out there. Originally we were just looking for photos and it triggered the idea of being involved with the right messages and content regarding salmon fishing. They have submitted a proposal. The museum can also leverage funding from different sources based on themes and they have access to the general public for additional input.

Macbride hosts a large membership base in Whitehorse and a variety of people go through there. It also allows opportunities for speaking to the media, press releases, public relations and the opportunity to push this beyond the Yukon. The museum has amount of artifacts related to Yukon fishing and we will be utilizing that as well as information on the modern methods available today.

It was noted by a committee member that our messaging is in line. He stated that we have good momentum.

The YRDFA Educational Exchange video (presented - 10 minutes) is running on Northwestel Channel 9 as well as the 'No boundaries' video (50 minutes) so they have an hour of video. The videos give a positive perspective. Videos provide an opportunity for a wider audience at a lower cost.

## 3. YUKON RIVER FISHERIES DRAINAGE ASSOCIATION

### YSSC MEMBERSHIP

Committee member believed has been instrumental in spreading our message in Alaska.

*A committee member updated the committee on the day 1 motion to nominate a technical member. Pauline Frost will be our nominee and Ron will continue to assist.*

Ron Chambers stated that when he goes to Alaska he takes his headdress and Moose skin jacket as a visual display. He is a cultural ambassador singing songs and working with children. He doesn't focus on the fish itself but points out that we are part of the cultural system of the whole river. He gives them some stories about the upper river which is appreciated.

*A thank you to Ron for his efforts was noted by all!*

### REVISED EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE CONCEPT

Ramping up our communications is an important link to Alaskans and it we are all interconnected so we need to make sure our messages are heard. The Executive Director is working on this through the YRDFA Education Exchange.

Jason Hale is leaving and was a big part of the educational exchange concept. He suggested revising it to a few individuals to present the presentations. This same model has been going on for a while.

The plan is to find ambassadors or people that are informed on the process that have credibility in communications. Perhaps we could have a small group of Alaskans and Yukoners (3 of each) who could share realities.

There is also talk of a public relations strategy or campaign we could utilize. We also need to target rural Alaskans. How can we inform those that are not already converted? We need to educate them on what's going on and how serious it is.

With respect to YRDFA we need to:

- Continue to keep a Communications Role with this Panel;
- Take a larger role;
- Provide input in their newsletters.

#### 4. FISHERIES ACT UPDATE – YFWMB

Presented by Graham Van Tighem, Executive Director and Maggie Wright, Researcher.

YFWMB wrote a response to the letter telling the Minister that they have an obligation to consult with us and we have an obligation to consult with Yukoners.

Bill C48 got royal assent. YFWMB requested we be involved with the recommendations. An Outline of the consultation and engagement sessions was in the summer of 2012. YFWMB are writing to Territorial ministers of environment and attended the Canadian fisheries and agriculture conference and want to let him know who we are and what we do and we would like some engagement. The message was heard loud and clear and shortly after we actually got a meeting with DFO representative Steve Burgess who came to a Yukon policy and planning rep and made a presentation at the October YFWMB meeting.

YFWMB wrote another letter indicating we need to include public involvement and noted changes that may or may not be significant. When YFWMB met Ryan Leef he listened and set up a conference call meeting with Trevor Swerdfager. The commitment we did get was that there was a public policy paper that was coming out any day now and we reminded him who we are and we need provisions for public involvement.

YFWMB found out that they had gazetted a bunch of regulation changes. The regulations already developed as per presentation (copy presented).

Bill C45 received royal assent. YFWMB have structured a working group board which is sometimes better with dealing with specific issues. The process is we are not happy from a technical standpoint and we still have a job to do.

In terms of the regulations themselves it outlines requirements and timelines. Upon completion of application a further 90 days is allowed for DFO to issue the authorization. A consultation required before authorization issued.

YESAA will act as the recommending body. The board will probably suggest that further work is done with First Nations to determine what should be done in terms of consultation. All this has to be done before the May 13<sup>th</sup> deadline. Some other comments:

- It is impractical to get comments from Yukoners in this short period of time;
- Tara noted we will make our best efforts and we are fairly up to speed on the changes and we will react quickly;
- One of the successes of this so far is sticking to our mandate if a situation arises where we are requested to be interveners we keep very consistent communications with DFO;
- We maintain a good communication with CYFN.

#### 5. YUKON RIVER PANEL MEETING (Whitehorse) - UPDATE

The panel meeting was held in Whitehorse. American managers are definitely coming in strong with messages that it will not be a good run this year. The general tone was positive and they were able to make decisions.

We need to take on a bit of a communication role. With regards to the approval of spawning objectives there was no change.

Discussion focused on the change of escapement goals essentially the spawning escape goals and recommendations for the panel to adopt them. We need more biological reviews of escapement objectives. We are data deficient regarding a biologically based escapement goal.

At this point the interim-management escapement goal was adopted until we have a full biological goal. It is based on the best science and numbers we have at the moment.

There are many, many, years of data collection so it is possible to get this information. They have identified what we need and what we need to continue to do. We know what we need but we need more time. We also need more First Nation TK/cultural input.

There is some value in qualitative goals in acknowledging that we are data deficient and always will be. We want 40,000 thousand fish to reach the spawning ground. That is a qualitative goal, speaks to the quality of the statement. This could send a powerful message.

Sebastian Jones suggested the monitoring of the escapement is going to be an ongoing thing. He urges the panel put quality of escapement goals in place. Such as:

1. Sex ratio;
2. Productivity – extra level of uncertainty (huge mathematical pickle due to the hatcheries);
3. Qualitative goals – (e.g. 40,000) and
4. Age.

#### 6. TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS (DFO) Mary Ellen Jarvis

##### **2013 Pre-Season Outlook Presentation**

##### CHINOOK SALMON OVERVIEW

Discussion points:

- There is a bilateral meeting planned with CYFN;

- Recommendation is a precautionary approach – very early in season until solid information on return of fish coming back;
- Review of border escapement projections and anticipated management action;
- Why not match up with escapement goals – anticipated that they will have a certain level of harvest share. We do not want to bear the brunt of all conservation of the Yukon.
- We are going to have multiple years where we are not meeting the escapement goals;
- The response to low returns by First Nations has been voluntary;
- They are more structured in Teslin. They allowed fishing only two days per week and limited household to 10 each. They could fish but they did have a household limit;
- Yukon First Nations have put in management practices that have allowed for better escapement;
- Does DFO or the committee have statistics going back to the conclusion of the treaty negotiations that actually show the percentage of catch of Chinook salmon comparing Canada to US; and
- What has been the actual performance since amalgamation of the treaty.

#### CHUM SALMON OVERVIEW

- Maximum harvest has been around 3,000 fish so no limits;
- Commercial fishery has a very good opportunity to harvest fish;
- Same matrix applies;
- Early chum are good table food (smoked) – marketable;
- There is a little bit of a window to ask if people want to be supplied with dog food for pre-orders;
- Essentially we are hind casting and trying to take an educated guess.

#### **2013 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan Overview**

A topic of conversation: Is it possible to get some of these commercial fishers to target the Chum instead of the Chinook.

YSSC donated Chum to help to raise the profile. Chum does not get the press that it deserves. Marketing could help to persuade people.

People want the big fish which is the Chinook – it is not the taste it is the size of the catch that is the biggest attraction. Committee has done a fair bit of research on the Chum and we thought it could be a way that to keep commercial fishing or public fishing alive in the Yukon.

The early fish are the best especially true of Chum. If you wanted to develop a market for chum you need to get into the process and the value. You are never going to command the price per pound that you would for King. Chum is much leaner and has less flavor.

A few of years ago a number of fishermen in town formed a co-op. They submitted a funding proposal to develop a processing plan for Chum. It did not happen.

One of the problems we have is the added value for processing fresh fish is a much higher threshold. Dealing with requirements is a big financial commitment. A regulatory change would be required and that is a very lengthy process.

Tatchun River fishing takes place in an area that is very close to settlement land. They close all angling when run is very low. It is the most popular sport location for King salmon fishing in the

Yukon. In the past they have had conflicts with user groups; fish camps and access roads. There are also some philosophical differences in the catch and release.

Discussion:

- What are some potential remedies that will keep commercial fishermen in the business?
- It is important to remember there is Non-First Nation fishing too;
- Lots of areas but are not accessible;
- Tatchun has been used heavily maybe it is time to give it a rest;
- Commend and encourage the Carmacks RRC for the work they are doing because of the decline of Chinook salmon.

#### 7. DAWSON LAND USE PLANNING UPDATE – Jeff Hamm

- Working on a review assessment report – hoped for by March;
- We have a better understanding about the range of opportunities;
- Designations for conservation areas;
- Managing assets in the landscape;
- Significant land use elsewhere is a question of access has generated other land use activities that tend to open up areas for other types of activity;
- We have this larger issue about existing access, seasonal restrictions, private roads and a number of difference options;
- The committee have developed a range of objections for the land use plan;
- We are identifying performance measures and we are making progress;
- We need to extend to more stakeholders;
- There is a workshop for stakeholders next week by invitation only. Purpose and reason for limiting #s is to develop a decision frame. We are asking stakeholder groups to work with us and then we are going to take that out to a public forum;
- We are trying for October – it is an aggressive time frame; and
- We are done with research now we need voices;

#### 8. TR'ONDEK HWECH'IN FIRST NATION (Roberta Joseph)

Roberta Joseph thanked the committee for allowing her to participate. DFO Fisheries Act already discussed so she will delete this item as noted on the handout.

Regarding First Nation culture and tradition I have always in our community been taught to respect salmon and not to make fun of it in anyway and not to waste it. This has been taught from one generation to the next.

In 70s as a young child when many people didn't want to eat salmon because it was considered a poor man's food but some of the original families in the Dawson area lived on it. Commercial fishing didn't really become a big thing until the 70s early 80s.

When it comes to conservation we tend to respect our values. Our values do not include catch and release. It is playing with fish and it is not our culture. We need to take our culture into consideration when making decisions.

Last July we had a meeting with our citizens (based on decline). In consideration for limitations I consulted with Tr'ondek citizens and presented them with information and they made recommendations. Tr'ondek citizens in attendance requested that we limit the fisheries down to



25% of our normal catch and put all our information together and bring it to another meeting at the general assembly in March.

In January I presented to a citizens meeting all the information I felt everyone could understand and I talked about what Yukon First Nations have been doing over the years with respect to traditional territory and what Alaska fisheries management has been doing for last 5 yrs. I also took to council a resolution to not harvest within Tr'ondek traditional territory for one salmon life cycle (which is 8 years); and the other recommendation was to for one month of no fishing.

The general assembly approved the recommendation and I am here today to inform the committee to really take seriously the declining Chinook salmon. We have to protect what we have today for our future generation.

This is only one way we can do anything about it from this side of the border and that we have to continue to push Alaskans to do the same. This is part of culture and tradition. It bonds our families together and we could lose part of our identity and our culture.

We can protect the salmon that comes across the border – we cannot just look at this year we have to look at future years:

- The loss of 8 year old and 7 year olds is significant;
- The “First Fish” is a tiny small component that address sustaining our culture values and traditions in that aspect; Elders still require one fish for their diet – it is what keeps them going;
- For the past five years we have been really conservative in harvesting salmon.

#### INQUEST – DECLINING YUKON RIVER CHINOOK SALMON

Discussion:

- Warming waters is a cause of change;
- Salmon are now going up Mackenzie river and there didn't use to be any migration up there;
- What are other contributing factors (eg Jet boats);
- Are there any other industrial activity that could be contributing to the Yukon river contaminant studies;
- We need to find out what is happening.

#### YUKON RIVER PANEL APPOINTMENT

- What are their Roles and responsibilities?
- Is the party is reaching their responsibility?
- We are concerned that the Consultation process doesn't always happen;
- Need to write a letter to the minister.

A committee member commented that they did write a letter and we have been invited to put forward panel nominees. We have drafted a letter that would provide a guidance document and decisions required for that panel.

- Majority of First Nation groups have talked about but not approved a recommendation yet;
- Wayne: How do we convey that message to the other communities and not put it in a way that it would take away from the traditional culture but would encourage ways of restoration.

- Ron: One of the things that they asked on the Canada side and in the past they never asked is information on the river as a whole from top to bottom. That to me is the beginning of the process. Very good sign that they are identifying upriver.

## 9. MINISTER RECOMMENDATIONS OVERVIEW DISCUSSION

Discussion of general themes around potential Ministerial recommendations:

### INTEGRATED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Look at the Canadian spawning escapement goals.

### CHUM

- Opening the fishing early for chum could be an incentive for fishing Chum;
- Chances of catching a Chinook is very slim so Chum are an option;
- Chum follow the shore and the shallow area where Chinook likes the deeper
- Market side of it. We need more awareness that we could build or understanding how big the market could be. (newsletter info);
- No concerns with number of chum caught we are well below threshold;
- Some income for part time is an issue for commercial and the ability to make the money or get to the fish. How many fish do you need to catch for a good commercial operation?
- What about industry possibilities? Through the public eye salmon is salmon. Those that know the difference it implies a gray area.
- In order to make the Chum a value you need to replace the Chinook. You will not get the price for chum salmon as you would for any other fish. It makes great smoked fish.
- Low impact environmentally;
- We could help those that are trying to make a business out of it;
- Emmie: We have a few commercial fisheries that have come up with a market. Canned salmon – \$25 a can.

### TATCHUN CREEK

- We presented the question for information to DFO regarding what is the process for regulation change;
- We need this info and if we don't get it at a satisfactory level we should approach as a Ministerial recommendation;
- We will look at some tools or modeling for permitting and commercial fishermen;
- Bev Brown will continue on the Carmacks RRC firming up what you want to do with that;

Public session the meeting adjourned.

Meeting continued to:

Members Time –IN CAMERA – Board Business