

YUKON SALMON SUB-COMMITTEE FALL MEETING October 23 – 25, 2018 MINUTES CANADA GAMES CENTRE

DAY 1: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018 – FALL MEETING

YSSC Harvey Jessup – Chair
Jason Jim – Vice Chair
Don Toews – 2nd Vice Chair
Roger Alfred
John Burdek
Carl Sidney
Stanley Njootli Sr
James MacDonald
Al von Finster
Ed Long

DFO invitees
Steve Gotch – DFO Area Director
Bill Waugh
Jesse Trerice

Support
Sharon Kerr

Opening prayer provided by Carl Sidney

Welcome & Introduction

Agenda review

Harvey Jessup reviewed the agenda. Additions included: YSSC office update; discussion of the FNs Brooks Brook meeting; signing authority; the Year of the Salmon, the Salmon Resiliency Conference, and nominations for the Second Vice Chair.

Motion – 1: That the YSSC accept the agenda as amended.

Moved by: Carl Sidney **Seconded by:** John Burdek
Passed by: Consensus

YSSC office update

Jessie Trerice has left the YSSC Executive Director position. We thank her for her service to the committee over the past 3 years. Carmen Ingram will provide office assistance in the short term. Elizabeth MacDonald will be the new Executive Director. She will be part time until February 2019 and then full time from then on.

Salmon Resiliency Conference

The Conference will be hosted by the Pacific Salmon Foundation on November 20 – 22, 2018 and organized by Dennis Zimmerman. YSSC members are invited to attend.

Brooks Brook FN Lands and Resources Managers meeting.

Harvey Jessup, Don Toews, Al von Finster attended the meeting on behalf of the YSSC. James McDonald attended in his role with CYFN. The YSSC explained our role and as members of the Yukon River Panel. Some issues raised by the FNs were beyond the Panel members control as they were entrenched in the Yukon River Salmon Agreement Treaty. Concerns that were raised with Steve Gotch.

The 2018 FN engagement in the YSSC fisheries recommendation process was discussed, including pre-recommendation meetings and the confidentiality in recommendations to the Minister imposed by s. 16(8) of the UFA. The YSSC acknowledged the difficulty that this raises with the FNs, and the desirability of improved processes. This could include scheduled annual meetings in advance of the recommendation process.

The FNs expressed concern with retention and non-retention Chinook angling on the Yukon River. If the FNs voluntarily stop fishing Chinook they do not believe that Chinook should be angled. The FNs were strongly against the non-retention (catch and release) Chinook fishery.

The Selkirk First Nation and TTC Salmon Management Plan were discussed. NND and TKC will be moving ahead with similar plans.

Steve Gotch – DFO update.

A YSSC seat will come open in 2019 and will be filled by a public process.

The National Indigenous Fisheries Institute is meeting in Whitehorse. The NIFI is not a Government agency but receives federal funding. They will consult on three specific initiatives: the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy; the Fisheries Guardian Program; and the Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative.

The International Year of the Salmon is set for 2019. The Minister announced it in Vancouver. An event may be held in the Yukon.

Steve Gotch and Bill Waugh made a presentation on the Alsek River 2018 Fishery Management and Stock Assessment. The members of the YSSC were introduced to this complex watershed. The Sockeye returns are based on counts at Village Creek, Klukshu River and genetic material from the US Dry Bay fishery. The CAFNs voluntary sockeye closure was acknowledged and the low returns are subject to concern at the Trans Boundary Panel. The lack of abundance of Chinook is a coast wide problem and have affected US fisheries.

Chief Smith from the CAFN proposed an Alsek River Drainage Salmon Summit. An YSSC application to the Northern Endowment Fund for funding was not granted.

Afternoon – members of YSSC only. Alsek R. continued.

YSSC representation on the Alsek River and Transboundary Panel will only occur if the Treaty is amended. We can continue to be an observer but at our cost. As an action item:

YSSC write to DFO asking them to support us in two ways

- Funding for an Alsek River Salmon Summit
- Aiding in obtaining a seat on the Transboundary Panel

A copy of this letter will be sent to Chief Smith CAFN and to Minister Frost seeking their support in pursuing this initiative.

International Year of the Salmon.

The YRP wrote to the International Year of the Salmon organizers to identify the Yukon River as a major salmon river. The Educational Exchange will be an opportunity to meet the

Fisheries Act Amendment and Wild Salmon Policy.

Harvey Jessup and Tecla Van Bussel (YF&WMB) provided a presentation on the Fisheries Act application. Discussion followed on the degree to which we want to participate, as we do so from our core budget. YSSC and FN expectations were not met in the Wild Salmon Implementation Plan as expected meetings seemed not to occur.

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 24, 2018 – FALL MEETING

Review of draft YSSC Strategy Plan and Rules and Procedures (2017)

Dennis Zimmerman facilitated the review of the “Draft Strategic Plan for the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (2018-2023)” section. The members became familiar with the documents and worked through them. Dennis will write up any modifications to the Plan.

Afternoon

Review of Rules and Procedures document

Dennis Zimmerman led a line-by-line review of the draft Rules of Procedure for the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee - April 30, 2014 version. Changes will be taken to Elizabeth once she starts work.

Meeting adjourned at 4:17 PM

October 25 – 3rd day of YSSC 2018 Autumn meeting

Steve Gotch, Steve Smith, Nathan Millar and Jesse Trerice DFO joined the meeting

Current Year Budget

We will have to plan carefully so as not to exceed 2018/19 budget. We will have to separate the “nice to do” from the “have to do” in future years. There are unresolved issues with support from DFO rising from the UFA. A window of opportunity to increase the YSSC budgets will occur in 2022 as a result of the YF&WMB review.

The costs for the YSSC members to attend the YRP are borne by DFO. In 2017 the Minister set the Canadian delegation as 4 regular- and 4 alternate members from the YSSC. Travel costs to meetings in Alaska will be carefully managed by DFO.

Yukon River Panel December Meeting update

Steve Gotch provided an update on the December 6 – 14, 2018 YRP meeting in Anchorage. Key points will be the 2018 post season review, discussions on the R&E proposals, engagement- or meeting requirements for 2019, and the US preseason meeting of fishers.

Yukon Salmon Public Angling Strategy

Steve Smith reviewed the “Proposed Process Outline – Developing a Yukon River Public Salmon Angling Strategy”. The Outline will be used to develop an angling strategy for Yukon River Chinook Salmon, but only in years when the Indigenous fishery is fully met. Don Toews and Tecla van Bussel described the YFWMP regulatory process. A discussion of angling methods and education followed. The management of the Alsek salmon fishery was also discussed, and particularly an early season closure to salmon fishing.

Afternoon

Yukon River Commercial Salmon License Transfers

Steve Gotch provided an overview of the license transfer process and requested Guidance from the YSSC regarding their participation. The YSSC expressed an interest in such transfers as which may occur in the future.

Review and approval of decision items

Motion – 2: For the YSSC to instruct the Executive Committee to review the budget and to review the work plan between now and March 31, 2019 and come back to the committee with options.

Moved by: John Burdek **Seconded by:** Al von Finster

Passed by: Consensus

Motion – 3: For the YSSC to accept the rules and procedures as amended on October 24, 2018.

Moved by: John Burdek

Seconded by: James MacDonald

Passed by: Consensus

Election for Vice Chair

James MacDonald was acclaimed as the second chair.

CLOSING PRAYER – Roger Alfred
