



Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee
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August 1, 2019

Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister, Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
200 Kent Street, Station 15N100
Ottawa On K1A 0E6
min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Dear Minister Wilkinson:

Re: Yukon River Salmon Pre-Season Management Plan and Allocation Recommendations for 2019

Thank you for the response to our June 13, 2019 letter wherein we outline a series of recommendations in respect of Yukon River drainage salmon. The Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC) is pleased that you accepted two of our recommendations in whole. To be sure, we accept the remaining variances to our recommendation, but offer the following suggestions for future consideration:

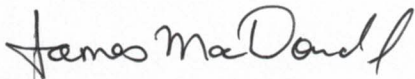
Regarding **Recommendation #1**, the YSSC supports a conservative approach to salmon fisheries on the Yukon River drainage in 2019. Given the extraordinary stress caused by low water and high-water temperatures, we accept the need to using the upper end of the spawning escapement goal is accepted. However, using two different trigger points for the Yukon River Chinook Decision Matrix is confusing. The mid-point of the spawning escapement goal is a trigger for the First Nation fishery while the upper end of the escapement goal is the trigger for the other licensed fisheries. This has created considerable confusion among users. It speaks to the advisability of a new Matrix that can be applied to both First Nation and licensed fisheries.

Our application of the Matrix has also raised questions internationally as Canada has for years encouraged Alaskan fishery managers to strive for the mid-point of the escapement goal set by the Yukon River Panel as part of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement. This is the first year Alaska has agreed to manage 'within' the escapement goal as opposed to aiming for the bottom end. They have, however, successfully delivered more than the upper end of the escapement goal across the international border for the past 5 years and yet Canada continues to harvest far less than its harvest share under the YRSA. The YSSC will be returning to this issue in the near future and may be presenting a recommendation to you.

Regarding **Recommendation #4**, the YSSC accepts your reasons for setting aside our recommendation. There is unlikely to be a directed licensed Chinook fishery this season; however, in future years, there could be such an opportunity. The YSSC welcomes your invitation to participate in the development of more regulatory tools to manage licensed fisheries.

In closing, we want to thank you for your time and attention to the management and sustainability of the Yukon River drainage Chinook, Chum, and Coho salmon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James MacDonald".

James MacDonald
Chair, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee

CC: Steve Gotch, Area Director Yukon Transboundary River Area, DFO
Steve Smith, Manager Yukon River Treaties and Fisheries, DFO