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Mr. Harvey Jessup
Chair, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee
P.O. Box 31094
Whitehorse, Yukon
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Dear Mr. Jessup:

Thank you for the correspondence submitted on June 13, 2019 which provides the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee's recommendations for the allocation and management of Yukon River salmon for the upcoming season. Pursuant to Section 16.8.4 of the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, I have accepted the YSSC's recommendations as submitted with the exception of *Recommendation #4* (establishing a condition of licence which requires the release female Chinook salmon in captured in domestic or commercial fisheries).

In consideration of *Recommendation #1*, the decline of Yukon River Chinook salmon coupled with increasing climatic variability and associated effect on salmon survival creates uncertainty for the long-term health of this important stock. Recognizing this, the opportunity for public, commercial or domestic fisheries will be triggered once the abundance of Chinook salmon meets the upper end of the International Yukon River Panel's Interim Management Escapement Goal; and, Canada's *Pacific Salmon Treaty* harvest allocation exceeds the number required for a full allocation to the First Nation fishery.

With respect to *Recommendation #4*, unfortunately current regulations are not written in a manner that could require the release of female Chinook salmon as a condition of licence. As a result, for the 2019 season all Chinook salmon caught incidentally in commercial or domestic fisheries must be released. The Department is committed to working with the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee explore development and future implementation of harvest management tools that will contribute to the recovery and long term sustainability.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard