

Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee Meeting Minute Summary- Whitehorse

July 24, 2019

PRESENT: Harvey Jessup (via teleconference), Michelle Dawson-Beattie, Tim Gerberding, Jason Jim, James MacDonald (via teleconference), Stanley Njootli Sr., Al von Finster (Acting Chair),

REGRETS: Roger Alfred, Carl Sidney, Ed Long

STAFF: Elizabeth MacDonald (Executive Director)

PUBLIC: Blanche Warrington (YFWMB, Board Member), Tecla Van Bussel (YFWMB, Communications), Don Toews, Jeska Gagnon (DFO), Tola Cooper (DFO), Bill Waugh (DFO), Steve Gotch (DFO), Steve Smith (DFO), Michael Folkes (DFO), Jesse Trerice, Vesta Mather (DFO), Dennis Zimmerman, Shannon Bower

Call to Order and Agenda Review/Approval

A minute of silence was held for Gerry Couture.

Motion – 1 – YSSC accept the July 24, 2019 agenda as presented.

Moved by: Michelle Dawson-Beattie

Seconded by: Tim Gerberding

Passed by: Consensus

Roundtable and Introductions & Comments

Members introduced themselves. Tim Gerberding is the newest Sub-Committee member. He introduced himself and provided an overview of his background and experience.

Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion – 2 – That the YSSC accept the May 2019 minutes with changes identified.

Moved by: Al Von Finster

Seconded by: Harvey Jessup

Passed by: Consensus

Executive Committee Nominations

The YSSC decided each Member should have a vote, and that Elizabeth could provide a vote by proxy for Roger, James (electronically), and Harvey Jessup (electronically). Roger provided his preferences to Elizabeth prior to the meeting by ranking potential nominees.

Motion – 3 — That the YSSC appoints James MacDonald as the Chair for two years or until his membership expires.

Moved by: Michelle Dawson-Beattie

Seconded by: Harvey Jessup

Passed by: Consensus

Motion – 4 — That the YSSC appoints Al von Finster as the First Vice-Chair for two years or until his membership expires.

Moved by: Michelle Dawson-Beattie

Seconded by: Stanley Njootli Sr.

Passed by: Consensus

Elections for Second Vice-Chair to be held in the afternoon.

Administrative and Financial Review

The 2019-20 budget is \$305,871. YSSC would like to see fixed, capital, and discretionary. Discussion around expenses DFO use to cover, but now YSSC covers since the move from DFO.

Action Item #1: Create a Financial Working Group

Tim, Al, James and Elizabeth will form a working group to address the funding shortfalls as a result of the separation from DFO and develop a plan. The working group will consult with YSSC.

Fisheries Act (FA) Update -Tola Cooper, DFO

Tola provided an update on the FA now that it received royal ascent. Identified lots of next steps for DFO to develop policy, procedures, and Traditional Knowledge (TK). Tola is looking to work with Yukon First Nations to develop TK procedures for the Yukon. Tola also updated YSSC on the new funding available for Indigenous groups (AAROM and IHPP) and the Rebuilding Plan.

Correspondence was reviewed and sparked discussion regarding the current Yukon River Chinook matrix.

Alsek River Salmon Update – Bill Waugh and Steve Gotch (DFO)

Bill and Steve provided an update on Alsek River salmon stocks, in-season information, salmon assessment projects, outlooks and management strategies. Discussion was around CAFN closing their fishery last year and if similar measures would be needed in 2019.

Yukon River Salmon DFO/YFNG/YSSC In-Season Teleconference call

Joel Potie from NNDFN joined the call.

Steve Gotch and Michael Folks provided an update on Yukon River Chinook and chum stocks, the Minister's response to YSSC's Recommendations, finalization of the IFMP, forecasts, and in-season abundance.

- The Minister accepted YSSC's recommendation with the exception of: Recreational fishery trigger of 55,000 and changed the release of female Chinook to the release of all Chinook caught in the chum commercial and domestic fisheries.
- Discussion around the in-season numbers for Chinook. 213,000 at Pilot, expecting 95,000 to be Canadian-origin. Expect Canadian harvest share of around 10,000
- The difference in spawning escapement goal between Alaska and Canada puts additional conservation burden on Canada.
- Discussion on the record warm water in Alaska. Concern that all the Chinook might not reach their spawning grounds. There are past records of pre-spawn mortality in the Yukon River.
- Chinook run has higher female and 6 year old component
- ADF&G changed the fishery in 5D from 7.5" net open 7 days, to 6" net open 2 days. Show that ADF&G is not as confident as they were in meeting the border obligations.
- Chum were briefly covered. Expect full FN allocation, public angling fishery, and commercial/domestic fishery opportunities
- Porcupine chum, will use harvest guidelines, currently anticipate a harvest of 2,200.

Minister's Response to YSSC's Recommendations

Members discussed the Minister's variance of YSSC's recommendations. YSSC decided to respond to the Minister's decision with:

- Accept Minister's changing recommendation #1 to use the upper end of the spawning escapement before opening the angling fishery, but will ask Minister to update the Yukon River Chinook matrix
- Accept Minister's change of recommendation #4 to release all Chinook captured in commercial and domestic fisheries instead of releasing females, as there is unlikely to be an opening for Chinook
- **Action item #2:** Will send a letter in response to the minister and refer to a future letter to be sent after the election; After the election a new letter will be sent to revise the Chinook Matrix

YSSC Report Card- Action Items from Last Meeting

YSSC Report Card was only briefly reviewed. Asked to remove the YRP debrief due to the lateness of the item. It will be modified slightly to include action dates and completed items will be tracked below.

Member's Times (closed/in camera)

YSSC elections for Second Vice-Chair. Votes were provided to Elizabeth electronically by Members who had to leave, or were remotely connecting. Members physically present provided their votes on paper.

Harvey Jessup was confirmed as Second Vice-Chair, confirmed by vote.

Action Item 9 — Get a beaded salmon wall hanging as a Thank You for Don Toews.

Motion – 5 — That the YSSC adjourn the meeting for July 24, 2019.

Moved by: Stanley Njootli Sr.

Seconded by: Tim Gerberding

Passed by: Consensus

End of Day