



Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee  
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**December 20, 2019**

Honourable Bernadette Jordan, M.P.  
Minister  
Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Canada  
Government of Canada  
200 Kent Street  
Station 15N100  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
[min.xncr@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:min.xncr@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**RE: Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee Asek River Drainage Recommendations**

Dear Minister Jordan:

The Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC) is established and mandated under Yukon First Nation Final Agreements (YFNFA) as the 'main instrument of Salmon management in the Yukon'. Section 16.7.12 of the YFNFA specifies that after consultation with affected Yukon First Nations (YFN), the YSSC **shall** make recommendations to the Minister on allocations of salmon to users. YSSC **may** make recommendations to the Minister on content and timing of salmon harvesting and management plans. With that in mind, please accept the following recommendations under section 16.8.4:

**Recommendation #1: No allocation to the Public (Recreational) Chinook and Sockeye Angling fishery in 2020, dependent on the pre-season forecast and in-season projections.**

Currently, the Asek salmon pre-season forecast is not available, but if it is poor (not meeting the spawning escapement goal and the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) fishery then the YSSC recommends initiating an angling closure as a condition of licence on the Yukon Salmon Catch Card for Chinook and Sockeye, similar to the 2019 season. This closure is to respect the CAFN fishers. In recent poor salmon years, the CAFN citizens have reduced, or completely eliminated, their harvest, but the angling fishery was open to non-retention (catch and release). The CAFN finds this completely unacceptable as it makes encouraging and enforcing a closure or restriction for CAFN fishers extremely difficult. The YSSC concurs with the CAFN view in this regard.

The YSSC understands that using a condition of licence is a temporary measure, and cannot be changed in-season. As such, the YSSC is looking forward to proposed regulation changes for the whole of the Yukon as part of the Yukon Angling Strategy, which is an initiative directed by your predecessor in 2019.

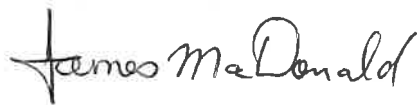
**Recommendation #2: Liberal allocation to the Public (Recreational) Coho Angling in 2020, dependent upon the pre-season forecast and in-season projections.**

If the Coho pre-season forecast and, more importantly, in-season projections indicate that the spawning escapement goal will be met and that the CAFN fishery will meet subsistence harvest expectations, then the YSSC recommends increasing the daily and possession limits for Coho. Interest in salmon fishing from the general public has been decreasing, and indeed many Yukoners fishing in recreational fisheries travel to Alaska to fish for salmon. To highlight the opportunities in Yukon, we have to make angling opportunities attractive when available.

The CAFN have also expressed interest in increasing harvest on Coho to increase Chinook and Sockeye numbers. Coho prey upon Chinook and Sockeye juveniles and with decreased harvest on Coho, it is likely that Coho are contributing to the lower runs of Chinook and Sockeye.

Should you require further information or clarification please contact Elizabeth MacDonald, Executive Director of the YSSC, at 867- 393- 6725

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James MacDonald". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

James MacDonald  
Chair  
Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee

CC: Steve Gotch, Area Director Fisheries and Oceans Canada