

# Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee Summary Meeting Minutes- Whitehorse

DAY 1: Wednesday, February 26, 2020

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**PRESENT:** Al von Finster (Vice Chair and Chair of the meeting, VGG nominee), Harvey Jessup (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Federal nominee), Roger Alfred (CYFN nominee), Stanley Njootli Sr. (VGG nominee), Carl Sidney (YFWMB Appointee), Tim Gerberding Federal nominee, Michelle Dawson-Beattie (YFWMB Appointee)

**GUESTS:** Jesse Trerice (DFO)

**SUPPORT:** Elizabeth MacDonald (Executive Director)

## Call to Order and Agenda Review/Approval

Al von Finster reviewed the agenda and asked for additions and amendments.

- Additions – Day 1: General discussion of the Executive Committee during the members time.

**Motion 1** – YSSC accept the February 26, 27, 2020 agenda as amended.

**Moved by:** Carl Sidney

**Seconded by:** Harvey Jessup

**Passed by:** Consensus

## Review and Approval of Previous Minutes & Summary Minutes

**Action Item 1 – Add to the next agenda Minutes Review – Format, Content and Timing to be Received.**

**Motion 2** – YSSC accept the October 2019 minutes, report card and action items.

**Moved by:** Carl Sidney

**Seconded by:** Harvey Jessup with amendments

**Passed by:** Consensus

## Administrative and Financial Review

- New Contribution Agreement (2020 to 2025)
  - Elizabeth provided an update on the DFO agreement. The new agreement will reflect the 15% carryover amount. Steve is not sure if this adjustment will affect the timing of the contribution agreement.
  - Jesse is aware the agreement is in the DFO system. The earliest that the requisition would be released is April 1, regardless if it is a new or recurring agreement. Once issued it will take a few weeks for processing.

### Yukon River Panel

- There is a concern with the length of time (2 to 6 months) it takes for Members to receive their honorariums from DFO.
- To alleviate the financial burden on Members, YSSC offered to directly pay YSSC Members and have DFO reimburse YSSC. DFO has either ignored the request or has said no. It is something that YSSC will continue to discuss with DFO.
- Elizabeth advised that the YSSC top-up payment covers additional benefits that you would not receive if you were only paid by DFO, for example, WCB. If you are hurt while traveling, your coverage is there. DFO pays the \$200 and YSSC pays a top-up of \$150, which includes additional benefits like WCB and insurance.

**Action Item 2: YSSC will write a letter to the Minister regarding the Yukon River Panel payments of honorariums.**

- Communication subcommittee member to replace Harvey in the spring
  - Carl Sidney volunteered to join the YRP communication subcommittee

### R&E Projects

- Stock Restoration Year 3
  - The project is complete.

### PSF Project Proposal

- Coho Angling Engagement
  - Will include videos of people catching and cooking coho showing that the species are good for human food.
  - If there is funding from the YRP, we will showcase chum and Coho at salmon tasting events in the evening. They can get tickets and anglers can sample the local salmon and see videos that were produced. This is to inspire people to come out and fish for salmon.

## Correspondence & News

- Elizabeth advised the following letters were sent:
  - Letter thanking Lawrence Joe for advocating the Alsek Salmon Summit
  - Letter asking DRPC to consider salmon as a focal species
  - Comments on COSEWIC Sockeye DUs
  - Comments on the Draft YR Comprehensive Salmon Plan (Alaskan)
  - Recommendation to the Minister regarding Alsek Drainage 2020
  - A couple news articles on the YRP December meeting

## Member Updates:

- DFO YR Postseason Webinar Nov 7 (Al & Elizabeth)
- JTC Meeting Nov 13 to 15 (Elizabeth)
- RRC AGW Nov 15 & 16 (Harvey)
- YRP Communication Subcommittee Nov 20 (Harvey & Elizabeth)
- DRPC Open House Nov 20 (Elizabeth)
- Canadian YRP Communication subcommittee Dec 3 (Harvey & Elizabeth)
- YRP Dec 6 to 11 (Al, Tim, Carl, James, Stan, Michelle, Harvey, Elizabeth, Jason, Roger)
- YFWMB Dec 13 (Elizabeth)
- TBP Prep Dec 20 (James, Carl, Elizabeth)
- TBP Meeting Jan 13 to 16 (Jason, James, Elizabeth)
- Ed Ex Planning Jan 21 (Harvey & Elizabeth)
- TK Suggestions w Shirley Dawson (Elizabeth)
- TBP Meeting Feb 19 to 20 (Jason, James, Harvey, Elizabeth)

## YSSC Report Card- Action Items from the Last Meeting

### **Action Item 3: Put information up on our website regarding the radiation studies**

- When we have a question on this, we can refer people to the website.

Below are the changes to the report card

Meeting	Action Item	Description	Completed
October 2019	-	Copy Larry Bagnell and Pat Duncan with letter to the Minister RE Arctic Region	Follow up with item 6
October 2019	-	Letter to Minister recommend faster JTC review of Spawning Escapement goal for Chinook (priority)	In progress
March 2019	6	Elizabeth can start on the Strategic Plan project and look to have something in early 2020.	For review during meeting
March 2019	10	Seek legal opinion from Jim Bishop regarding the confidentiality clause	Removed
May 2019	Strategic Plan	Write letter to RDG requesting a seat on the TBR Panel	Follow up
May 2019	Ongoing	Recommend Minister increase our funding prior to 2022 review	Will be making a reply
May 2019	3	Letter to the Minister recommending the revision of the Chinook matrix before the 'numbers'	In progress
May 2019	6	Letter to DFO RE Not including Yukon in Arctic Region CC Larry Bagnell and Pat Duncan	Follow up with first item
May 2019	7	Letter to parties requesting direction to resolve confidentiality clauses and conflicting opinions YG/Feds/FN	Follow up with item 10
May 2019	8	Recommendation to DFO/HC-communicate Radiation studies to YR people	Remove, add to website
Completed/Removed			
October 2019	-	Provide YSSC updates every 2 weeks by email	✓
March 2019	7	<b>Send letter to Lawrence Joe for Salmon Summit</b>	✓
May 2019	9	Get beaded salmon wall hanging & thank you for Don	✓
October 2019	-	Have Carl attend JTC meeting as TK person	-
July 2019	1	Create a Working Group to develop a plan to increase funding to compensate for the separation from DFO and hiring staff	✓

## Operational Procedures Update

- Increase honorariums to \$350 per day for Members
- Pay rates change (Daily Rate/8 = Hourly Rate)
  - 6 to 8 hours, full day
  - The rest, and any hours over 8 per day to be paid at hourly rate
- All travel must be pre-approved by Executive
  - Regular meetings have a blanket approval.
- Advances include travel expenses and half honorariums
- Added can claim meals when meeting spans a meal break (not on travel status)
- Yearly Incidental (\$75 X 4) for Members, required attendance at YSSC meeting to qualify
  - This is to cover items not normal covered for example use of personal computer/printer items for YSSC business.

**Motion 3 – YSSC Changes to Honorarium, Hourly Rate, Travel, Travel Advances, Meal Claims and Yearly Incidentals.**

**Moved by:** Carl Sidney

**Seconded by:** Harvey Jessup

**Passed by:** Consensus

## COSEWIC Bering Cisco

- Comment on potential listing as Species of Special Concern
  - Bering Cisco are considered a salmon under the UFA.
  - Limited data available (1 confirmed capture in the Yukon)
  - They are difficult to identify when compared to other white fish.

**Action Item 4: Letter to DFO recommending that Bering Cisco are classified as data deficient.**

**Action Item 5: YSSC will write a letter to the Minister regarding the Yukon River Panel payments of honorariums.**

### In-camera Discussion on the Executive Committee

## DAY 2: Wednesday February 27, 2020

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**PRESENT:** James MacDonald (Chair, CYFN nominee), Al von Finster (Vice Chair, VGG nominee), Harvey Jessup (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Federal nominee), Roger Alfred (CYFN nominee), Stanley Njootli Sr. (VGG nominee), Carl Sidney (YFWMB appointee), Tim Gerberding Federal nominee, Michelle Dawson-Beattie (YFWMB appointee), Jason Jim (CAFN nominee)

**GUEST:** Jesse Trerice (DFO), Deb Fulmer (DFO)

**SUPPORT:** Elizabeth MacDonald (Executive Director)

## Traditional Knowledge Workshop

- TK Advisory Body to YRP and TK advice for YSSC/YFWMB

Members discussed: forming a working group for TK; potential workshops; role with respect to TK; improving communication with First Nations; and knowledge sharing on salmon management and habitat. Also discussed the importance of respect for TK to share and receive it. CYFN will be hosting a TK Workshop with funds from DFO (Fisheries Act). They will be partnering with other organizations as well. There is an opportunity to tie into this event, which would decrease costs to TK holders and Yukon FN Governments.

**Action Item 6— Participate on the CYFN/FA TK Workshop**

**Action Item 7— Create a TK Working Group: Roger, Al, Carl, Michelle, Stan, and Elizabeth.**

## Preparation for Yukon River Panel

- Position for discussion on Chinook conservation and the Canadian harvest share

Members discussed preparation for the upcoming Panel meeting from April 3 to 8, 2020 in Fairbanks, Alaska. Harvey Jessup provided opening comments on: YSSC's function/role to manage salmon and to restore/recover the fish; transboundary panel meeting; and the need for more management discussions.

There will be a meeting with DFO on March 9 and 10 for YRP restoration and enhancement projects. There will be a caucus meeting in Anchorage the day before the bilateral meeting. Members discussed DFO technical support requests for the bilateral meeting including the following: charts of the last two decades showing the run size, American catch, Canadian catch, report card for the duration of the treaty years, environmental factors, and DFO pre-spawn mortality observations of Chinook Salmon at Blind Creek.

The subcommittee would like to support the pre-panel First Nation engagement to elicit more participation. We may need to find a better time to facilitate their scheduling.

**Action Item 8— YSSC contact FNs to invite to a Yukon River Panel preparation call/meeting. Also invite DFO.**

## Strategic Plan- Review, edits & finalize for design & distribution

Elizabeth provided a draft of the plan to the members prior to the meeting.

- Background of the Strategic Plan was provided. The idea is to provide a handout to give some information. A more in-depth plan can be done in the future and information similar to the Stock Restoration Report can be prepared.
- A copy of the proposed handout was displayed as a PowerPoint and the members reviewed the document line by line. Changes to the document were completed after discussed.

**Action Item 9— Ask Jeska Gagnon to inform us what DFO doing for salmon habitat, who is doing it and how it is done, and provide a summary on salmon habitat at our next YSSC meeting.**

## Alsek Drainage Working Group - Brainstorming on how to start this initiative

- In the drainage, those involved in a fishery along with First Nations and RRC's are invited to the working group along with other stakeholders
- CAFN currently has a standing committee for the Alsek drainage.
- There was a Yukon River drainage committee in the past and it did work.
- It was formed by YSSC. They invited commercial fishers, First Nations, and RRC's. It petered out and a lot of it had to do with changing DFO Directors.
- A suggestion would be to work with CAFN and see what ideas they have.

- The standing committee will be meeting early next week and they are going to address the harvest and partnering on the Coho angling project.

**Action Item 10— Ask CAFN (Jennifer Lee) if CAFN would want to participate in an Alsek Working Group.**

## Salmon Summit Brainstorming - Linkage to YRITFC

- James would like to pursue this issue, but is not sure on where and how to move forward. The last was time this came up was in 2014 in Fairbanks and was funded by an R&E proposal.
- The meeting was held in Alaska to accommodate those Alaskans who did not have passports or who were not able to cross the border.
- This was CYFN and YRDFA with a two-day planning meeting. The third day was the summit. Everyone was there and that reduced costs.
- We should partner with both YRDFA and YRITFC.

**Action Item 11— When at the YRP, discuss with Alaskans the idea of hosting a Salmon Summit to develop partnerships.**

## In-Camera Session

No minutes recorded

**Action Item 12— Respond to the Minister's letter RE a funding increase.**