

Minister of
Fisheries and Oceans



Ministre des
Pêches et des Océans

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

AUG 07 2020

Mr. James MacDonald
Chair, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee
P.O. Box 31094
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 5P7
c/o ex.dir@yssc.ca

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

Thank you for the correspondence submitted on June 11, 2020 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* (release female Chinook salmon in captured in domestic or commercial fisheries).

The ongoing 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 only be provided if the abundance of Chinook salmon is likely to achieve 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 structured in a manner to require the release of female Chinook salmon as a condition of licence. For the 2020 season all Chinook salmon caught incidentally in commercial or domestic fisheries must be released unless abundance exceeds conservation objectives and allocations for First Nation and recreational fisheries. Based on the pre-season forecast, this is not anticipated to occur in 2020.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Bernadette Jordan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bernadette Jordan
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

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