



Charles Swanton  
USA

Co-Chairs

Steve Gotch  
Canada

Yukon River Panel 100 – 419 Range Road Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 3V1

---

## **FOR RELEASE - April 5, 2017**

The Yukon River Panel (Panel), established by the U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Agreement, met in Whitehorse, Yukon from April 3 through 5 to review the status of 2016 Canadian-origin salmon runs and fishery management regimes and received 2017 Yukon River Chinook and chum salmon outlooks. The Panel also reviewed project proposals submitted to the Restoration and Enhancement Fund for funding consideration in 2017 and associated public comments received. The Panel, which operates under the *Yukon River Salmon Agreement (Pacific Salmon Treaty)*, consists of 12 Alaska and Yukon Territory residents from throughout the Yukon River system, and is supported by regional advisors, scientists, and managers from Canada and the United States.

## **2016 Canadian-Origin Salmon Run, Harvest, and Escapement Estimates**

### Chinook Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Total estimated run size: 83,043
- Harvest: 11,476 (U.S), 2,769 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: 68,798

### Chum Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Total estimated run size: 298,000
- Harvest: 137,413\* (U.S.), 2,745 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: 145,267

### Chum Salmon (Fishing Branch River (Porcupine Drainage))

- Total estimated run size: 55,360
- Harvest: 21,959\* (U.S.) 1,743\* (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: 29,397

\*Estimate

## **2017 Canadian-Origin Salmon Escapement Goals and Preseason Forecasts**

### Chinook Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Interim Management Escapement Goal: 42,500 – 55,000
- Pre-Season estimate forecast outlook range: 70,000 – 97,000

### Chum Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Interim Management Escapement Goal: 70,000 – 104,000
- Pre-Season estimate forecast outlook range: 350,000 – 425,000

### Chum Salmon (Fishing Branch River (Porcupine Drainage))

- Interim Management Escapement Goal: 22,000 – 49,000
- Pre-Season estimate forecast outlook range: 56,000 – 68,000

## **2017 Management Summary**

The preseason forecast for Yukon River mainstem Chinook salmon identifies a below-average run for 2017, similar to 2016, and showing early signs of improvement over runs observed in 2012 and 2013. In this regard, a conservative management approach will likely be required in order to achieve the interim management escapement goal with the potential of providing limited U.S. and Canadian fishery opportunities. The mainstem chum salmon return is projected to be above the average and likely of sufficient abundance to support both spawning escapement requirements and provide allocations to U.S. and Canadian fisheries. A small improvement in Fishing Branch River Canadian-origin chum salmon abundance is forecast in 2017, however low runs in recent years have created uncertainty in the outlook. It is anticipated that conservative management measures may be required to achieve the Interim Management escapement goal in 2017. Further information may be found in the Yukon River Salmon 2016 Season Summary and 2017 Season Outlook found at:

[www.yukonriverpanel.com/salmon/publications/joint-technical-committee-reports/](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com/salmon/publications/joint-technical-committee-reports/)

## **Restoration and Enhancement Fund**

The Yukon River Panel approved \$1.397 million U.S. of funding for 32 project proposals for salmon and habitat Restoration and Enhancement projects in Alaska and Yukon to be undertaken in 2017. Notably, 17 of the projects selected align with the Panel's near term "Restoration" priorities (total of \$0.612 million U.S. allocated). The Yukon River Panel is pleased to renew its long-standing international Education Exchange program in 2017. The Panel has allocated more than \$16.0 million U.S. since 2002 to community-based projects, including stewardship projects, directly supporting the management and recovery of Yukon River salmon stocks originating in Canada.

The Yukon River Panel anticipates launch of its new website in 2017. Please check for updates at: [yukonriverpanel.com](http://yukonriverpanel.com)

Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Fund – 2017 Project Proposals Approved for Funding

1	Genetic Stock Identification of Pilot Station Chinook Salmon, 2017
2	Yukon River Chinook Subsistence Harvest Genetic Stock Identification, 2017
3	Genetic Stock Identification of Canadian-Origin Yukon River Chinook and Chum Salmon. Year 16
4	Yukon River Border Sonar Operations. Year 7
5	Porcupine River Chinook Salmon Sonar Program. Year 4
6	Blind Creek Chinook Salmon Enumeration Weir. Year 15
7	Chinook Salmon Sonar Enumeration on the Big Salmon River. Year 13
8	Pelly River Chinook Salmon Sonar Program
9	Enhancing the information value of Coded Wire Tags applied to Canadian-origin Chinook salmon
10	Yukon River Canadian-Origin Juvenile Chinook Out-migrant Assessment. Year 3
11	Assessing the Limits to Production of Juvenile Canadian-Origin Yukon River
12	Fishing Branch River Chum Habitat Assessment - Year 4
13	Michie Creek Salmon and Habitat Monitoring Project 2016. Year 19
14	Temperature monitoring of Yukon River Chinook Salmon spawning and migration habitats in Canada. Year 4
15	Impacts to the Kluane Fall Chum Salmon Stock from a Major, Natural Hydrological Change
16	Porcupine Community-Based Salmon Management Plan
17	Ta'an Kwäch'än Council - Fox Creek Salmon Restoration Project. Year 5
18	Deadman Creek Chinook Salmon Restoration Pilot Project and In-Stream Egg Incubation Trial. Year 3
19	Assessing the fate of returning Upper Yukon River Chinook Salmon
20	Takhini River Chinook Salmon Restoration Investigation - 2017
21	Klondike River Chinook Salmon stock restoration plan
22	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Fish Youth Culture Camp. Year 17
23	McIntyre Creek Salmon Incubation Project -MCSIP. Year 15
24	Yukon River North Mainstem Stewardship. Year 12
25	Salmon Stewardship Coordinators for Yukon Schools. Year 6
26	Yukon River Chinook Salmon Stock Restoration Community Technical Team - Year 3
27	Whitehorse Rapids Fishway Stewardship
28	Selkirk Nation Fall Chum Utilization Project
29	Salmon Know No Borders – 2017 Yukon River Exchange. Year 13
30	Yukon River Summer Pre-Season Preparation Meeting. Year 8
31	Enhanced Education and Outreach – Salmonids in the Classroom
32	Selkirk Nation Salmon Citizen Outreach and Communications Plan

The Yukon River Panel's next meeting will be held in Whitehorse, Yukon from December 9 to 13, 2017. Confirmation of meeting details, including specific location, venue, agenda items and timing of public / closed sessions will be available on the Yukon River Panel's website:

<http://yukonriverpanel.com/salmon/meetings/meeting-schedule/>