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## **PRESS RELEASE - December 27, 2017**

The Yukon River Panel (the Panel), established by the U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Agreement, met in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory from December 10-13, 2017. At this meeting, the Panel recognized fifteen years of international cooperation since ratification of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement in December 2002. 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 drainage and is advised by regional advisors/resource users, scientists, and fishery managers from both Canada and the United States.

The Panel received scientific and technical presentations on the outcome of the 2017 Canadian and United States origin salmon runs and fishery management actions that were taken. The panel was informed about the above average Chinook and Chum salmon runs in 2017 and encouraging signs for the next several years. There were numerous discussions about outreach and communication to inform the public specific to the salmon conservation success story that this milestone represents. Additional presentations to the Panel were provided on activities focusing on Chinook and Chum salmon stocks from several Yukon First Nation Governments showcasing Restoration and Enhancement Fund projects supporting salmon restoration, stewardship and conservation in the upper Yukon River watershed. All the public testimony given at this meeting was received with interest and much appreciated by the Panel. In a new development, the Panel successfully trialed a livestreaming video link of the meetings public sessions allowing interested parties otherwise unable to attend in person the opportunity to follow the meeting remotely.

### **Restoration and Enhancement Fund**

The Yukon River Panel expects that up to \$1.3 million U.S. of funding will be available to fund salmon and habitat Restoration and Enhancement projects in Alaska and Yukon in 2018. The Panel has allocated nearly \$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. In support of the Panel's interest in salmon stock restoration, up to U.S. \$0.7 million will be expended on projects focusing on this priority between 2016 and 2018.

The Panel has received 32 Project Proposals submitted in response to the Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Fund's 2018 Call for Project Proposals. Following consideration of recommendations from the Restoration and Enhancement Technical Sub-Committee and comments received from the public, the Panel will select the project proposals that will receive funding at its spring 2018 meeting. Further information on 2018 Restoration and Enhancement Fund Project Proposals and instructions to submit public comments are available on the Yukon River Panel's website at: <http://www.yukonriverpanel.com/news-and-announcements/restoration-and-enhancement-fund-2018-call-for-public-comments/>

### **Yukon River Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Fund Project Proposals (2018)**

- 1** Genetic Stock Identification of Pilot Station Chinook Salmon 2018
- 2** Yukon River Chinook Subsistence Harvest Genetic Stock Identification 2018
- 3** Genetic Stock Identification of Canadian-Origin Yukon River Chinook and Chum Salmon 2018
- 4** Blind Creek Chinook Salmon Enumeration Weir
- 5** Chinook Salmon Sonar Enumeration on the Big Salmon River
- 6** Selkirk First Nation Pelly River Chinook Salmon Sonar Program
- 7** Upper Teslin River Watershed Chinook Radio Telemetry
- 8** Yukon River Canadian-Origin Juvenile Chinook Outmigrant Assessment
- 9** Developing a Juvenile Stock-Recruitment Relationship for Yukon River Chinook Salmon
- 10** Juvenile Chinook Outmigration at the Yukon River Mouth
- 11** Kwanlin Dün First Nation Michie Creek Salmon Monitoring Project
- 12** Temperature Monitoring of Yukon River Chinook Salmon Spawning and Migration habitats in Canada
- 13** Impacts to Kluane Fall Chum Salmon Stock from a Major Hydrological Change
- 14** Ta'an Kwäch'än Council - Fox Creek Salmon Restoration Project
- 15** Teslin Tlingit Deadman Creek Chinook Salmon Restoration Project
- 16** Coded Wire Tagging of Hatchery Origin Canadian-Origin Chinook Salmon Fry
- 17** Tay River Chinook Salmon Access Investigation
- 18** Assessing the Fate of Returning Upper Yukon River Chinook Salmon
- 19** Takhini River Chinook Salmon Restoration Investigation
- 20** Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Klondike River Chinook Restoration Plan: Instream Incubation Trial
- 21** Vuntut Gwitchin Fishing Branch River Chum Instream Egg Incubation Trial
- 22** Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Fish Youth Culture Camp
- 23** McIntyre Creek Salmon Incubation Project
- 24** Yukon River North Mainstem Stewardship
- 25** Salmon Stewardship Coordinators for Yukon Schools
- 26** Whitehorse Rapids Fishway Stewardship
- 27** Selkirk First Nation Fall Chum Utilization Project
- 28** Little Salmon Carmacks Juvenile Chinook Salmon Monitoring Program
- 29** Teslin Tlingit Salmon Steward
- 30** Salmon Know No Borders – 2018 Yukon River Exchange
- 31** Yukon River Salmon Summer Pre-Season Preparation Meeting (Alaska)
- 32** Enhanced Education and Outreach – Salmonids in the Classroom

The Panel's next meeting will be held in Alaska from April 14 to 18, 2018. Confirmation of meeting details, including specific location, venue, agenda items and timing of public / closed sessions will be available in early 2018 on the Yukon River Panel's website at: <http://www.yukonriverpanel.com/meetings/>