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The Yukon River Panel (Panel), established by the U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Agreement, met in Anchorage, Alaska from April 16 through 18 to review the status of 2017 Canadian-origin salmon runs and fishery management regimes and received 2018 Yukon River Chinook and chum salmon outlooks. The Panel also reviewed project proposals submitted to the Restoration and Enhancement Fund for funding consideration in 2018 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.

2017 Canadian-Origin Salmon Run, Harvest, and Escapement Estimates

Chinook Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Total estimated run size: ~92,600
- Harvest: ~20,800 (U.S.), ~3,500 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: ~68,300

Chum Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Total estimated run size: ~563,000
- Harvest: ~158,011* (U.S.), ~3,404 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: ~401,585

Chum Salmon (Fishing Branch River (Porcupine Drainage))

- Total estimated run size: ~73,000
- Harvest: ~21,164* (U.S.) ~2,312 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: ~48,524

*Estimate

2018 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: 71,000 – 103,000

Chum Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Interim Management Escapement Goal*: 70,000 – 104,000
- Pre-Season estimate forecast outlook range: 400,000 – 450,000

Chum Salmon (Fishing Branch River (Porcupine Drainage))

- Interim Management Escapement Goal*: 22,000 – 49,000
- Pre-Season estimate forecast outlook range: 64,000 – 72,000

**IMEG approved for a two year period.*

2018 Management Summary

The preseason forecast for Yukon River mainstem Chinook salmon identifies a run size similar or slightly smaller than the 2017 run size. In this regard, continuation of a conservative management approach was agreed to in order to achieve the interim management escapement goal while providing for the potential of 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 continued improvement in Fishing Branch River Canadian-origin chum salmon abundance is forecast for 2018, however low runs in past years have continued to create some uncertainty in the outlook. It is anticipated that conservative management measures may be required to achieve the Interim Management escapement goal in 2018. Further information may be found in the Yukon River Salmon 2017 Season Summary and 2018 Season Outlook at:

www.yukonriverpanel.com/salmon/publications/joint-technical-committee-reports/

Restoration and Enhancement Fund

The Yukon River Panel approved \$1.42 million U.S. of funding for 29 project proposals for salmon and habitat Restoration and Enhancement projects in Alaska and Yukon to be undertaken in 2018. Notably, 7 of the projects selected align with the Panel's near term "Restoration" priorities (total of \$368,000 U.S. allocated) thereby fulfilling the Panel's commitment to invest \$700,000 U.S. in Restoration projects between 2016 and 2019. The Yukon River Panel is pleased to continue support for its long-standing international Education Exchange program in 2018. The Panel has allocated more than \$17.0 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.

For full details of all Restoration and Enhancement projects and other Yukon River Panel information please check the Panel's website at: <http://www.yukonriverpanel.com/>

Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Fund – 2018 Project Proposals Approved for Funding.

1	Genetic Stock Identification of Pilot Station Chinook Salmon.
2	Yukon River Chinook Subsistence Harvest Genetic Stock Identification.
3	Blind Creek Chinook Salmon Enumeration Weir. Year 16
4	Chinook Salmon Sonar Enumeration on the Big Salmon River. Year 14
5	2018 Pelly River Chinook Salmon Sonar Program. Year 3
6	Upper Teslin River Watershed Chinook Radio Telemetry
7	Yukon River Canadian-Origin Juvenile Chinook Out-migrant Assessment. Year 4
8	Developing a juvenile stock-recruitment relationship for Yukon River Chinook salmon
9	Juvenile Chinook Outmigration at the Yukon River Mouth
10	KDFN Michie Creek Salmon Monitoring Project. Year 20
11	Temperature monitoring of Yukon River Chinook spawning and migration habitats in Canada.
12	Ta'an Kwäch'än Council - Fox Creek Salmon Restoration Project. Year 6
13	Deadman Creek Chinook Salmon Restoration Project. Year 4
14	Coded Wire Tagging of Hatchery Origin Canadian-Origin Chinook Salmon Fry.
15	Tay River Chinook Salmon Access Investigation
16	Assessing the fate of returning Upper Yukon River Chinook Salmon. Year 2
17	Takhini River Chinook Salmon Restoration Investigation.
18	Klondike River Chinook Restoration Plan: Instream Incubation Trial
19	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Fish Youth Culture Camp. Year 18
20	McIntyre Creek Salmon Incubation Project (MCSIP). Year 16. (<i>conditional approval</i>).
21	Yukon River North Mainstem Stewardship. Year 13
22	Salmon Stewardship Coordinators for Yukon Schools. Year 7
23	Whitehorse Rapids Fishway Stewardship
24	Selkirk Nation Fall Chum Utilization Project. Year 1
25	Little Salmon Carmacks juvenile chinook salmon monitoring program
26	Teslin Tlingit Salmon Steward
27	Salmon Know No Borders – 2018 Yukon River Exchange. Year 14
28	Yukon River Salmon Summer Pre-Season Preparation Meeting, 2019. (<i>conditional approval</i>).
29	Enhanced Education and Outreach – Salmonids in the Classroom

The Yukon River Panel's next meeting will be held in Alaska from December 8 to 12, 2018.

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/>