



John Linderman  
USA

Co-Chairs

Steve Gotch  
Canada

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

---

## **FOR RELEASE - April 10, 2019**

The Yukon River Panel (Panel), established by the U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Agreement, met in Whitehorse, Yukon from April 8 through 10 to review the status of 2018 Canadian-origin salmon runs and fishery management regimes and received 2019 Yukon River outlooks. The Panel also reviewed project proposals submitted to the Restoration and Enhancement Fund for funding consideration in 2019 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.

## **2018 Canadian-Origin Salmon Run, Harvest, and Escapement Estimates**

### Chinook Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Total estimated run size: ~76,530
- Harvest: ~19,266 (U.S.), ~2,790 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: ~54,474

### Chum Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Total estimated run size: ~279,000
- Harvest: ~122,000\* (U.S.), ~2,957 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: ~154,126

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

- Total estimated run size: ~29,000
- Harvest: ~17,700\* (U.S.) ~1,031 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: ~10,151

\*Estimate

## **2019 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: 69,000 – 99,000

#### Chum Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Interim Management Escapement Goal: 70,000 – 104,000
- Pre-Season estimate forecast outlook range: 233,000 – 290,000

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

- Interim Management Escapement Goal: 22,000 – 49,000
- Pre-Season estimate forecast outlook range: 37,000 – 46,000

### **2019 Management Recommendations**

The Yukon River Panel received information on 2018 management strategies and outcomes for Canadian-origin Yukon River salmon stocks, as well as outlooks for 2019. In considering this information, the Yukon River Panel provided the following recommendations for the 2019 season.

1. Recognizing uncertainty in assessment and management, the Canadian-origin Chinook salmon run should be managed to achieve the conservation objectives within the Yukon River Salmon Agreement, ensuring escapement falls within the established IMEG range and provides for the harvest shares in both countries.
2. To provide for Canadian-origin Chinook salmon conservation, consider use of 6” or smaller mesh gill nets upstream of Tanana River / Yukon River Mainstem confluence within the regulatory structures of each country.
3. Fishery opportunities should be provided conservatively until in-season assessment information confirms trends in abundance.

Further information may be found in the Yukon River Salmon 2018 Season Summary and 2019 Season Outlook at: <https://www.yukonriverpanel.com/publications/yukon-river-joint-technical-committee-reports/>

### **Restoration and Enhancement Fund**

The Yukon River Panel approved \$1.376 million U.S. of funding for 24 project proposals for salmon and habitat Restoration and Enhancement projects in Alaska and Yukon to be undertaken in 2019. Notably, 5 of the projects selected align with the Panel’s near term “Restoration” priorities with a total of \$318,000 U.S. allocated. The Yukon River Panel is pleased to continue support for its long-standing international Education Exchange program in 2019. The Panel has allocated more than \$18.3 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 – 2019 Project Proposals Approved for Funding.

1	Genetic Stock Identification of Pilot Station Chinook Salmon, 2019
2	Yukon River Chinook Genetic Baseline Improvements
3	Application of mixed-stock analysis for Yukon River Chum salmon
4	Klondike River Chinook Salmon Sonar Project
5	Chinook Salmon Sonar Enumeration on the Big Salmon River 2019. Year 15
6	Pelly River Chinook Salmon Sonar Program. Year 4
7	Upper Teslin River Watershed Chinook Radio Telemetry
8	KDFN Michie Creek Salmon Monitoring Project 2019. Year 21
9	Temperature monitoring of Yukon River Chinook spawning and migration habitats in Canada.
10	Ta'an Kwäch'än Council - Fox Creek Salmon Restoration Project. Year 7
11	Deadman Creek Chinook Salmon Restoration Project. Year 5
12	Tay River Chinook Salmon Access Project - 2019
13	Klondike River Chinook Instream Incubation Trial
14	Fishing Branch River Chum Instream Egg Incubation Trial
15	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) First Fish Youth Culture Camp. Year 19
16	Salmon Classroom Incubation for Yukon Schools - 2019. Year 8
17	Whitehorse Rapids Fishway Stewardship
18	Teslin Tlingit Salmon Steward
19	Southern Lakes Community-Based Salmon Planning
20	Salmon Know No Borders – 2019 Yukon River Exchange. Year 15
21	Yukon River Salmon Summer Pre-Season Preparation Meeting. Year 10
22	Enhanced Education and Outreach – Salmon in the Schools
23	Salmon Know No Borders - Communications Campaign
24	YRP R&E Fund Achievements & Successes - 1997 to 2017

The Yukon River Panel's next meeting will be held in Whitehorse, Yukon from December 6 to 10, 2019. 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/>