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PRESS RELEASE – January 29, 2021

The Yukon River Panel (the Panel), established by the Yukon River Salmon Agreement under the Pacific Salmon Treaty, met via virtual meeting session on January 26 and 27, 2021. The Panel consists of 12 Alaska and Yukon residents from throughout the Yukon River drainage and is advised by regional advisors, resource users, scientists, and fishery managers from Canada and the United States (U.S.). The meeting session was successfully livestreamed via video link to the internet allowing interested parties with the opportunity to follow the meeting remotely.

The Panel received scientific and technical presentations on the outcome of 2020 Yukon River salmon runs and fishery management actions implemented in the U.S. and Canada and associated results. The return of Canadian-origin Chinook and Chum salmon was very poor in 2020, with significant fishery restrictions and closures implemented to conserve the number of fish returning to spawning grounds. Despite these unprecedented efforts, minimum spawning objectives were not achieved for any Yukon River salmon stocks currently recognized in the Yukon River Salmon Agreement. The Panel acknowledges the hardships and challenges faced by both salmon and the people of the Yukon River watershed in 2020.

Restoration and Enhancement Fund

The Yukon River Panel expects that up to \$1.2 million U.S. will be available to fund salmon and habitat Restoration and Enhancement projects in Alaska and Yukon in 2021. 28 Project Proposals seeking funding in 2021 are being considered by the Panel (23 new proposals, and 5 selected for funding in 2020 but requested to be carried over into 2021). Following consideration of recommendations from the Yukon River Panel, Joint Technical Committee and comments received from the public, the Panel will select the project proposals that will receive funding for the coming year at its spring 2021 meeting. Further information on 2021 Restoration and Enhancement Fund Project Proposals and instructions to submit public comments are available on the Yukon River Panel's website at:

<https://www.yukonriverpanel.com/publications/news-and-announcements/>

The Panel's 2021 Pre-Season meeting will be held via virtual session in from Monday, April 12 through Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Confirmation of agenda items and timing of public / closed sessions will be available on the Yukon River Panel's website in advance of the meeting at:

<http://www.yukonriverpanel.com/meetings/>