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The Yukon River Panel (Panel), established by the U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Agreement, met via virtual meeting session from April 12 through 14. The meeting was livestreamed to the internet allowing interested parties the opportunity to follow the meeting remotely. The Panel received 2021 Yukon River Chinook and chum salmon outlooks and also reviewed project proposals submitted to the Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Fund for funding consideration in 2021. 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.

2020 Canadian-Origin Salmon Run, Harvest, and Escapement Estimates

Chinook Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Total estimated run size: ~45,501
- Harvest: ~12,171 (U.S), ~2,363 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: ~30,967

Chum Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Total estimated run size: ~25,073
- Harvest: ~1,561* (U.S.), ~0 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: ~23,512

Chum Salmon (Fishing Branch River (Porcupine Drainage))

- Total estimated run size: ~5,103
- Harvest: ~250* (U.S.) ~100 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: ~4,795

*Estimate

2021 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: 42,000 – 77,000

Chum Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Interim Management Escapement Goal: 70,000 – 104,000
- Pre-Season estimate forecast outlook range: 136,000 – 191,000

Chum Salmon (Fishing Branch River (Porcupine Drainage))

- Interim Management Escapement Goal: 22,000 – 49,000
- Pre-Season estimate forecast outlook range: 22,000 – 30,000

Further information may be found in the Yukon River Salmon 2020 Season Summary and 2021 Season Outlook at: <https://www.yukonriverpanel.com/publications/yukon-river-joint-technical-committee-reports/>

2021 Management Recommendations

1. Consistent with the 2021 Chinook salmon forecast and in consideration of the probability of expected low run size, 2021 directed Chinook salmon fisheries should be closed through at least the mid-point of the run. Chinook salmon harvest opportunity after the mid-point should be considered conservatively to ensure escapement falls within the 2021 IMEG range (42,500 – 55,000) and that Yukon River Salmon Agreement harvest share obligations are achieved. In-season fishery management decisions will account for the reality that the Canadian-origin run size past the Pilot Station sonar program will not be known with certainty, and as such, should rely on the lower bound of in-season run size projections.
2. To provide for Canadian-origin Chinook salmon conservation, limit use of gill nets to 6” mesh or smaller upstream of the Tanana River / Yukon River Mainstem confluence for the duration of the Chinook salmon migration consistent with the regulatory structures in both countries.
3. Contingent on status of border passage and achievement of Treaty objectives, restrictions on Chinook salmon fishing should be maintained into the Fall Season through the approximate 95% point or greater of the Chinook salmon run timing.
4. Environmental conditions, in particular extreme events, should be considered in-season to inform fishery management measures implemented and resulting harvest opportunities.
5. In the event that in-season assessment programs are unable to operate in 2021 due to circumstances beyond agency control, fishery harvest opportunities should be provided conservatively based on 2021 pre-season outlooks and associated Total Allowable Catch and harvest share allocations.
6. U.S. and Canadian Managers shall collaborate closely throughout the season to evaluate and discuss in-season run assessment, management actions and expected outcomes resulting from management actions.

Restoration and Enhancement Fund

The Yukon River Panel approved \$1.03 million U.S. of funding for 20 project proposals for salmon and habitat Restoration and Enhancement projects in Alaska and Yukon to be undertaken in 2021. The Panel also re-confirmed funding for four projects that were selected and scheduled to proceed in 2020 but which required a deferral to 2021 as a result of COVID-19 public safety restrictions. A list of the projects that will be supported by the Restoration and Enhancement Fund in 2021 is provided on the next page.

The Yukon River Panel is pleased to continue support for its long-standing international Education Exchange program, which will take place virtually in 2021. The Panel has allocated more than \$19.0 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/>

Next meeting

The Yukon River Panel's 2021 post-season meeting will be held in January 2022. Further details regarding specific dates and location will be made available on the Yukon River Panel's website.

Restoration and Enhancement Fund – 2021 Project Proposals Approved for Funding.

#	2021 Project Title
1	Genetic Stock Identification of Pilot Station Chinook Salmon
2	Pilot Station Fall Season Extension
3	Pilot Station and Eagle Sonar Summer Season Extension
4	Klondike River Chinook Salmon Sonar Project
5	Chinook Salmon Sonar Enumeration on the Big Salmon River
6	Pelly River Chinook Salmon Sonar Program
7	Juvenile Chinook Salmon Outmigration at the Yukon River Mouth
8	KDFN Michie Creek Salmon Monitoring Project
9	Temperature monitoring of Yukon River Chinook Salmon habitats in Canada
10	Stewart River Chinook Salmon Sonar Site Feasibility
11	Ta'an Kwäch'än Council - Fox Creek Salmon Restoration Project
12	Deadman Creek Chinook Salmon Restoration Project
13	Klondike River Chinook Instream Incubation Trial
14	Ibex River Chinook Incubation Trial
15	Morley River Chinook Stock Restoration
16	Takhini River Chinook Salmon Sonar Project
17	Nisutlin River Instream Incubation Trial and Aerial Surveys
18	Southern Lakes Community-Based Salmon Planning
19	2022 Yukon River Salmon Summer Pre-Season Preparation Meeting (YRDFA)
20	Enhanced Education and Outreach – Salmon in the Schools
#	Deferred 2020 Projects approved to proceed in 2021
CRE-167-20N	Promoting the Chum Salmon Angling Fishery in Canada
CRE-170-20N	Na'Cho Nyäk Dun Salmon Planning
CRE-163-20	Fishing Branch River Chum Instream Incubation Trial
CRE-175-20N	Tatchun Creek Chinook Enumeration