



John Linderman
Chair, USA

Steve Gotch
Chair, Canada

Yukon River Panel, c/o Pacific Salmon Commission, 600-1155 Robson St, Vancouver, BC, V6E 1B5

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The Yukon River Panel (Panel), established by the U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Agreement, held its 2026 Pre-Season meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska between April 11 and 16. At this session the Panel received information on 2026 Yukon River Chinook and chum salmon outlooks, confirmed management objectives and recommendations for the 2026 season, received reports from Joint Technical, Traditional Knowledge and Communications Committees, continued work on development of a Canadian-origin Chinook salmon rebuilding strategy, and, reviewed 2026 project proposals submitted to the Restoration and Enhancement Fund for consideration. The Panel, which operates under the *Yukon River Salmon Agreement (Pacific Salmon Treaty)*, consists of 12 Alaska and Yukon residents from throughout the Yukon River system, and is supported by Canadian First Nation government and regional advisors, U.S. advisors, and scientists and managers from Canada and the U.S..

2025 Canadian-Origin Salmon Run, Harvest, and Escapement Estimates

Chinook Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Total estimated run size: ~24,891
- Estimated harvest: ~908 (U.S.), ~0 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: ~23,868

Chum Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Total estimated run size: ~20,000
- Estimated harvest: ~450 (U.S.), ~0 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: ~19,574

Chum Salmon (Fishing Branch River (Porcupine Drainage))

- Total estimated run size: ~8,000
- Estimated harvest: ~180 (U.S.) ~0 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: ~7,858

2026 Canadian-Origin Salmon Escapement Goals and Preseason Forecasts

Chinook Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Rebuilding Target*: 71,000 international border passage
- Pre-season total run size prediction range: 22,000 – 33,000
- Pre-Season international border passage prediction range**: 11,000 – 31,000

**Based on the [Agreement of April 1, 2024 regarding Canadian-origin Yukon River Chinook Salmon for 2024 through 2030](#), between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.*

***The pre-season estimate identifies the number of Chinook salmon expected to reach the international border accounting for potential en route mortality.*

Chum Salmon (Fall) (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Interim Management Escapement Goal: 70,000 – 104,000
- Pre-Season estimate forecast outlook range: 15,000 – 62,000

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

- Interim Management Escapement Goal: 22,000 – 49,000
- Pre-Season estimate forecast outlook range: 8,000 – 17,000

Further information may be found in the Yukon River Salmon 2025 Season Summary and 2026 Season Outlook at: <https://www.yukonriverpanel.com/publications/yukon-river-joint-technical-committee-reports/>

2026 Management Recommendations

Based on low forecasts and international border passage predictions, the Panel recommends maintaining Chinook salmon fishery closures in the U.S. and Canada consistent with the [Agreement of April 1, 2024 regarding Canadian-origin Yukon River Chinook Salmon for 2024 through 2030](#) and, contingent on in-season abundance, closure of fall chum salmon fisheries.

Restoration and Enhancement Fund

The Yukon River Panel approved ~\$1.2 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 2026. In addition, two projects were notionally approved for funding (contingent on confirmation of funds available in September 2026). The Yukon River Panel confirmed the intent to issue a Restoration and Enhancement Fund Call for Project Proposals for the 2027 funding cycle. Since 2002 the Panel has allocated more than \$25 million U.S. to community-based projects to support research, stewardship, management and recovery of Yukon River salmon stocks. For information on Restoration and Enhancement projects please visit: <http://www.yukonriverpanel.com/>

Upcoming Meetings

The Yukon River Panel's 2026 post-season meeting will be hosted by the U.S. between January 23 and 28, 2027 in Anchorage, Alaska, and the 2027 pre-season meeting will be hosted by Canada between April 10 and 15, 2027. Further details regarding on upcoming meetings will be made available on the Yukon River Panel's website at: www.yukonriverpanel.com/meetings/.

Restoration and Enhancement Fund: 2026 Project Proposals Selected for Funding

Project #	Project Title
1	Upper Teslin River Watershed Chinook Salmon Aerial Surveys
2	Klondike River Chinook Salmon Sonar Project
3	Stewart River Chinook Salmon Sonar Project
5	Takhini River Chinook Salmon Sonar Project
6	Monitoring Temperature in Canadian Chinook Salmon Spawning and Migration Habitats
7	Michie Creek Salmon Monitoring Project
11	Pelly River Chinook Salmon Sonar Project
12	Fishing Branch River Chum Spawning and Seasonal Dewatering Study
13	Michie Creek Chinook Salmon Outmigration Monitoring Feasibility Study
15	Nordenskiold, Little Salmon, and Big Creek Watersheds Chinook Salmon Study
19	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Chinook Salmon Monitoring and Restoration Study
20	Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Chinook Salmon Restoration and Stewardship Restoration Plan
21	Upper Mayo River Chinook Salmon Restoration Plan
22	Southern Lakes Chinook Salmon Stock Restoration Study
24	Yukon River Chinook Salmon Stock Restoration Data Compilation
25	Dawson District Renewable Resources Council Chinook Salmon Stranding Recovery Project
26	Southern Lakes Salmon Day Celebration-Connecting the Broken Salmon Trail
27	Whitehorse Rapids Fishway Interpretative Centre
28	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Fish Camp
29	Southern Lakes Youth Salmon and Aquatic Stewards

Note: 2027 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association Pre-season Meeting and 2026 Genetic Stock Identification of Chinook Salmon in Alaska Test Fisheries notionally approved contingent on availability of funds in September 2026.