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The Yukon River Panel (Panel), established by the U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Agreement, met in Anchorage, Yukon from April 10 through 13 to review the status of 2015 Canadian-origin salmon runs and fishery management regimes and received 2016 Yukon River Chinook and chum salmon outlooks. The Panel also reviewed detailed project proposals submissions for Restoration and Enhancement Fund 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.

2015 Canadian-Origin Salmon Run, Harvest, and Escapement Estimates

Chinook Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Total estimated run size: 87,360
- Harvest: 3,700 (U.S), 1,000 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: 82,674

Chum Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Total estimated run size: 152,000*
- Harvest: *Estimate not available* (U.S.), 3,879 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: 108,658

Chum Salmon (Fishing Branch River (Porcupine Drainage))

- Total estimated run size: *Estimate not available*
- Harvest: 556 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: 8,351*

**Preliminary estimate*

2016 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: 65,000 – 88,000

Chum Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Interim Management Escapement Goal: 70,000 – 104,000
- Pre-Season estimate forecast outlook range: 137,000 – 195,000

Chum Salmon (Fishing Branch River (Porcupine Drainage))

- Interim Management Escapement Goal: 22,000 – 49,000
- Pre-Season estimate forecast outlook range: 22,000 – 31,000

2016 Management Summary

The preseason forecast for Yukon River mainstem Chinook salmon identifies a below-average return is anticipated for 2016 and similar to 2015. In this regard, a conservative management approach will likely be required in order to achieve the interim escapement goal. The mainstem chum salmon return is projected to be slightly below average for odd-numbered year runs, although sufficient abundance to support both escapement requirements and provide allocations to U.S. and Canadian fisheries is likely. Poor escapement of chum salmon to the Fishing Branch River in both 2011 and 2012 is likely to result in a below-average return in 2016. As the abundance of chum salmon may be insufficient to achieve the lower-end of the interim management escapement goal, conservative management measures will likely be warranted. Further information may be found in the Yukon River Salmon 2015 Season Summary and 2016 Season Outlook found at:

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

Restoration and Enhancement Fund

The Yukon River Panel approved \$1.6 million U.S. of funding for 31 project proposals for salmon and habitat Restoration and Enhancement projects in Alaska and Yukon to be undertaken in 2016. Notably, 12 of the projects selected align with the Panel's near term "Restoration" priorities (total of \$0.4 million U.S. allocated). Following over 15 years of success, the Yukon River Panel will review its long-standing Education Exchange program with the intent of implementing a renewed approach and structure for 2017. The Panel has allocated more than \$14.6 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.

	Yukon Panel Fund R&E 2016 Approved Project Proposals - April 13, 2016
1	Development of a Genetic Baseline for Canadian-Origin Yukon River Chinook & Chum Salmon. Yr. 10
2	Genetic stock identification of fall Chum Salmon in subsistence harvest from the Tanana Area, Yukon River, 2016. Year 3
3	Yukon River Chinook Subsistence Harvest Genetic Stock Identification, 2016. Year 5
4	Genetic Stock Identification of Canadian-Origin Yukon River Chinook and Chum Salmon. Year 15
5	Genetic Stock Identification of Pilot Station Chinook Salmon, 2016
6	Porcupine River Chinook Salmon Sonar Program. Year 3
7	Blind Creek Chinook Salmon Enumeration Weir. Year 14
8	Chinook Salmon Sonar Enumeration on the Big Salmon River. Year 12
9	Yukon River Border Sonar Operations. Year 6
10	Pelly River Chinook Salmon Sonar Pilot Program
11	Enhancing the information value of Coded Wire Tags applied to Canadian-origin Chinook salmon
12	Yukon River Canadian-Origin Juvenile Chinook Out-migrant Assessment. Year 2
13	Porcupine River Chinook Salmon Telemetry. Year 3
14	Fishing Branch River Chum Habitat Assessment - Year 3
15	Michie Creek Salmon and Habitat Monitoring Project 2016. Year 18
16	Yukon River Mid-Mainstem Salmon Assessment Program
17	Temperature monitoring of Yukon River Chinook Salmon spawning and migration habitats in Canada. Year 3
18	Assessing the Limits to Production of Juvenile Canadian-Origin Yukon River
19	Ta'an Kwäch'an Council - Fox Creek Salmon Restoration Project. Year 4
20	Deadman Creek Chinook Salmon Restoration Pilot Project and In-Stream Egg Incubation Trial. Year 2
21	Coded Wire Tagging of Hatchery Origin Canadian-Origin Chinook Salmon Fry
22	Porcupine River Chum Salmon Restoration Incubation and Rearing Pilot Project
23	Rock River Chinook and Chum Habitat Assessment and Restoration Investigation
24	Porcupine Drainage Engagement: Gathering, Mapping and Integrating Local and Traditional Knowledge (LTK) for Community-Based Stock Restoration Planning
25	Salmon Stewardship Coordinators for Yukon Schools. Year 5
26	Yukon River North Mainstem Stewardship. Year 11
27	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Fish Youth Culture Camp. Year 16
28	McIntyre Creek Salmon Incubation Project - MCSIP. Year 14
29	Yukon River Chinook Salmon Stock Restoration Community Technical Team - Year 2
30	Yukon River In-Season Salmon Management Teleconferences. Year 13
31	Yukon River Summer Pre-Season Preparation Meeting. Year 7

The Yukon River Panel's next meeting will be held in Anchorage, Alaska from December 10 to 14, 2016. 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/>