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## **PRESS RELEASE: March 31, 2014**

**The management of Yukon River salmon stocks originating in Canada is the joint responsibility of American and Canadian governments and is overseen by the Yukon River Panel ([yukonriverpanel.com](http://yukonriverpanel.com)). The Yukon River Panel held its spring 2014 annual meeting in Anchorage to review pre-season outlooks, management strategies and anticipated conservation measures for Canadian origin Yukon River Chinook salmon. The Panel re-confirmed the Canadian border interim management escapement goals for the 2014 season (originally endorsed in March 2013), which included goals for Chinook salmon, upper Yukon fall chum salmon, and for Fishing Branch River fall chum salmon. The Panel also focused particular attention to discussing the anticipated poor return of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon forecast for 2014. Additionally, the Panel approved the final list of Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Fund project proposals that have been selected for funding in 2014.**

The Yukon River Panel, established by the U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Agreement, met in Anchorage, AK from March 23 through 27 to discuss 2014 run outlooks and review proposed management strategies for Canadian-origin Chinook and fall chum salmon. The Panel re-confirmed the three year commitment to the Canadian border interim management escapement goals adopted in March 2013 that include: 42,500 to 55,000 Chinook salmon and 70,000 to 104,000 upper Yukon (mainstem) fall chum salmon as determined by the Eagle sonar program, and 22,000 to 49,000 fall chum salmon in the Fishing Branch River, a tributary of the Porcupine River.

Based on data compiled by the Panel's Joint Technical Committee, the 2014 Canadian-origin Chinook salmon run is anticipated to be poor. Given this outlook, it is possible that an insufficient number of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon will return to the Yukon River watershed to realize the interim Canadian border escapement goal range of 42,500 to 55,000 fish. Recognizing this situation, the Panel determined that the implementation of conservative management measures during the 2014 season is warranted.

With respect to administrative support to enable Panel operations, the Panel confirms the engagement of two contracts for administrative support services resulting from "*Request for Proposals*" issued in 2013. Following the proposal evaluation process, the Yukon River Panel:

1. Renewed its contract with the Pacific Salmon Commission to serve as the *Yukon River Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Fund Administrator* for a three-year period effective April 1, 2014.
2. Engaged the services of Ms. Sue Thomas for the position of *Executive Secretary* for a one-year period effective March 10, 2014.

The Panel approved more than \$US 1 million of funding for 28 project proposals for salmon and habitat Restoration and Enhancement Fund projects in Alaska and Yukon (below). The Panel has allocated more than \$US 12 million since 2002 to projects supporting the management and restoration of Yukon River salmon stocks originating in Canada. Proponents of projects selected by the Yukon River Panel will be individually notified by the Yukon River Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Fund administrator (Pacific Salmon Commission).

<b>Approved Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Fund Project Proposals (2014)</b>	
1.	Blind Creek Chinook Salmon Enumeration Weir
2.	Chinook salmon radio tracking and genetic sampling in the Porcupine River, Canada
3.	Chinook Salmon Sonar Enumeration on the Big Salmon River
4.	Collection and Analysis of Yukon River DNA Baseline Samples in the Alaska and Canada
5.	Collection of genetic material from adult Chinook Salmon in the North Big Salmon watershed
6.	Exploration of potential early life mortality in Canadian-origin Chinook salmon eggs due to thiamine deficiency
7.	Fox Creek Salmon Restoration Project
8.	Genetic stock identification of fall chum salmon in commercial harvests, Yukon River, 2014
9.	Genetic stock identification of fall chum salmon in subsistence harvest from the Tanana Area, Yukon River, 2014
10.	Mainstem Teslin River sonar project – 2014
11.	McIntyre Creek Salmon Incubation Project
12.	McIntyre Creek Stream Bank Stabilization
13.	Michie Creek Salmon and Habitat Monitoring Project – 2014
14.	Porcupine River Chinook Salmon Sonar Program
15.	Porcupine River Chum Salmon Telemetry – Year 2
16.	Rampart Rapids All Season Video Monitoring, 2014
17.	Restoration of Chinook Salmon – Upper Mayo River
18.	Salmon Stewardship Coordinators for Yukon Schools
19.	Temperature monitoring of Yukon River Chinook Salmon spawning and migration habitats in Canada
20.	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Fish Culture Camp
21.	Whitehorse Rapids Hatchery Stewardship
22.	Yukon River Chinook Salmon Mainstem Outplant Program Spawning Success Evaluation
23.	Yukon River Chinook Salmon Subsistence Sampling: (Anvik, Galena, Ruby, Fort Yukon)
24.	Yukon River Educational Exchange Trip
25.	Yukon River In-Season Management Teleconferences
26.	Yukon River North Mainstem Stewardship
27.	Yukon River Pre-Season Planning Process
28.	Yukon River Salmon Stock Identification

In addition, the Panel revised the near-term priorities for the Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Fund to support the 2015 call for proposals. To provide sufficient time for the development of conceptual project proposals, the Panel will issue the annual Restoration and Enhancement Fund call for proposals in late June 2014. As in past years, the deadline for submission of conceptual proposals for the Panel's consideration will be the first week in October. This change will result in an additional two months of time for proponents to develop and submit proposals to the Restoration and Enhancement Fund.

At its post-season meeting, scheduled for December 7 – 11, 2014 in Alaska, the Panel will review the outcome of the 2014 Canadian-origin Yukon River salmon returns as well as management actions employed in both Alaska and Yukon. The Panel will also consider Restoration and Enhancement Fund conceptual project proposal submissions for 2015.

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