

# 2017 YRDFA Pre-Season Planning Meeting

## Post-Meeting Evaluation Summary



Forty-three people completed evaluation forms following the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association’s pre-season planning meeting on April 19th in Fairbanks. Overall, participants were pleased (satisfied or very satisfied) with overall quality of the event (95%), the meeting’s value in increasing their understanding of the issue (88%), and the scope and usefulness of the information presented (95%). The venue and food provided had lower rates of satisfaction with 65% saying they were satisfied or very satisfied with each, and several people saying they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. A majority (72%) felt that there was a good balance of time spent listening to presentations and for discussions and networking.

Evaluation comments show that participants were generally pleased with the work of YRDFA staff and grateful for Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s participation in the pre-season meeting. Common suggestions for improving the meeting were to have a bigger meeting space with more space between tables, to hear more from young fishermen, and to have more info on Canadian fisheries, mining and ocean by catch. Some wanted to bring back break out groups and to seat mix up the seating. The full text of individual comments are provided below.

### Survey Results

How satisfied were you with...	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	% Satisfied or Very Satisfied
Overall quality of event	12	29	2			95%
Improving understanding of the current outlook for Chinook on Yukon R.	16	22	5			88%
Meeting space	6	22	12	2	1	65%
Food	10	18	13	2		65%
Scope/usefulness of info	17	25	2			95%

How did you feel about the amount of time spent listening to presentations vs. time for discussion and networking?	I would prefer more time spent hearing from resource managers.	There was a good balance.	I would prefer more time sharing info with other participants.	Not answered	% who said Good Balance
	3	31	6	7	72%

## Year-over-Year Comparison

Meeting year	2015	2016	2017
Number of participants completing evaluation	52	44	43
How satisfied were you with...	% Satisfied or Very Satisfied		
Overall quality of event	96%	91%	95%
Meeting's value in improving understanding of the current outlook for Chinook on Yukon R.	90%	86%	88%
Meeting space	100%	82%	65%
Food	85%	70%	65%
Scope/usefulness of info	96%	91%	95%
How did you feel about the amount of time spent listening to presentations vs. time for discussion and networking?	% who said Good Balance		
	65%	68%	72%

What could we do to make the meeting more valuable next year? How can we improve the meeting space, food or other meeting logistics?

### HOW: Meeting logistics and food (Pros)

#### *Good as is*

- Good as it is!
- The meeting was great...
- It's good
- Good as is
- Keep the same
- It's OK!
- Everything was fine :)
- Keep it the same
- All good
- [How can we improve the meeting?] You can't
- Good as it is!
- Travel arrangements good
- Did a good job
- Good as it is!
- This year was good.
- Keep as is.
- Keep the same
- The same things as this year
- Just fine

#### *Good space*

- I was happy with the space
- Very good meeting space
- Meeting space was good
- Was a good spot. Good job.

#### *Good food*

- Good fish! Yeah

- Lunch was good

## Meeting logistics and food (Cons)

### *Different or not enough food*

- More Native food for meals: moose, more fish
- You need to put up dry moose meat for us. Thanks for the fish.
- Veggie option please
- Nothing unless you guys have fish or dry fish.
- Have fish next time
- There was enough food except for snacks not enough for amount of people

### *Bigger space needed*

- Bigger room or smaller crowd. Food was okay.
- The space was full. Need a bigger space.
- Little bigger place
- Little more space and not so crowded room "please"
- Little more space
- Needs to be in larger room
- It's a little crowded. The timing was great. More food at lunch.
- Larger room.
- More meeting space so visitors could sit in (and attend).
- Larger to hold more people. Don't know if more people would drip in and listen and learn.
- Table too close together
- Bigger space
- Larger room
- Bigger meeting room
- Bigger room.
- Space tables so individuals can walk by without disturbing the seated delegates.

### *Different space or location*

- Move to Westmark
- Had a hard time ordering at the restaurant a few times. Maybe look into a different hotel to host?
- Select a location that has enough lodging to accommodate everyone (had to stay offsite ~5 miles away)
- Bring back village meetings and/or separate from the spring suite of fish meetings.
- Make sure all attending can get rooms at hotel
- Fairbanks is smaller than Anchorage, less distractions
- You could have a meeting in one of the villages. That would be great.

### *Different set up*

- Don't use round tables: 1/2 the people wither sit awkwardly to see the presenter or sit back-faced. Include handouts of the presentations.
- Encourage tables to mix fishermen from various districts. Or, for the second half of the day assign seats.
- Mix users up, organize each table with users from different parts of the drainage.

### *Other*

- Need to improve on sound system.

- Presenters provide handouts. Projection screen was too far away for the back 1/2 of the room.
- Please make slideshow presentation available online. Enjoyed the study on subsistence King Salmon harvests. Holly did a good job.
- Provide agenda for the 2-day meetings in advance. This year's meeting only had the agenda for the 1st day.
- Better speaker systems

## Meeting agenda, presenters and participants

### *Agenda and time management*

- Resource managers talked the most. Need more time for participants.
- Split the summer chum and Chinook salmon presentations into 2 separate presentations/Q&A sessions on the agenda and in the meeting. Having summer chum, fall chum, coho and king salmon mixed together seemed to confuse the issue being discussed. Having a vote or show of hands on who is for or against an idea would be good. Not for a regulation change but to show majority of participating thinkers.
- Need more time to ask questions. Need the windows back! Bring back test fishing in the Marshall area(a?). Need students participants the meeting Teach them fish tech[nique?] for taking fish samples and open when the fish are running on the river after the first pulse go by. If the water is high. Have emergency opening for fisherman if there are too much wood on the river. Thank the staff for heling us.
- More village fisherman comment time.
- Like more time on topic from the villages' fisherman.
- A handful of people dominated the mic. Would be good to encourage others more."
- Would be nice to have a closing comment or review from managers on what actions they may take, or what they have learned.
- Well done, stayed on task.
- Like firm time limits on talking. No rambling on by elders and I'm an elder 67 years old!

### *Breakout sessions and seating*

- Have a breakout session or two.
- Like the format better this year. No little kid round table discussions. Better this year.
- In years past roundtable discussions were very effective and organized. Working in groups involved more people than having an open floor for Q&A. Group work also got more specific feedback. I suggest we bring that back."

### *Youth participation*

- Would be nice to hear more from the youth present.
- Would have been neat to hear reports or introductions from the young fishermen. Need more structured involvement to get them started.
- Make sure young people involved.
- Have young people meet before meeting so they can have a statement. There should be direct communication for openings in the summer. Loved the fish! Thank you. Paper cups, no styrofoam. Really like Cody - sampling program.

### *Other participants*

- Have the alternates come also. And the youth. Also elders. Send us travel ahead of time.
- Invite more Canadians and deep sea fishermen
- I would like to see more Canadians and deep sea fisheries guys here.

- Having more Tribal input, Tribal agencies, YRDFA input, put out there for others to see their positions

#### *Other*

- The morning introduction was awkward and a little uncomfortable. Not a great idea to separate agency staff from fishermen, especially when there are non-Native fishermen and friendships between staff and fishermen. In the past it worked well to mix upriver, downriver, fishermen and staff at each table.
- Katie Howard!

Were there any topics covered that you would have liked more detail on? Were there any topics NOT covered that you would like us to include next year?

#### Meeting content and level of detail

##### *Good as is, no additional detail needed*

- Keep as is! Very informational.
- Meeting is new to me. Enjoyed all the presentations.
- Very good job.
- No unless you can deliver something different.
- No other suggestions. My first year attending.
- Blank/No/Can't think of anything at this time (11):

##### *Research and management: more information on...*

- All topics covered
- Harvest numbers from each village or district and sub district
- No mention of only being 50% of long-term run average. Need to continue to rebuild the King run.
- More of Chinook subsistence harvest opportunity
- [More] facts, maybe have a fact sheet for people (fish count)
- Pulse closures by regulation should have been explained better and it was only in effect for Districts Y1 and 2!
- Unit 5-D mesh size and season openings and closings.
- Dip net
- On the scientific portion, purpose of collecting samples and how does it relate to fishing
- [Would like more detail on...] Vercondody [?] data used in management
- White fish, shee fish up Koyukuk River.
- Fish size
- I walked away not having a feel for what was learned or what might happen in management.
- TEK projections?
- Protect spawning ground
- Burbot migration
- Data on smolt
- I think this was good. Would like some input from Bering Sea information. This meeting debate the 6" vs 7 1/2" mesh sorte[?]) made reference between up river and lower Yukon. Like to think

more on why the windows schedule was the way to go. 7.5" deadly monofilament material. 6" lot more drop off because twine rolls on fish... [indecipherable]

- More on salmon stocks
- Test fishing. Fish samples program for student.
- Break down on the subsistence harvest numbers presented to attendees with numbers by each village and each villages total population (all species).
- [commenter is from Beaver] I had no idea that Kings were called Chinooks. Also what is a chum? And what the hell is dipnetting? Sounds like some dangerous shit to be doing on the Yukon.

#### *International harvest and bycatch*

- Impacts of outside world on fisheries
- Fish reports from the Canadian government.
- Canadian harvest info and management actions: clear up misconceptions
- Canadian management input on conserving fish on the other side of the border.
- Quality of the water in head waters, deep sea bycatch numbers
- Bering sea Juvenile [?] study on salmon
- Mining camps in Canadian effect spawning of fish.
- Mining along Yukon River and what happens if Pollack fishers bycatch happens like it did 2007 year
- Area M bycatch by genetics. Maybe look into Navy doing live fire in the Gulf of Alaska. Are the shell rounds toxic?
- One thing I have never heard was from the Canadian delegates in today's session. Would be interesting to listen to their conservation efforts and any scientific data they may have collected and what kind of gear they use and how are they regulated.
- High seas fisheries and its impact on the river fisheries stock.

#### *Traditional knowledge, more on...*

- Elder wisdom, traditional knowledge

#### *Historical perspective*

- Would be good to take the time at the beginning to point out the positives that fishers have done to improve conservation and start meeting with a positive feel!
- "An emphasis on ""where we were"" 3, 10, 30 years ago to give perspective on how the run actually is doing and where we need to go.
- History circle - on salmon with significant events that affected the run(s)

### **Other comments or suggestions**

#### *Ideas and suggestions*

- Poster wall: Hang posters of 1) Specific management options; 2) Subsistence/commercial harvests by district;
- Try to get youth more involved in fishery management.

#### *Feedback for managers*

- We need to get more openings for King salmon out to the villages with 7.5" mesh.
- Please allow windows for King gear openings.
- I also would like to see the managers manage the life cycle of the salmon, not just in-river management!
- Keep accidentally caught kings! Dip nets and 6"" gear.
- Promote windows schedule

- Let us implement a more lenient conservation plan for kings. Getting the topic started.
- Off the previous year of subsistence use of Chinook subsistence goal of having our subsistence harvest early
- I think you should put a sonar at Bishop Mountain. That's in between Galena and Koyukuk to monitor our fish more accurately. I am from Y-4. I am all for 7.5" mesh for King because it's a shorter opening.
- Open subsistence kings after first pulse
- Leave the mesh size. Don't cut back.
- 6" mesh is good.
- Fishing sampling is important and should be funded yearly.
- King salmon conservation - lower the standards

### Kudos and thanks

- First time attending this meeting and it was very informational for me. Looking forward to next year.
- Good job YRDFA. Good job F&G, P&W
- My very first time attending this meeting. Looking forward to next year.
- Thanks for meeting in Fairbanks closer to home! And having earlier, don't have to worry about break up away from home.
- Keep up the good work!!
- Good job!
- Overall thank you all that put the meeting together. Everything was well planned. Lunch was good. Heard a lot of good things to come for our fish back into our rivers."
- Lots of good visuals to remind everyone or educate "newbies" of important/historical info.
- Everything was fine with the exceptions listed above. Thanks to the \$ providers for this meeting...they should be recognized.
- Good to see people from up - down Yukon River, Koyukuk River