



Canadian-Origin Yukon River Chinook Salmon



2016 Season Summary and 2017 Pre-Season Canadian Management Considerations

Presented to: Yukon River Panel
Whitehorse, Yukon April 3-5 , 2017



A quick look back at 2016...



Yukon River Chinook Salmon 2016 Canadian Management Strategy

- 2016 Outlook was 68,000-80,000 Canadian-Origin Chinook
- Below long-term average
- International Interim Management Escapement Goal range 42,500 to 55,000
- Canadian management target of 48,750 (midpoint of IMEG)
- Precautionary Strategy - reduced early season harvest
- Consideration given to quality of escapement (sex ratio)
- Recommendation for the use of smaller mesh gill nets (6" or less) and release of females



Yukon River Chinook Salmon 2016 Canadian Management Outcome

Canadian-Origin Run Size	82,300
IMEG (escapement)	42,500 – 55,00
Catch Allocation (Canada)	5,600 – 10,500
Canadian Harvest	2,769
Estimated Spawning Escapement	68,798



Yukon River Mainstem Chinook Salmon 2016 First Nation Subsistence Harvest

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in	191 (31% female)
First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun	778 (18% female)
Selkirk First Nation	768 (14% female)
Ross River Dena Council	296*
Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation	655
Ta'an Kwäch'än Council	51 (12% female)
Teslin Tlingit Council	29 (28% female)
Total	2,768

Historic Harvest Estimates		
2006-2015	2011-2015	Harvest Study (1996-2002)
2862	1910	7045

*Estimated harvest



Canadian Fishery Monitoring and Enforcement

- Coordinated / Joint patrols between federal, First Nation and territorial government Officers and Guardians.
- Compliance Monitoring Activities: River and aerial patrols, monitoring of key fishery areas, retail outlet inspections.
- Directed compliance monitoring time: 106 hours





Fishery Monitoring and Compliance



Patrols by air



Retail outlet inspections

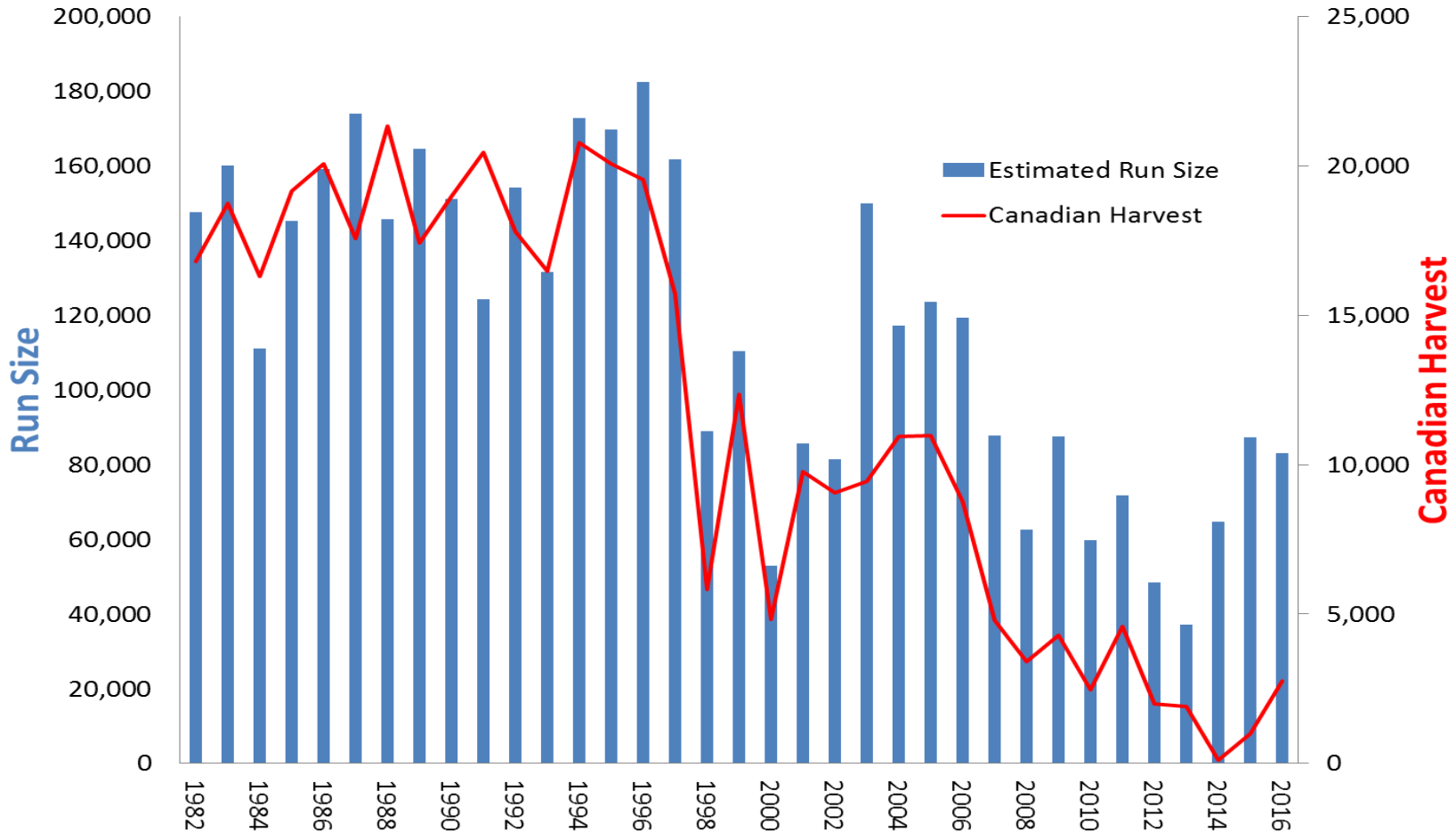


Patrols by water

Patrols on land

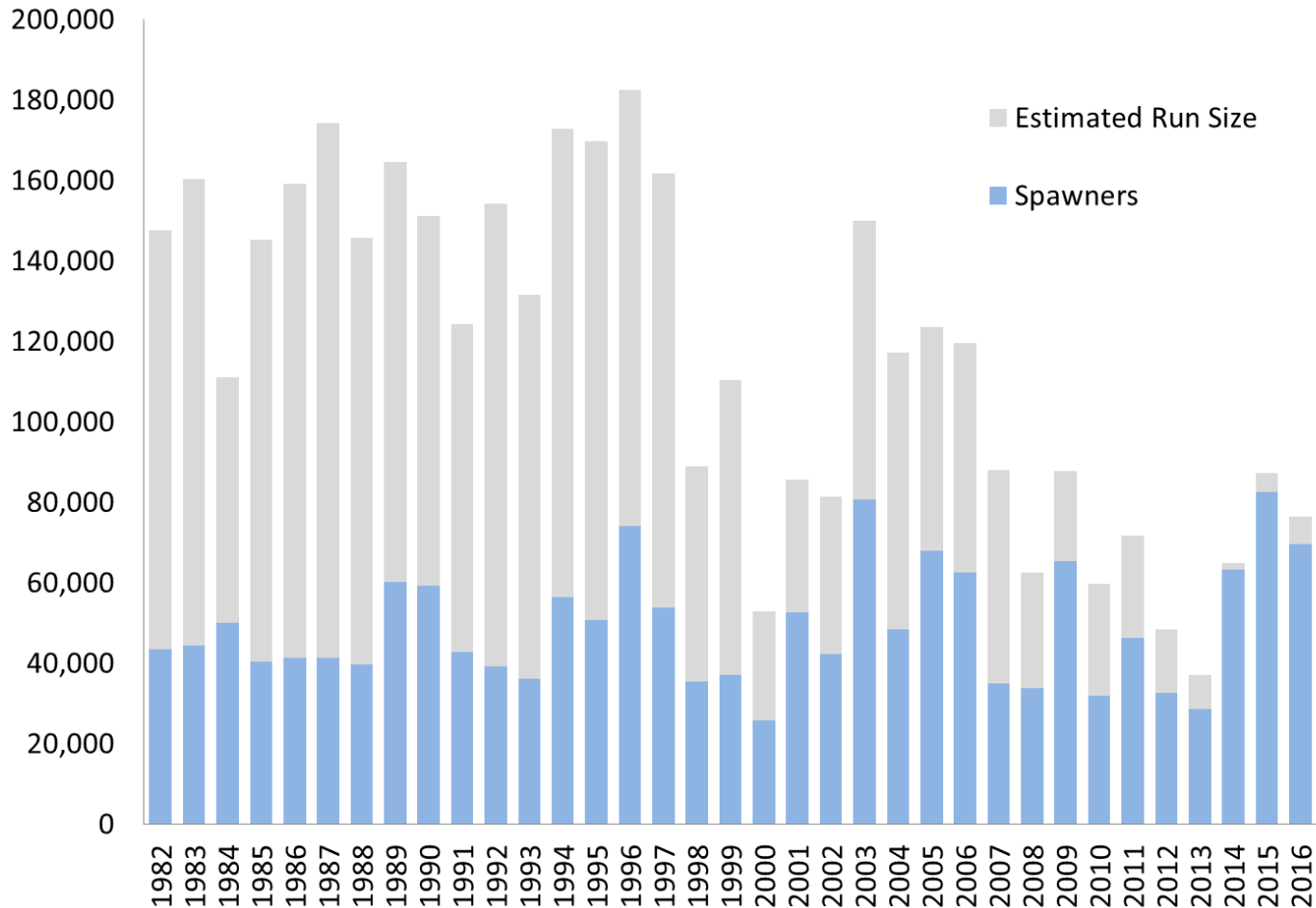


Yukon River Canadian-Origin Chinook Salmon Run Size and Canadian Harvest (1982-2016)





Canadian-Origin Chinook Salmon Run Size and Spawning Escapement (1982-2016)





Summary of 2016 Canadian-Origin Chinook Salmon Spawning Escapement Estimates

Watershed	Assessment Location	2016 Estimated Escapement	2016 Compared to Previous Years	Years of Comparison (Baseline)
Mainstem Border	Eagle*	72,329	Above average	11
Carmacks	Big Salmon	6,691	Above average	11
Pelly	Pelly River	4,740	N/A, First Year	0
	Blind Creek	664	Near average	16
Porcupine	Porcupine	6,458	> 2014, 2015	2
Teslin	Wolf River	432	Above average	38
	Nisutlin River	398	Near average	43
Upper Yukon	Whitehorse Fishway	1,556	Above average	55

* Joint US/CDN project operated near Eagle, Alaska



Canadian-Origin Porcupine River Chinook Salmon 2016 Management Outcome

Passage at Old Crow sonar	6,458
VGFN Subsistence harvest	177
2016 Escapement estimate	6,280
<i>2015 Escapement estimate</i>	<i>4,421</i>
<i>2014 Escapement estimate</i>	<i>2,453</i>



And now for a look
forward to 2017...





Canadian Yukon River Salmon Management Process

Canada's Salmon Allocation Strategy

International Considerations (Pacific Salmon Treaty)

Domestic prioritization

1. Conservation / Spawning Escapement
2. First Nation Subsistence Harvest (paramount right of access)
3. Recreational / Sport Harvest
4. Domestic Harvest
5. Commercial Harvest



2017 Chinook Salmon - Canadian Management Plan Development

The 2017 Chinook salmon management approach will be finalized following:

- Pre-season 2017 Yukon River Panel meeting.
- Input from Yukon First Nation Governments, Renewable Resources Councils, general public.
- Receipt of annual recommendations from the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee.



Potential 2017 Pre-Season Allowable Catch Ranges Canadian-Origin Chinook Salmon

	Lower	Upper
Pre-Season Run Size Outlook	70,000	97,000
Spawning Escapement Goal (IMEG)	42,500	55,000
Total Allowable Catch (US and Canada)	15,000	54,500
Canadian Allowable Catch (23% Harvest Share)	3,500	12,500
US Allowable Catch (77% Harvest Share)	11,600	42,000

Note:

Catch shares as established by the Yukon River Salmon Agreement are:

- US 74 to 80% (77% used as the mid-point)
- Canada 20 to 26% (23% used as the mid-point)



Draft 2017 Chinook Salmon Decision Matrix (Canada)

Border Passage Projections	Fishery			
	First Nation	Recreation	Commercial	Domestic
< 42,500	Closed Removal of allocation for conservation purposes.	Closed No retention permitted. Additional closures possible.	Closed	Closed
42,500 to 55,000 <i>Management Target: 48,750¹</i>	Varies 42,500 to 48,750 Base level (incidental) harvest of less than 10% of annual subsistence needs. 48,750 to 55,000 Harvest target 10% to 90% of annual subsistence needs and varies with abundance	Closed No retention permitted	Closed	Closed
> 55,000	Open Unrestricted	Open² Retention permitted	Open² Allocation varies with run size	Open² Allocation varies with run size

¹ The Management Target of 48,750 is the minimum number of salmon intended to reach the spawning grounds.

² Allocations (harvest opportunities) are subject to run abundance and international harvest sharing provisions.



Canadian-Origin Chinook Salmon Management Considerations

- 2017 run outlook similar to 2016
- Recommend a precautionary approach
 - Below average pre-season forecast
 - Continued concern about
 - Low run sizes
 - Low productivity
 - Quality of escapement
- Recognition of conservative US management
- Yukon River Salmon Agreement harvest shares



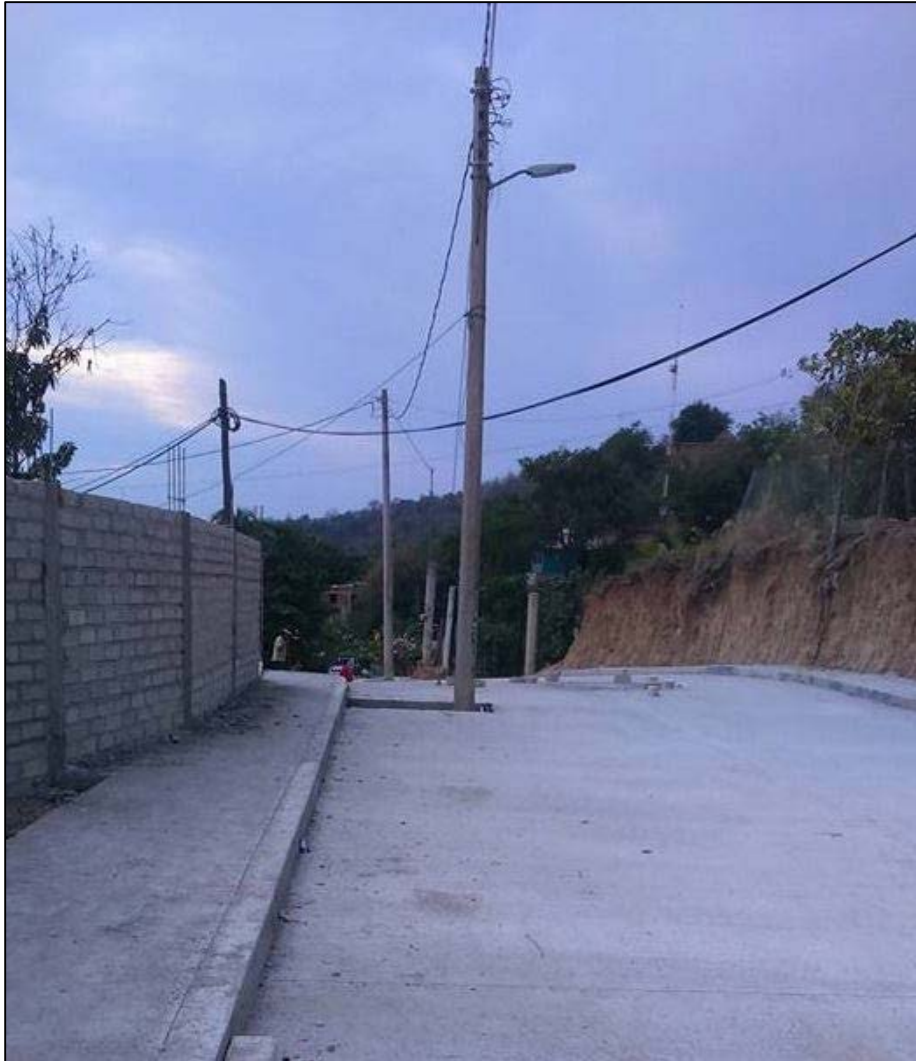
Canadian In-Season Management Process

- Pre-season forecasts inform management strategy until early season information is available (lower river).
- Canadian fishery management decisions based on in-season information (abundance at Eagle).
- Regular in-season communications with First Nation Governments, YSSC, US managers and Drainage-wide conference calls (YRDFFA In-season management calls), media.



Porcupine River Canadian-Origin Chinook Salmon Management Considerations

- No specific Chinook salmon escapement target or international harvest sharing arrangements exist for the Porcupine River.
- Managed in a similar manner to mainstem stocks.
- Mainstem assessment in combination with information from Porcupine sonar used to determine in-season management actions.



Questions?