



**Steve Gotch**  
Canada

**Co-Chairs**

**John Linderman**  
USA

*c/o Pacific Salmon Commission Secretariat 600 – 1155 Robson Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, V6E 1B5*

## YUKON RIVER PANEL MEETING

**December 6-10, 2019 – SUMMARY MINUTES of the Public Sessions**  
Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre, Whitehorse, Yukon

### Those Present:

Panel Members	JTC Members and Agency Staff
<p><b>Co-Chairs</b> John Linderman (U.S.) Steve Gotch (Canada)</p>	<p><b>JTC Co-Chairs</b> Steve Smith (Canada) Zach Liller (U.S.)</p>
<p><b>Alternate Co-Chair</b> Caroline Brown (U.S.) Steve Smith (Canada)</p>	<p><b>Department of Fisheries &amp; Oceans (DFO)</b> Chris Carli (JTC) Jesse Trerice (JTC) Louis Naylor Michael Folkes (JTC) Vesta Mather (JTC)</p>
<p><b>Members</b> Andrew Bassich (U.S.) Carl Sidney (Canada) Dennis Zimmermann (Canada) Fred Bue (U.S.) Harvey Jessup (Canada) James MacDonald (Canada) Ragnar Alstrom (U.S.) Rhonda Pitka (U.S.) Stanley Njootli, Sr. (Canada) Sven Paukan (U.S.)</p>	<p><b>Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee</b> Elizabeth MacDonald</p> <p><b>Alaska Department of Fish &amp; Game (ADF&amp;G)</b> Alida Trainer (JTC)    Bonnie Borba (JTC) Fred West (JTC)    Holly Carroll Jeff Estensen    Lisa Stuby Tami Matheny</p>
<p><b>Alternate Panel Members</b> Alan von Finster (Canada) John Lamont, Jr. (U.S.) Michelle Dawson-Beattie (Canada) Roger Alfred (Canada) Tim Gerberding (Canada)</p>	<p><b>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)</b> James Murphy (JTC)</p> <p><b>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)</b> Matt Keyse (JTC)</p>
<p><b>Panel Advisors</b> Cheryl Charlie (Canada) Darius Elias (Canada) James Kelly, Sr. (U.S.) Jennifer Williams (U.S.) Brooke Woods (U.S.)</p>	<p><b>Joint Technical Committee Members (non-agency)</b> Dr. Stephanie Quinn-Davidson</p>

<b>U.S. Department of State</b> Staci MacCorkle	<b>Pacific Salmon Commission</b> Angus Mackay Victor Keong
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**Visitors:**

Hon. Pauline Frost – Yukon Legislative Assembly

**Monday, December 9 – Session Open to Public**
**9:05 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. Open / Public Session (LONGHOUSE)**

*[Please register for Public Comment/Testimony by 11:00 a.m.]*

1. Welcoming remarks and introductions – *Panel Co-Chairs / Panel Members* - **9:05 a.m. Video Time (VT)**
  - Opening prayer – Bill Bruton, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.
  - Opening remarks from Hon. Pauline Frost, Minister of Environment Yukon
  - Opening remarks from Steve Gotch (*Canadian Co-Chair*).
  - YRP members, YRP alternates, and attendees introduced.
  
2. Review & approval of Agenda – *Panel Co-Chairs* - **9:45 a.m. VT**
  - The December 2019 YRP Post-Season Meeting agenda was approved by the YRP Co-Chairs.
  
3. Review & approval of April 2019 meeting records – *Panel Co-Chairs* - **9:53 a.m. VT**
  - The April 2019 YRP Meeting minutes were approved by the YRP Co-Chairs with a minor amendment to the Public Session attendee list.
  
4. Yukon River Panel financial update – *Panel Co-Chairs / Fund Administrator* - **9:54 a.m. VT**
  - a. Presentation of annual financial audit completed for 2018 – **9:55 a.m. VT**

Presentation – Angus Mackay, PSC Secretariat:

**Yukon River Panel R&E Fund Audited Financial Statements**

Presentation available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

- The audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2019 were approved by the Panel Co-Chairs.




- b. Yukon River Panel accounts (financial status) – **9:59 a.m. VT**

Presentation – Angus Mackay, PSC Secretariat:

**R&E Funds Administered by the Pacific Salmon Commission**

Presentation available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

**Joint Technical Committee and Restoration & Enhancement Fund Reports**

- 5. 2019 Joint Technical Committee fall meeting summary – *JTC Co-Chairs*  
– **10:08 a.m. VT**

Presentation by ADF&G – Zach Liller and DFO – Steve Smith:

**JTC Meeting Update and Report to the Yukon River Panel**

Presentation available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

**Break at 10:37 a.m.**

**Resume at 10:52 a.m.**

- 6. Review of Restoration & Enhancement Fund 2019 projects – **10:52 a.m. VT**
  - a. Status report - *Angus Mackay, PSC R&E Fund Administrator*

Presentation – Angus Mackay, PSC Secretariat:

**Review of Restoration and Enhancement Projects Funded in 2019**

Presentation available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

- 7. 2020 Restoration and Enhancement Fund presentation – *Angus Mackay, PSC*
  - a. Call for Proposals and Near-Term Priorities identified for 2020 – **11:18 a.m. VT**

Presentation – Angus Mackay, PSC Secretariat:

**R&E Call for Proposals for 2020**

Presentation available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

- b. Project proposals submitted for consideration – **11:24 a.m. VT**

Presentation – Angus Mackay, PSC Secretariat:

**2020 Project Proposals Received**

Presentation available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

- c. Joint Technical Committee review / public comments / Panel questions  
– **11:28 a.m. VT**

Presentation – Angus Mackay, PSC Secretariat:

**JTC Committee Review**

Presentation available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

- 8. Review of 2019 Yukon River Panel management recommendations – *Co-Chairs*

- The agenda item was deferred to the afternoon Public Session.

**ADJOURNMENT of the Public Session 11:41 a.m.**

**11:42 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.**

*Public Comment/Testimony Opportunity*

**ADJOURNMENT of the Public Testimony 12:05 p.m.**

**Lunch 12:05 p.m. – 1:16 p.m.**

**1:16 p.m. – 5:25 p.m. Open / Public Session (LONGHOUSE)**

*[Please register for Public Comment/Testimony by 4:00 p.m.]*

- 8. Review of 2019 Yukon River Panel management recommendations – *Steve Gotch, Canadian Co-Chair* (from Monday morning Public Session) – **1:17 p.m. VT**

Overview – Steve Gotch, *Canadian Co-Chair*:

**April 2019 YRP Press Release - 2019 Management Recommendations**

Presentation available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

- 1. 2019 Yukon River Chinook salmon season summary (U.S.) – *Fred West and Holly Carroll, ADF&G* – **1:21 p.m. VT**

Presentation by ADF&G – Holly Carroll and Fred West:

**Alaska Summer Season Review 2019**

Presentation available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

**Break at 2:27 p.m.**

- The Canadian and US Sections of the Panel caucused separately during the break.

**Resume at 3:22 p.m.**

1. 2019 Yukon River Chinook salmon season summary (U.S.) – Fred West and Holly Carroll, ADF&G (Cont.) – **3:23 p.m. VT**

- YRP discussion continued following break.

2. 2019 Yukon River Chinook salmon season summary (Canada) – *Michael Folkes and Jesse Trerice, DFO* – **4:16 p.m. VT**

Presentation by DFO – Michael Folkes and Jesse Trerice:

**2019 Yukon River Chinook Salmon Post-Season Review**

Presentation available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

**ADJOURNMENT of the Public Session 5:00 p.m.**

**5:00 p.m. – 5:25 p.m.**

*Public Comment/Testimony Opportunity*

**ADJOURNMENT of the Public Testimony 5:25 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT 5:25 p.m.**

**6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Yukon River Panel Reception (Westmark Hotel)**

**Tuesday, December 10 – Session Open to Public**

**9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Open / Public Session (LONGHOUSE)**

*[Sign up for Public Comment/Testimony by 11:00 a.m.]*

**US/CANADA YUKON RIVER PANEL MEETING (Continued)**

1. Overview of Agenda – *Panel Co-Chairs* – **9:00 a.m. VT**

- Overview from Steve Gotch (*Canadian Co-Chair*).

2. 2019 Yukon River Chinook salmon season summary (Canada) – *Michael Folkes and Jesse Trerice, DFO* (Cont. from Monday afternoon Public Session) – **9:00 a.m. VT**

- YRP discussion continued from Monday afternoon Public Session.

2. 2019 Yukon River fall chum salmon season summary - *Jeff Estensen, ADF&G*
  - a. Mainstem fall chum salmon summary – **9:19 a.m. VT**

Presentation by ADF&G – Jeff Estensen:

**Summary of the 2019 U.S. Yukon Area Fall Season**

Presentation available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

- b. Porcupine River (Fishing Branch) fall chum salmon – **9:54 a.m. VT**

Presentation by ADF&G – Jeff Estensen:

**U.S. Porcupine River Management Summary**

Presentation available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

**Break at 10:30 a.m.**

**Resume at 10:45 a.m.**

3. 2019 Yukon River fall chum salmon season summary (Canada) – *Chris Carli and Jesse Trerice, DFO*

- a. Mainstem fall chum salmon summary – **10:46 a.m. VT**

Presentation by DFO – Chris Carli and Jesse Trerice:

**Post-Season Review 2019 Canadian-Origin Yukon River and Fishing Branch Fall Chum Salmon Summary (Slide 1-10 and 25-29)**

Presentation available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

- b. Porcupine River (Fishing Branch) fall chum salmon – **11:00 a.m. VT**

Presentation by DFO – Chris Carli and Jesse Trerice:

**Post-Season Review 2019 Canadian-Origin Yukon River and Fishing Branch Fall Chum Salmon Summary (Slide 11-24 and 30-33)**

Presentation available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

4. Yukon River watershed (Canadian) environmental conditions – *DFO*

- The agenda item was deferred to the afternoon Public Session.

5. North Pacific / Bering Sea marine conditions – *Jim Murphy, NOAA*

- The agenda item was deferred to the afternoon Public Session.

**ADJOURNMENT of the Public Session 11:31 a.m.**

**11:31 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

*Public Comment/Testimony Opportunity*

**ADJOURNMENT of the Public Testimony 12:15 p.m.**

**Lunch 12:15 p.m. – 1:20 pm**

**1:20 p.m. – 5:14 p.m. Open / Public Session (Denali Room)**

*[Sign up for Public Comment/Testimony by 2:30 p.m.]*

John Linderman (*U.S. Co-Chair*) and Andy Bassich (*U.S.*):

- Acknowledged Fred Bue, U.S. Panel member, on his significant contributions to the YRP's R&E Fund process.

Steve Gotch (*Canadian Co-Chair*) and Al von Finster (*Canada*):

- Acknowledged Don Toews, former Canadian Panel member, on his significant contributions to the YRP's R&E Fund process.

5. North Pacific / Bering Sea marine conditions – *Jim Murphy, NOAA*  
(from Tuesday morning Public Session) – **1:33 p.m. VT**

Presentation by NOAA, Alaska Fisheries Science Center – James Murphy:

**NOAA Marine Fisheries and Research - Marine Update**

Presentation available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

4. Yukon River watershed (Canadian) environmental conditions – *Vesta Mather, DFO*  
(from Tuesday morning Public Session) – **2:09 p.m. VT**

Presentation by DFO – Vesta Mather:

**Environmental Conditions: 2018 & 19 Yukon River Watershed (Canada)**

Presentation available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

**Break at 2:34 p.m.**

**Resume at 2:49 p.m.**

1. Tay River Chinook salmon restoration project (Pelly River, Canada) – *Brian Mercer, Metla Environmental* – **2:50 p.m. VT**

Presentation by Metla Environmental Inc. – Brian Mercer:

**Tay River Chinook Salmon Access Project**

Presentation and video available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

2. Communication Committee update – **3:35 p.m. VT**

- Brief update of the Communications Committee’s activities by Dennis Zimmermann and Andrew Bassich, Yukon River Panel Communications Committee.

Presentation by ESSA Technologies Ltd. – Dr. Natascia Tamburello:

**Salmon Know No Borders Communications Campaign Project Update**

Presentation available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

Presentation by Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee – Elizabeth MacDonald:

**Salmon Know No Borders Education Exchange April 2019**

Presentation available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)

3. Committee meetings - *Panel Co-Chairs* – **3:54 p.m. VT**

- There were no committee meeting updates.

4. Correspondence - *Panel Co-Chairs* – **3:54 p.m. VT**

- The Panel Co-Chairs issued three letters of correspondence following the April 2019 meeting: 1) letter of support for the “2020 Northern Bering Sea Surface Trawl Survey”; 2) request to the USFWS for 2020 R&E funding support; and 3) “Guidelines for the Development of Yukon River Panel Meeting Summary Records of Discussions” for the PSC Secretariat.

5. Other business – **3:55 p.m. VT**

- No items discussed.

6. Scheduling 2020 Pre-Season Yukon River Panel Meeting (April 2020) – **3:56 p.m. VT**

- The U.S. Section of the Panel will host the 2020 YRP Pre-Season meeting in Alaska from April 3 to 8, 2020. The location and venue of the meeting will be posted on the YRP website when they are confirmed.

**ADJOURNMENT of the Public Session 3:56 p.m.**





**3:57 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.**

*Public Comment/Testimony Opportunity*

**ADJOURNMENT of the Public Testimony 4:45 p.m.**

**Closing Remarks / Public Session Adjourns**

Closing remarks from Panel Co-Chairs and Panel:

- Andrew Bassich (*U.S.*).
- Sven Paukan (*U.S.*).
- Rhonda Pitka (*U.S.*).
- Al von Finster (*Canada*).
- Carl Sidney (*Canada*).
- Fred Bue (*U.S.*).
- Ragnar Alstrom (*U.S.*).
- James MacDonald (*Canada*).
- Harvey Jessup (*Canada*).
- Dennis Zimmermann (*Canada*).
- John Linderman (*U.S. Co-Chair*).
- Caroline Brown (*Alternate U.S. Co-Chair*).
- Steve Gotch (*Canadian Co-Chair*).

**ADJOURNMENT of the Public Meeting 5:14 p.m.**

Public Session video available at: [www.yukonriverpanel.com](http://www.yukonriverpanel.com) (meeting information tab)