

Joint Technical Committee (JTC) Meeting Update and Report to the Yukon River Panel



Yukon River Panel
December 9, 2019
Whitehorse YT



Zachary Liller and Steve Smith

Update on Fall Joint Technical Committee (JTC) Meeting

- November 13 & 14, 2019
- Videoconference (Whitehorse and Anchorage)



Meeting Attendance

Canada

Steve Smith (co-chair)
Michael Folkes
Jesse Trerice
Joel Harding
Vesta Mather
Oliver Barker

U.S.

Zachary Liller (co-chair)	Fred West
Alida Trainor	Holly Carroll
Bonnie Borba	Jeff Estensen
Randy Brown	Jim Murphy
Chuck Brazil	Matt Keyse
Chris Stark	John Orr

Guests

Trix Tanner (DFO)
Elizabeth MacDonald (YSSC)
Stefan Howarth (DFO)
Marina Milligan (DFO)
Chris Carli (DFO)
Liz Lee (ADF&G)



Meeting Agenda –

Nov. 13

*ADF&G and DFO
2019 post-season
updates to the JTC*

- U.S. and Canada, 2019 post-season review of Chinook salmon management and assessment
- Canadian-origin total run and timeline of data availability
- U.S. and Canada, 2019 post-season review of fall chum salmon management and assessment



Eagle Sonar Location

Photo: Vesta Mather

Meeting Agenda – Nov. 14

- Discussion of marine bycatch summary prepared by NOAA and ADF&G for the Yukon River Panel

Outcome

- The JTC recommended that NOAA and ADF&G focus the summary on historical bycatch impact rates on Canadian-origin salmon and acknowledge data uncertainty.
- The JTC agreed to include this annually updated NOAA and ADF&G summary document as an appendix in the JTC report.

Meeting Agenda – Nov. 14 (*cont.*)

- Discussion of the draft written justification for why the JTC agreed NOT to adopt the ADF&G standardized sex dataset for Canadian-origin Chinook salmon (*published 2018*)

Outcome

- The JTC agreed that the mean estimates of female proportion by age are implausible and should not be used without further evidence.
- The JTC agreed to include written justification prepared by JTC member Randy Brown as a one-time appendix in this years' JTC report.

Meeting Agenda – Nov. 14 (*cont.*)

- JTC subcommittee reports and updates
 - ***Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Fund***

Outcome

- Bilateral JTC review meeting scheduled for Nov. 15
- JTC technical review of R&E proposals submitted to fund administrator in advance of Yukon River Panel meeting
- JTC provided a more detailed update to the YRP in a separate presentation during closed session, December 8, 2019.

Meeting Agenda – Nov. 14 (*cont.*)

- JTC subcommittee reports and updates
 - ***Porcupine/Fishing Branch fall chum***
 - Outcome
 - Subcommittee members drafted a summary of activities and recommendations.
 - The JTC plans to include the summary document as a one-time appendix in the JTC report.

Meeting Agenda – Nov. 14 (*cont.*)

- JTC subcommittee reports and updates
– ***JTC report***

Outcome

- No substantial changes to the 2019/2020 JTC report, with the exception of the following:
 - Chinook salmon brood table updated with new age estimates
 - New appendix: NOAA and ADF&G marine bycatch summary
 - New appendix: explanation of why the JTC recommends not using the standardized Canadian-origin Chinook salmon sex composition estimates published by ADF&G in 2018
 - New appendix: Porcupine /Fishing Branch chum recommendations
- JTC is exploring options to increase efficiency regarding report assembly and production.

Meeting Agenda – Nov. 14 (*cont.*)

- JTC subcommittee reports and updates
 - ***Chinook salmon Interim Management Escapement Goal (IMEG) review***

Outcome

- The JTC co-chairs introduced the basic review steps, timeline, subcommittee members, and tentative meeting schedule
- The JTC anticipates that peer reviewed technical recommendations will be provided for consideration by the YRP by Spring 2022.
- The JTC co-chairs provided a more detailed update to the YRP in a separate presentation during closed session, December 8, 2019.

Meeting Agenda – Nov. 14 (*cont.*)

- JTC subcommittee reports and updates
– ***Chinook and fall chum forecast***

Outcome

- The JTC agreed to use the same methodology to develop the 2020 run forecasts as was used in recent years.
- Run forecasts will be presented during the spring 2020 Panel meeting.

Meeting Agenda – Nov. 14 (*cont.*)

- Discussion of next steps pertaining to the JTC draft R&E stewardship guidance document

Outcome

- The JTC continues to explore options for developing a bilateral draft Stewardship Guidance Document.
- The JTC co-chairs provided a more detailed update to the YRP in a separate update during closed session, December 8, 2019.

Meeting Agenda – Nov. 14 (*cont.*)

- Development of a fall chum salmon “management report card” documenting estimated historical run size, escapement, performance of management objectives as defined in the Yukon River Salmon Agreement.

Outcome

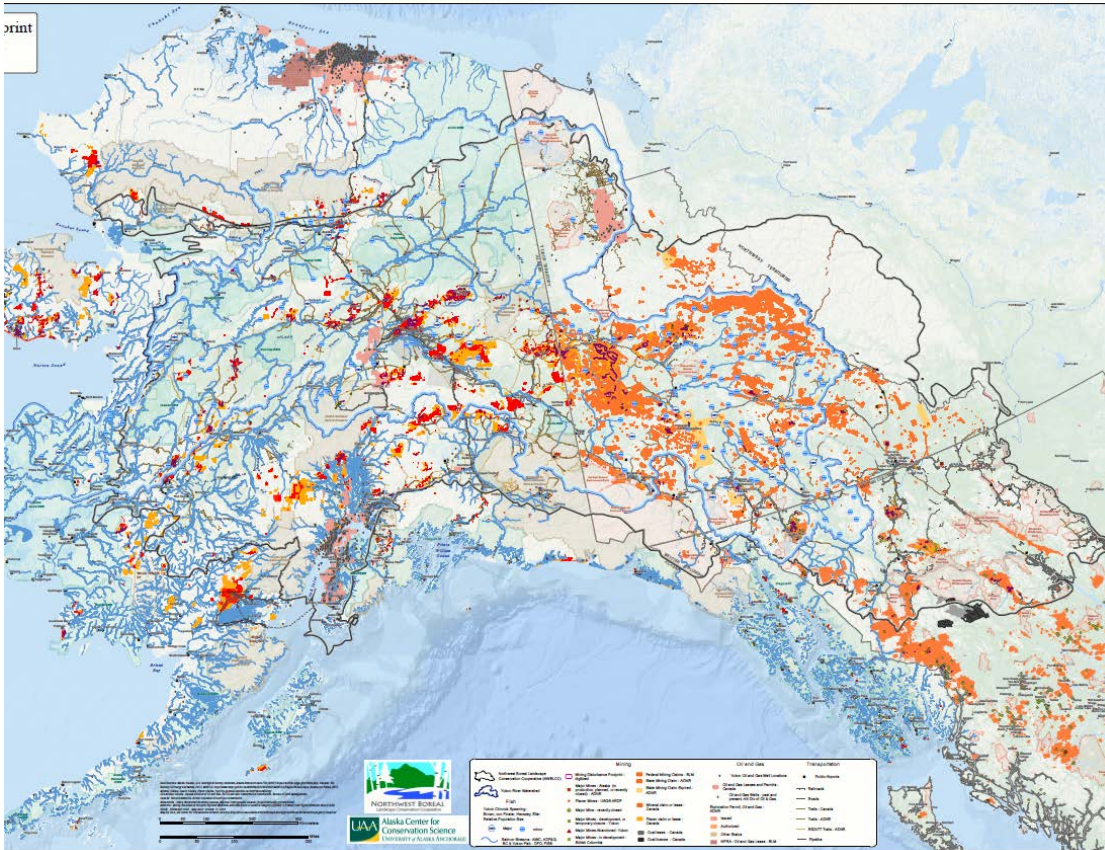
- JTC members continue to explore options to improve estimation of Canadian-origin fall chum salmon total run, harvest, and escapement.
- The JTC will develop refined “report card” drafts for future review and possible incorporation into the JTC report.

Assessment Roundtable

(update to YRP on relevant research)

- Elizabeth MacDonald – Comparing measures of genetic diversity to population statistics from data collected at the border (Eagle AK).
- Michael Folkes – Discussion of bilateral data sharing options.





Assessment Roundtable, *cont.* (update to YRP on relevant research)

- Matt Keyse – Update on new Yukon River Anthropogenic Footprint and Fisheries maps developed by the University of Alaska, USFWS, and Northwest Boreal Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- Matt Keyse – Update on USFWS efforts to establish salmon heat-stress protocols for weirs during periods of elevated water temperature.
- Chris Stark – Reminder that the Public Review Draft of the Yukon River Comprehensive Salmon Plan is available on the ADF&G website. This document identifies fisheries restoration, rehabilitation, enhancement, research, and management priorities for the Yukon River salmon resources in Alaska. Deadline for public comments is Dec. 31, 2019.

Questions?

