



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

January 25-27, 2021– SUMMARY MINUTES of the Public Sessions
Online / Virtual Session

Those Present:

Panel Members

Co-Chairs

John Linderman (U.S.)
Steve Gotch (Canada)

Alternate Co-Chair

Caroline Brown (U.S.)
Steve Smith (Canada)

Members

Andrew Bassich (U.S.)
Carl Sidney (Canada)
Dennis Zimmermann (Canada)
Erik Weingarh (U.S.)
Matthew Keyse (U.S.)
Ragnar Alstrom (U.S.)
Rhonda Pitka (U.S.)
Roger Alfred (Canada)
Stanley Njootli, Sr. (Canada)

Alternate Panel Members

Alan von Finster (Canada)
John Lamont, Jr. (U.S.)
Michelle Dawson-Beattie (Canada)
Tim Gerberding (Canada)
Robert Perry (Canada)
Sven Pauken (U.S.)
Virgil Umphenour (U.S.)
Gretchen Harrington (U.S.)

Panel Advisors

Brooke Woods (U.S.)
Emmie Fairclough (Canada)
Gillian Rourke (Canada)
Jennifer Williams (U.S.)

JTC Members and Agency Staff

JTC Co-Chairs

Steve Smith (Canada)
Zach Liller (U.S.)

Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO)

Jesse Trerice (JTC)
Oliver Barker (JTC)

Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee

Elizabeth MacDonald (JTC)

Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G)

Alida Trainer (JTC) Bonnie Borba (JTC)
Deena Jallen (JTC) Fred West (JTC)
Jeff Estensen (JTC) Lisa Stuby
Tami Matheny Brooke McDavid
Chuck Brazil (JTC) James Savereide
Klaus Wuttig

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Holly Carroll (JTC)

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

Serena Fitka

Jennifer Hooper (U.S.) Karlie Knight (Canada) Natasha Ayoub (Canada)	
U.S. Department of State Staci MacCorkle	Pacific Salmon Commission Tom Alpe John Field Victor Keong

Tuesday, January 26 – Session Open to Public

9:01 a.m. to 11:26 a.m. (Alaska Time)

11:01 a.m. to 1:26 p.m. (Yukon Time)

Yukon River Panel Opening Remarks and Administrative Items

1. Introduction and welcoming remarks – *Panel Co-Chairs* - **0:12 Video Time (VT)**

- Opening remarks from Steve Gotch (*Canadian Co-Chair*).
- Opening remarks from John Linderman (*U.S. Co-Chair*).
- Moment of silence in memory of Dr. Peter Hagen, NOAA.
- YRP members and YRP alternates introduced. Panel advisors acknowledged.

2. Review and approval of meeting agenda – *Panel Co-Chairs* - **18:00 VT**

- The January 2021 YRP Post-Season Meeting agenda was approved by the YRP Co-Chairs.
- The PSC Secretariat provided an overview of the Public Testimony registration process.

3. Yukon River Panel financial report - **26:25 VT**

a. Funds administered by Pacific Salmon Commission – *PSC*

Presentation – Tom Alpe, PSC Secretariat:

3. R&E Funds Administered by the Pacific Salmon Commission

Presentation available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)

4. Yukon River Panel Communications Committee Update – *PSC / Members* – **39:12 VT**

Presentation by Yukon River Panel Communications Committee – Andy Bassich and Dennis Zimmerman:

4. Yukon River Panel Educational Exchange 2021 Activities and Approximate Itinerary

4. 2021 Educational Exchange Project - YSSC, YR DFA, ESSA Budget

Presentation available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)

Decision

The proposed 2021 Yukon River Exchange project (and associated \$69,333.35 US budget) was approved by the Yukon River Panel.

Action

The Yukon River Panel Co-Chairs will finalize the Yukon River Panel Communications Committee Terms of Reference in advance of the April 2021 Pre-Season Meeting.

Yukon River Panel Joint Technical Committee

5. 2020 Joint Technical Committee fall meeting summary – *Joint Technical Committee Co-Chairs* – **58:40 VT**

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

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

Presentation available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)

BREAK 10:22 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (Alaska Time)

BREAK 12:22 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Yukon Time)

- YRP discussion continued following break.

Action

The Yukon River Panel will consider the Joint Technical Committee’s advice pertaining to “Restoration” project proposals when developing the 2022 Restoration and Enhancement Fund Call for Project Proposals. Specifically: “*The JTC continues to have concerns regarding the suite of restoration proposals seeking to use instream egg incubation methods. Our concerns are highlighted in our technical review document provided to the YRP.*” (Reference – 2021 JTC R&E Proposal Review Summary - Dec. 3, 2020 (Page 3 and 4).

- a. Update on JTC Chinook salmon escapement goal review – **1:57:20 VT**

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

5a. Canadian-origin Chinook Salmon Interim Management Escapement Goal Review

Presentation available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)

6. Chinook salmon biological escapement goal development process – *Panel Discussion* – **2:03:00 VT**

Action

The Yukon River Panel Co-Chairs will coordinate with the Joint Technical Committee Co-Chairs to

incorporate Panel member interests and topics into a presentation on the development of a revised Canadian-origin Chinook Salmon Escapement Goal. The presentation will be provided by the Joint Technical Committee at the April 2021 Pre-Season meeting.

11:26 a.m. to 12:01 p.m. (Alaska Time)

1:26 p.m. to 2:01 p.m. (Yukon Time)

Yukon River Salmon 2020 Post-Season Review – Chinook

7. Review of 2020 Yukon River Panel management recommendations – *Co-Chairs*
- **2:17:55 VT**

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

7. Yukon River Panel 2020 Management Recommendations

Presentation available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)

8. 2020 Yukon River Chinook salmon season summary (U.S.) – *Fred West and Deena Jallen, ADF&G* - **2:19:23 VT**

Presentation by ADF&G – Deena Jallen and Fred West:

8. Summary of the 2020 U.S. Yukon Area Summer Season

Presentation available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)

BREAK **12:01 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Alaska Time)**

BREAK **2:01 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Yukon Time)**

1:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. (Alaska Time)

3:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. (Yukon Time)

Yukon River Salmon 2020 Post-Season Review – Chinook (cont.)

9. 2020 Yukon River Chinook salmon season summary and Canadian environmental conditions report (Canada) – *Oliver Barker and Jesse Trerice, DFO* - **2:55:35 VT**

Presentation by DFO – Jesse Trerice and Oliver Barker:

9. 2020 Yukon River Chinook Salmon Post-Season Review - Canadian Reporting

Presentation available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)

10. Panel Member Questions - 2020 Yukon River Chinook salmon season summary
- **3:34:31 VT**

Action

When developing the 2022 Restoration and Enhancement Fund Call for Proposals, the Yukon River Panel will consider the topic of additional Yukon River mainstem salmon assessment projects in Alaska.

2:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Alaska Time)

4:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Yukon Time)

11. Public Testimony

- Closing remarks from Panel Co-Chairs.

ADJOURNMENT of the Public Meeting 3:02 p.m. (Alaska Time)

5:02 p.m. (Yukon Time)

Wednesday, January 27 – Session Open to Public

9:00 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. (Alaska Time)

11:00 a.m. to 12:55 p.m. (Yukon Time)

Yukon River Salmon 2020 Post-Season Review – Chum

- Opening remarks from Panel Co-Chairs.
 1. Review of 2020 Yukon River Panel management recommendations – *Co-Chairs*
- **6:00 Video Time (VT)**

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

1. Yukon River Panel 2020 Management Recommendations

Presentation available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)

2. 2020 Yukon River Mainstem Chum salmon season summary (U.S.) – *Jeff Estensen and Bonnie Borba, ADF&G* - **7:30 VT**

Presentation by ADF&G – Jeff Estensen and Bonnie Borba:

2. Summary of the 2020 U.S. Yukon Area Fall Season

Presentation available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)

3. 2020 Yukon River Mainstem Chum salmon season summary (Canada) – *Oliver Barker and Jesse Trerice, DFO* - **31:00 VT**

Presentation by DFO – Jesse Trerice and Oliver Barker:

3. 2020 Yukon River Mainstem Chum Salmon Post-Season Review - Canadian Reporting

Presentation available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)

4. Panel Member Questions - 2020 Yukon River Mainstem Chum salmon season
- **56:57 VT**

BREAK 10:19 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (Alaska Time)
BREAK 12:19 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Yukon Time)

4. Panel Member Questions – 2020 Yukon River Mainstem Chum salmon season (Cont.)
- **1:18:27 VT**

Action

The Yukon River Panel Co-Chairs will schedule the opportunity for Panel discussion, consideration, and development of the process for the Canadian-origin Chinook Salmon Escapement Goal review. The discussion will include consideration of how to incorporate opportunity for scientific/technical, traditional/local and other information into the Panel's process.

10:55 a.m. to 11:35 a.m. (Alaska Time)
12:55 p.m. to 1:35 p.m. (Yukon Time)

Yukon River Salmon 2020 Post-Season Review – Chum (cont.)

5. Review of 2020 Yukon River Panel management recommendations – *Co-Chairs*
- **1:44:11 VT**

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

5. Yukon River Panel 2020 Management Recommendations

Presentation available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)

6. 2020 Yukon River Porcupine Chum salmon season summary (U.S.) – *Jeff Estensen and Bonnie Borba, ADF&G* – **1:45:20 VT**

Presentation by ADF&G – Jeff Estensen and Bonnie Borba:

6. U.S. Porcupine River Management Summary

Presentation available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)

7. 2020 Yukon River Porcupine Chum salmon season summary (Canada) – *Oliver Barker and Jesse Trerice, DFO* – **1:49:05 VT**

Presentation by DFO – Jesse Trerice and Oliver Barker:

7. 2020 Porcupine River (Fishing Branch) Chum Salmon Post-Season Review - Canadian Reporting

Presentation available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)

8. Panel Member Questions - 2020 Yukon River Porcupine Chum salmon season
- **2:03:37 VT**

BREAK 11:35 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Alaska Time)

BREAK 1:35 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Yukon Time)

1:00 p.m. to 2:32 p.m. (Alaska Time)

3:00 p.m. to 4:32 p.m. (Yukon Time)

Coordinated U.S. / Canada Canadian-Origin Yukon River Salmon Management

9. Panel member questions / discussion – *Co-Chairs* - **2:28:30 VT**

Yukon River Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Fund

10. Review of Restoration & Enhancement Fund 2020 project status – *Tom Alpe, Pacific Salmon Commission* - **3:16:10 YT**

Presentation – Tom Alpe, PSC Secretariat:

10. R&E Fund - Status of 2020 Projects as of January 13, 2021

Presentation available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)

11. 2021 Restoration and Enhancement Fund presentation – *Tom Alpe, PSC*
- **3:35:24 VT**

- a. Call for Proposals and Near-Term Priorities identified for 2020
- b. Project proposals submitted for consideration
- c. Joint Technical Committee review / public comments / Panel questions

Presentation – Tom Alpe, PSC Secretariat:

11. R&E Fund - Call for Proposals for 2021

Presentation available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)

Decision

The Yukon River Panel advanced three bilateral questions for 2021 Restoration and Enhancement Fund Project proponents. The Panel's questions will be provided to the respective project proponents by the Restoration and Enhancement Fund Manager for response by March 1, 2021. The three bilateral questions advanced were:

- o CRE-16-21 (#4 Klondike River Chinook Salmon Sonar Project) - The project Proponent is requested to amend the project budget submitted to replace the proposed request for R&E funds to purchase a jet boat / motor (\$21,000) with a request for R&E funds to provide for a rental / lease of a jet boat and motor. The amended project budget should be submitted to the Yukon River Panel for further consideration.
- o CRE-17721N (#11 Stewart River Chinook Salmon Sonar Site Feasibility) - The project Proponent

is requested to provide a map which identifies the location of the proposed candidate sites on the Stewart River where the suitability of sonar operation will be evaluated.

- o CRE-169-21 (#16 Ibex River Chinook Incubation Trial Year 2) - The project Proponent is requested to describe how the completion of only one, one-day late winter survey to observe locations in the stream with thin ice conditions is anticipated to provide a reliable indication of potential future egg incubation sites.

Action

The Yukon River Panel members will review the annual Restoration and Enhancement Fund cycle (timeline and associated submission / review and decision steps) when developing the 2022 Restoration and Enhancement Fund Call for Project Proposals

2:32 p.m. to 3:22 p.m. (Alaska Time)

4:32 p.m. to 5:22 p.m. (Yukon Time)

12. Public Testimony

3:22 p.m. to 3:40 p.m. (Alaska Time)

5:22 p.m. to 5:40 p.m. (Yukon Time)

1. Scheduling 2021 Pre-Season Yukon River Panel Meeting (April 2021) - **4:47:31 VT**

Action

The Yukon River Panel Co-Chairs will confirm the dates selected for the 2021 Yukon River Panel Pre-Season meeting. The meeting will be scheduled for the first half of April and will occur via virtual session. The confirmed meeting dates will be posted on the Yukon River Panel's website in early February 2021.

2. Closing Remarks / Public Session Adjourns - **4:50:10 VT**

Closing remarks from Panel Co-Chairs and Panel:

- Steve Gotch (Canadian Co-Chair)
- John Linderman (U.S. Co-Chair)
- Carl Sidney (Canada)
- Alan von Finster (Canada)
- Roger Alfred (Canada)
- Dennis Zimmermann (Canada)
- Tim Gerberding (Canada)
- Andy Bassich (U.S.)

ADJOURNMENT of the Public Meeting 3:40 p.m. (Alaska Time)
5:40 p.m. (Yukon Time)

Public Session video available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)