



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

April 10-11, 2024 – SUMMARY MINUTES of the Public Sessions
Anchorage, AK

Those Present:

Panel Members

Co-Chairs

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

Alternate Co-Chair

Caroline Brown (U.S.)
Cathy Merkel (Canada)

Members

Andrew Bassich (U.S.)
Dennis Zimmermann (Canada)
Neesha Stellrecht (U.S.)
Chief Pauline Frost (Canada)
Ragnar Alstrom (U.S.)
Rhonda Pitka (U.S.)
Sebastian Jones (Canada)
Stanley Njootli, Sr. (Canada)
Tim Gerberding (Canada)

Alternate Panel Members

Elizabeth MacDonald (Canada)
Ellen Yasumiishi (U.S.)
Charlie Wright (U.S.)
Danny Cresswell (Canada)
James MacDonald (Canada)
John Lamont, Jr. (U.S.)
Robert Perry (Canada)
Sven Pauken (U.S.)
Virgil Umphenour (U.S.)

Panel Advisors

Chief Bob Dixon (Canada)
Brandon Crawford (Canada)
Brandy Mayes (Canada)

JTC Members and Agency Staff

JTC Co-Chairs

Marc Ross (Canada)
Zach Liller (U.S.)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

Adam O'Dell	Bill Waugh
Cara Fogliato	Cheyenne Bradley
Corey Jackson	Cynthia Leighton
Dean Allan	Heather Dempsey
Jaclyn Kendall	Jesse Trerice
Luc Glover	Michael Folkes
Robin Brand	Steve Smith

Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G)

Doug Vincent-Lang	Dani Evenson
Alida Trainor	Bonnie Borba (JTC)
Christy Gleason	Chuck Brazil (JTC)
Deena Jallen	Fred West (JTC)
Lisa Stuby	Sam Decker

Tanana Chiefs Conference

Absent

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Holly Carroll
Shane Ransbury

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

Serena Fitka

Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee

Vacant

Brittany Au (Canada) Brooke Wright (U.S.) Darin Isaac (Canada) Geraldine Pope (Canada) Hannah Turner (Canada) James Kelly (U.S.) Jeffrey Peters (Canada) Jen Herkes (Canada) Jennifer Hooper (U.S.) Josee Lemieux-Tremblay (Canada) Karlie Knight (Canada) Lars Jessup (Canada) Chief Nicole Tom (Canada) Rebbecca Freeman (Canada)	Yukon First Nations Salmon Stewardship Alliance - Council of Yukon First Nations Marina Milligan
U.S. Department of State Absent	Pacific Salmon Commission Sascha Bendt Victor Keong

Visitors:

Doug Vincent-Lang - Commissioner, ADF&G
 Dani Evenson – Program Manager, ADF&G

Wednesday, April 10 – Session Open to Public

9:00 a.m. to 10:16 a.m.

1. Opening Prayer - **0:00:28 Video Time (VT)**
 - Opening prayer by John Lamont, Jr. (U.S.).
2. Welcoming Remarks and Introductions – *Hosts and Yukon River Panel Chairs* **- 0:01:26 VT**
 - Opening remarks from Steve Gotch (*Canadian Co-Chair*).
 - Opening remarks from Joseph O'Brien, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation.
 - Opening remarks from John Linderman (*U.S. Co-Chair*).
 - YRP members, alternates, advisors, technical support, and observers introduced.
3. Review of Public Session Agenda – *Panel Chairs* **- 0:34:28 VT**
 - Review of meeting agenda by John Linderman (*U.S. Co-Chair*) and Steve Gotch (*Canadian Co-Chair*).

4. Report on Action Items from January 2024 Yukon River Panel Meeting – *Panel Chairs* - **0:37:52 VT**

- Review of January 2024 meeting Action Items by John Linderman (*U.S. Co-Chair*).

5. Joint Technical Committee Report to Panel – *JTC Chairs* - **0:43:01 VT**

Presentation by DFO – Marc Ross and ADF&G – Zach Liller:

5. JTC Report to Panel

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

MORNING BREAK 10:16 a.m. to 10:31 a.m.

10:32 a.m. to 2:28 p.m.

2024 Yukon River Salmon Outlooks and Fishery Management Strategies: Chinook Salmon

6. Information on Alaska/Canada 7 Year Chinook Salmon Agreement – *Panel Chairs* - **1:15:55 VT**

- a. Summary of Chinook Salmon Agreement

Presentation by Steve Gotch (*Canadian Co-Chair*):

6.a. Yukon River Chinook Salmon 7 Year Management Approach - 2024 to 2030 - Final

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

(Action) ADF&G and DFO will develop explanatory documents that address questions the Panel and public may have regarding the Alaska/Canada 7 Year Chinook Salmon Agreement.

LUNCH BREAK 12:05 p.m. to 1:16 p.m.

- b. Update on Yukon River Panel Rebuilding Plan Discussions

- Update by John Linderman (*U.S. Co-Chair*).

7. 2024 Preliminary Chinook Salmon Outlook and Management Strategies - **2:59:58 VT**

- a. Bilateral Chinook Salmon Forecast – *Fred West, ADF&G and Adam O’Dell, DFO*

Presentation by ADF&G – Fred West and DFO – Adam O’Dell:

7.a. Yukon River Canadian-origin Chinook Salmon Outlook

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

- b. U.S. Management Strategy – *Deena Jallen, ADF&G*

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

7.b. Summer US Management Strategy

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

- c. Canadian Management Strategy – *Jaclyn Kendal, DFO*

Presentation by DFO – Jaclyn Kendall:

7.c. CDN Management Strategy 2024 Chinook Salmon

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

- d. Yukon River Panel Management Recommendations for 2024 Season – *Panel Chairs*

- The YRP did not have additional management recommendations beyond the preliminary U.S. and Canadian management strategies that proposed the closure of Chinook salmon fisheries on the Yukon River for the duration of the 2024 season.

2:28 p.m. to 3:21 p.m.

2024 Yukon River Salmon Outlooks and Fishery Management Strategies: (Fall) Chum Salmon

- 8. 2024 Preliminary Mainstem Chum Salmon Outlook and Management Strategies - **4:02:06 VT**

- a. Bilateral Mainstem Chum Salmon Forecast – *Bonnie Borba, ADF&G and Adam O’Dell, DFO*

Presentation by ADF&G – Bonnie Borba and DFO – Adam O’Dell:

8.a. Mainstem Fall Chum Forecast (Public Session)

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

- b. U.S. Management Strategy – *Christy Gleason, ADF&G*

Presentation by ADF&G – Christy Gleason:

8.b. U.S. Management Summary

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

- c. Canadian Management Strategy – *Jaclyn Kendall, DFO*

Presentation by DFO – Jaclyn Kendall:

8.c. CDN Management Strategy 2024 Mainstem Chum Salmon

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

- d. Yukon River Panel Management Recommendations for 2024 Season – *Panel Chairs*

- The YRP did not have additional management recommendations beyond the preliminary U.S. and Canadian management strategies for the Yukon River mainstem Chum salmon.

3:21 p.m. to 4:12 p.m.

9. 2024 Preliminary Porcupine River Chum Salmon Outlook and Management Strategies

- 4:54:18 VT

- a. Porcupine River Chum Salmon Forecast – *Bonnie Borba, ADF&G and Adam O’Dell, DFO*

Presentation by DFO – Marc Ross:

9.a. Porcupine Fall Chum Forecast (Public Session)Presentation available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)

- b. U.S. Management Strategy – *Christy Gleason, ADF&G*

Presentation by ADF&G – Christy Gleason:

9.b. Porcupine U.S. Management StrategyPresentation available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)

- c. Canadian Management Strategy – *Jaclyn Kendall, DFO*

Presentation by DFO – Jaclyn Kendall:

9.c. CDN Management Strategy 2024 Porcupine Chum SalmonPresentation available at: www.yukonriverpanel.com (meeting information tab)

- d. Yukon River Panel Management Recommendations for 2024 Season – *Panel Chairs*

- The YRP did not have additional management recommendations beyond the preliminary U.S. and Canadian management strategies for the Porcupine River Chum salmon.

10. 2022 Bering Sea Pollock Fishery Salmon Bycatch Summary: Annual Report to Yukon River Panel – *John Linderman, U.S. Chair and Jim Murphy, NOAA*

- Item deferred to Thursday Public Session.

AFTERNOON BREAK 4:12 p.m. to 4:31 p.m.**4:31 p.m. to 5:51 p.m.**

Public Comment / Testimony Opportunity - Day 1

PUBLIC RECEPTION – 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT of the Public Meeting 5:51 p.m. (Alaska Time)**Thursday, April 11 – Session Open to Public****9:00 a.m. to 10:09 a.m.**

1. Review of Meeting Agenda and Overview – *Panel Chairs* - **0:00:00 VT**
 - Opening remarks and review of meeting agenda by John Linderman (*U.S. Co-Chair*) and Steve Gotch (*Canadian Co-Chair*).

Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Fund

2. Status Update on 2023 R&E Fund Projects – *Sascha Bendt, PSC Fund Administrator*
- 0:03:47 VT

Presentation by PSC Secretariat – Sascha Bendt:

2. 2023 R&E Fund Project Status

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

3. Confirmation of R&E Funds Available in 2024 – *Sascha Bendt, PSC Fund Administrator*
- 0:6:02 VT

Presentation by PSC Secretariat – Sascha Bendt:

3. 2024 Pre-Season R&E Fund financial update - revised April 8

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

4. Overview of 2024 Proposal Submissions – *Sascha Bendt, PSC Fund Administrator* - **0:08:14 VT**

Presentation by PSC Secretariat – Sascha Bendt:

4. 2024 R&E Proposal Submissions

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

5. 2024 R&E Fund Proposal Funding Decisions – *Panel Chairs* - **0:11:01 VT**

Presentation by PSC Secretariat – Sascha Bendt:

5. Yukon RE Fund 2024 Project Selections

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

6. 2025 Call For Project Proposals – *Sascha Bendt, PSC Fund Administrator* - **0:14:46 VT**

Presentation by PSC Secretariat – Sascha Bendt:

6. 2025 Call for Proposals

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

- a. Panel Approval of:
 1. 2025 Near-term priorities
 2. 2025 Update / changes to call for proposals
 3. Guidance for project proponents

(Action) The Panel Chairs will work with the Pacific Salmon Commission Secretariat to update the 2025 Call for Proposals to incorporate an option for proponents to identify their interest in providing presentations or a summary poster of their project results at future Yukon River Panel meetings.

(Action) The 2025 Restoration and Enhancement Fund Call for Proposals will include language from the Alaska/Canada 7 Year Chinook Salmon Agreement which references the desire to minimize potential mortality of Chinook salmon associated with projects. The Panel will consider the potential for Chinook salmon mortality resulting from projects when providing guidance to project proponents and making funding decisions.

7. R&E Fund Administrative Updates – *Panel Chairs and PSC Fund Administrator* - **1:04:33 VT**

Presentation by PSC Secretariat – Sascha Bendt:

7. RE Fund Admin Updates

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

- a. Providing Panel Feedback to Proponents
- b. Revisions to R&E Fund Priorities Plan
- c. Policy for Overdue R&E Fund Project Reporting

MORNING BREAK 10:09 a.m. to 10:34 a.m.

10:34 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

8. Yukon River Panel Traditional Knowledge Committee Report – *Committee Chairs* - **1:10:33 VT**

- a. Update on committee activities and 2024/2025 meeting plan

Presentation by TKC – Brandy Mayes and Charlie Wright:

8.a. Traditional Knowledge Committee_april_2024_vs2

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

9. Yukon River Panel Communications Committee Report – *Committee Chairs* - **1:22:24 VT**

Presentation by YRPCC – Dennis Zimmermann, Andrew Bassich, and Holly Carroll:

9. Public CC strategic planning

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

Video presentation by YRPCC – Holly Carroll:

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

- a. Update on committee activities, 2024/2025 meeting plan, and Communications Strategy development
- b. Overview of 2024 Yukon River Panel Education Exchange Program

10. 2022 Bering Sea Pollock Fishery Salmon Bycatch Summary: Annual Report to Yukon River Panel – *John Linderman, U.S. Chair and Jim Murphy, NOAA* (from Wednesday afternoon Public Session)

- 1:50:10 VT

Presentation by John Linderman (*U.S. Co-Chair*):

10. YRP Bycatch Report_April 2024 Update - Copy (from April 10 Public Session)

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

LUNCH BREAK 12:05 p.m. to 1:34 p.m.

1:35 p.m. to 2:55 p.m.

10. Marine Salmon Research Update – *Sabrina Garcia, ADF&G* **- 2:40:19 VT**

Presentation by ADF&G – Sabrina Garcia:

10. Marine Salmon Research Update

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

11. 2024 Yukon River Chinook Salmon Telemetry Project – *ADF&G and DFO* **- 3:35:28 VT**

Presentation by ADF&G – Fred West and DFO – Marc Ross:

11. 2024 Yukon River Chinook Salmon Radio Telemetry Project - revised Apr 9

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

AFTERNOON BREAK 2:55 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

3:15 p.m. to 3:51 p.m.

12. Yukon River Salmon Stewardship and Restoration Centre – *TBD KDFN* **- 4:02:25 VT**

Presentation by TKC – Brandy Mayes and YRPCC - Dennis Zimmermann:

12. KDFN SSC Presentation. V3

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

13. Yukon River Panel Correspondence - *Panel Chairs* **- 4:33:27 VT**

- The YRP did not receive any correspondence since the January 2023 Post-Season meeting.

14. Other Business - *Panel Chairs* - 4:33:54 VT

a. 2024 Post-Season and 2025 Pre-Season meetings (January and April 2025)

- The YRP will hold its' 2024 Post-Season meeting in Anchorage, AK on the week of January 25-30, 2025.
- The YRP will hold its' 2025 Pre-Season meeting in Dawson City, YT on the week of April 5-10, 2025.
- The YRP intends to rotate its' Alaskan based meetings between Anchorage and Fairbanks and, to commence this, will hold its' 2026 Pre-Season meeting in Fairbanks.

(Decision) At its annual pre-season meeting the Yukon River Panel will schedule its post-season and pre-season meetings one-year in advance to facilitate planning and scheduling. Meeting dates and host country (location) will be posted to the Yukon River Panel's website following selection.

(Decision) The Yukon River Panel's 2024 post-season meeting will be hosted by the United States in Anchorage between January 27 and 30, 2025 while the 2025 pre-season meeting will be hosted by Canada in Dawson City between April 7 and 10, 2025.

b. Other Items

- Item not covered.

BREAK 3:51p.m. to 4:02 p.m.

4:03 p.m. to 8:29 p.m.

Public Comment / Testimony Opportunity - Day 2

8:30 p.m. to 8:44 p.m.

Closing Remarks Closing - 9:06:31 VT

- Andrew Bassich (U.S.)
- Sebastian Jones (Canada)
- Neesha Stellrecht (U.S.)
- Tim Gerberding (Canada)
- Sven Pauken (U.S.)
- Danny Cresswell (Canada)
- Steve Gotch (*Canadian Co-Chair*)
- John Linderman (*U.S. Co-Chair*)
- Chief Pauline Frost (Canada)

- Dennis Zimmermann (Canada)

Prayer - **9:16:14 VT**

- Serena Fitka (U.S.)
- Norma Kassi (Canada)

Public Meeting Concludes 8:44 pm

ADJOURNMENT of the Public Meeting 8:44 p.m. (Alaska Time)

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