



Steve Gotch
Canada

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 28-29, 2026 – SUMMARY MINUTES of the Public Sessions
Old Crow, Yukon

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.)
Brandy Mayes (Canada)
Cameron Sinclair (Canada)
Danny Creswell (Canada)
Dennis Zimmerman (Canada)
Emma Hoogland (Canada)
Jeffrey Peter (Canada)
Jill Klein (U.S.)
Kadrienne Hummell (Canada)
Chief Pauline Frost (Canada)
Ragnar Alstrom (U.S.)
Chief Rhonda Pitka (U.S.)
Stanley Njootli, Sr. (Canada)

Alternate Panel Members

Charlie Wright (U.S.)
Dana Hanselman (U.S.)
John Lamont, Jr. (U.S.)
Sven Pauken (U.S.)
Virgil Umphenour (U.S.)

Panel Advisors

Annika Joe (Canada)
Brittany Au (Canada)
Darin Isaac (Canada)

JTC Members and Agency Staff

JTC Co-Chairs

Jaclyn Kendall (Canada)
Zach Liller (U.S.) - Absent

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

Adam O'Dell (JTC) Bill Waugh
Cheyenne Bradley (JTC) Cynthia Leighton
Dean Allan Jesse Trerice
Luc Glover (JTC) Marie Benn
Robin Brand (JTC) Yvette Hatcher

Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G)

Aaron Tiernan (JTC) Alida Trainor (JTC)
Bonnie Borba (JTC) Dani Evanson
Deena Jallen (JTC) Fred West (JTC)
Lisa Stuby Matt Olsen (JTC)

Ecofish Research

Kirsten Lyle
Jayson Kurtz

Teslin Tlingit Council

Bert Goodvin

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government

Huey O'Leary

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Holly Carroll
Shane Ransbury (JTC)

Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee

Hannah Turner

<p>Gillian Rourke (Canada) Hannah Currie (Canada) Harold Frost, Sr. (Canada) Janessa Newman (U.S.) Jennifer Hooper (U.S.) Karlie Knight (Canada) Kate Andre (Canada) Lars Jessup (Canada) Mike Parker (U.S.) Odin Miller (Canada) Rebbecca Freeman (Canada) Steve Smith (Canada) Serena Alstrom (U.S.) Testloa Smith (Canada) Tiffany Agayar (U.S.)</p>	<p>Yukon First Nations Salmon Stewardship Alliance – Council of Yukon First Nations Marina Milligan (JTC)</p> <p>Yukon Government Absent</p>
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<p>U.S. Department of State Absent</p>	<p>Pacific Salmon Commission Sascha Bendt Aimee Liu Victor Keong</p>
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Wednesday, January 28 – Session Open to Public

9:05 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. (Yukon Time)

Yukon River Panel Opening Remarks and Administrative Items

1. Introduction and welcoming remarks – *Panel Co-Chairs and Guests* - **0:00:00 Video Time (VT)**

- Opening remarks from Steve Gotch (*Chair*).
- Opening remarks from Chief Pauline Frost, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.
- Opening remarks from Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Mathieya Alatini.
- Opening remarks from Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
- Opening remarks from Hon. Wade Istchenko, Minister of Environment, Yukon Government
- Opening remarks from Hon. Brendan Hanley, Federal Member of Parliament (Yukon)
- Yukon River Panel members and alternates introduced.

2. Review and approval of meeting agenda – *Panel Chairs* - **1:06:54 VT**

Yukon River Panel Traditional Knowledge Committee Update

- 3. Traditional Knowledge Committee report – *Committee Co-Chairs - 1:08:25 VT*
 - a. Update on committee meetings and activities

Presentation by TKC – Brandy Mayes and Charlie Wright:

January 28, 2026 #3a Traditional Knowledge Committee Update

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

BREAK 10:49 a.m. to 10:59 a.m.

Yukon River Panel Communications Committee Update

- 4. Communications Committee report – *Committee Co-Chairs - 1:42:39 VT*

Presentation by YRPCC – Cathy Merkel, Andrew Bassich, and Serena Alstrom:

January 28, 2026 #4 Communications Committee Report

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

- a. Update on committee meetings and activities
- b. Development of Communications Strategy
- c. 2026 Yukon River Panel Education Exchange

11:20 a.m. to 11:43 a.m. (Yukon Time)

Yukon River Panel Joint Technical Committee Update

- 5. Joint Technical Committee report – *Committee Co-Chairs - 2:03:16 VT*
 - a. Update on committee meetings and activities

Presentation by DFO – Jaclyn Kendall and ADF&G – Alida Trainor:

January 28, 2026 #5 JTC Report to Panel - Final

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

(Decision) The Panel requested the Joint Technical Committee to provide a presentation (update) on the Canadian-origin chum salmon escapement review at the Yukon River Panel’s 2026 Pre-Season meeting. The Panel Chairs will schedule 2 hours within the Yukon River Panel’s 2026 Pre-Season meeting bilateral closed session agenda to receive the presentation and opportunity for Panel member discussion.

(Action) The Panel requested the Joint Technical Committee provide advice on projects proposing to study predation of Chinook or chum salmon in the Yukon River watershed.

11:44 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. (Yukon Time)

- 6. Public Testimony (*5 minutes per presenter*)

LUNCH BREAK 12:05 p.m. to 1:17 p.m.
(Sign up for Public Testimony by 3:15 p.m.)

1:18 p.m. to 4:47 p.m. (Yukon Time)

Yukon River Salmon 2025 Post-Season Review – Chinook Salmon

7. Review of 2025 Yukon River Panel management recommendations – *Chair* - **2:48:51 VT**

- Based on the poor run forecast and international border passage prediction, the Panel recognized the need to maintain Chinook salmon fishery closures in the U.S. and Canada consistent with the Agreement of April 1, 2024, regarding Canadian-origin Yukon River Chinook Salmon for 2024 through 2030. The Panel also acknowledged the high likelihood of closures of fall chum salmon fisheries required in 2025.

8. 2025 Yukon River Chinook salmon season summary (U.S.) – *Deena Jallen and Fred West, ADF&G* - **2:49:58 VT**

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

January 28, 2026 #8 2025 US Chinook season summary

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

(Action) The Panel requested the U.S. to provide a presentation on the ongoing work done by state and federal agencies on the effect of Ichthyophonus infection on Canadian-origin Chinook salmon for the Panel at the 2026 Post-Season or 2027 Pre-Season meeting.

BREAK 3:05 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.

9. 2025 Yukon River Chinook salmon season summary and Canadian environmental conditions report (Canada) – *Jaclyn Kendall and Adam O’Dell, DFO and Lance Nagwan, Vuntut Gwitchin Government* - **4:35:26 VT**

Presentation by DFO – Adam O’Dell & Jaclyn Kendall and Vuntut Gwitchin Government – Lance Nagwan:

January 28, 2026 #9 - 2025 Yukon River Chinook Canada

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

Yukon River Salmon 2025 Post Season Review – Chum Salmon

10. Review of 2025 Yukon River Panel management recommendations – *Chair*

- Item covered in agenda item 7.

11. 2025 Yukon River mainstem chum salmon season summary (U.S.) – *Matt Olson and Bonnie Borba, ADF&G* - **5:28:58 VT**

Presentation by ADF&G – Matt Olsen and Bonnie Borba:

January 28, 2026 #11 2025 US Fall Mainstem Summary

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

12. 2025 Yukon River mainstem chum salmon season summary (Canada) – *Jaclyn Kendall and Adam O’Dell, DFO - 5:43:50 VT*

Presentation by DFO – Adam O’Dell and Jaclyn Kendall:

January 28, 2026 #12 - 2025 Yukon River Mainstem Chum Canada

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

4:47 p.m. to 5:23 p.m. (Yukon Time)

Yukon River Salmon 2025 Post Season Review – Chum Salmon

13. 2025 Yukon River - Porcupine River chum salmon season summary (U.S.) – *Matt Olson and Bonnie Borba, ADF&G - 6:01:35 VT*

Presentation by ADF&G – Matt Olsen:

January 28, 2026 #13 2025 US Fall Porcupine Summary (Open Session-full)

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

14. 2025 Yukon River - Porcupine River chum salmon season summary (Canada) – *Jaclyn Kendall and Adam O’Dell, DFO and Lance Nagwan, Vuntut Gwitchin Government - 6:04:47 VT*

Presentation by DFO – Adam O’Dell & Jaclyn Kendall and Vuntut Gwitchin Government – Lance Nagwan:

January 28, 2026 #14 2025 Yukon River Porcupine Chum Canada

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

5:23 p.m. to 5:58 p.m. (Yukon Time)

Public Testimony (*5 minutes per presenter*)

YUKON RIVER PANEL COMMUNITY DINNER AND RECEPTION 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT of the Public Meeting 5:59 p.m. (Yukon Time)

Thursday, January 29 – Session Open to Public

9:01 a.m. to 11:24 a.m. (Yukon Time)

Yukon River Panel Meeting

1. Introduction – *Panel Chair and Guests - 0:00:10 VT*

- Opening remarks and overview of agenda from Steve Gotch (*Chair*).
- Opening remarks from John Linderman (*U.S. Co-Chair*).

Yukon River Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Fund

2. 2026 Restoration and Enhancement Fund presentation – *PSC Secretariat* - **0:05:45 VT**

Presentation by PSC Secretariat – Sascha Bendt:

January 29, 2026 #2a-c 2026 R&E Fund

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

- a. Call for Proposals and Near-Term Priorities identified for 2026
- b. Project proposals submitted for consideration
- c. Public comments and Panel questions for project proponents

Yukon River Chinook Salmon Rebuilding Plan

3. Development of Yukon River Chinook Salmon Rebuilding Plan – *Rebuilding Plan Facilitator, Trinity Consultants Canada* - **0:12:30 VT**

Presentation by Trinity Consultants Canada – Jayson Kurtz and Kirsten Lyle:

January 29, 2026 #3 Rebuilding Plan

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

BREAK **10:47 a.m. to 10:56 a.m.**

Project and Research Presentations

4. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Stewardship of Tr'oja Chu Kon' Dek - *Karlie Knight, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government* - **1:48:03 VT**

Presentation by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government – Karlie Knight:

January 29, 2026 #4 Tr'ondek Hwech'in Stewardship

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

11:24 a.m. to 11:52 a.m. (Yukon Time)

Project and Research Presentations

5. Fishing Branch River Chum Salmon Spawning and Seasonal Dewatering Investigation and Instream Egg Incubation Trial - *Lance Nagwan and Jeremy Brammer, Vuntut Gwitchin Government* - **2:14:12 VT**

Presentation by Vuntut Gwitchin Government – Lance Nagwan and Jeremy Brammer:

January 29, 2026 #5 VGFN Fishing Branch projects-2026Jan23

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

11:52 a.m. to 12:26 p.m. (Yukon Time)

6. Public Testimony (5 minutes per presenter)

LUNCH BREAK 12:26 p.m. to 1:16 p.m.
(Sign up for Public Testimony by 3:15 p.m.)

1:16 p.m. to 3:14 p.m. (Yukon Time)

Project and Research Presentations

7. Teslin Tlingit Council Salmon Surveys – *Petra Szekeres and Gillian Rourke, Teslin Tlingit Council* - **3:19:00 VT**

Presentation by Teslin Tlingit Council – Petra Szekeres:

January 29, 2026 #7 Teslin Tlingit Council Chinook Salmon Surveys 2025 - Updated Version

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

8. Kwanlin Dun First Nation Salmon Stewardship – *Brandy Mayes, Kwanlin Dun First Nation Government* - **4:06:32 VT**

Presentation by Kwanlin Dün First Nation Government – Brandy Mayes and Emma Hoogland:

January 29, 2026 #8 Kwanlin Dun First Nation Salmon Stewardship

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

9. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Fish Ceremony - *Georgette McLeod, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government* - **4:45:28 VT**

Presentation by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government – Georgette McLeod:

January 29, 2026 #9 Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Fish

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

Yukon River Panel Meeting

3:14 p.m. to 4:01 p.m. (Yukon Time)

10. Public Testimony (5 minutes per presenter)

4:01 p.m. to 4:12 p.m. (Yukon Time)

11. 2026 Pre-Season Yukon River Panel Meeting (April 11 to 16, 2026 – Alaska) - **6:04:16 VT**

The 2026 YRP Pre-Season meeting will be hosted by the United States on the week of April 11-16, 2026. The specific location and venue will be announced prior to the meeting.

12. Closing Remarks - **6:04:44 VT**

- Steve Gotch (*Chair*)
- Chief Pauline Frost (Canada)

ADJOURNMENT of the Public Meeting 4:12p.m. (Yukon Time)

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