

# YUKON RIVER PANEL 2013 RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT (R&E) FUND “NEAR TERM PRIORITIES”

The Yukon River Panel has developed priorities for effective use of its Restoration and Enhancement Fund. These are described in detail in the “**Yukon River Panel R&E Fund Budget Priorities Framework 2007**” which identifies seven categories of projects (sometimes referred to as “envelopes”) required to advance the Panel’s R&E objectives involving Yukon River salmon stocks of Canadian origin. These seven categories are:

- Conservation
- Restoration
- Enhancement
- Stewardship
- Viable Fisheries
- Communications
- Administration

In *The Yukon River Panel R&E Fund Budget Priorities Framework 2007*, the categories are identified as “Level One” and are further broken down into two other levels (or topics) resulting in a list of associated “Management Needs”. The near term priorities detailed below are directly linked to these Management Needs. The priority ranking, as identified in the framework document, is reflected in parentheses after the Management Need with 1 being the highest priority rank.

## CONSERVATION

### Stocks

#### *Run Assessment*

- 1. Management Need: Improve in-season and post-season resolution of genetic stock identification for Chinook and chum runs. (Priority ranking 1)**
  - Supplement existing genetic stock identification baseline data by obtaining tissue samples from watersheds identified by the Panel’s Joint Technical Committee. (See list on page 6).
- 2. Management Need: Improve Yukon River in-season stock specific run size estimates. (Priority ranking 1)**
  - Community-specific detailed in-season harvest estimates.  
*Note: Emphasis on US communities.*
  - Continue to improve in-season mixed stock analyses (genetic stock identification) programs.

### *Harvest*

**3. Management Need: Understand the impact of fishing techniques on harvest and biological characteristics of escapement. (Priority ranking 1)**

- Assessment of fish wheel for harvest impacts (selectivity, target species, mortality associated with live boxes).

### *Escapement Studies*

**4. Management Need: Obtain information on quality of escapement (age, size, sex, health). (Priority ranking 1)**

- Age, Sex, Length data contributing to the identification of trends. (Specific interest in impacts of mesh change to 7.5" max).

*Note: Projects that involve handling fish may be required to obtain standard ASL data, and where appropriate girth/weight sampling, to continue to build and monitor these stocks; contact DFO (Whitehorse) or ADF&G (Anchorage) technical staff.*

**5. Management Need: Identify and monitor escapements to key Canadian salmon spawning streams/areas (index streams). (Priority ranking 2)**

- Implement Chinook and chum salmon stock escapement monitoring projects on selected Canadian tributaries for use in reconstructing Canadian origin runs.

*Note: The tributaries to be monitored are being identified in an overall Canadian stock escapement monitoring plan being developed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) in consultation with the JTC. This is an evolving document. Those interested in advancing proposals under this priority should do so in consultation with DFO (Whitehorse) staff.*

### *Research*

**6. Management Need: Assessment of out-migrants. (Priority ranking 4)**

- Assessment of juvenile Chinook salmon life history and production using sound methodology contributing or leading to the long-term monitoring of production.

## Habitat

### *Assessment*

**7. Management Need: Locate and document spawning and rearing habitat. (Priority ranking 1)**

- Collect and assess baseline data on physical parameters such as temperature, discharge, spawning reach lat./longs and conditions, as well as other spawning and rearing habitat characteristics.

*Note: Chinook and Porcupine Chum habitat being the priority.*

*The Panel is particularly interested in funding community-initiated projects.*

## RESTORATION

### Stocks

#### *Implementation*

**8. Management Need: Identify depleted stocks or limits to production and identify candidates for stock restoration. (Priority ranking 1)**

- Compile information (historical data, traditional ecological knowledge, conservation concerns or habitat impacts) supporting the development of a restoration plan. (Areas of interest: Porcupine chum, Klondike, Southern Lakes Chinook, upper Stewart)  
*Note: Information would include numbers of fish, impacts, and investigations as to whether or not circumstances that lead to the degradation of the stock still exist.*

**9. Management Need: Restoration of Depleted Stocks. (Priority ranking 3)**

- Support the restoration and assessment of depleted stocks currently linked to a restoration plan.

### Habitat

#### *Implementation*

**10. Management Need: Restore fish access to spawning and rearing habitat. (Priority ranking 1)**

- Assess, evaluate, and document current conditions of salmon spawning and rearing habitat within their historic range to determine areas where salmon access should be restored and conduct restoration activities at these sites.  
*Note: Chinook habitat being the priority.  
The Panel is particularly interested in funding community-initiated projects.*

## ENHANCEMENT

**11. Management Need: Research and investigate habitats suitable for salmon range extension in existing systems, or that would benefit from habitat enhancement to expand wild stock productivity. (Priority ranking 1)**

- Assess opportunities to extend range or enhance habitat to expand wild salmon stock productivity.  
*Note: Chinook habitat being the priority.  
The Panel is particularly interested in funding community-initiated projects.*

## STEWARDSHIP

### **12. Management Need: Involve and educate users and non-users in communities to increase their capacity to maintain and protect salmon stocks and habitat. (Priority ranking 1)**

- Build community capacity through community education and hands-on training.  
*Note: Emphasis on youth.*

### **13. Management Need: Gather historical and traditional knowledge/data. (Priority ranking 4)**

- Enable effective community participation through the gathering of traditional knowledge for use in salmon management, restoration or habitat improvement.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Outreach and Information Sharing

### **14. Management Need: Conduct public outreach to build a more aware public constituency that is motivated to maintain and protect salmon stocks and habitat. (Priority ranking 1)**

- Improve public awareness and foster community partnerships and relations focused on Yukon River salmon.

## VIABLE FISHERIES in CANADA

No near-term Viable Fisheries priorities have been identified for 2013. As identified in the YRSA, Viable Fisheries in Canada remains to be an R&E supported activity.

“Viable Fishery” means existing and developing with a reasonable chance of succeeding as an independent fishery under normal management and conservation constraints; under the Yukon River Salmon Agreement, Canadians may use the R&E Fund to support projects to create and maintain viable fisheries with economic, social and environmental benefits.

## ADMINISTRATION

The objectives identified in the Administration category concern the operations of the R&E Fund itself. It is intended that the fulfillment of these objectives will be accomplished internally. Administrative functions receive a set allocation each year, separate from the competitively allocated R&E Funds and are not eligible for funding by grants from the R&E Fund to third parties responding to the annual Call for Project Concepts.

## **YUKON RIVER PANEL**

### Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Projects Evaluation Criteria

Projects considered for approval by the Yukon River Panel are evaluated by the Joint Technical Committee using the criteria set out in the *R&E Application Guidance Document* and are specific to:

- Relevance and Significance;
- Technical Merit;
- Capacity to Deliver;
- Benefits; and
- Cost Effectiveness.

## 2013 R&E Priorities for **adult Chinook** genetic baseline tissue collections

Country	Main tributary	Branch tributary	
US	Kandik River		
	Koyukuk River	Jim River Kateel River South Fork Koyukuk River Clear Ck/Hogatza River	
	Melozitna River		
	Nulato River		
	Porcupine River	Sheenjok River Coleen River Black River	
	Tanana River	Chatanika River Goodpaster River	
	Canada	Porcupine River	Miner River Fishing Branch
		Pelly River	Mainstem Population Big Kalzas River Earn River Hoole River Mica Ross River
		Stewart	McQuesten River Janet River
		Teslin River	Mainstem Population Nisutlin River Morley River Jennings River
White River		Nisling River Tincup Creek	
Yukon		Nordenskiold River North Big Salmon River	

## 2013 R&E Priorities for **adult Chum** genetic baseline tissue collections

Country	Main tributary	Branch tributary	Comments
US	Big Salt River		
	Porcupine River	Black River (Porcupine)	
	Tanana River	Chena River } Salcha River }	Specifically to distinguish between summer and fall runs.
Canada	Pelly River		
	Stewart River		Highest priority is McQuesten
	White River	Kluane Lk	
	Yukon	Klondike River Minto Tatchun Creek	