

YUKON RIVER PANEL RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT (R&E) FUND PRIORITIES

The Yukon River Panel has developed priorities for effective use of its Restoration and Enhancement Fund. These are outlined in “Yukon River Panel Restoration & Enhancement Fund Budget Priorities Framework 2006” which identified seven categories of projects required to advance the Panel’s R&E objectives involving Yukon River salmon stocks of Canadian origin. These seven categories include:

<i>Conservation</i>	<i>Restoration</i>	<i>Enhancement</i>	<i>Stewardship</i>	<i>Viable Fisheries</i>
<i>Communications Administration</i>				

These 2011 specific R&E priorities are the current year refinement of these longer term Panel R& E priorities, as follows:

1. Stock Escapement Monitoring of the Canadian tributaries
 - Implement stock escapement monitoring projects for selected Canadian tributaries.¹
2. Stock Identification and In-Season Management
 - Supplement existing genetic stock identification baseline data, by obtaining tissues from watersheds identified by the Panel’s JTC.
3. Determine the quality of stock escapement²
 - Refine understanding of the effects of fishing techniques and gear selectivity on the quality of Chinook escapement (e.g. size and sex ratio) and composition of harvest.
 - Collect Age, Sex, Length (ASL) data and/or girth and weight information for Chinook escapement (using carcass surveys or other techniques) for areas identified by the Panel’s JTC.
4. Community Education and Stewardship
 - Advance information, education and training – including traditional knowledge – to:

¹ The tributaries to be monitored are being identified in an overall Canadian stock escapement monitoring plan being developed by Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Canada) in consultation with the JTC. This is an evolving document at this time. Those interested in advancing proposals under this priority should do so in consultation with DFO (Whitehorse) technical staff.

² The Call for Proposals will indicate that projects that involve handling fish may be required to obtain standard ASL and where appropriate girth/weight sampling to continue to build and monitor this database.

- a) enable more effective community participation in the management of Yukon River salmon stocks and habitats; and,
 - b) increase salmon users and non-users desire to maintain and protect salmon stocks and habitat.
 - Priority projects include:
 - a) youth-oriented education and hands-on projects (youth up to 18 years);
 - b) community education projects;
 - c) community special events and celebrations; and,
 - d) projects that foster cross-boundary community partnerships and relations focused on Yukon River salmon.
5. Habitat Monitoring, Restoration and Enhancement (Chinook habitat being the priority)
- Locate and document productive spawning and rearing habitat, the Panel being particularly interested in funding community-initiated projects.
 - Assess all spawning and rearing streams within 80 km of communities, to determine areas where salmon access should be restored, and conduct restoration at these sites.
 - Assess opportunities within 80 km of communities to extend range or enhance habitat to expand wild salmon stock productivity.
 - Collect baseline habitat data such as temperature, discharge and other spawning and rearing habitat characteristics.
6. Stock Restoration and Enhancement
- Continue to support stock restoration projects that are underway.
 - Explore options for new restoration and/or enhancement opportunities.
7. JTC Research Priorities
- Outlined in “US and Canada Yukon River Salmon Joint Technical Committee Strategic Plan,” March 2005 (see <http://www.yukonriverpanel/jtcplan.htm>);
 - Analysis of escapement goals.