

Commercial Fish Plant Upgrades and Value Added Processing

CRE-72-02

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**Prepared for the Yukon River Panel's
Restoration and Enhancement Fund by:**

Christine Ball and Sylvain Fleurant

Executive Summary:

This project was about doing the necessary upgrades to our fish processing facility in order to maintain our viability and thus: (1) enable us to purchase and process salmon supplied by other commercial fishers - thus maintaining their viability, (2) do the work necessary to acquire export permits, and (3) produce the finest product possible that commands top prices while retaining the most value from our salmon resources locally by way of the employment created and markets developed.

The Project was very successful this year in achieving the goals as illustrated in Phase 1 of our proposal. The newly purchased walk-in freezer unit was purchased, brought to the site, set-up and is now completely operational – all within the allocated budget. The shelving units and additional processing equipment now provide us with more efficient processing capabilities and greater storage space. These upgrades have greatly increased our ability to attain an export permit for Yukon River salmon products.



Photo 1. View of interior of new freezer box with freezer shelves and trays.

Acknowledgements:

We would like to thank the Yukon River Panel for giving us the opportunity to continue in the development and growth of our fishing business that we have worked at for many years. We would like to thank Hugh Monaghan for his support and advice, and, Habitat Steward Jake Duncan, for without his personal guidance and expertise, the completion of this project would not have been possible.



Photo 2. View of Fish Processing Facility with new freezer unit installed.

Methods, Materials, Results and Discussion:

The Commercial Fish Plant Upgrades and Value Added Processing project officially commenced on May 31st, upon signing of the contract with the Yukon River Panel. Much work in organisation, planning and preparation was completed before this date. The first of the capital equipment purchases was made on June 17th with the ordering of the Walk-in Freezer Box from locally owned MBC Refrigeration Ltd. There was a four-week delivery date and the unit was shipped from Coldmatic Refrigeration of Canada of Concord, Ontario. Pacific Northwest Transport Ltd. and Kluane Freightlines shipped the freezer box to Dawson City. All supplies and materials were then freighted on site via riverboat starting July 2nd. Between July 2nd and July 17th, project crews were busy clearing an area for the walk-in freezer box and they built a foundation and floor for the entire unit. The bulk of the freighting was completed between July 10th and 21st, with the arrival of the freezing box.



Photo 3. Freighting the freezer box on site via riverboat.

The freezer compressor unit was retrofitted to work with the new freezer box and a frame complete with tin roof was erected. Other processing equipment was ordered, such as: a sealer bar from Sealer Sales Inc and Shelving and trays from Russell Food Equipment Ltd. The new freezer box, which is now connected to our old freezer by a shared foundation, was then completely enclosed and the plumbing was reconnected.

All aspects of the project were completed by August 26th. The new freezer unit and processing equipment were tested and utilized during a limited commercial salmon fishing opening and all equipment checked-out fine.



Photo 4. Assembling the freezer box on site.



Photo 5. Constructing the enclosure for freezer box on site.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Phase one of the Commercial Fish Plant Upgrades and Value Added Processing project has been successfully completed. Thanks to the generous contribution and commitment of the Yukon River Panel, our fish processing capabilities have been greatly increased. In addition to this, the standards of our fish processing facility have greatly increased too. It is for these reasons that we are now much closer to obtaining a fish exporting permit and are able to purchase fish from fellow Yukon River Commercial Fishers. In Phase two, the main focus of our proposal is to increase our ability to process salmon roe. Presently, there are no salmon roe processing facilities in the Canadian portion of the Yukon River. Proceeding with Phase two of this valuable initiative is clearly desirable.

Appendix A - List of Capital Goods Purchased

Item Name:	No. Items:	Supplier, Maker:	Serial No.
Walk-in Freezer Box	1	Coldmatic Refrigeration of Canada	B17528
Shelving Units (on casters w/ 20 trays per shelving unit)	6	Russell Food Equipment Ltd.	118120
Trays for Shelving units	80	Russell Food Equipment Ltd.	110293
Heat Sealer (Bar and Cutter)	1	Sealer Sales Inc.	TISH-305C

Appendix B - Project Financial Statements

				Funded by Yukon River Panel			Supplied, In-Kind to Project				
				Cap Cost	Materials	Freight	Total	Labor	Supplies	Fuel	Total
Capital Item	Walk-in Freezer	June 17/02	Coldmatic Refridgeration of Canada	\$10,209.94		\$ 2,038.22					
Capital Item	Shelving Units (6) on casters, Aluminum Trays (80) for Shelving Units	July 9/02	Russell Food Equipment Ltd.	\$ 1,968.80		\$ 183.86					
Capital Item	Sealer Bar/ with cutter	July 8/02	Sealer Sales Ltd.	\$ 260.00		\$ 14.59					
Capital Item	Building Materials	July 9/02	Arctic Inland Resources Ltd.		\$ 1,160.30						
Capital Item	Building Materials	July 15/02	Arctic Inland Resources Ltd.		\$ 271.75						
Capital Item	Building Materials	July 23/02	Arctic Inland Resources Ltd.		\$ 120.81						
Capital Item	Building Materials	Aug 6/02	Arctic Inland Resources Ltd.		\$ 383.98						
Capital Item	Building Materials	Aug 14/02	Arctic Inland Resources Ltd.		\$ 1,506.50						
Capital Item	Building Materials	Aug 22/02	Arctic Inland Resources Ltd.		\$ 63.69						
Capital Item	Building Materials	Aug 9/02	Arctic Inland Resources Ltd.		\$ 1,293.00						
Capital Item	Building Materials	July 31/02	Norther Metallic Sales Ltd.						\$ 112.35		
Supplies	Food	Aug 12/02	Bonanza Market						\$ 1,947.90		
Supplies	Fuel	Aug 31/02	Mackenzie Petroleum Ltd.							\$ 2,037.29	
Labour	Karl Fleurant	30.0	days					\$ 2,915.65			
Labour	Christian Dingmon	12.6	days					\$ 2,520.00			
Labour	Sylvain Fleurant	30.0	days					\$ 6,000.00			
Labour	Chris Ball	12.0	days					\$ 2,400.00			
Actual Spent on Project:				\$12,438.74	\$ 4,800.03	\$ 2,236.67	\$19,475.44	\$13,835.65	\$ 2,060.25	\$ 2,037.29	\$17,933.19
Budgeted:				\$14,380.48	\$ 4,144.52	\$ 1,475.00	\$20,000.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$12,250.00
Difference:				\$ 1,941.74	\$ (655.51)	\$ (761.67)	\$ 524.56	\$ (5,335.65)	\$ (1,810.25)	\$ 1,462.71	\$ (5,683.19)