

YUKON RIVER Salmon Stewards Summit

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PREPARED FOR:
Council of Yukon First Nations,
Yukon First Nations, and
Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Yukon River Salmon Stewards Summit (Salmon Summit) was organized by the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) and the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC) as a result of a resolution coming from the CYFN 2010 Annual General Assembly, which was put forward by the Teslin Tlingit Council and endorsed by other Yukon First Nations. Funding for the Salmon Summit was secured from the Yukon River Panel's (YRP) Restoration & Enhancement (R&E) Fund. The goal of the Salmon Summit was to gather Yukon First Nations' Elders, youth, and fish & wildlife staff so they can: discuss the current crisis of the declining Yukon River Chinook Salmon stock; share information and ideas for stock rebuilding initiatives; work on a strategy for enhancing the health of the Yukon River Chinook Salmon run and their habitat; as well as improving communication with all salmon users (Cdn/US) and fisheries management bodies. The agenda was developed in partnership with the Yukon First Nation Caucus (FNC), the YSSC, and CYFN. The Salmon Summit was held June 28th to 30th, 2011.

The participants included representatives from 11 of the 14 Yukon First Nations, the YSSC, CYFN, the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC), Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA). [See Appendix 7 for more info.] The First Nations' representatives included youth, Elders and First Nation government fish and wildlife staff members. Angela Walkley (Cambio Consulting) and Debbie Trudeau provided facilitation and note taking services.

Salmon Summit participants believe that there is not enough being done to address the current Chinook Salmon crisis and that action needs to be taken. Yukon First Nations and other groups participating in the Salmon Summit believe that in order to bring back the salmon they need the support and collaboration of their Alaskan neighbours. Yukon First Nations are at the headwaters of the Yukon River and at the farthest point in the Chinook Salmon's migratory journey. Many Yukon First Nations feel that they have little influence over the decisions that are made downriver, yet they are directly impacted by decisions regarding the amount of salmon harvested and the yearly salmon management regime. Yukon First Nations recognize that Yukon River Chinook Salmon are also important to Alaskan First Nation's culture and nutrition and it was mentioned by participants that they would like to work together to take action and restore the population.

The Salmon Summit included the following topics:

1. Looking back at the changes in the Chinook Salmon run
2. Open discussions by Elders, youth, and First Nation fish & wildlife staff
3. Salmon management activities undertaken by each First Nation and other fisheries organizations
4. Involvement in the Yukon River Fisheries In-Season Management Teleconference
5. Communication about the value of Yukon River Salmon to the First Nations, with Yukon Member of Parliament (MP) Ryan Leef in attendance
6. The importance of Yukon River Salmon Fisheries along the entire Yukon River
7. Identifying all the people involved in salmon management
8. Identifying priority actions for restoring the Chinook Salmon stocks in the Yukon River Drainage

The Salmon Summit included a mix of short presentations by participants, round-table discussions and break-out group exercises.

Yukon River Salmon and Yukon First Nations

All First Nations along the Yukon River have seen the decrease of the number of Chinook Salmon over the last several decades. Restoring the Yukon River Chinook Salmon stocks is a priority for many Yukon First Nations in the Yukon River drainage. Salmon Summit participants spoke of the cultural and nutritional importance of salmon for First Nation people. Salmon are an important part of First Nations’ identity. One Participant shared that fish camps are a time that bring families together more than Christmas: a time to gather, share, and practice traditions.

Each First Nation government participating in the Salmon Summit, as well as some other organizations attending, dedicate time in their yearly work to salmon management. The Salmon Summit was an opportunity for participants to share what they are doing. Some of the Salmon management activities included: [See Appendix 2 for more info.]

- Collect harvest data
- Research
- Water quality testing
- Habitat restoration and enhancement
- Fish stocking
- Citizen communication
- Support cultural practices such as fish camps
- Licensing
- Participate in management discussions
- Youth engagement
- Public education
- Commercial fisheries

Yukon Member of Parliament Ryan Leef

Yukon MP Ryan Leef attended the Summit for half a day to hear from participants. During his presentation he noted that he sits on the Government of Canada’s Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans and participates on the Northern Caucus with other northern MPs. He can also to provide input to Minister Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs. MP Ryan Leef’s role is to take the collective grassroots knowledge from the Yukon to the Federal Government. He encouraged Salmon Summit participants to identify clear priorities and to bring them to him in the fall so he can bring them forward. Salmon Summit participants shared why Yukon River Salmon is important to them and several commented on what they feel needs to be done from their own perspectives. MP Ryan Leef acknowledged to participants that he understands the importance of their relationship with Yukon River Salmon. [See Section 6.0 & Appendix 6 for comments]

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Salmon Summit participants recognize action is required in order to bring back the Yukon River Salmon. The following priorities were identified through a group process and everyone had a chance to provide input on the actions identified:

ONE

International
Yukon/Alaska Meeting
of all Salmon Fishers
along Yukon River

An international salmon summit would bring together stakeholders from both sides of the border to raise awareness and discuss how to restore and enhance the Yukon River Chinook Salmon run. Yukon First Nations, CYFN, YSSC and the YRDFA can support an application for funds through the Restoration and Enhancement fund, government funding, and other funding sources.

Salmon Summit participants have identified early November 2012 as a good time and suggest that the summit would take place over 3-5 days. Fairbanks is the recommended location for the summit because it’s location and ability to host 250-300 people (the location also recognizes that few Alaskans have passports that would allow them to travel into Canada).

TWO

Media Campaign

Yukon First Nations and the YSSC suggested launching an awareness campaign around the lack of salmon and the importance of salmon to First Nations. The awareness campaign can raise the Canadian profile across the border for those Alaskans that don’t understand that there is an issue for Yukoners. It could also get the message to southern audiences and possibly make it a political issue.

[See Section 9 & Appendix 4 for more details on priorities for action]

THREE

Lobby Yukon
and Alaskan
Politicians

There are three key messages that Yukon First Nations would like to deliver to governments on both sides of the border. They are:

1. Honour the treaty obligations.
2. Protect the first pulse every year. Alaska and Yukon to help protect 1st and 2nd pulse (mainly Cdn origin) Yukon to support Alaskans for doing this.
3. Conserve the salmon all along the Yukon River including the ocean. i.e. Pollack fishery by-catch, fish caught unintentionally in a fishery, should be given to the Yukon River communities.

Each First Nation representative at the Salmon Summit will take these messages back to their First Nation for review. The messages can then be delivered through the YSSC, the Chiefs, Grand Chief Ruth Massie, and the Yukon Salmon Sub Committee to the appropriate government representatives and leaders.

FOUR

Open Yukon River
Salmon Agreement

Further discussions about the Yukon River Salmon Agreement is a complex topic and needs to be discussed by senior First Nation officials. It is one that Salmon Summit participants recognize is important but not one that participants felt comfortable putting forward recommendations on. Two changes that were initially identified were: 1) the need for penalties/compensation for non-compliance of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and the Yukon River Salmon Agreement; and 2) Increased funding from the R&E Fund (which has not increased since it was established).

FIVE

Research Cause of
Declining Salmon
Population

First Nations would like the Minister of Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to investigate what is causing the decline of the Chinook salmon. Yukon First Nations believe they have sacrificed a lot by reducing and limiting their fisheries throughout the past several years and do not believe ceasing of all their harvesting would restore the salmon run to increased populations, although in order to conserve for future generations, having all fishers cease harvesting maybe one of many solutions. The accumulative effects need to be reviewed in more detail in order to address the real issues causing the decline.

First Nations would like to request that DFO look into this and work with US government and US fisheries counter parts. It was suggested that DFO be asked to produce a large comprehensive “cumulative impact assessment report” outlining all current information to answer the question, “Why are the salmon disappearing?”

INTRODUCTION

Brian Bell welcomed everyone to the Yukon River Salmon Stewards Summit on behalf of the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN). CYFN followed through on a General Assembly (GA) resolution, put forward by the Teslin Tlingit Council, and secured funding for the Salmon Summit from the Yukon River Panel's Restoration & Enhancement (R&E) Fund (now under the Pacific Salmon Commission). Funding and assistance also came from a partnership with the YSSC (YSSC).



Opening Prayer was offered by Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Elder Frances Woolsey. CYFN Grand Chief Ruth Massie welcomed everyone to the Traditional Territory of the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. She was pleased that the Salmon Summit was being held and looked forward to the outcomes. This Salmon Summit came from a 2010 General Assembly Resolution that asked for CYFN and related Yukon First Nations to take the initiative to develop and administer a proposal to the Yukon River Panel Restoration and Enhancement Fund for funds to host a Yukon River Salmon Summit for Yukon First Nations. The intention of the resolution is to make all stakeholders aware of the significance of the salmon depletion, share information, and collectively discuss a rebuilding initiative for future generations. The Grand Chief mentioned that the Atlantic Aboriginal Salmon Agreement negotiation process was completed. Grand Chief Massie stated she will encourage the National Assembly of First Nations to share their information as well.

Roundtable introductions were done by all participants with an invite to share at what age participants were when they caught their first fish and what species it was.

1.0 WORKSHOP PROCESS

A total of 53 participants attended the three-day Salmon Summit which took place June 28th to 30th, 2011. The agenda was developed in partnership with the Yukon First Nation Caucus (YFNC), the YSSC, and CYFN. The participants included representatives from 11 of the 14 Yukon First Nations, YSSC, CYFN, the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC), the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). The First Nations representatives included youth, Elders and First Nation government fish and wildlife staff members. Angela Walkley (Cambio Consulting) provided facilitation services and Debbie Trudeau provided note taking services. [See Appendix 1 for a complete list of participants].

The Expected Outcomes for the Salmon Summit included:

1. Identify common issues, experiences and concerns;
2. Identify common messages:
 - with the Salmon Summit participants,
 - with Yukon government (YG) / Canadian government
 - with Alaska
3. Identify key actions
4. Identify actors [See Appendix 3 for map of players]
5. Pass down knowledge; opportunity to share between Elders, youth and staff.

The Salmon Summit included a mix of short presentations by participants, round-table discussions, break-out group exercises, participation in the weekly "Yukon River Fisheries In-Season Management Teleconference" and an opportunity to meet with Ryan Leef, the Yukon Member of Parliament and member of the Canadian government's Standing Committee on Fisheries & Oceans.



Outside of the scheduled agenda, people participated in a water sampling/testing demonstration led by the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC), campfire talks, walks drumming with Ross River Elders and youth, and great meals which were prepared by Joan Graham and Marlene Smith.

2.0 LOOKING BACK

Small groups of 5 or 6 participants identified the changes that have taken place in the last 200 years ago, 100 years ago, 50 years ago, 20 years ago, and 10 years ago with a focus on the Yukon River Salmon. Each group then posted their results in front of the room to create a timeline showing the decline of the salmon population throughout the Yukon and in some cases the loss of the species all together.

| 200 years | 100 Years | 50 Years | 20 Years | 10-15 Yrs | Present |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Management of beaver dams• Clean healthy water• Lots of fish• Salmon were big• Dooli laws (First Nation traditional laws) had strong effect• Used fish skins for making canoe, pants, bags, and other things• Dogs were used to pack fish• Fish traps – all (people) lived in one camp• Used gaff hook with moose skin ropes• Traded with the Russians to get new tools, at the mouth of the Tanana River• Late 1700s volcanic eruption – “summer never came” | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase in human population• More fishing to feed the newcomers• Strong stewardship of land and water• No shortage of fish - abundant• Used fish skin and bones for gun case, pants, water bucket, and other things• Strong traditional/ Dooli laws• People used and shared food• Trees/new plant growth• Started losing the balance of traditional life• Do not kill bear and throw in creek• All people in one fish camp!• Traded with Alaskans – caribou for salmon• Hydro dams• Harvested the smaller fish, didn't have the means to harvest the big fish• No salmon during some years on the Porcupine River | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Too much commercial fishing• Used to fish other species - white fish. We don't get that now.• Fish travelled up Chandidu River• Used to get lots of Lingcod (Burbot)• 1000 people used to come to fish before the border was put in. Nobody comes now• Parents used to help Percy DeWolfe• Got lots of sand• Dawson area – changed• Used fish for human consumption• Could hear salmon jump during the night• So many fish in the net they would pull the boat upstream• Lower water levels• 1954 (1958) – Whitehorse dam built and affected the salmon migration (fish ladder was not built until the next year)• Loss of the big fish• Abundant numbers, fish getting smaller• 200 fish a day at camp• Dooli law in effect | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commercial fish plant in Dawson• Lots of fish, but fewer (large) fish• Noticeable decrease• Before 20 years ago families/ Elders never remember having a bad run• High cache for storage• Dried fish for winter use• Tanning of skins• Many more fish camps• Concerns with climate change and water flows• Used to get lots of Lingcod (Burbot) - Yukon Queen boat wash away eggs | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• fish size is smaller• Still caught big ones but not very many.• Down to about 25-30 salmon each run• Later season run• Agriculture, mining, beavers, development• Commercial fishing effecting salmon runs• Spruce beetle kill• TTC put in restrictions• Erosion on the Porcupine -sediment changing channels• Lots of flooding• VGFN can't use fish wheels like the ones in Alaska• 40 salmon a day at camps• Dooli law starts to slip• Limited FN fishing• Warming waters and climate change• Land erosion | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2-3 salmon per camp a day• Dooli laws slipping rapidly• Water too warm• Soft fish• Shallow water• No more big fish• Small fish |

3.0 PEARL KEENAN
Comments from Teslin Tlingit Elder



The following is a special address to the Salmon Summit made by Teslin Tlingit Council Elder Pearl Keenan.

The words below were captured as best as possible by the note taker as she spoke:

It took 17 years to negotiate an agreement with Alaska. It was a tough fight. And is still a tough fight today; all kinds of commercial fishermen in all rivers. Stikine, Yukon, Taku. They all come to fish here.

We know, as First Nation people, about the depletion of the salmon. About 10 years ago or so. I live at the headwaters (of the Yukon River), Teslin. They go up behind that. The most beautiful thing to see the salmon coming back.

My mother said thank you, good to see you come home again. They go long journey, around the ocean, and then they come home. We used to take a female. And let her go.

Our creator put us here and give us different foods to eat; salmon, caribou, everything. They are there for us to use, but also to take care of. He

put us over the animals, and we take care.

People used to hunt beaver in the spring, hunt wolf, they leave one or two. We have to do this for salmon. We have to look after that.

People along Yukon River – this is why I come today – it's not only us. We never took any salmon last year; we don't even know what went by, nobody fished. We bought fish. And made substitute; it was great to do that.

Athabaskan People along the Yukon River; settlement along the mouth of the Yukon, Athabaskan people. They felt the crunch last year. Their livelihood depends on that salmon. If you can think how to help them out; they need it.

There are people down river, no road in there. They are Athabaskan, and have a really hard time with the young

people, the whole community depends on the fish. I came this morning to ask you about that. We can do it, peacefully. Just take a few; our lives doesn't depend on it like they do. If there is some way we can make it and give them a priority. The rest of us along the Yukon, we can cut back. Carmacks, Pelly, Dawson – all of us can sacrifice – and let those people have the priority.

Give it a lot of thought. And give it everything you have.

To our people, there is a leader that comes every year, salmon – they say he is deformed, but he isn't, he's a leader and you're very lucky if you catch one.

Thank you for listening to me. Give it everything you have, the Lord gave it to us, and you are the master of the salmon.

I encourage you to do something.

4.0 SALMON MANAGEMENT

What is Everyone Up to?

Throughout the three days each First Nation and organization attending the Salmon Summit made a brief presentation on the salmon management work they are involved in. The following chart is an overview of the result [See Appendix 2 for more details].

| | VGG | NNDFN | TH | TKC | TTC | CTFN | RRDC | WRFN | LSCFN | YSSC | CYFN | YRDFA | YRITWC |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|----|-----|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|--------|
| Collect Harvest Data | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | | | √ | √ | | √ | |
| Research | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Water Quality Testing | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | | | | | √ | | | √ |
| Habitat Restoration & Enhancement | √ | √ | | | √ | | | | √ | √ | | √ | |
| Fish Stocking | | | | √ | √ | √ | | | | √ | | | |
| Citizen Communication | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | | | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Support Cultural Practices | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | | | √ | √ | | √ | √ |
| Licensing | √ | | √ | | √ | | | √ | | √ | | | |
| Participate in Mgmt Discussions | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Youth Engagement | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | | √ | | √ | √ |
| Public Education | √ | | | √ | √ | | | | | √ | | √ | √ |
| Commercial Fisheries | | | √ | | | | | | | √ | | √ | |

5.0 YUKON RIVER FISHERIES

Teleconference Call

Every week during the Yukon River Salmon run there is a “*Yukon River Fisheries In-season Management Teleconference*”, hosted by the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA). These conference calls typically last from 1-2 hours. The purpose of the teleconferences is to discuss fishing conditions and management strategies with fishers and managers throughout the Yukon River Drainage. Managers and fishers from the entire length of the Yukon River participate in this call weekly. Several Yukon First Nations participate in this teleconference on a regular basis but some Yukon First Nations were not familiar with it.

Salmon Summit participants joined in the teleconference to introduce conference call participants to the Yukon River Salmon Stewards Summit and explain the purpose of the Salmon Summit. Taking part in the teleconference also gave people, who had not participated before, an understanding of what is talked about and how they can join in the call themselves. Carl Sidney (TTC) introduced all the Salmon Summit participants and Coralee Johns (TKC) explained the purpose of the Salmon Summit to the listeners from Alaska. Several Yukon First Nation representatives then provided the fisheries report for their Traditional Territory within the Yukon River watershed.



The number to join in the Yukon River Fisheries In-Season Management Teleconference is: 1-800-315-6338 (Yukoners enter participant code number 98566 #). The calls take place each Tuesday from June through August at 2pm Yukon Time.

6.0 WHY IS SALMON IMPORTANT

Member of Parliament Ryan Leaf

Yukon's Member of Parliament (MP) Ryan Leaf attended the Salmon Summit for two hours on the second day of the Salmon Summit. MP Ryan Leaf sits on the Government of Canada's Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans. To date they have held one meeting but in the future will be exploring national issues of importance and he has an opportunity to speak to the situation in the Yukon.

In introducing himself, MP Ryan Leaf spoke about his memories growing up in the Yukon and of Yukon River Salmon in North Fork and Moosehide. He remembers First Nation people using salmon in the Moosehide area. MP Ryan Leaf closed his introductory comments by saying that he looks forward to working with everyone to improve our relations and salmon stocks in the territory.

Each Salmon Summit participant was then asked to introduce themselves and comment on why Salmon is important to them. [See Appendix 6 for participants' comments]

Final Comments from MP Ryan Leaf

Thanks for going around the table and providing your comments. Your heartfelt relationship hasn't missed me. As a young guy growing up here, I can relate to what was said and recognize the importance of this Salmon Summit. I am here to listen and I took seven pages of notes and hope to get reports and minutes from this (Salmon Summit). David's comment that salmon is a way of life and more important (family time) than Christmas, struck me. It is a means of getting people out – shared by all in this room. I recognize the importance of Yukon River Salmon.

I will speak of what role I can play. Carl mentioned this is grass roots; you know the salmon better than anybody. You are living it every day and have lived it for generations. My role is to take your collective knowledge and take that package to (people in the federal government in) Ottawa. I'm excited to see a diverse group of people, in geographical location and age – it demonstrates the importance. I appreciate your willingness to help me.

“ I can relate to what was said and recognize the importance of this Salmon Summit ”

I am not part of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO); I am on the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans – with a parliamentary secretary and reports to Minister of DFO. We have a direct line to the Minister. We have had one meeting, procedural. We were getting guidelines of how we are established. As the meeting progressed, we diverged a bit and got into issues that matter. i.e. one member from the East Coast said (some of the) same things of what we heard today about the Atlantic and the cod fishery. He tried to run the priorities of the East Coast, and I got into the trans-boundary issues and issues on Yukon. We got reined in.

It is an issue for us here; and a national issue. There are big issues going on nationally. We need to address this with DFO – a lot (needs) to be done to improve – and recognize the trans-boundary (issues). DFO needs to appreciate how we feel helpless. I recently brought my son to the Wolf Creek salmon release; we put thousands (of Chinook Salmon fry in the creek) yet may never see them (return) back. We are helpless to release and (not know) what happens to them.

My role in Ottawa is to take information, bring it up as a priority and convince the committee to set timeframes to work and bring forward to parliament and Ministers. I say to you; if you can establish priorities, bring them to me before the fall. We have no agenda as yet on the Standing Committee. So if you bring critical priorities to me, I (will) bring them to the Standing Committee in the fall and try to (move forward on them).

Secondly, I also sit on the Northern Caucus with other northern MPs and we heard earlier about global picture. Fisheries and Oceans stand on its own, but we heard as we go around the table about tradition and culture, and that speaks of health and wellbeing in communities. The traditional culture then falls into northern and Aboriginal affairs. In the Northern Caucus, we have direct line to the Prime Minister. We meet once a week and then table issues once a week to the Prime Minister. The Minister of health is a strong supporter of pan northern relationships. We have a good relationship. Although it is just in the discussion phase, I may chair the Northern Caucus in the fall. So I am a voice potential in the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans and the Northern Caucus. It is another avenue to be heard.

A third opportunity for me to provide input is through Minister Duncan, Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA). The salmon are tied to this department because of the link to tradition and culture. Salmon are not just a resource, it's traditional and cultural. So I have a third venue to bring to the Minister. I encourage you to think globally and how I can bring priorities to DFO, and how to message this to the Northern Caucus and to the Minister of ANA. The more webs on the spider web, the more likely I can get some ground with it.

Thanks.

7.0 MAPPING OUT THE PLAYERS IN SALMON MANAGEMENT

There are many governments, groups, and individuals involved in salmon use and salmon management. The people involved are found throughout the Yukon, in Ottawa, throughout Alaska and in the decision-making centres of the United States. In order to get a clear picture of who (is) involved in Salmon Management a mapping exercise was done to identify everyone involved.

Salmon Summit participants then identified who the key individuals are, who needs to be involved in efforts to restore the salmon, and who are the key decision-makers that need to be targeted with messages for Yukon River Chinook Salmon restoration.

[See Appendix 3 for a map of the players in Salmon Management].

8.0 BRAINSTORM OF POSSIBLE ACTIONS



Salmon Summit participants met in small groups to brainstorm the priorities that they'd like to take action on to restore the Chinook Salmon stocks in the Yukon River drainage. Many participants met with people from their First Nation, while others joined up with people with common interests or from the same region. Each group was asked to identify their top five priority actions. Then the participants formed new groups with different people and shared with each other what they had discussed in their previous group. The five top priority action items from each group were posted up at the front of the meeting hall and organized by theme. Each Salmon Summit participant then voted on the action item that they most wanted to see happen. The results of this exercise were counted up and used to inform what actions the group would like to focus on. [See Appendix 4 for the brainstormed list of potential priorities].

**One key point to note is that the Council of Yukon First Nations is often identified as the organization responsible for carrying out the work. This is because the 5 priorities are all priorities that are addressing the collective interests of Yukon First Nations. It is important to note however that CYFN is a non-profit organization and needs to raise funds to cover off the costs of any work they do.*

9.0 ACTIONS FOR TOP 5 PRIORITIES

PRIORITY
ONE

Yukon/Alaska International Meeting of all Salmon Fishers
along the Yukon River

What

Organize a Yukon/Alaska international salmon summit to raise awareness and discuss how to restore and enhance the run

Who

This will be a large summit with many people attending from both the Yukon, Canada and Alaska, United States. It will include the following people:

- Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC)
 - Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN)
 - Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA)
 - Yukon River Panel (YRP)
 - Yukon First Nations and Alaskan Tribal Councils
- Leaders, youth, and Elders
 - Fishers
 - Salmon (Fish) Managers
 - Processors
 - Tribal groups

How

The suggestion was for the Yukon First Nations, CYFN, and the YRDFA to apply for funds through the Restoration & Enhancement fund, government funding, and other funding sources (for example, Mitsubishi has indicated they were willing to put some funds towards a proposal by YRDFA, with CYFN as a partner, for a meeting next year - 2012). The YSSC can also support these applications for funding.

Existing groups and stakeholders (a stakeholder in this case is anyone who has an interest in Chinook Salmon, be they a government, industry, fisher, group, or citizen) should be engaged to take the lead on fundraising and organizing the event.

Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee

Council of Yukon First Nations

Yukon First Nations

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (coordinate with groups in their region)

A great facilitator will be needed to manage the number of people and the diverse interests.

When

It will take time to raise the funds and organize all the details. Workshop participants suggest early November 2012 as a time that they would be available and when the weather is not yet too cold for long distance travel. It was suggested that the summit would take place over 3-5 days.

Where

Fairbanks was the recommended location for the summit. This is because it is a good central location, there are facilities and infrastructure needed to host 250-300 people, there are great options for entertainment, and it addresses the fact that many Alaskans don't have passports and Fairbanks is also located in a place that many of the remote communities can access.

PRIORITY
TWO

Media Campaign

What

The suggestion was that Yukon First Nations and the YSSC launch an awareness campaign around the lack of Chinook Salmon and the importance of salmon. The awareness campaign will be intended to raise the Canadian profile across the border for those Alaskans that don't understand that there is an issue for Yukoners. It will also get the message to southern audiences; to make it a southern issue and a political issue.

Concept: "imagine if salmon are no more.... It was folklore"

- imagine if ...

- imagine if ...

- imagine if ...

These can be for a future outlook that is both positive and negative. -ie. "Imagine if ...the salmon came back and all can eat"

The media campaign should aim to be hard hitting, raw, gritty, real, (i.e. dog food display/smoking ads)

- high impact visuals
- Video, social media, broadcast news, website, posters, billboards, ads, rallies
- integrated campaign

The Target Audience

- US / Canadian citizens
- Southern media outlets
- All along the Yukon River: fishers, youth, Elders, managers, politicians

How

- Youth film-making
- Work with youth perspective (video, stories, visuals)
- youth rapper
- hand them flip cameras – interview Elders, fishers, other youth, managers
- Shoot video, mentor with filmmaker

July – November (2011) youth start shooting content
Oct – March (2011/2012) solicit support, funding, filmmakers, visual identity, campaign
April – August / Aug – Dec: shoot, edit supplement

Partners

- First Nations
- Council of Yukon First Nations
- Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
- Yukon College
- Bringing Youth Towards Equality (BYTE)
- Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee

Cost

\$50-80,000 total; can be broken into little pieces – also seek funding through youth funding opportunities.

PRIORITY
THREE

Lobby politicians on both sides of the Yukon/ Alaska border

What

- Send the messages:
- Honour the treaty obligations.
 - Protect the first pulse every year.
 - Alaska & Yukon also to help protect 1st and 2nd pulse
 - Yukon to support Alaskans for doing this
 - Conserve the salmon all along the Yukon River including the ocean. i.e. Pollack fishery by-catch, fish caught unintentionally in a fishery, should be given to the Yukon River communities instead of thrown back in the water dead.

Who

- Council of Yukon First Nations
- Yukon First Nations
- Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
- Yukon Government
- Yukon’s Member of Parliament
- Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Fisheries Congress
- Yukon River Panel

Target Audience:

- Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief
- Yukon First Nations’ Chief & Councils
- Governor of Alaska
- President of United States
- Premier of the Yukon
- Canadian Prime Minister
- Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Senators
- Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister

How

The YSSC, Yukon First Nations, Yukon’s Member of Parliament, etc, can lobby the Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Foreign Affairs as well as the Prime Minister.

- Send a common letter/message (This could be done immediately)
- Arrange a meeting
- Raise funds for political meeting – get other partners involved
- Tie into other political meetings (i.e. Ottawa, Standing Committee of Fisheries and Oceans)
- Work with the media campaign (see priority #2)
- Meeting of international fisher people (see priority #1)
- All aspects need to work together
- Budget for a salmon working group
- Lobby for money to have a partnership meeting

Who

Draft letter – not sure who
Suggestion for CYFN to take the lead since it is a Yukon-wide issue; send a letter to the Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans

When

Council of Yukon First Nations – next time Chiefs go to Ottawa, meeting with DFO/ Minister
Get DFO Minister to send a letter to Alaska – Governor

Each First Nation representative at the Salmon Summit will take these priorities to their own First Nation. They need a chance to review the outcomes of the Salmon Summit and to decide what to do on the next steps.

PRIORITY
FOUR

Open Yukon River Salmon Agreement

While this issue was identified as a priority, there was not a group that chose to work on this priority. Everyone felt that the discussions about the Yukon River Salmon Agreement was a very complex topic and needed to be discussed by senior officials. It is not one that that Salmon Summit participants felt comfortable putting forward recommendations on. Two changes that were initially identified were: 1) the need for penalties/compensation for non-compliance of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and the Yukon River Salmon Agreement; and 2) Increased funding from the R&E Fund (which has not increased since it was established).

Brian Bell (CYFN Natural Resources and Environment Coordinator) has hosted several First Nation Caucus meetings about salmon where this has been a focus of conversation. His summary of what has been discussed in the caucus meetings can be found in Appendix 5.



**PRIORITY
FIVE**

Research Cause of Declining Salmon Population

What

First Nations would like to provide the Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans with the request to find out what is causing the decline of the salmon and speak to the idea of reducing or stop fishing.

The message to the Minister is Yukon First Nations have sacrificed a lot by reducing and cutting their fisheries over last several years; they don't believe that if we fully stop fishing it will restore the salmon run. It needs to be looked at deeper; there are a number of issues. (i.e. spring Chum are healthy this year, what is causing them to be okay while the Chinook salmon runs are declining?)

Who

CYFN, Yukon River Panel, independent researchers, and/or the Department of Fisheries and Oceans were identified as the groups to produce the report.
Yukon First Nations play key role in defining clear direction, terms of reference, for the report.

How

Pressure DFO to look into this and work with US government and US fisheries counter parts.
Ask DFO to produce a large comprehensive "cumulative impact assessment report" outlining all current information to answer the question, "Why are the salmon disappearing?"

1. Yukon First Nations approach DFO immediately with the request in a letter
2. Yukon First Nations meet with DFO to define the terms of reference
3. Objectives of chapter 16; And all the rights to force

Ask DFO, Yukon River Panel etc. to engage with US to do the same on their side of the border.
Incorporate Yukon First Nations history, culture and objectives.

Who

Yukon First Nations and DFO define terms of reference
Yukon First Nations and DFO determine strategies for recovery including the use and traditional management methods

When

Development of Terms of Reference can be done as soon as possible
Time line for project completion: 1 year from date of announcement

10.0 CLOSING OF THE YUKON RIVER SALMON STEWARDS SUMMIT

The Yukon River Salmon Stewards Summit closed with a round table of comments from each participant. Participants noted the concrete outcomes, the opportunities for sharing, and the hope for restoring the salmon population in the Yukon River in the future.

Elder Frances Woolsey of Ta'an Kwäch'än Council led the Salmon Summit participants in a closing prayer.



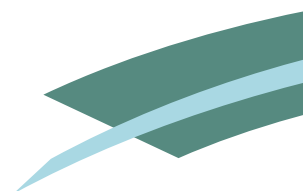
APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – Participant List

1. Ruth Massie, Council of Yukon First Nations, Grand Chief
2. Angela Demit, White River First Nation, Deputy Chief
3. Coralee Johns, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council
4. Glenn Stephen, White River First Nation
5. Frances Woolsey, Ta'an Kwach'an Council, Elder
6. Ryan Toohey, Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
7. Leah Mackey, Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
8. Adam Wrench, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun
9. Roberta Joseph, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
10. Peggy Kormendy, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Elder
11. Tyler Rear, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Youth
12. Jason Hale, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
13. Robert Moar, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation
14. Johnny Sam, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation
15. William Skookum, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation
16. Eddie Skookum, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation, Chief
17. Roger Alfred, Selkirk First Nation, Councillor & Deputy Chief
18. David Silas, Selkirk First Nation
19. Danny Joe, Selkirk First Nation, Elder
20. Kusher Baker, Selkirk First Nation
21. Kathryn Porter, Teslin Tlingit Council
22. Tracy Boyes, Teslin Tlingit Council
23. Richard Dewherst, Teslin Tlingit Council
24. Wolf Riedl, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee
25. Dennis Zimmermann, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee, Executive Director
26. Frank Thomas, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee, YK Fish& Wildlife Mgmt Board
27. Pauline Frost, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee
28. Carl Sidney, Teslin Tlingit Council
29. Amos Dick, Ross River Dena Council, Elder
30. Robertson Dick, Ross River Dena Council, Elder
31. Patrick James, Carcross/Tagish First Nation
32. William Josie, Vuntut Gwitch'in Government
33. Jessica Jacobs, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council
34. Gail Barnaby, Council of Yukon First Nations
35. David Tom, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation
36. Wayne Jim, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee , YK Fish& Wildlife Mgmt Board
37. Robby Dick, Ross River Dena Council
38. Shane Dick, Ross River Dena Council
39. Brian Bell, Council of Yukon First Nations
40. Ann Marie Swan, Council of Yukon First Nations
41. Sandy Smarch, Teslin Tlingit Council
42. Linaya Workman, Champagne & Aishihik First Nations
43. Ron Chambers, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee
44. Jessie Stephen, White River First Nation
45. Sharon Keaton, Council of Yukon First Nations
46. Norma Shorty, Kwanlin Dün First Nation
47. Rosa Brown, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council
48. Emmie Fairclough, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council
49. Paul Birckel , Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee
50. James McDonald, DFO Aboriginal liaison, YSSC Executive Secretary
51. Don Henry, Teslin Tlingit Council, Elder
52. Pearl Keenan, Teslin Tlingit Council, Elder
53. Ryan Leef , Member of Parliament for Yukon

Facilitation:

Angela Walkley, Cambio Consulting
Debbie Trudeau



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APPENDIX 2 – SALMON MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

| ACTIVITY | TKC | TH | SFN | CTFN | YRITWC | WRFN | LSCFN | YSSC |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| Harvest Data Collection | Data loggers, measuring water quality; started last year, share contact information. Northern Strategy Trust funding; climate change based Manual, report guideline from Ta'an Kwach'an Council available for all FNs. | Dept. Fisheries & Oceans (DFO) does not have mandate to negotiate Basic Needs Levels. Collaborative process with DFO is working well. TH hires an individual to collect data as TH does not have existing capacity to complete this responsibility. The Monitor collects data and conducts monitoring throughout the fishing season and they provide the data to DFO. | Go into fish camps for info collection. A harvest calendar that we hand out. General meetings, word of mouth. | ✓ | | Haven't caught any salmon in about 10 years. Other FNs talk of databases; it's important for when the FN is asked how much was harvested; everything is based on the numbers. Upper Tanana area catch whitefish; they don't understand and don't turn in the reports, it limits. history; Elders said many years ago salmon used to come, hasn't come for about 50 years. Through Snagg Creek into Beaver Creek, White River, into Donjek, into Yukon River. | getting feedback that one group wants to be left alone and will fish as much as they want; most people (give info) game guardian goes around. | ✓ Talk to DFO and FNs on how we can support the First Nations in collecting/ reporting it |
| Research | ✓ | ✓ TH's responsibilities are based on salmon management; there is no capacity for this for studies and | ✓ Minto Mine in the Traditional Territory; doing water sampling etc. SFN team works collectively | ✓ in process of looking at funding for research. Objectives are to look at past Carcross | ✓ Non profit org working on both sides of the border. We not actively participate on salmon | ✓ – integrate traditional knowledge with science. Science study; members came together for community meeting on where | ✓ Fish biologists, documenting spawning grounds and habitat areas. Important to write it down; i.e. Water Board and other processes (will | ✓ As requested or tap into through DFO; i.e. Yukon Queen – lots of info |

| ACTIVITY | TKC | TH | SFN | CTFN | YRITWC | WRFN | LSCFN | YSSC |
|----------|-----|--|---|---|--|-------------------------|---|------|
| | | research, although there are a number of research activities in TH Traditional Territory by other groups; eg DFO, etc. | with Minto Mine; try to provide own data to make it our own (SFN). Stream profiling, etc. | data; at one time, before Yukon Energy, White Pass and DIA, CTFN harvested salmon in Marsh Lake. As the dam went in, the good habitat was flooded and the salmon quit using those areas. Not fully engaged yet. Tagish area; RRC, have stated in 1930 -40s Judas Creek had salmon; high water fluctuation. Doing research on this with Elders. Salmon caught in Tagish Lake and Nares Lake within the last 15 years. And in Lake Bennett in last 5 years. We research | managemen t issues. Direction from board, etc. work is driven by issues in the basin. We work in science dept and do the water quality base line study. We provide resources, info and data to communities ; | salmon used to migrate. | use as evidence, if it's documented). (people) are working on that. | |

| ACTIVITY | TKC | TH | SFN | CTFN | YRITWC | WRFN | LSCFN | YSSC |
|--------------------------|-----|--|--|---|--------|--|--|------|
| | | | | habitat. | | | | |
| Water Quality | ✓ | ✓ Lands and Resources staff and citizens have participated in training. Numerous studies in the Traditional Territory; high level of placer mining for over 100 years; a lot of streams, etc. have been studied | ✓ SFN is big on this; Faro Mine also in Traditional Territory. Do training... mines have been (good) to let us on land to do testing, etc. | Always look and make sure mining companies are cleaning up; push them to clean tailings. Doing some water monitoring to make sure nothing is happening in mine sites. | ✓ | this will be done this summer; with the pipeline coming through it has to be done. | not too much | ✓ |
| Habitat R & E | | R&E Projects – First Fish; youth project / program. Students in the office | ✓ are working on three streams in the Traditional Territory; fish bearing streams. Beavers – trying to get harvesters out and encouraging a market – i.e. the locals use for crafts. For monitoring on R&E projects, they collect data. | | | we want to do this and fish stocking, but main thing we want to do is bring the salmon back into the Traditional Territory. We spoke with YG – they sent info and paperwork, but limited capacity in the FN. | ✓ Tried to rip down beaver dams, but they re-built. | ✓ |

| ACTIVITY | TKC | TH | SFN | CTFN | YRITWC | WRFN | LSCFN | YSSC |
|-----------------------------------|-----|---|--|--|--------|--|--|---|
| Fish Stocking | ✓ | RRC received funding to transport fry during flooding (FN does not do this) | | ✓ are looking at proposing fish stocking | | (see comment above) | Fish stocking – Tatchun Creek has small amount. | ✓ |
| Citizen Communication | ✓ | ✓ Provide info through newsletter, etc. A lot of communities working on data collection, etc. programs that you provide may be useful to other communities. (question on if this info was on the website). Citizens were reluctant to provide (harvest) numbers initially; not understanding it could affect their negotiations. | ✓ new leadership; striving towards. Website development; newsletter, etc. Spent funds on community engagement. Quarterly meetings for lands and resources issues. May Gathering; annual meeting to talk about i.e. changes in hunting areas, climate change, etc. | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ General Assembly; etc. | ✓ Approx. 6 meetings a year open to the public. We have had one in Carmacks, Dawson and Whitehorse in 2010-2011. |
| Support Cultural Practises | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ Dooli process – traditional laws – and also includes how you are out on the land, the right way to act. Fish camps; encourage | ✓ Taku River Salmon, and fresh water fish – trout, white fish. We keep our camps going Participate in managemen | ✓ | 10 years ago a member set up a fish wheel on the Donjek River; people still talk about it. | ✓ Last year the FN bought fish nets; each employee is given a week for traditional practises (program) has been around for a long time. Everyone gets a | ✓ |

| ACTIVITY | TKC | TH | SFN | CTFN | YRITWC | WRFN | LSCFN | YSSC |
|--|-----|--|--|--|--------|---|---|--|
| | | | citizens to spend time on the land. The FN provides funds to assist. May Gathering; a cultural venue and allows people to engage with the youth. | t discussions – continue on this; the youth are with us. | | | week for traditional pursuits; not for in town in Whitehorse, but in the bush. If you don't use it, you lose it. Could be year round, but is mostly used in summer. | |
| Licensing | | ✓ FN has a Fish and Wildlife Act; responsible for issuing licenses. Citizens decided to allow others in the Traditional Territory to fish. Encourage other FNs without a Fish and Wildlife Act to put one in place; it's paramount to the Yukon legislation within the Traditional Territory. | | | | ✓ the WRFN has a commercial license. | | ✓ |
| Participate in Management Discussions | ✓ | ✓ The FN attends all tables that it can; (salmon are) key food source, and is very important to the people. | ✓ Here (this Summit), at DFO, and at Intertribal Watershed levels (capacity is an | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ There is training in Banff Ab – on negotiation skills training | ✓ yes | ✓ Majority are on Yukon River Panel; manage Canadian / Alaska side. |

| ACTIVITY | TKC | TH | SFN | CTFN | YRITWC | WRFN | LSCFN | YSSC |
|-----------------------------|-----|---|--|---|--------|---|-------|--|
| | | Encourage management practises that follow the objectives of the Agreements | issue). | | | | | |
| Youth Engagement | ✓ | ✓ “First Fish”; receive funding and through partnerships. Teaches respect for the fish, the river, etc. and learn traditional and modern ways. | ✓ Focus on age groups 4-7; investment in this age group. Culture camps, | ✓ Youth engagement – working on fisheries. | ✓ | ✓ Every year they have an aquarium; fish are released (into the wild) | minor | ✓ |
| Public Education | ✓ | | ✓ Community meetings, info posters, during salmon run have info listed daily, newsletter, visit at fish camps, website. | | ✓ | ✓ we should do that; more interested in educating the FN citizens. | minor | ✓ As required and fits mandate under the UFA. |
| Commercial Fisheries | | ✓ TH has a commercial license; purchased two years ago but haven't had a chance to use it. TH members have licenses that have been inherited from family | (one person has a license) | | | we have a commercial fishery, and boats, etc. but haven't activated that. | | Met in Dawson; |

| ACTIVITY | TKC | TH | SFN | CTFN | YRITWC | WRFN | LSCFN | YSSC |
|------------------------|-----|--|-----|------|---|------|-------|---|
| | | members. We feel strongly that subsistence should be priority over commercial. Han Fish plant – closed in 1993. No commercial fishing in Dawson area for last few years; last summer it opened for a couple of days. | | | | | | |
| OTHER NOTES / COMMENTS | | | | | Announcem ent – having a YRITWC Summit in Alaska; August 4 – 6, 2011. all are welcome; people come from all over the basin to share info, demonstrati ons, etc. Contact info: website is a good resource. Can contact the Summit Coordinator for more info (phone: 907-258-3337 / | | | Consultation and community visits are major ways to (get info) to make recommendation s to Minister. Committee is fairly new; names (list) and who nominated them. (review – main instrument of salmon management in Yukon according to UFA) We have a check in all boxes. We are collection box; you bring these things to salmon |

| ACTIVITY | TKC | TH | SFN | CTFN | YRITWC | WRFN | LSCFN | YSSC |
|----------|-----|----|-----|------|---|------|-------|---|
| | | | | | <p>email: mmasonry@yritwc.org / website: www.yritwc.org</p> <p>Thanks for opportunity for us to come and participate by showing water quality testing.</p> | | | sub-community and bring to DFO, do our own research, etc. make recommendations to minister. |

Salmon Management Activities Table Cont...

| ACTIVITY | VGG | NND | YRDFA | CYFN | TTC | RRDC |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|------|
| Harvest Data Collection | <p>✓</p> <p>Caribou harvest data collection is winding down. We draw names – 100% of hunters help us in this – we draw names for gasoline. For Chinook collection we also put their names and draw for 100 foot salmon net. It gets the fishers involved.</p> | <p>✓</p> <p>Takes place every year. Working on that, going to fish camps. A template is developed to collect data. (We have a) data base that goes to DFO.</p> | <p>✓</p> <p>We pay someone to go up and down river to ask questions; to give managers in-season information in real time. They hear fishermen in organized fashion (starting at the headwaters down to the mouth of the Y.River). Also help AK Dept. Fish &Game – post season surveys. We show them around, etc.</p> | | <p>✓</p> <p>HDC – developed a data base for harvest management; used for moose, caribou and sheep; have been adding in salmon harvest (accurate numbers to show harvest needs if ever required in the future). Game Guardian collects harvest data (<i>interruption...</i>) time and resources on data base. Harvest data collection (used) in-season for fishing management. Weekly reports to DFO.</p> | |
| Research | <p>✓</p> <p>Links with R&E –go after R&E money from the Yukon River Panel(YRP);</p> | <p>✓</p> <p>projects started and working on. Working with DNA sampling of Chinook with</p> | <p>✓</p> <p>(current research being done on) run timing and size; we are looking at alternatives, i.e.</p> | <p>✓</p> <p>not hands on research, work more on information gathering and</p> | <p>✓</p> <p>some research going on in traditional territory; none that TTC is involved in. (There is a) decrease in</p> | |

| ACTIVITY | VGG | NND | YRDFA | CYFN | TTC | RRDC |
|----------|--|--|---|---|--|------|
| | <p>much work on the Porcupine River system - assessment work and look for juvenile and small salmon. Are trying to get an understanding of what areas and streams (salmon) use.</p> <p>We did some tracking; telemetry with radio receivers on King Salmon. And in the fall, aerial surveys. We find salmon in the Crow River system; we have 3 conservation units in the traditional territory. Are trying to understand (research data) along with traditional knowledge. And are developing an index to help us and DFO know what's coming before the season (starts). We used to do catch and release but are now (using) sonar (for monitoring).</p> <p>Goal is to build capacity and train young people to do this research work. we encourage them to go to through</p> | <p>DFO. Survey; we will count and use GIS to map spawning areas. Big picture for DNA – increase knowledge about that run and if it's a good index to use for Stewart Watershed.</p> <p>We have a salmon harvest study. To reduce the gill net size (to) a 6 inch (mesh size) will target more males. And Nick deGraf talked of (possibly) having money to give out nets. (Replace) the old nets (and receive new small mesh size nets) – (try) and increase escapement. (Teleconference).</p> <p>Mayo B (dam) - looking to work with Yukon Energy on enhancement on the Mayo River; details being worked out. Talk of incubation boxes and transporting the fish (past the dam) and monitor (the mortality of fish travelling) through the turbines. mortality would be low as 10-15%. This is in (the) process.</p> | <p>traditional knowledge when runs come, etc. we look at indicators Elders (notice). Are working with western science and traditional knowledge – i.e. wind blows from this direction, etc. we try to come up with new ways to enhance the knowledge.</p> | <p>distribution via internet, phone calls, emails, documents, studies, etc.</p> <p>(different types of research) – i.e. look into questions of Yukon First Nations, find out who has the answers, etc.)</p> | <p>amount of projects R&E is supporting. We are trying to put efforts to (this) rather than DNA sampling</p> | |

| ACTIVITY | VGG | NND | YRDFA | CYFN | TTC | RRDC |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|------|--|------|
| | <p>higher learning in science.</p> <p>We count populations; look where they spawn. We want to put data loggers in the river (to monitor) the water temperature. Are working with the fishermen before the season (starts) to get data – age, sex and length of the Chinook.</p> <p>Some work – DFO with help from us, (monitor) the weirs at Fishing Branch (area). We plan to do DNA collection this summer.</p> | <p>Working on environmental monitoring; (there is) a lot of mining development around the Beaver River, etc. We will get into baseline collection of water quality.</p> | | | | |
| Water Quality | <p>✓</p> <p>Health Canada is testing for health and (taking) water samples from the river. We want to do more; concerns with (contamination from) the (sewage) lagoon. It's being worked on.</p> | <p>✓</p> <p>We now are working on (getting) base line data collection (with) funds from northern climate exchange. We determine where stations will be, who will monitor and see to fill in gaps. Standardize the data collection. If we have enough funds, we hope to hire a youth to come out.</p> | <p>We leave (this) to (the Yukon River Inter-Tribal) Watershed council.</p> | | <p>✓</p> <p>Rely on citizens; some data collection last year through (the Yukon River) Inter-Tribal Watershed Council. Looking to the future</p> | |
| Habitat R & E | <p>✓</p> | <p>✓</p> | <p>✓</p> <p>We don't do much; some assessment projects and culvert replacement projects.</p> | | <p>✓</p> <p>Have done numerous (habitat restoration and enhancement) in past; not much funding.</p> | |

| ACTIVITY | VGG | NND | YRDFA | CYFN | TTC | RRDC |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|------|
| | | | Not much now, but in few years. | | | |
| Fish Stocking | Students did that one year, years ago. In the proposal we asked the YRP for funds for this, but they said it was too expensive. We did apply to the international polar year; that was funding to look at climate change, hydrology, permafrost, big game, food safety etc. we didn't look anywhere else. | | | | ✓ the school does a salmon fry release | |
| Citizen Communication | ✓ A lot of meetings to keep people informed on the whole fishing system. Started a group one time; Porcupine River Working group where the YSSC and DFO come to Old Crow pre- and post-season. That hasn't happened for a while; now they just invite one person to Whitehorse for a meeting. We are trying to get the old system back; people want to (talk to them) in the community. And | ✓ Trying to develop a survey pkg as part of communication pkg. key points and key things we're working on, so all are aware. Am still learning what communication existed prior to me. | ✓ Do a lot. Teleconferences and lots of meetings; annual meeting in (villages) to talk of issues, hear from management and talk of strategies. YRP funded – to bring together people from every community / tribe and group, agencies, etc. together preseason to talk of how to manage the run. We did big meeting in Anchorage and follow up with smaller meetings to get more information. Talk grassroots. Hope that project keeps going. Working on king salmon management plan... .. trying to get fisher | ✓ goes with research and information; a hub where questions or concerns come in; CYFN assists FNs when asked. Or shares information on meetings, contacts, etc. | ✓ emails, poster board in admin buiding. Game guardian educates citizens on whawt we are doing. (we could do more) | |

| ACTIVITY | VGG | NND | YRDFA | CYFN | TTC | RRDC |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|------|
| | want to learn how they estimate the run, and tweaking the system. Is their model working? | | involvement. A goal | | | |
| Support Cultural Practises | ✓ Hunting camps and fish camps; single women and youth come to get their salmon. Traditional pursuits program; give money for funds, etc. to get on the land | ✓ (There is) a group within NND who work on that. | ✓ We do a few things; we document (cultural practices), get requests to do this (in order) to not lose it. Part time anthropologist. We have atlas of place names, fishing spots, etc. and working on a dictionary. Recently did a kids book... to keep the kids understanding (culture). | | ✓ salmon management plan; speaks to cultural practises and ways to maintain when salmon are not as plentiful. Made salmon available to citizens through purchasing fish from Taku River Tlingit – to help maintain (salmon preparation) practises | |
| Licensing | ✓ Have a communal license. Recently we are working with DFO in getting the fishers to put buoys (with) net (ID) numbers to follow that communal license. | can't speak to it | | | ✓ communal license from DFO; individuals have ways to mark their fish nets. Game Guardians (does this) | |
| Participate in Management Discussions | ✓ are active. have a draft Fish and Wildlife Act; working with Yukon Government and want to occupy the field | ✓ Yes, and will call that (Yukon River Fisheries In-Season Management teleconference) every Tues. | ✓ (Participate in) preseason process. Chum Salmon management plans – we work with US Fish and Wildlife Service and Dept. of Fish & Game. (Host YRF In-Season Management teleconferences). New teleconference this summer; AK portion of YRP is sounding board for decisions for in- | ✓ – Council of Yukon Indians (changed) to CYFN; (most Yukon) First Nations have their own agreements, etc. CYFN still has a role in some of these management discussions and on behalf of all YFNs. I have been told to work on unity and represent the | ✓ letter writing, sitting in meetings, etc. | ✓ |

| ACTIVITY | VGG | NND | YRDFA | CYFN | TTC | RRDC |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------|--|---|--|------|
| | | | <p>season, and preseason (management). We play middle man and manage calls -- no guarantee they will listen.</p> | <p>common ground of all Yukon First Nations.</p> <p>Coordination – being a facilitator in bringing people together; exchange ideas, information, etc. (Mainly work) on administrative side or (sometimes) a FN may ask CYFN to bring something forward.</p> <p>(Angela – pointed out the hard work to organize this (summit); salmon is not a primary mandate, it was out of a GA resolution; hard work, developed partnerships.)</p> <p>Brian – also recognized TTC's (assistance) in (making) this (salmon summit happen)</p> | | |
| Youth Engagement | <p>✓</p> <p>Science camp and experiential training at hunting and fish camps; they dissect what they harvest. We work with education department and the youth get credit (for school).</p> | ✓ | <p>✓</p> <p>Have a book, etc. camps. getting funding for camps; training teachers how to talk (about) salmon, how to involve elders when talking of these things. Etc.</p> | | <p>✓</p> <p>Youth involved in community salmon management plan; (attend) meetings like this (summit). Through Fish and Wildlife officer, Game Guardian speaks to youth; meetings, classrooms</p> | ✓ |
| Public Education | ✓ | (We distribute) | ✓ | | ✓ | |

| ACTIVITY | VGG | NND | YRDFA | CYFN | TTC | RRDC |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|------|--|------|
| | We do education and awareness campaign about the co-management ... we have a lot of co-management. We realized that looking for partners are beneficial. | pamphlets, and hope to provide a pamphlet every 6 months for update and feedback. | biggest thing we do; corner stone. i.e. educational exchange trip across the border. 3 people here went on the trip. This year we come to Yukon; Teslin, Lake Laberge, Dawson City, and Mayo. Fishermen, and one person from AK Dept. of Fish & Game. (There) may be an opportunity to state your case. (We distribute) a newsletter – three times a year – fall, winter, spring. Try to put Canadian stories to build the understanding – want to add more. If you have a story, send it to me so I can print it. Can be anything; the resolutions or ideas out of this meeting. It's free. Monthly e-newsletter; 5 stories every month is a challenge. Send me stuff – what we do, whatever. i.e. an elder celebrated birthday – is (intended) for building relationships. It's (too is) free. (Provide) email address. Twitter Posters Teleconferences Training where we think necessary. | | billboards at high traffic pull-out; what salmon means to TTC, etc. and routes, etc. a website (new this year) | |
| Commercial Fisheries | we don't do this... | no license. | ✓ We used to do this; marketing, etc. we | | | |

| ACTIVITY | VGG | NND | YRDFA | CYFN | TTC | RRDC |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| | | | <p>dropped when (salmon) numbers dropped. King salmon – best fish in the world. Not time now.</p> <p>Are there for all (fishers); commercial and subsistence. There isn't (much of) a sport (fishery on the lower Yukon; we work with (AK dept. of) Fish & Game, sport division to keep up. There isn't a lot of it.</p> <p>Right now, in AK, they have short commercial openings for Chum at the same time as subsistence (?) They are the same people usually.</p> | | | |
| OTHER NOTES / COMMENTS | <p>Q- (Is there) a reason the Porcupine River working Group stopped? don't know what happened. They are working with Steve Smith (DFO). If they will restrict or close the fishery; we want DFO and YSSC to explain (reasons why) Dennis Zimmerman (YSSC) – regarding the drainage working groups -we are establishing a Terms of Reference(ToR) for</p> | <p>NND F&W staff is new to the job</p> | <p>YRDFA is mainly based out of AK, work on both sides of YK/AK border. Started 21 years ago by Alaska fishermen who felt they had no voice in management or knowledge what was going on. They came together, work in key areas, communication, policy and anthropology or cultural preservation and habitat a little. (funding came from local lotteries) Highlight few projects. Teleconference yesterday had detailed accounts.</p> | <p>✓ Coordinate between Yukon First Nation Governments and fish management groups</p> | <p>Salmon management plan partners? Camps on the land, opportunities to fish? No partners. We have funding through Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (transboundary money through DFO); used money from R&E. camps on the land; established camps are there, we encourage people to maintain for all uses. The Management plan is available</p> | <p>Robertson Dick– (Elder) spoke about Tess River; Chum in the River. Salmon on headwaters of Tess and McMillian Rivers. Arctic Red River, North Canol Hwy – (interested in possible) re-stocking (as there used to be Salmon there). Only place that King Salmon runs is there. Campbell River on the Campbell highway; re-stock for fish. PI look at</p> |

| ACTIVITY | VGG | NND | YRDFA | CYFN | TTC | RRDC |
|----------|--|-----|---|------|-----|---|
| | <p>those groups; are looking for feedback from FNs on how to best consult. We are not sure, a lot of people are over consulted, so might not be the answer, need some help from VGG; are working with DFO with process on how to consult for each drainage system. (The working groups are) not dissolved, we are looking for feedback. We talked of working with the Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board. "Let us know."</p> <p>William Josie (VGG), noted VGG puts forward proposals to the R&E fund every year that they are willing to share with others.</p> | | <p>(new) Policy front–North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. Bering Sea – (there is) a person on the panel – to work with that body. (The) push now is (with the) chum salmon by-catch. ... what just passed, by-catch has been low. Top ocean scientists said that they are not doing anything different on the fleet – (this) says to us that the fish are not there. Scary. The numbers of by-catch are really low.</p> | | | <p>the salmon they dump into Copper Lake.</p> |

APPENDIX 4 – BRAINSTORM OF PRIORITY ACTIONS

The following is the complete list of brainstorm ideas brought forward by the break-out groups during the Salmon Summit. In brackets, the number of stars refers to the priority that people placed on the actions to identify their top three choices.

- Address the issues of lack of funding
- Re-negotiate Yukon River Salmon Agreement (YRSA)
 - pros and cons of moving YRSA under PST (1 star)
- Open the salmon agreement (long term) (1 star)
- Pacific Salmon treaty opened:
 - make amendments
 - include penalties for not following treaty (6 stars)
- Political will to make amendments to legislation/policy (1 star)
- Lobby politicians on both sides of the YK/AK border (9 stars)
- Politics:
 - recommendations to Minister
 - MP, Prime Minister, Premier, Minister DFO
 - Support FN revisiting agreements (YRSA) (1 star)
- Re-introduction of salmon into traditional salmon habitat (1 star)
- Conservation and better management practises (1 star)
- Each individual FN to pass their respective GA resolutions to stop fishing and compensation (1 star)
- Push for protection of first pulse of Chinook - Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee / JTC / YRP & DFO (1 star)
- Come up with harvest monitoring model for both YK & AK (2 stars)
- SHUT DOWN FISHING:
 - R&E money for compensating people who depend on salmon (2 stars)
- On both sides of border, cut their fisheries harvest in half
(Note: 1 star in the middle of the above grouping)
- Yukon River Panel:
 - influence Canadian and US management
 - research
 - due diligence (1 star)
- Follow the spirit and intent of the Final Agreements for Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (3 stars)
- YSSC Outreach:
 - FN consultations / community visits
 - Drainage working groups
 - make every reasonable effort to meet with FN and add value
- Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) gather First Nations on both sides of border, grassroots fishermen to work together for salmon (4 stars)
- Get everyone together under one roof for collective discussions on management– Alaskans, Canadians, everyone. (5 stars)

- The realization of the divide and conquer plan to keep us fighting each other (2 stars)
- Establish a meeting with all fishermen up and down the Yukon River:
 - discuss the actions that can be developed for the restoration and enhancement of salmon. (8 stars)

(Note: 1 star in the middle of the above group)

- Insure Yukon First Nations have more of a role with DFO in co-management of Yukon River Salmon fisheries management regime.
- Remove the Yukon from Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) as it currently includes British Columbia (i.e. also includes Fraser River issues) (2 stars)
- Establish a Salmon Commission in the Yukon:
 - communication – media campaign
 - education
 - monitoring
 - education
 - Youth Panels (communication / education) a youth rep from each community to help bring the message forward. (2 stars)
- Project specific issues/interests:
 - Yukon Queen
 - Mayo B
 - Salmon Summit
 - Porcupine Caribou management plan similarities – tool. (1 star)
- Find out why the salmon are dwindling (5 stars)
- Media campaign on depleting salmon (2 stars)
- Awareness:
 - share with youth
 - documenting history “the way things were” / “tell the story”
 - traditional knowledge, stories
 - campaign to build it through tools (DVD, advertise, video, social media, images) (10 stars)
- DFO effective industry enforcement and baseline monitoring (3 stars)
- Move to individual stock based management – to protect stocks of concern (1 star)
- By-catch donate to the mouth of the Yukon River (1 star)
- Reduce salmon by-catch (1 star)

APPENDIX 5 – THE YUKON RIVER SALMON AGREEMENT

The following was prepared by Brian Bell (CYFN) based on previous discussions during First Nation caucus meetings. It was noted that this is a priority but this Summit is not the forum to discuss it. Instead it should be senior officials' discussion and process.

Who / Partners

FN governments
Salmon fishers
(people affected by Agreement)
Yukon / Alaska (Canada / US)

Who / Audience

- i) Build support and educate salmon users
- ii) persuade political players
- iii) possibly build public pressure for more support

How

- Research the Agreement
- i) Need to understand the intent of agreement
 - talk with people who originally negotiated it
 - ii) Seek legal council
 - what do the words mean on the water
 - what would be required to open it
 - what do people want included/excluded/changed (specific clauses/words)
 - iii) Explore PROS and CONS of opening Yukon River Salmon Agreement/Pacific Salmon Treaty
 - putting Yukon River Salmon Agreement within Pacific Salmon Treaty
 - differences in outcomes, timeframes for actions, work required
 - iv) Explore what would be required to gain mutual agreement

Who/Work:

FN Caucus / Working group / legal council

When

Know key times (positive & negative) for salmon users and politicians

APPENDIX 6 – WHY IS SALMON IMPORTANT: Participants Comments

Why Is Salmon Important to Yukon First Nations?

The following is short summary of the comments that each individual made during the round table talk. It was not possible to get word-for-word record but the following notes provide a good sense of the importance of salmon to Yukon communities and some of messages that First Nations' representatives wanted to share with Yukon MP Ryan Leef.

Gail Barnaby, CYFN - We play a coordination role for Yukon First Nations i.e. funding for this Summit, assisting in developing the agenda, and arranging Yukon First Nation Caucus meetings. I am a member of Champagne & Ashihik First Nation (CAFN) and am more familiar with the Alsek River Watershed. If we didn't have salmon it would be difficult to not have that as a food source. Over the years the Sockeye Salmon cycles have varied.

Deputy Chief Angela Demit, White River First Nation (WRFN) – (We would like to see the) restoration of salmon that once travelled through (our) waters. White River, Donjek, Snag, and Beaver Creek. I appreciate you coming and listening. And today you take action on our concerns.

Coralee Johns, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC) – Spent a good part of (her) young years growing up with (her) grandma in Minto. It is an honour to have grown up in our traditional lifestyle and to provide that same history and culture to my sons and the opportunity to use Helen's Fish Camp during harvest time in the fall. I can show them our traditional ways, how important the salmon and moose are to people, the values of nutrition and the need to use all of the animal, and not leave anything behind. I hope to conserve and protect for future generations because it was handed down to us to preserve our history and culture. I feel the Salmon Summit is going well; and that we have strong action plans and/or a concrete strategic plan by the end of the Summit.

Adam Wrench, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun (NND FN) – NND citizens have grave concerns on the dwindling (salmon) stocks; (salmon are an) important food source. Many citizens are not fishing any longer, they feel the stocks are so low. Many projects we'd like to see happen in the Stewart watershed (are) not happening due to lack of funding. i.e. no solid data on (salmon) stocks through time. We don't know how bad it is. (There are) many restoration projects we'd like to see, but no funding.

Roberta Joseph, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) – Chinook and Chum are key food resources for our people and always have been. It's part of our culture and tradition. To sustain our culture and identity we need salmon as part of our food source, now and for the future to keep providing Traditional Knowledge to our young people.

With declining stocks we're concerned about losing this part of our identity and culture. It's in our agreement and part of (the) objectives (are) to maintain that - to ensure First Nations culture and traditions continue. We feel there needs to be more done – more attention to the declining stocks in the Yukon and up river by Ottawa. I appreciate you are on the Standing Committee; we feel now a door is open to the Yukon (and) Ottawa will hear our concerns and not put (them) on a shelf. Mahsi

Unfortunately there was a computer crash that happened the record for the following 6 people was lost.

Tyler Rear, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) – Spoke of importance of Salmon to his community.

Robert Moar, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) – Talked of the failure of DFO to address the salmon crisis.

Johnny Sam, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) – Talked of the importance of Salmon to the LSCFN community.

William Skookum, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) – “In your world money makes the world go round; in my world salmon makes the world go round.”

Chief Eddie Skookum, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) – Talked of negotiations years ago; the challenge of getting an agreement in place and the need to address the loss of the salmon.

Roger Alfred, Selkirk First Nation (SFN) - (*the beginning of this was missed, but caught the end*) Back then (during the negotiations), they talked of conservation, especially with the First Nations. Every time we cut back, we live our harvest in our lifestyle, the younger generations suffer. There is culture involved. ... seasonal harvesting. And teaching – the teaching part. The majority of harvesters ... we pass on to our future generations. There is value to that. We say we are going to live by this escapement. We keep doing that every year, and at the same time we are being managers. DFO says we are low on numbers (and) First Nations need to cut back. Who is talking about harvesting? (We used to go out for) one month season in fish camp, but today it's only 1-2 weeks. So then it's only 1-2 days. These cutbacks mean a lot to Yukon First Nation people. Salmon is very important. Thank you.

Danny Joe, Selkirk First Nation (SFN) – Do as much as you can. One thing bothers me here - Concern is commercial license, commercial people starting –big fish, big net. We should look into it.

David Silas, Selkirk First Nation (SFN) – Roger and Danny spoke (about) why fish (are) important. To me, personally, during fishing season it's a time of togetherness, opportunity to spend time with family, children and practise the traditions that I grew up with, and lost along the way. Fishing season is a time that brings my family

together more than Christmas; it's important to my family. What I fear most of the salmon and me – the impact of development, logging or mining in Alaska or Yukon. I'm involved in the Yukon Environmental Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA) process, (this is a) great opportunity to get concerns in a meaningful manner that will address the companies. In Selkirk First Nation we strive to protect the salmon in many ways. Happy with Water Board, etc. we stand for the protection of our fisheries and our watersheds. I enjoy most the togetherness.

Teslin Tlingit Council youth (TTC) - I agree with David Silas. I grew up in (a) fish camp for the summer; we would all be together to clean and gut fish. I can't wait to get out to fish camp this summer.

Sandy Smarch, Teslin Tlingit Council (TTC) – I have been fishing salmon since I was about 10; I am 54 today. I remember years with my mother and aunts and dad and grandfather, and grandmother. We fish until the end of the salmon run. I have a trapline about 150(?) up the Nisutlin. 20 years ago, 25, you could go up to the trapline; up the river and look ahead of the boat and you can see the whole river was red with spawning salmon. Today you don't see one. The fish are important not only to the Elders but the youth growing up. It's part of our culture, and to teach the youth how to use these fish as part of our food. When we take salmon, where we take, I use all the insides, the fins, and other parts for bait for trapping. Nothing goes to waste. My Mother is 76 and said, last year was the first time she had to buy salmon for the first time in her life. (Commercial Fisheries) by-catch, and they throw that away. We can use that here in the Yukon. Hard work (to) pull fish... hard to carry on the culture.

Thanks.

Frank Thomas, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC) and Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board (YFWMB). I agree with Sandy, what happens on the ocean is a disaster. We have proof in Teslin - we have no fish. With technology today we should be able to do something. Heard yesterday, the run is bad, (there are) no fish. I am also on the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan review (board) which travelled through (the territory this past) winter.

Pauline Frost, YSSC and member of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN) – I speak from YSSC. And personally I grew up in an isolated community with a subsistence lifestyle. I have heard stories of challenges, FNs pressured, and trying to practise traditional ways. This is hard when there are no salmon. A few things to think about for this summit: the Yukon River Panel (YRP) met last year and this year, YFNs passed a resolution for CYFN to have summit of this nature to look at salmon management and possibilities. Concerns for what happened in the past, now and future. (There are few) opportunities for us, limited to influence what happens in US for management in the Yukon, and Canada. Where we are now, and our message to you as our national spokesperson, we encourage you to speak on our behalf and speak for YFNs for changes to salmon management to work with the US through the international treaty. Right now, they deal with management and it's not a structured

process. As they come, restrictions, etc. sonar stations, in Yukon and Canada we have specific measures that trigger when we harvest. We would like a consistent arrangement – year in and year out. Please convey that message. For YSSC, YFNs, and CYFN, we come with strong recommendations and priorities for salmon management to help parties make right decisions.

Tracy Boyes, Teslin Tlingit Council (TTC) – 15 years ago, TTC citizens recognized a decrease and began conservation at that time. In (the) past 3 years, reduction in harvest has been close to minimal. Have a hard time to get the message out (about) how hard it is to go without salmon. It's so inbred to who they are (and it is) difficult to see and not do anything. (It is) important to listen and you do represent us, and take these messages back (to Ottawa). In our government we talk of reduction to commercial by-catch; (having) the treaty and river agreement opened; (making) amendments to that agreement, (such as including) an overage or underage clause – (There) needs to be compensation for no harvest. It affects our right to harvest. Also, if FNs continue to refrain they should be compensated. The Restoration and Enhancement Fund has \$1.2M for restoration. That money should go in (the) form of compensation to loss of culture and tradition. \$1.2M has been the amount for many years with no changes despite inflation. There is a need to reopen this and make sure the right money is allocated.

Don Henry, TTC – I (have) lived in the Yukon all my life, on the Teslin River, down river. Over (where) salmon spawn. I was born at Johnson's Crossing and lived there until I grew up. Salmon run... a lot of salmon.... There was a good number, about 30 years (ago) it started going down. Last good number was in 1983. I saw more salmon - there were more that year. ... Can see them ... its getting worse and worse. Makes me think of that east coast... they said people will never catch them all, people came from all over the world. Now the fish are gone... Now they are not selling fish. We catch all we can, can't catch anymore, we have to do something else. We could slow down, or do something to slow it down so they can spawn. We can't do it here, we are (at) the end of the run, we get very few (salmon). We leave them alone. Last year my family didn't catch any – we let them go, the year before we were allowed 10. We let them go ... the way we can do this is all together and work at it. First Nation people all like salmon and try their best. One thing I learned as a kid is to save some for next (year). ... that's the difference. ... after they are gone, how many years they will (it) take (for the salmon) to come back. It takes a long time. 6 months (is) not a long time. If we all get together, we can manage something. I feel sorry for the people who go through this and don't catch the fish. People who are not working, depend on this. When I was young, when my dad wasn't working, (fish was there) ... feed elders in Yukon, and expecting to get salmon. Thank you.

Kathryn Porter, (TTC) – I have lived at Johnson's Crossing (and was) raised on the Teslin River my entire life. I hear stories about how they (saw) so much salmon you can walk on their backs. I'm 18 now, and never seen that kind of thing. Salmon caught in our own net, in 10-15 years when I have my children, I would love for them to see the salmon come back. There are traditional values in that.

Wolf Riedl (YSSC) – People here are kind, still in the honeymoon phase and have not taken their gloves off yet. Happy you are here to listen, that's my job too. I'm on the YSSC and YRP. I am here to listen to those who have historic and long time relationship with salmon so I can do my job better. I encourage collaboration and sharing of traditional knowledge. Key message, for Yukon River Salmon Agreement – past 4 (out of) 5 years, AK has not met obligations for escapement or harvest share, nor the procedures on the agreements. Key ingredients missing in the treaty is (having) consequences for over fishing or not sharing. Otherwise (there is) no lever to push the change. You as our (government representative) will end up with that in your plate in the near future. That's where improvement has to come.

Dennis Zimmermann, (YSSC) – We will make sure you receive a copy of the recommendations we send to the Minister of DFO. Personally, I am working with the subject of salmon because it is an issue that we should be able to solve. It involves two democratic systems, one drainage, and we know there is overfishing. If we can't make this work, (it) doesn't say much for society.

Carl Sidney, (TTC) – I have been involved with Yukon River Salmon for 13-15 years. I will have more to say later.

Robby Dick, Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) – Fishing is so important. We have salmon. Grandpas and grandmas take us out fishing, that sticks with me. It's part of our way.

Amos Dick, (RRDC) – A long time ago, old peoples (used to) make salmon counts. (There were) lots ... in August and July ... to make dry fish ... many Kaska in the wintertime make dry meat and dry fish. After they dry salmon, they go on the mountain making dry meat all the time. They make muskrat, caribou skin, and mitts. (For a) long time, nobody make nothing. They kill salmon, nobody dry fish or nothing. When they make dry meat, fish, they got (talks of payment?). You see people on the trail from Ross River going up the mountain. Nobody (makes) dry meat any more ... every summer, they stay in town. I never (went) to school, my dad told me I will (stay and) help him. I make caribou skin, moose skin, etc. snowshoes. I make knives, nobody makes knife like that.

Robertson Dick, (RRDC) – Kaska region – oversight (of) committee for traditional knowledge. I have traditional knowledge, lived in Ross River all my life – (caught) salmon. I am here for all the Kaska region – A first hand look at people along the river.

Patrick James, Carcross/Tagish First Nation (CTFN) – Historically, CTFN enjoyed salmon fish camps around Marsh Lake. There were dog trails coming from Carcross and into Judas creek area. They were flourishing salmon streams. I know that Ottawa has fiduciary obligation to ensure Yukon First Nations' rights and title remain intact. Over the years industry (such as the Lewes River Dam) destroyed our

salmon fishing grounds in the Marsh Lake area. White Pass also needed to float boats, water is high. And the salmon and First Nation people suffered. I don't want to see that happen downriver. I hope that one of (these) years we can re-stock. The water is too deep and they can't spawn any more. We have to look after, not only FNs, but also non-FNs people. In 1973, the first delegation (went) to Ottawa (to present the document) *"Together Today For Our Children Tomorrow"* – that is for non-FNs people too. (We need to) work together and get concrete to work together. (We) don't want all the people to do like we do ... we buy from the Taku River. We don't have financial means to finance this. When you look at FNs culture, it reminds me of a spider web... each strand supports one another. (If) one strand is broken, the whole (group) suffers. This is how we look – globally and not look at (the parts). We walk with one foot shorter, hope one day we can enjoy the salmon camps. Socializing and (being) with other families to enjoy what creator provided. Grassroots people are here and we want you to take a strong message to Ottawa and tell them what's happening. If we don't do anything (in) 10-15 years we will be like the East Coast. (I) don't want people to suffer like we did.

William Josie, Vuntut Gwitch'in Government (VGG) – I was sent here to learn more about the management regime in the Yukon system and to (work) in a constructive way, to see how we can help get more salmon to spawning in the Yukon (River) system. (In the) Porcupine River, we fish in July, (we fish for) Coho (under the) ice. We (have) fished salmon for a long time, it's very important. Food is expensive in the North. I am glad to be here. Salmon is important to all of us, from the mouth to the headwaters. I would like to hear the MP's take on the salmon crisis in the Yukon, (and) managers and stakeholders – and let us know how we can help.

Jessica Jacobs, (TKC) – To me, it is how I grew up and who I am. I remember going to Klukshu and the salmon were so plentiful. (It was a) time we got together with grandparents, aunts, cousins, etc. like David said. It was a bonding time for us; now I can't remember the last time I could do that. It's sad. I would like to see it come back and teach my children what I was brought up with and how I learned. That is what it means to me.

Jessica Stephen, (WRFN) – I came to hear the issues and concerns and projects (that are) happening. (It is) good to see work being done. (We need to) focus on sustainable tourism and the impacts through mining, etc. One great thing about (my) childhood was growing up on the land; (I was) taught by my grandmother and mother, (they) taught us outside of walls- (out) on the land. (The) most exciting (time) was going to fish camp and muskrat camp; on the lake, learning how to cook, make clothes, sustain ourselves. (It is) scary to think we don't have that opportunity any more.

Linaya Workman, Champagne/Ashihik First Nation (CAFN) – I thank TKC. A lot of (our) history isn't with the Yukon River, (but I am) involved with (the) transboundary and Pacific Salmon Treaty. But salmon is salmon and (they) face issues all over. (Peoples') experiences as children have stories of fishing with

parents and how important (that is) to us. The portion of Yukon River within CAFN's Traditional Territory is some of the upper reaches. This map (we saw) yesterday doesn't identify those reaches. Many FNs on the upper reaches are suffering. It's been 10 years since we saw the last 5 king salmon spawn and (no salmon have) been back. For people who say they don't want to see (this), it's too late (for us). The issues of Canada and US with (the salmon) stocks are getting dire, scary – for FNs seeing their salmon go. CAFN also has the Alsek (River), but (that) doesn't address families that use (the other areas); it is (also a) part of who they are, and important to keep in mind. The key message I bring is: if it's not working for us, let's fix it – if it means re-negotiating the agreement or having the Yukon River put back under the purview of the commissioners for the salmon treaty. If it's broken, we need to fix it.

Sharon Keaton, CYFN (VGFN member) – I work at CYFN with circumpolar relations and climate change. (I am) here as an observer and as a technical staff in our department who works in climate change. If anyone wants information (they can contact me). We work closely with Arctic Athabaskan Council and work at the international level.

Final Comments for Member of Parliament Ryan Leef

Roberta, (TH) – There is \$1.2M (in funding from the) Restoration & Enhancement Fund and Yukon First Nations have minimal amounts of money. Now we are dealing with the loss of salmon and fishing. This is important to provide cultural teaching to our youth. Land use planning in the Yukon is important. There are 2 LUP processes completed. One more waiting. (We) want to be assured (that) the Department of Fisheries and Oceans will do something about the salmon. (Are) they managing what is going on for (industrial) activities? This will have great cumulative impacts. (There are) Oil and gas drills (now that) we (have) never seen (before). (This) affects everything. The Canadian federal government has an obligation in our agreements to ensure our aboriginal inherent rights are protected and maintained. Those are obligations from our agreements. We need to make sure the federal government is doing their part. ... to assist Yukon. Our agreements have great benefits to all Yukoners – jobs, programs and bringing money to Yukon. Mahsi

Carl Sydney, (TTC) - We don't have much time; we have already lost the 7-8 year old king salmon and we will never see (them) again until we quit fishing totally for 50 years. In my life we will never see them anymore. I don't know what the Standing Committee (on Fisheries and Oceans) does. We don't have time left. In Teslin we have a volunteer recommendation by elders to limit our fishing starting 13 years ago. I take this message all the way (up the river). I (have) taken (this) message since then. They are killing our fish. How much this contributes to the youth in fish camp. It is not just fish, it's how to live, how to survive, etc. In TTC, our fish camp (has not fished) for 2 years. (It is only a) matter of time until it goes down river – if we don't do something now. (I would like you to understand) how important fish is for our lifestyle, and diets, and as Patrick says – the web of life. Alaska refers to (salmon) as a resource, to us it is our food. It's food for the environment, predation, animals, the water – nutrients in the water – vegetation – In testing they found

(salmon) about 1km (away from) the river, you find salmon DNA in the trees, the bear carries it off and eats the carcass, (the salmon feeds) the tree, bears, eagles. Etc. In all my experiences of going to Alaska (I) try to talk to them (for) all these reasons - our diet. Elders' diseases (are) coming from (people) going away from our traditional foods. Everything (there) is based on how much money I can make off it, as soon as you put money to it, it disappears. There was a conference call yesterday and a week ago. The first call (was showing that) the (Chinook Salmon) run was half (of) what was predicted. Also, when we bring these issues up, someone says climate change; we blame climate change and global warming. We have no idea on what is happening. They blame climate change, but why is Chum doing so well (while) the Chinook are declining. (I would like to) finish by saying I was part of negotiating (the) Yukon River Salmon Agreement; but I am ashamed of it. It outlines steps to ensure (there are salmon for) future (generations). Harvest sharing, research, and habitat protection - That's the first part. The Chinook salmon is the Yukon way of life. One time (the Yukon River was the only) transportation and food line. We are here to help you to take this forward to Ottawa and enable you. Gunalchish.

William Skookum, (LSCFN) - (You want to know) how to get the message across; use the camera to show emotion of how upset people are. Paper doesn't show emotion. We need a visual (message) and (from) our heart, (with) emotions. It is our future; I'm thinking of my future and I'm thinking of the younger ones - we have a future, we breathe the air and eat. You get that message across (and) think outside the box. People get bored hearing the same thing. Think outside the box. (The message needs to be) interesting and different, people notice and feel emotion and anger. It will be too late if we keep planning meetings; (we) need to do something now.

Adam Wrench, (NNDNFN) - (There were) comments on bringing this issue to a national and international stage. My fear is that at a political level the salmon management issue becomes less about salmon and more about US/Canadian relationships. Your take on (the) willingness of Harper government to deal with the US - for us here it's about salmon - I fear it's not in his agenda and ask if you will consider bringing it forward. You have (local) perspective.

APPENDIX 7 – SALMON ORGANIZATIONS AND DEPARTMENTS INFORMATION

YUKON SALMON SUB-COMMITTEE (YSSC)

Contact Information: Dennis Zimmermann, Executive Director, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee PO Box 31094, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5P7 Tel: (867) 393-6725

Fax: (866) 914-7708

E-mail: executivedirector@yssc.ca Website: www.yssc.ca Twitter: @yukonsalmon

Mandate/description for organization/roles/responsibilities:

The Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC) makes recommendations to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and to Yukon First Nations on all matters related to salmon, their habitats and management, including legislation, research, policies and programs.

Chapter 16 of the Umbrella Final Agreement recognizes the YSSC as a sub-committee of the Yukon Fish & Wildlife board, established as the main instrument of salmon management in the Yukon.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)

Contact information: Dennis D'Amour, Area Director, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, 100-419 Range Road, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 3V1 Tel: (867) 393-6719

E-mail address: Dennis.damour@dfo-mpo.gc.ca Website: www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Mandate: On behalf of the Government of Canada, DFO is responsible for developing and implementing policies and programs in support of Canada's scientific, ecological, social and economic interests in oceans and fresh waters.

DFO is a national and international leader in marine safety and in the management of oceans and freshwater resources. Departmental activities and presence on Canadian waters help to ensure the safe movement of people and goods. As a sustainable development department, DFO will integrate environment, economic and social perspectives to ensure Canada's oceans and freshwater resources benefit this generation and those to come.

The Department's guiding legislation includes the Oceans Act, which charges the Minister with leading oceans management and providing coast guard and hydrographic services on behalf of the Government of Canada, and the Fisheries Act, which confers responsibility to the Minister for the management of fisheries, habitat

and aquaculture. The Department is also on of the three responsible authorities under the Species at Risk Act.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Branches:

DIRECTOR OFFICE (ED)

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (BM)

CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION (C&P)

HABITAT AND ENHANCEMENT BRANCH (HEB)

FISHERIES AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT (FAM)

STOCK ASSESSMENT DIVISION (STAD)

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Contact information: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, PO Box 115526, 1255 W. 8th Street, Juneau, Alaska, 99811-5526 Tel: (907) 456-4100 Fax: (907) 456-2332

Mission: To protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their use and development in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle.

Yukon River Panel

Contact information: Frank Quinn, Co-Chair, Yukon River Panel, 100-419 Range Road, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 3V1 Tel: (867) 393-6719

The Yukon River Salmon Agreement (the Agreement) was recognized by both the US and Canada as an executive agreement on December 4, 2002 and now forms Chapter 8 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (1985). The Agreement formally established the Yukon River Panel (the YRP) and its Joint Technical Committee and assigned to each body prescriptive roles and responsibilities. To be sure, the Agreement helps ensure adequate numbers of salmon-prized for their high oil content and rich taste-are allowed to pass from the US into Canada and spawn in their natal streams.

The Agreement assigns many functions and responsibilities of the Pacific Salmon Commission (the body formed by the US and Canada to implement the Pacific Salmon Treaty) directly to the YRP. Further, in the event the Pacific Salmon Treaty is ever terminated, the Agreement can stand on its own under the name "Yukon

River Salmon Treaty” with the functions of the YRP to be assumed by a new commission referred to as the “Yukon River Salmon Commission”.

Regardless, to enable the conservation and coordinated management of Yukon River salmon stocks of Canadian origin, the YRP meets twice a year to make recommendations to the responsible management entities on both sides of the Alaska-Yukon border. Unlike other regional panels and management committees established under the Pacific Salmon Treaty, the YRP follows its own internal by-laws and procedures, which are independent from the Pacific Salmon Commission.

The YRP’s main responsibilities, pertaining to the Yukon River salmon stocks of Canadian –origin, are to:

- Develop and implement agreed research and management programs;
- Make annual recommendations to the respective responsible management agencies of both countries concerning conservation and management coordination.
- Set and adjust annual salmon spawning escapement objectives, if necessary, based on pre-season projections, stock status and recommendations from the JTC; and
- Oversee the use and administration of the Restoration and Enhancement Fund.

The YRP is comprised of 12 appointed persons, six from each country. The process to be nominated to serve on the YRP varies between the two countries according to each country’s respective laws or policies. American members serve four-year terms and Canadian members serve five-year terms.

As mandated under the Yukon River Salmon Act of 2000 (US), the US section of the YRP is comprised of one US federal official and one State of Alaska official who each have expertise in salmon management and conversation. The other four members are knowledgeable and experienced persons, nominated by the Governor of Alaska and appointed by the US Secretary of State. Of those remaining four YRP members, one is required to represent the interests of the lower Yukon River fishing districts, once must represent interests of upper Yukon River fishing districts, and one must be an Alaska Native of the Yukon River.

The US section of the YRP also has a number of advisors from Alaskan communities along the Yukon River. This advisory committee is made up of at least eight, but no more than twelve individuals two of which are required to be Alaska Natives. The Governor of Alaska also appoints advisory committee members to serve two-year terms.

As required by the Umbrella Final Agreement, which is the common instrument for Yukon First Nation land claim agreements, the majority (currently four members) of the Canadian section of the YRP must be from the Salmon Sub-Committee. They

Yukon Territorial Government and DFO make recommendations for the other two appoints to Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, who makes all final appointments. Official advisors for Canada have not been established, but all Yukon First Nations, fish harvesters and residents within the Yukon River drainage in the Yukon Territory are encouraged to voice their concerns or opinions to the Canadian section of the YRP and its supporting entity, the Joint Technical Committee.

United States Fish & Wildlife Service

Contact information: Philip Schempf, Raptor Management Supervisor, United States Fish & Wildlife Service, 1011 E Tudor Rd. Anchorage, AK, 99503-6119, United States

Mission Statement: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The vast majority of fish and wildlife habitat is on lands not owned by the federal government. Partnerships with Native American tribes, state and local governments, nongovernment organizations and private citizens are critical to the Service fulfilling our mission. Programs such as Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Partners in Flight, the Coastal Program, and partnership activities with individuals are the primary mechanisms for assisting in voluntary habitat restoration on non-Service lands and fostering conservation practices throughout the Region.

The Service manages the 95 million acre National Wildlife Refuge System that consists of 545 National Wildlife Refuges and thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. The Service also carries out its mission through the 81 ecological services field stations, 69 national fish hatcheries, and 63 fish and wildlife management offices located nationwide.

The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores fish and wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. The Service also administers a number of grant programs that promote the restoration of fish and wildlife resources and their habitat on tribal and private lands.

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

Contact information: 725 Christensen Drive, Suite 3-B, Anchorage, AK, 99501
Tel: (907) 272-3141 Fax: (907) 272-3142 e-mail: info@yukonsalmon.org

The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) is a 501 © (3) non-profit association of subsistence and commercial fishers with a mission of protecting and promoting all healthy fisheries and cultures along the Yukon River drainage.

The Yukon River is home to the longest salmon migration in the world. These salmon provide key dietary and cultural support for over forty-two rural Alaskan villages. For many families, the commercial salmon harvest provides a primary source of food for humans and the sled dogs that are integral to their subsistence way of life.

YRDFA was created in 1990 to conserve these salmon runs by giving a voice to the people who have managed the resource for thousands of years. YRDFA has become an essential part of the communications between fishers and fishery managers in this region. YRDFA represents village fishers at important state, federal and international decision-making tables, works to document and utilize Traditional Ecological Knowledge in fisheries management and strengthens the long-term economic viability and sustainability of Yukon River communities through preserving subsistence fisheries and enhancing commercial fisheries. YRDFA also serves as a leading research organization aimed at conserving Yukon River wild salmon throughout their lifecycles.

Articles of Incorporation

YRDFA was started in 1990 to:

- Establish communications between all user groups: subsistence, commercial, personal use, and sport, the management agencies to include all state and federal agencies that have jurisdiction over any activity that will affect the fish stocks in the Yukon River drainage whether it be direct or indirect.
- Take whatever actions are necessary to insure that all fish stocks in the Yukon River drainage are managed in such a manner as to provide for stable and healthy fishery in the future.

Aboriginal Aquatic Resources and Oceans Management

Contact info: Fisheries and Oceans Canada Communication Branch, 200 Kent Street, 13th Floor, Station 13E228, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E6
Tel: (613) 993-0999 Fax: (613) 990-1866 E-mail: info@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

The Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management Program (AAROM) provides funding to qualifying Aboriginal groups to establish aquatic resource and oceans management bodies. The AAROM program is comprised of three main components:

- 1) Collaborative Management, including Aboriginal Fisheries Officers (AFOs);
- 2) Capacity Building; and 3) Economic Opportunities.

Program Purpose and Goals:

The goal of AAROM is to help Aboriginal groups to participate effectively in advisory and decision-making processes used for aquatic resource and oceans management.

The program was developed to respond to a number of issues identified during discussions on the renewal of the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy:

- Aboriginal groups are seeking greater participation in decision-making processes used for aquatic resource and oceans management;
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO's) expanding responsibilities require engaging with Aboriginal groups on a broad range of issues, including oceans management, habitat management and planning, environmental assessment and species at risk; and
- Existing Aboriginal programming is focused on fisheries management, limiting the Department's ability to respond effectively to the evolving aspirations of Aboriginal people.

The main objectives of the AAROM program are:

- To assist Aboriginal groups in acquiring the administrative capacity and scientific/technical expertise to facilitate their participation in aquatic resource and oceans management;
- To encourage the establishment of collaborative management structures that contribute to integrated ecosystems/watershed management and planning processes;
- To enhance existing collaborative management structures, where appropriate;
- To facilitate sound decision making in advisory and other processes related to a number of areas of DFO responsibility;
- To strengthen relationships through improved information sharing among Aboriginal communities, DFO and other stakeholders and among Aboriginal communities; and
- To contribute to the federal government's broader objective of improving the quality of life of Aboriginal people.

Eligibility Requirements;

AAROM provides funding to qualifying Aboriginal groups to establish aquatic resource and oceans management bodies.

To qualify for support, Aboriginal communities are required to work together in relation to a watershed or ecosystem and meet certain requirements related to management practices. The AAROM program employs a community-driven approach that recognizes that different groups are at different stages of capacity development and don't all have the same priorities and goals.

For eligible groups, funding may also be available to obtain access to commercial fishery opportunities (including vessels and gear) and to build the capacity of groups to take advantage of aquaculture opportunities. In addition, qualifying groups may be eligible for funding for the development of Aboriginal Fishery Officers.

The program will only be available to groups that are located where DFO manages the fishery, and that have not signed a comprehensive land claims agreement that addresses the matters under AAROM.

Yukon Government Department of Environment-Fisheries Branch

Contact info: Fish and Wildlife, Environment Yukon, Government of Yukon, Box 2703 (V-5), Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6
Tel: (867) 667-5715 Fax: (867) 393-6405 Toll Free: 1-800-661-0408 local 5715
E-mail: fish.wildlife@gov.yk.ca

Mandate: Responsible for freshwater fisheries management in Yukon.