



# Overview of the Yukon River Panel Canadian-Origin Chinook Salmon Rebuilding Plan

Yukon River Preseason Meeting

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association

Friday April 25, 2025

Fairbanks, AK





# Who we are

- Ecofish Research Ltd.
  - Trinity Consultant's Water & Ecology Team
  - We are a multi-disciplinary environmental consultancy with expertise in fish, fish habitat, and fisheries management.
  - Experience developing rebuilding plans for Chinook salmon and other species.
  - We provide complex problem-solving solutions to government, Indigenous groups, non-profits, the public, and industry.
- Jayson Kurtz, Fisheries biologist, project director, and facilitator.
- Kirsten Lyle, Project Manager and facilitator.



# Why is the Yukon Rive Panel developing a Rebuilding Plan?



# Background

- Chinook salmon in the Yukon River have declined to critical levels.
- The 7-Year Agreement, signed in April 2024, specifically requires development of a Rebuilding Plan.
  - It is expected to incorporate traditional knowledge as well as scientific evaluation
- The Yukon River Panel is responsible for developing the Rebuilding Plan
- We have been retained by the Panel to support them in developing the Rebuilding Plan.



# What is the Rebuilding Plan?



# What is the Rebuilding Plan ?

- Comprehensive plan to restore Yukon River Chinook Salmon populations through actions
- Incorporates the ecological needs of salmon and the cultural and social needs of the people that depend on salmon
- Focuses on the entire life cycle of Chinook salmon Developed based on proven and emerging approaches

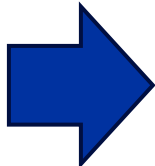


# Draft Framework Overview

Process Framework

Socio-Cultural Framework

Technical Framework

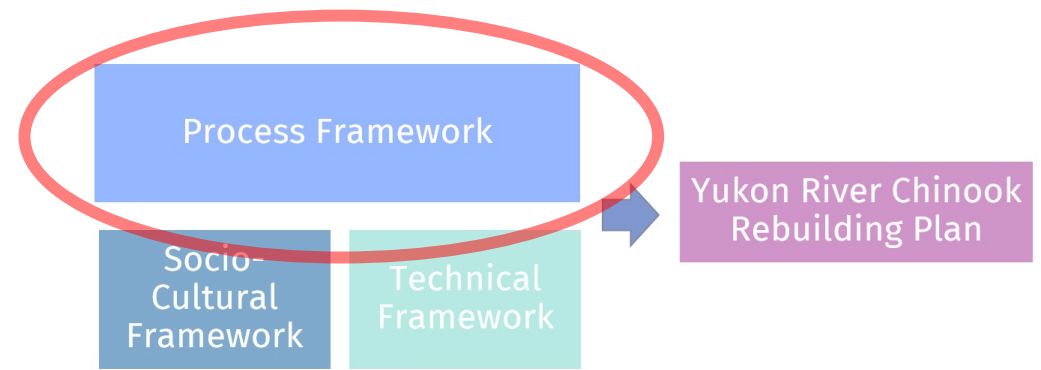


Yukon River Chinook Rebuilding Plan

# Draft Framework Overview

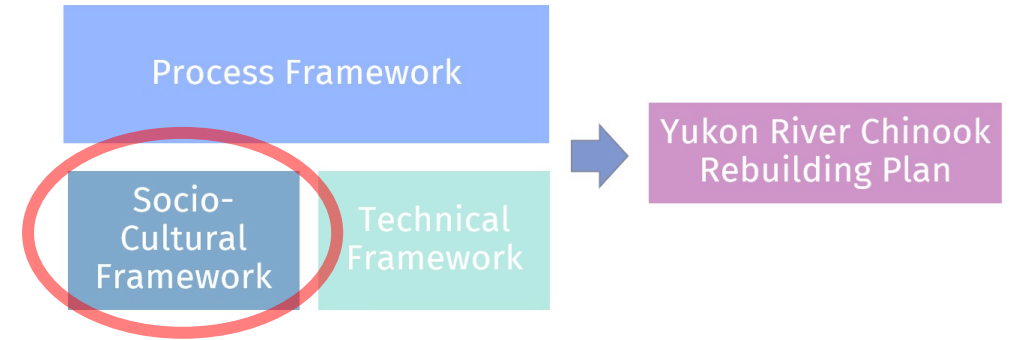
## Process

- Guides the overall development of Rebuilding Plan
- Scope, Objective, Values, and Principles
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Decision making processes
- Outreach and communication





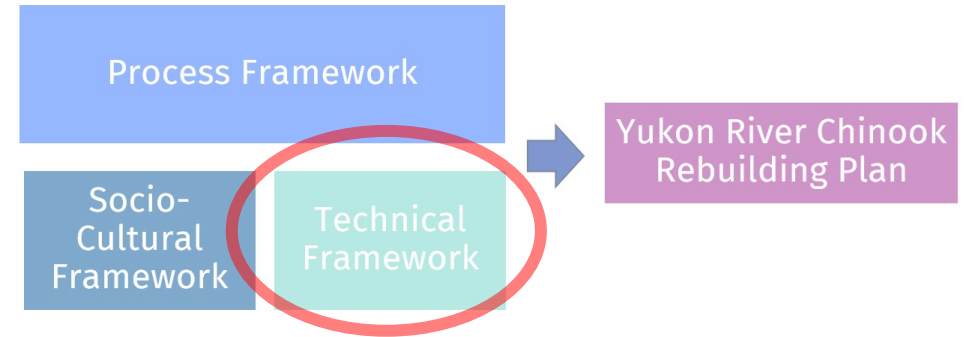
# Draft Framework Overview



## Socio-Cultural

- Emphasizes the importance of the relationship between people and fish
- Background: human-dimension context
- Indigenous, other communities and users, and gov't
- Stewardship, cultural practices, land guardians
- Cultural camps, food security, youth engagement

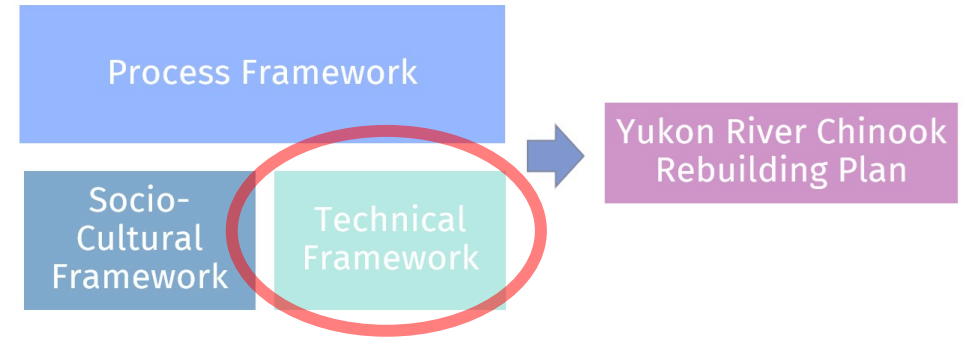
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## Technical

- Well-recognized approach, tailored to Yukon River
- 3 questions:
  - What is the status of the population?
  - What caused the decline in the population?
  - How do we stop the decline and reverse the trend?
- Builds on existing information

# Draft Framework Overview



## Technical

- Status Report
  - Population, life history, habitat, information gaps
- Threat Assessment
  - Life cycle model, sensitivity analysis, uncertainty
- Recovery Actions
  - Prioritized by effectiveness, feasibility, cost, social barriers
- Implementation and Monitoring

**How long will it take to develop the Rebuilding Plan and how do we do it?**

# Conceptual Timeline to Develop Rebuilding Plan\*

Panel meeting dates and milestones:



\*Contingent on funding

# How do we develop the Rebuilding Plan?

- Collaborative effort to do the steps outlined in the Socio-Cultural and Technical Framework documents
  - Yukon River Panel with support from committees
  - Consultants, and others
  - Support from existing work in AK and Yukon
  - Public engagement

# What has been done so far?

# Progress to Date

- Ecofish hired as facilitator (October 2024)
- Three YRP Special Session meetings:
  - Fairbanks (November 2024)
  - Anchorage (January 2025)
  - Dawson City (April 2025)
- Development and endorsement of Process, Socio-Cultural and Technical Frameworks
- Establishment of Steering Committee Concept



# Progress to Date

- Scope characterized as “gravel to gravel”
  - Entire salmon lifecycle
  - River, watershed, marine
  - Fisheries
  - Land use
- Objectives, Values, Guiding Principles
  - Sets the foundation for the Rebuilding Plan and a guidepost for where we’re going

# Progress to Date

## Special Session Meeting Activities:

- Facilitated discussions
- Breakout-groups
- Written feedback





# What comes next?

# Next Steps

- Implement the tasks outlined in the Sociocultural and Technical Framework documents
- Plan for Additional Special Session Meetings to discuss the Rebuilding Plan



\*Contingent on funding

# Questions?



**Thank you!**