



John Linderman
USA

Co-Chairs

Steve Gotch
Canada

Yukon River Panel 100 – 419 Range Road Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 3V1

FOR RELEASE – May 24, 2022

The Yukon River Panel (Panel), established by the U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Agreement, met through an online platform from April 4 through 7 to receive 2022 Yukon River Chinook and chum salmon outlooks. The Panel also reviewed project proposals submitted to the Restoration and Enhancement Fund for funding consideration in 2022. The Panel, which operates under the *Yukon River Salmon Agreement (Pacific Salmon Treaty)*, consists of 12 Alaska and Yukon residents from throughout the Yukon River system, and is supported by regional advisors, scientists, and managers from Canada and the United States.

2021 Canadian-Origin Salmon Run, Harvest, and Escapement Estimates

Chinook Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Total estimated run size: ~32,972
- Harvest: ~1,214 (U.S), ~306 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: ~31,452

Chum Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Total estimated run size: ~23,300
- Harvest: ~176* (U.S.), ~0 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: ~23,170

Chum Salmon (Fishing Branch River (Porcupine Drainage))

- Total estimated run size: ~2,500
- Harvest: ~28* (U.S.) ~13 (Canada)
- Spawning escapement: ~2,413

*Estimate

2022 Canadian-Origin Salmon Escapement Goals and Preseason Forecasts

Chinook Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem): The Yukon River Panel received the results of the Joint Technical Committee's Chinook salmon biological escapement goal scientific analysis. Although the Panel acknowledged the scientific basis for the recommendation, further consideration as well as work by the Panel and its Traditional Knowledge Sub-Committee is required to inform the establishment of a long-term escapement goal. The Panel did not reach consensus on a new recommendation for a spawning escapement objective for the 2022 season. As a result, in order to facilitate coordinated management and following consultation with the Pacific Salmon Commission Executive Secretary on international Pacific Salmon Treaty protocol, the long-standing Interim Management Escapement Goal most recently renewed by the Panel in April 2021 remains in effect (42,500 – 55,000)*.

Chinook Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- *Interim Management Escapement Goal: 42,500 – 55,000
- Pre-Season estimate forecast outlook range: 41,000 – 62,000

Chum Salmon (Yukon River Mainstem)

- Interim Management Escapement Goal: 70,000 – 104,000
- Pre-Season estimate forecast outlook range: 20,000 – 37,000

Chum Salmon (Fishing Branch River (Porcupine Drainage))

- Interim Management Escapement Goal: 22,000 – 49,000
- Pre-Season estimate forecast outlook range: 3,000 – 6,000

Further information may be found in the Yukon River Salmon 2021 Season Summary and 2022 Season Outlook at: <https://www.yukonriverpanel.com/publications/yukon-river-joint-technical-committee-reports/>

2022 Management Recommendations

- Due to the poor Chinook forecast, the Yukon River Panel anticipates the closure of all Chinook fishing for the duration of the 2022 season.
- Due to the poor Fall Chum forecast, Yukon River Panel anticipates the closure of all Chum fishing for the duration of the 2022 season.

Restoration and Enhancement Fund

The Yukon River Panel approved \$0.86 million U.S. of funding for 19 project proposals for salmon and habitat Restoration and Enhancement projects in Alaska and Yukon to be undertaken in 2022. The Panel has allocated more than \$19.86 million U.S. since 2002 to community-based projects, including stewardship projects, directly supporting the management and recovery of Yukon River salmon stocks originating in Canada.

For full details of all Restoration and Enhancement projects and other Yukon River Panel information please check the Panel's website at: <http://www.yukonriverpanel.com/>

Restoration and Enhancement Fund: 2022 Project Proposals Selected for Funding

#	2022 Project Title
1	Temperature monitoring of Yukon River Chinook Salmon spawning and migration habitats in Canada
2	KDFN Michie Creek Salmon Monitoring Project 2022
3	Takhini River Chinook Salmon Sonar Project
4	Tatchun Creek Chinook Enumeration
5	Klondike River Chinook Sonar
6	Genetic Stock Identification of Chinook Salmon in Alaskan Test Fisheries
7	Pilot Station Fall Season Extension
8	Pilot Station and Eagle Summer Sonar Extended Operation
9	An Integrated Run Abundance Projection Model for Canadian-origin Yukon River Chinook Salmon
10	Juvenile Chinook Salmon Outmigration at the Yukon River Mouth
11	Klondike River Chinook Stock Restoration
12	Ta'an Kwäch'än Council - Fox Creek Salmon Restoration Project
13	Deadman Creek Chinook Salmon Restoration Project
14	Morley River Chinook Stock Restoration Research
15	Nisutlin River instream incubation trial and aerial surveys
16	Vuntut Gwitchin Young Fishers: studying energy flows in the Porcupine
17	Whitehorse Rapids Fishway Stewardship
18	Salmon in the Schools
19	Yukon River Salmon Preseason Planning Meeting

Next meeting

Scheduling of the Yukon River Panel's 2022 post-season meeting remains under discussion to accommodate identified scheduling conflicts in the U.S. and Canada. Further details regarding specific dates and location will be made available on the Yukon River Panel's website in early fall.