INTRODUCTION TO THE YUKON SALMON SUB-COMMITTEE

YUKON LINKS TO LEARNING

JUNE 19, 2019
CREATION

THE UMBRELLA FINAL AGREEMENT (UFA), RATIFIED IN 1993, AND THE SUBSEQUENT YUKON FIRST NATION FINAL AGREEMENTS (YFNFA):

- AGREEMENT BETWEEN YUKON FIRST NATIONS, CANADA, AND YUKON GOVERNMENT
- 11 OF YUKON’S 14 FIRST NATIONS NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS
- CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED, MODERN TREATIES
- RECOGNIZE AND PROTECT RIGHTS OF YUKON FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE TO HARVEST RENEWABLE RESOURCES

- YFNFA KEY OBJECTIVE IS TO ‘ENSURE THE EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF YUKON INDIAN PEOPLE WITH OTHER YUKON RESIDENTS IN FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROCESSES AND DECISIONS’.

- YFNFA ESTABLISHED YUKON SALMON SUB-COMMITTEE (YSSC) ‘AS THE MAIN INSTRUMENT OF SALMON MANAGEMENT IN THE YUKON’

- YSSC MUST CONSIDER BOTH TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND SCIENCE

- YSSC IS A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD (YFWMB)
YSSC

COMPRISED OF:

• 2 MEMBERS NOMINATED BY FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA
• 2 MEMBERS APPOINTED BY YFWMB

YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE

• 2 MEMBERS NOMINATED BY COUNCIL FOR YUKON FIRST NATIONS

PORCUPINE RIVER DRAINAGE

• 2 MEMBERS NOMINATED BY VUNTUT GWITCHIN FIRST NATION

ALSEK RIVER DRAINAGE

• 2 MEMBERS NOMINATED BY CHAMPAGNE AND AISHIHIK FIRST NATION

Members: Harvey Jessup, Roger Alfred, Al von Finster, Carl Sidney, Stan Njooiti Sr

Missing: Ed Long, Jason Jim, James MacDonald, Michelle Dawson-Beattie, Tim Gerberding
Salmon know no borders

Fed by some of the tallest mountain ranges in North America, the Yukon River watershed is home to North America’s third longest river and the world’s largest Chinook salmon run. Salmon that originate in the Canadian portion of the Yukon River drainage are a shared resource between Yukon and Alaska. With a total catchment of nearly 11,000 square kilometers (4,219 square miles) this shared watershed drains 3% of British Columbia, 39% of Alaska, and 4% of Yukon before emptying itself some 5,500 kilometers (3,400 miles) from its source into the Bering Sea.

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SALMON SPECIES

YUKON RIVER
• CHINOOK
• CHUM

PORCUPINE RIVER
• CHINOOK
• CHUM
• COHO

ALSEK RIVER
• CHINOOK
• SOCKEYE
• COHO
YSSC RESPONSIBILITIES

- **YSSC SHALL** make recommendations to the Minister on allocations of salmon to users

- **YSSC MAY** make recommendations to the Minister on content and timing of salmon harvesting and management plans

- The Minister **SHALL** consult YSSC on legislation effecting Yukon salmon and their habitats

- Acting in the public interest, may make recommendations to the Minister and Yukon First Nations on all matters related to salmon
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTER

INvolves continuous:

• Engagement with YFNS, RRCS, YFGA, and public
• Community visits
• Attending meetings

• Recommendations are considered confidential until the process is completed as explained in 16.8.3
INTERNATIONAL

PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

• FOR CANADIAN-ORIGIN SALMON THAT ORIGINATE IN CANADA AND ARE INTERCEPTED BY U.S.

• SEVERAL CHAPTERS

• CHAPTER 1: TRANSBOUNDARY PANEL, PACIFIC SALMON TREATY
  • INCLUDES ALSEK, STIKINE AND TAKU DRAINAGES
  • YSSC ARE ADVISERS/OBSERVERS

• CHAPTER 8: YUKON RIVER SALMON AGREEMENT
  • FORM THE MAJORITY OF CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVES TO THE YUKON RIVER PANEL (YRP)
INTERNATIONAL (CONTINUED)

YUKON AND TRANSBOUNDARY PANEL ACTIVITIES:

• WORK WITH ALASKANS TO CREATE:
  • RUN RECONSTRUCTIONS, PRE-SEASON FORECASTS, SPAWNING ESCAPEMENT GOALS, AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (TECHNICAL COMMITTEES)

• ADVOCATE FOR CANADIAN INTERESTS

• BOTH PANELS HAVE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROJECTS:
  • NORTHERN FUND
  • RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT FUND
NORTHERN FUND

NORTHERN BOUNDARY AND TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT FUND

• MANAGED AS AN INVESTMENT FUND AND EXPENDS A PERCENTAGE OF THE INTEREST

PROJECTS MUST ADDRESS AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

1. DEVELOP IMPROVED INFORMATION FOR RESOURCE MANAGERS
2. REHABILITATE AND RESTORE MARINE AND FRESHWATER HABITAT
3. ENHANCE WILD STOCK PRODUCTION THROUGH LOW TECHNOLOGY TECHNIQUES
RESTORATION & ENHANCEMENT FUND

UNDER THE YRSA, $1.2 MILLION IS AVAILABLE ANNUALLY FOR PROJECTS SPECIFICALLY FOR CANADIAN-ORIGIN SALMON

• PROPOSALS CAN BE SUBMITTED FOR CONSERVATION, RESTORATION, ENHANCEMENT, STEWARDSHIP, AND/OR Viable fisheries

CANADIAN YRP MEMBERS:

• PROTECT 50% OF THE RE FUND
• IN COOPERATION WITH ALASKANS, EXPEND THE REMAINING FUNDS
QUESTIONS?
HTTPS://YSSC.CA/
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