

YUKON RIVER PANEL

SALMON RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS CRITERIA

Purposes of the R&E Fund

- Programs, projects and associated research and management activities on either side of the Alaska-Yukon border directed at the restoration, conservation and enhancement of Canadian origin salmon stocks of the Yukon River, including the Porcupine River system.
- Programs and projects that are directed at developing stewardship of salmon habitat and resources and maintaining viable salmon fisheries in the Yukon River in Canada.

Principles

- Restoration, conservation and enhancement programs and projects shall be consistent with the protection of existing wild salmon stocks and the habitats upon which they depend.
- Given the wild nature of the Yukon River and its salmon stocks, and the substantial risks associated with the large-scale enhancement through artificial propagation, such enhancement activities are inappropriate at this time.
- Artificial propagation shall not be used as a substitute for effective fishery regulation, stock and habitat management or protection.

Guidelines

- The priorities for implementing projects with the Fund shall be in this order:
 1. restoring habitat and wild stocks;
 2. conserving habitat and wild stocks;
 3. enhancing habitat; and
 4. enhancing wild stocks.
- Programs and projects will be limited to:
 - a. encouraging habitat stewardship, conservation and reclamation in activities and industries that impact salmon and their habitats; and,
 - b. maintaining viable salmon fisheries in the Yukon River in Canada. Funding for commercial salmon fisheries and processing will be limited to the development of infrastructure, capital equipment expenditures, and in years when no commercial processing occurs, the maintenance of processing infrastructure.
- Careful planning is necessary before undertaking any restoration or enhancement projects that might affect any wild stock. Projects shall be evaluated based on basin wide stock rebuilding and restoration plans, where these plans are in hand. A careful assessment and inventory of wild stocks and their health, habitat, and life history must be an integral part of restoration and enhancement planning.
- The most stringent of the fish genetics and fish disease policies will be applied.
- Socio-economic effects of projects will be considered.