

# JTC Update: February 2009 Meeting Overview



Yukon River Panel  
March 25, 2009

# JTC 2009 “spring” meeting

- February 24-26 in Fairbanks;
- 21 US and 5 Canadian participants – 3 by phone + 2 guests from UAF;
- Major agenda items:
  - Sub-committee and full JTC review of R&E detailed proposals;
  - 2009 run outlooks and 2009 escapement targets;
  - Update on Alaska teleconferences re. 2009 management;
  - Review of selected R&E project - weight and girth;
  - Update DNA baseline sample inventories;
  - Update on marine bycatch of salmon;
  - Proposed 2009 stock assessment and fishery monitoring projects;
  - Ideas for community-based projects;
  - Chinook salmon size trends.



# 2009 Run Outlooks

- Reviewed traditional run outlooks prepared by ADF&G and DFO;
- Combined into a “JTC outlook” – involved some major modifications to address anomalies for 2009 runs;
- More detailed presentations to be given.



# JTC review of REF detailed proposals

- Spearheaded by R&E Sub-committee of the JTC;
- Consensus on preliminary recommendations;
- Presented to full JTC for final recommendations;
- Recommendations go to Panel R&E sub-committee;
- General discussion – charge-out rates and amount of time allocated for senior level participation in projects;
- Recommendations on process – 2010 call.



# 2009 Spawning Escapement Targets – upper Yukon

- No changes over 2008 proposed;
- Obligation of US is to manage fisheries to allow enough fish to pass into Canada to meet escapement goals plus the Canadian harvest shares;
- Obligation of Canada is to manage fisheries within harvest shares and meet escapement goals;
- Discussed proposal to write-up the analysis that was the foundation of the 2008 Chinook goal – agreement in principle to support.



# Sub-Committee reports

- Genetics SC:
  - baseline sample inventories updated;
  - Some differences in sample inventories exist – goal is to minimize these differences.
  - A revised sampling priority list will be developed for the 2009 season.



# Chinook salmon size - JTC concern

- After briefly reviewing the declining trends in the proportion of age 7 and 8 in brood year returns and the average weight of salmon at the mouth of the Yukon River, it was a consensus of the JTC that this is of concern and we would like to see these trends reversed.
- Need to identify baselines upon which to base assessment and documentation of future changes.
- Need to develop targets for success, e.g. 15% age-7.



# Selected R&E Projects

## Weight & Girth Study (URE07n-07):

- Samples from lower Yukon test fisheries and Rampart Rapids;
- Statistically good relationships between girth and length and girth and weight;
- Potential selectivity effects from sampling gear used;
- Need additional data: should use caution if results applied to historical data.



# Potential Community-based projects

- Harvest monitoring:
  - One of the biggest gaps is the lack of in season subsistence catch data from most communities in Alaska.
  - Questions raised over what would be the appropriate source of funds.
- Selective fishing:
  - Projects to encourage use of gear to avoid larger females.
- Genetic stock ID baseline and mixed stock fishery sampling:
  - JTC is updating the list of baseline samples held by each lab and will be identifying gaps;
  - Gaps of note: Macmillan, Nenana, Black rivers and Koyukuk tribs.



# By-catch Issue update

- As of end of Feb, '09, chinook bycatch is on track to be similar to 2008 (~20,000 chinook in 2008);
- Fishery undergoing re-assessment for Marine Stewardship Certification;
- Rigorous sampling design still needs to be developed;
- More detailed presentation to be given.



# Other business

- OCEANA research

