

Renewable Resources Council Annual General Workshop (RRC AGW)

Key Meeting Insights

Hosted by the Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council
June 6-7, 2024



Location: Haa Shagóon Hídi /Carcross Learning Centre, Carcross, Yukon
Facilitator: Dennis Zimmermann - Big Fish Little Fish Consultants

Introduction, Meeting Purpose and Overview

On June 6th and 7th, 2024 over forty delegates (see appendix 1), presenters and contractors met in Carcross, Yukon for the Renewable Resources Council Annual General Workshop (RRC AGW).

The following RRCs participated: Carcross/Tagish RRC (C/TRRC), Carmacks RRC (CRRRC), Dän Keyi RRC (DKRRC), Dawson District RRC (DDRRC), Laberge RRC (LRRRC), Mayo District (MRRC), Selkirk RRC (SRRC), and Teslin RRC (TRRC).

The following RRCs did not participate: North Yukon RRC (NYRRC) and Alsek RRC (ARRC).

Meeting Purpose:

- To gather momentum as RRCs and occupy the space as ENVISIONED in the Yukon First Nation Final Agreements.
- To discuss what RRCs are SEEING and EXPERIENCING on the land and water with Yukon's fish, wildlife, and habitat.
- To identify and prioritize collective issues, opportunities, and approaches to MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER.

The agenda (see appendix 2) was developed collaboratively with the RRCs to identify priority items for discussion.

Efforts are made to ensure core administrative items (e.g. YG appointment process or honorariums) are acknowledged, however, not discussed in great detail as these are best served through the Chair's meetings or facilitated by the Executive Secretaries/Executive Directors.

It should also be acknowledged that the RRC AGW has a resolution making process that was shared during the RRC AGW planning process and requires resolutions be brought forward in advance of the meeting. There were no resolutions presented at the 2024 RRC AGW.

Be advised that the feedback, comments, or dialogue offered in this report by participants may be personal viewpoints rather than vetted group statements.

Charlie James, C/TFN Elder provided an opening prayer and welcomed participants to Carcross.

Introductions / RRC Member Interest in Participation

A round-table introduction from all participants with some opening remarks featured the following comments:

- AGW is place when you find common ground, work together and make recommendations.
- The process surrounds implementation of FAs; RRCs working on implementation.
- Keep members moving forward with their passions.
- Improving habitat & restoring the Yukon's habitat.
- Bringing the voice to the fish, caribou, moose, and land - *multiple answers*.
- Being on the land and learning from the land and people - *multiple answers*.
- Getting community involvement in workshops.
- Hunting, fishing, trapping - *multiple answers*.
- Discussing and finding ways to handle wildlife issues.
- Passing on knowledge to younger people.
- Proud of the work bringing back the caribou.
- Education and teaching the next generation to have appreciation for the land
- Finding balance as we're all connected.
- Diversity of experience - biology, being on the land, policy, trapping & hunting & fishing.

RRCs Roundtable – RRCs to Present Successes and Challenges

Carcross/Tagish RRC

- Successes -
 - Scholarship in memory of Edna Helm for youth attending renewable resources program. Hoping for perpetuity
 - Completed RRC objectives in the 2020-2025 Community-based Fish and Wildlife Workplan early and are starting on our next one.
 - Incentives for trapping - wolf incentive, general incentive, youth trappers.
- Challenges -
 - Not getting the engagement they are hoping for with trappers.

- Council appointments - lack of YG reps.

Carmacks RRC

- Successes -
 - Distributed moose meat.
 - Improved communication and team relationships.
 - Salmon talks with Salmon Warriors of our community.
- Challenges -
 - Office and meeting space.
 - Lack of confidence in report writing.
 - Trapping - it's challenging to begin trapping for younger generations.
 - Many bears, not many berries, many come to town and get euthanized.
 - Climate change - permafrost erosion, loss of pollinators, warmer water is changing where salmon go (e.g. not going into the creeks during the day).

Dan Keyi RRC

- Successes -
 - Fish cooking contest after the fishing derby - had to answer questions in order to participate. Got some great information and great food.
 - Support the muskrat count and been very successful.
 - Canning/Jarring workshop - really popular. Got this idea from TRRC.
 - Research published on trail camera data.
- Challenges -
 - Apathy - little involvement or interest from youth.
 - Community interviews - what people are seeing on the land, climate change, etc. People don't want to do this anymore.
 - Many unused traplines. Slow start to the season. Tried to offer trappers to do a trap count - gave money for gas, etc.. Not many people participated, but participants are interested in doing it again next year.

Dawson District RRC

- Successes -
 - Salmon restoration project - hire youth. Catch juvenile salmon that get caught and release them in other areas.
 - Hired Dawson artist to do artwork for a poster in Dawson and got more response from youth. Used Facebook as well. Video to be released soon.
- Challenges -
 - Actively exploring tools for sustainable harvest. Hoping the ungulate working group can help with analyzing the data to help provide direction. Learning from what is happening in Alaska.

Laberge RRC

- Successes -
 - 7 outhouses installed-total of 17. Plus 18 firepits & 16 picnic tables.

- Adopt a shoreline - simple website, posters, volunteers. Similar to a highway cleanup.
- Scholarships for four students (\$2000 for last couple of years).
- Challenges -
 - Issues with RRC capacity/quorum.
 - YG timeline to fill appointments - 6-8 months. Making it very difficult to conduct business.

Mayo

- Successes -
 - Community-based Fish and Wildlife Plan 2024-2028 has been finalized.
 - RRC has received updates on various topics.
 - RRC will be participating in trapline reassignments, community surveys, YEC relicensing process.
- Challenges -
 - Struggling with membership.
 - Inconsistent communications with government positions at YG.

Selkirk RRC

- Successes -
 - Outfitter moose distribution.
 - Delivered annual on-the-land camping trip.
 - Northern Tutchone RRC meetings - collaboration among Carmacks, Pelly, and Mayo.
- Challenges -
 - Numerous cancellations of meetings.
 - Outfitters quota - information was lacking and unclear.
 - Getting sufficient office space.

Teslin RRC

- Successes -
 - Final draft Fish and Wildlife Work Plan to be presented at TTC AGC.
 - Working on alternative fire break project.
 - Financial incentives for wolf trapping - \$, gas, groceries, money towards a snowmobile.
 - Recut the Atlin trail to Gladys Lake, bird survey at 10 Mile, ice rescue safety courses for youth.
 - Lake Trout survey with EDI. Want to do something about catch and release.
 - Proposal from Yukon Quest to start in Teslin. Communicated with the trappers to understand any concerns.
- Challenges -
 - Moose management unit - concerns are being brought to them. Not very involved in it.
 - Trying to get a youth on the board.

- Underutilized traplines are a big concern - currently only about a dozen active traplines.

Review of the RRC Mandate, Role, Responsibility as per the UFA

RRCs were interested in reviewing and discussing specific mandates, roles and responsibilities coming from the UFA.

The following provisions were reviewed from the Government of Yukon Renewable Resources Manual¹:

- 16.6.1 - “In each Yukon First Nation’s Traditional Territory, a Renewable Resources Council shall be established as a primary instrument for local renewable resources management in the Traditional Territory as set out in a Settlement Agreement”.
- 16.6.9 - “Each Council, acting in the public interest and consistent with this chapter, may make recommendations to the Minister, the affected Yukon First Nation, the Board and the Sub-Committee on any matter related to Conservation of Fish and Wildlife”.

RRC’s discussed these two provisions with a question as to whether the RRCs are using these powers. Discussion revolved around the difference between a Ministerial recommendation and a proposal (regulation change). There is more clarity and work required here.

This led to a discussion of the regulation change process and how it would go through public engagement, which involves Government to Government consultation and a recommendation from the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (YFWMB). A Ministerial recommendation was seen as much more direct and dealing with anything that might fall outside of the regulation change process.

Resolutions Update – Review of Past Resolutions and Discussion

¹ Electronic copies available at yukon.ca Publication ISBN: 978-1-55362-837-8.

The concept of RRC resolutions was discussed with the DDRRC reminding participants that an RRC resolution that moved forward was regarding wild sheep and that action was taken. They stated that with RRCs working together, things can get done. There was an acknowledgment that record-keeping or keeping track of the success or failure of resolutions and recommendations is lacking. There is no central RRC secretariat with the YFWMB only having some of the data. There is no tracking to see what was accepted, what was rejected, and what was funded.

Three options to move forward were presented specific to the RRC AGW resolution process. These were:

- Option 1: Continue with the status quo.
- Option 2: RRC that presents them needs to follow up on them and correspond with other RRCs.
- Option 3: Need for a third party to manage/support/track resolutions.

Ungulate Working Group Public Engagement Discussion – (YFWMB)

A five-member working group of the YFWMB has developed a conceptual framework document. This document includes a vision, guiding principles, and goals focused on several key areas: community empowerment, habitat protection, population recovery, predator management effectiveness, conflict resolution, and a renewed emphasis on fulfilling the mandated roles and responsibilities of RRCs and First Nations (FNs). A major priority is addressing the needs of ungulates in the region.

The working group has actively engaged with RRCs, FNs, and the Yukon Government (YG) to shape the direction and outcomes of their initiatives. Key areas of focus have included predator-prey dynamics, management planning, habitat enhancement through prescribed burns, and analysis of license hunting and harvest trends. Comprehensive documents detailing these outcomes have been produced, with additional summary documents forthcoming.

- Engagement process -
 - Phase 1: Co-management partner meetings - *complete, but ongoing*
 - Still need to engage with some RRCs and FNs.
 - As much engagement as they can do - not intended to be one and done
 - Phase 2: Public engagement (inclusion of RRCs) - *in progress*
 - Intentions is to be informed, not informing the public
 - Phase 3: Action and implementation - *upcoming*

There is a pressing need for better management and coordination of hunting closures. Currently, when hunting areas close in areas like the Southern Lakes, hunters shift their activities to areas such as the Northern Tutchone territory, creating displacement pressure and impacting local wildlife.

Community concerns center around hunting opportunities, harvest allocations, habitat loss, conflicts among hunters and other land users, and the need to recover declining wildlife populations. To address these issues, suggestions have been made for habitat improvement and conducting different types of surveys.

A holistic approach is advocated, considering moose within the broader ecosystem and in relation to other animals. Rather than implementing Yukon-wide plans, there is a call for localized strategies. The direction is towards an Ungulate Management Framework that includes a diverse range of tools for use by RRCs and FNs. This framework would serve as a blueprint addressing a range of issues, with both proactive and reactive options.

Feedback from the RRCs:

- Does the YFWMB have FN harvest numbers? Without these numbers, how do we have the full picture?
 - Trying to work with FNs on identifying these numbers, plus on the land observations, concerns, etc. This knowledge can inform.
- Need a way to access tools before issues become big issues.
 - Hoping that this document would have a step-by-step process outlined for what's required for each tool.
- Concerns that YG will limit what tools they can use.
 - Intended to be a playbook, rather than a checklist you have to meet the criteria for.
- Need two tool boxes. A reactive one and a proactive one. How do we make it proactive?
 - Agreed that it's important to keep track of the proactive and make sure that becomes a focus.
 - Trying to take an ecosystem approach - how do we think about 20-30 years from now.
- Local knowledge is not being listened to by YG - needs to be used more in lieu of a survey that is going to say the same thing and that slows down the process.
 - RRCs are working on gathering this knowledge, which is really helpful.
- Two red flags that fell on deaf ears - sheep population decline for over 10 years and moose decline over last 15 years - how do we make sure these flags are acknowledged?

- Interested in reconnecting with the RRCs and exploring what solutions could have been for situations that went wrong - learning from past mistakes.
- Email is not an accessible way for people to share information - need to sit down together and talk about it. Some information may not be provided by FNs in order to protect important areas.
- Use the RRCs - they know who is hunting and trapping.

Check in on Trapping – Round-table discussion on RRC initiatives (DDRRC Trapper Allocation)

The DDRRC provided a presentation on their Trapper Allocation Program. The community trapline program involves an application process where advertisements are placed, applications are screened by the Conservation Officer office, and the DDRRC reviews eligible applications and makes selections.

The trapline allocation guidelines aim to fully utilize traplines, outlining roles and responsibilities and involving RRCs in making recommendations on allocations. Applicants typically undergo a probation period of five years, during which they must earn credits based on the types of animals they trap. There are two classes of applicants based on their access to Dawson City. The trapping program is also supported by a bi-annual fur show featuring a youth category, trap setting competitions, free moose stew, a fashion show, and other activities.

Question as to whether there are unassigned trapline issues?

- DDRRC response, there are not really any unassigned ones. COs are supportive. Really worked with the trappers to get a good sense of the credit system and it's worked well so far.

It was noted that YG will be doing consultations with RRCs and FNs on how to conduct harvest reporting.

Examples in Practice in working with your Government of Yukon Regional Biologists – (YG)

YG Regional biologists provide support to RRCs by attending meetings, discussing priorities, sharing technical information, and reporting on various projects. Collaborating with RRCs is considered one of the best aspects of their job. The information collected by RRCs has been invaluable and has driven much of their work.

Community-based Fish & Wildlife Work Plans, which span five years, are crucial to their role, involving joint priorities and coordinated activities among partners, working directly with RRCs.

Regional biologists enjoy participating in engaging activities that keep RRCs involved, one example provided was the strategic forest management plan with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, which coordinates fuelwood, fire smarting, and moose habitat initiatives.

Question as to how YG and Regional Biologists use local knowledge?

- Community based Fish and wildlife work plans are a great tool where the community has a powerful say on duties and direction. This is largely based on local knowledge.
- Community concerns lead to boots on the ground - e.g. moose in Alsek area.

The facilitator asked RRCs as to how they can be better supported by, or can support regional biologists? Responses included:

- Funding for programming.
- Presence at meetings is appreciated.
- Helpful to navigate YG itself to get in contact with the right people.
- Reminder that if you are on the land you will see the changes. Important to pay attention to these stories and believe what locals are saying about what they are seeing. Want to see that something has been done about the concerns that are raised.
- Biologists want to know how best they can support the wide diversity of concerns RRCs have.

Question as to how YG Regional Biologists prioritize different needs, e.g. between the Traditional Territories?

- Complexities between all the different priorities and processes.
- Need the harvest conversation to tie with the land use conversation. Links between habitat change and impacts on wildlife.
- Regional biologists work together and speak together when facing different challenges.

Salmon Morning – Includes Seven-year Agreement, Rebuilding Plan, Stock Status and YSSC Recommendations – (DFO, YSSC, YFNSSA)

A broad range of topics was discussed related to Yukon River, Porcupine and Alsek River salmon.

Environmental Emergencies and impacts on salmon - DFO

Floods, landslides, droughts, low water levels, and high water temperatures can significantly impact fish populations by causing fish stranding, low oxygen levels, warm water conditions, and impeded fish passage, all of which can reduce spawning and increase stress. When such concerns are reported to DFO, they evaluate the information and develop appropriate responses. These responses may include collaborating with FNs, conducting monitoring, creating fish passages, and issuing necessary permits. More information at email: DFO.ORR-ONS.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or call: 1-800-465-4336.

Status and Trends Related to Yukon Salmon - YFNSSA

The direction for supporting Yukon River salmon comes from FNs through a technical working group and is funded by DFO. YFNSSA do not directly represent any FNs. Examples of work for the 2024 field season includes monitoring water temperature and conducting a telemetry study with Alaska to investigate Chinook salmon mortality between the river's mouth and the Canadian border.

There is a clear, consistent decline in Yukon River Chinook, with fewer salmon returning to spawn each year. Yukon River Chum salmon have also experienced multiple low spawning years, and Porcupine River Chum have been slowly declining. Alsek River Sockeye runs have shown some recent improvement, but the lowest numbers have been recorded over the past 20 years.

The YFNSSA will provide run status updates using traditional knowledge and Western science to offer insights into long-term trends. A few actions to support salmon include habitat protection, rebuilding plans, and restoration efforts.

Canadian-Origin Yukon River Chinook 7-Year Salmon Agreement with Alaska- DFO

The Chinook salmon population has been in a state of decline for more than 20 years. The Yukon River Panel, consisting of Canadian/Yukon and US/Alaskan delegates, meets multiple times a year but has struggled to reach a consensus on escapement

This year, for the first time in several years, an agreement was reached, largely due to the crucial role played by First Nations advisors in the negotiations. Four key actions have been established to address the decline of Chinook salmon. First, some fisheries are suspended prohibiting fishing for Chinook salmon in Alaska and Canada for the next seven years, aiming for 71,000 spawners to reach Canada. Second, traditional knowledge and local research will be utilized to understand the causes of the decline better. Third, a comprehensive rebuilding plan will be developed over the next seven years. Finally, funding for Yukon River Chinook rebuilding efforts will be increased to support these initiatives.

Much of this agreement does not change much for Canada (already been doing many of these), however, this holds the US accountable.

Questions and dialogue from RRC participants included:

- Is this 7 years to put a plan together and then what happens when 7 years are up? What is being done about the salmon in the ocean?
 - The purpose of the agreement is to take the pressure off the salmon while us humans have the chance to do more research and come up with a plan.
 - Bycatch is also being looked at. This is a commitment from the US to look at the marine impacts. A lot of testimony has spoken to these marine impacts.
 - After 7 years, there will hopefully be a good plan in place and then we'll go from there.
- Is it too late?
 - Folks on the panel are hopeful that it is not. We are willing to do everything we can now.
 - They're adaptable and the strong are surviving despite the odds.
- This 7 year agreement is huge. The 71,000 number is a huge step and we will keep pushing for more. Reaching a level of acceptance for this agreement means that the window has changed - the Alaskans have been forced to accept that the bottom line is 71,000 fish. After 2030, we have a new baseline to work

from. We will have to negotiate another agreement, and will be starting this from a much better position.

- Habitat protection for certain spawning areas - more wetland conservation, need security from placer miners to ensure there are trees (important for shade) and restoration.
 - One of the tools that comes out of this is the acknowledgement of the need to take better care of spawning and rearing habitat, including in the winter.
- Is there an estimated timeline to get to these spawning numbers?
 - The reality is that the issues facing salmon are complex and they compound, so it's not just related to the stopping of fishing. Looking holistically.
 - The lack of spawners returning is a key issue. The adults aren't supposed to die in such numbers while migrating. It could be that the eggs are nutrient deficient too. We have to get a grip on these elements.
- Is there a reason why female spawners aren't releasing all their eggs?
 - The salmon are also quite a bit smaller, so they can't carry enough energy to fully spawn.
 - Parasites/disease reduce their ability to dig deep enough into the gravel.
 - Increased water temperatures also impact this.
 - The longer they hold onto the eggs, the less energy they have to spawn. The fish will hold back to wait for cooler water and if that never comes they burn off that energy and have less spawning success.
- Northern Tutchone people have thousands of years of connection to the salmon. So much sacrifice has been made before this agreement because we have been hearing about the impacts. There has been much disrespect shown to the salmon. Impacts - climate change, landslides and loss of oxygen, other species like beavers that are clogging up spawning areas. Glad to see that the impacts from mining are finally being acknowledged. Sharing love for the salmon so they can come home.
- Need to acknowledge the issues - e.g. the Whitehorse dam - in order to make a difference. This is what happened with the caribou plan. Time to think, what are we really doing wrong? Put our heads together. If we don't work together, we are going to have a hard time.

Yukon River Chinook Rebuilding Plan Efforts in Canada - DFO

The expectation is that Yukon River Chinook salmon will soon be listed as a major stock, signaling that it has fallen below critical levels and triggering a stock rebuilding plan. West Coast Aquatic, an external consultant drawing from experience with

similar issues in British Columbia, has organized two workshops focused on stock rebuilding. Partners including FNs, YFNSSA, YG, Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee and DFO have participated actively. Workshops have set some objectives centered on achieving a self-sustaining salmon population, increasing salmon numbers on spawning grounds, maintaining ecosystem integrity, fostering relationships with salmon, and transferring knowledge.

Workshops have confirmed the need for a collaborative approach, with consensus on the urgency of action alongside planning. An "Issues facing salmon" paper has been developed to outline potential tools for action, including improved management practices, hatchery contributions, and habitat restoration efforts. Indigenous indicators of success, such as youth involvement in fish camps and ceremonial activities, underscore the cultural significance tied to salmon spawning grounds.

Current action development focuses on monitoring and understanding high water temperatures, assessing overwintering habitats through DNA quantification, and examining the impact of hatchery-raised pink salmon on Chinook populations in the ocean. Various groups have been identified to work on these elements, with plans for future workshops to further refine strategies and collaborative efforts.

Northern Pike Monitoring Program Re: Excessive Catch and Release – (YG Fisheries)

Currently, there is no population estimate conducted for Northern Pike, relying instead on angler surveys for information. The objective now is to assess populations and establish lake-specific fisheries management objectives aimed at achieving sustainable Northern Pike populations. Recognizing differing views and concerns across various lakes, the approach is tailored to be specific to each lake.

The assessment methods revolve around a guiding question: "Is this population under pressure?" Non-lethal "fyke" method (mark and recapture) may be employed; or the NASIN (North American Standard Index Netting) method (lethal). Both methods are well-defined and commonly used across Canada. Additionally, angler surveys and environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling, which detects genetic material shed by pike into water, are utilized.

Engagement efforts involve visiting each First Nation and RRC to compile a list of lakes of concern, focusing on those that are popular or undergoing changes. Certain parameters, such as accessibility, are considered, with an emphasis on warmer, more productive lakes like Tatchun Lake. The goal is to integrate TK into the program development from the outset rather than adding it later.

Excessive Catch & Release Fishing

Excessive catch and release fishing is a significant issue in fisheries and considered “playing with food”. Catch and release poses another major challenge due to its difficulty in regulation and enforcement.

However, proper handling and release techniques are crucial to minimize mortality rates, as some fish may still perish despite best efforts. Unlike hunting, there is currently no mandatory education requirement for fishing, highlighting the need to educate anglers on ethical practices and conservation principles.

It's important to discuss perspectives on the ethics of "playing with food" alongside conservation needs. RRCs can play a pivotal role in promoting education initiatives to enhance angler awareness and responsible fishing practices.

Questions and dialogue from RRC participants included:

- Is there any data on mortality rates associated with bringing lake trout to the surface from deep below?
 - If following best practices, can get up to 80% survival rate.
- How many fishing permits are issued annually? If there is an issue of regulating, then issue less.
 - It is really high compared to other jurisdictions.
 - About 16,000 fishing license - but don't know who and how much these are used.
 - Do have tools that they could use - e.g. a catch card for a lake, to limit the amount of fish caught per lake?
- Winter ice fishing mandatory release mortality rates.
 - Can't use the rubber nets, and have to take out of the hole to remove the hook, so likely would be 5-10% higher mortality rate. There are not many studies on it.
- Have seen Facebook posts about catching and releasing 250 fish. Need to get serious and police this. Our Lake Trout could be in trouble.
 - Clear need to increase Conservation Officer presence and enforcement - there are few fisheries officers in the territory.
 - Increase education to stop the practice.
- First Nations don't play with our food. Some people try to catch the biggest fish they can, using their fish finder, just to get a picture for social media. There has to be a way to stop this practice. Have to respect the fish - photos are not respectful.

Casino Project Update – (Casino Mining)

Casino is proposed as an open-pit mine in Selkirk First Nation Traditional Territory, 300 kilometers north of Whitehorse, targeting copper, gold, silver, and molybdenum extraction. The project is slated to operate for 27 years following a 4-year construction period and is expected to employ 1,400 workers during construction and 700 during operation. Due to high energy demands for milling and processing, plans include constructing a liquefied natural gas (LNG) system to support operations. Additionally, a proposed 20-kilometer pipeline aims to address water shortages by drawing from the Yukon River.

Engagement efforts are focused on minimizing environmental impacts on fish, wildlife, subsistence, recreational/tourism activities throughout the region. The project is undergoing a panel review, representing the highest level of assessment, which includes a series of studies mandated by YESAA (Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act). These studies will precede the establishment of a panel that will facilitate public hearings. The decision to undergo a panel review was influenced by community concerns regarding potential cumulative effects on caribou from the tailings facility.

Significant efforts have been made to redesign the tailings facility, initially considering 500 options and subsequently evaluating and refining these through detailed studies. Traditional land use studies have also been conducted extensively to understand and mitigate potential impacts on local First Nations territories and traditional practices.

RRCs viewed the Southern Lake Wildfire Strategy videos - available at <https://kwanlindun.com/southern-lakes-wildfire-strategy>.

Summary of Closing Round Comments from Participants

Comments included:

- Many things RRCs should be proud of and cannot forget to celebrate successes. Question was asked how can we share these successes and opportunities amongst ourselves?
- Common challenges among the RRCs. E.g. trapping; engagement and involvement of community and capacity of RRCs.

- *How can we better support each other? There were lots of conversations about need to take holistic approach and understand that decisions impact each other.*
- Partners see RRCs as really important, particularly for connecting with and knowing the needs of the community and for asking the tough questions.
- Partners are working on the need for holistic / ecosystem approaches. RRCs are key to reminding them to be the voice for the animals and pushing for the use of TK and local knowledge.
- Utilizing tools - there's tools to make recommendations and proposals but ongoing confusion on how to use them and which to use when.
 - *Could the YFWMB help/share a summary/guidance doc?*
 - *There are benefits to working together on resolutions.*
- RRCs are continuing to see the impacts and declines in populations.
 - There are many projects underway to address these - *opportunities to work with these projects.*
 - A need to learn from existing successes - e.g. Southern Lakes caribou recovery
- This is the smallest turnout at an RRC AGW. C/TRRC will write up a survey so that each RRC can share why they were not able to participate.
- Imperative to invite the Minister and put them on the podium so they can hear from RRCs directly.
- Need feedback and input early on and at the planning sessions.
- Thanks to the C/TRRC, C/TFN hosts, facilitator, cooks and all who brought door prizes. Special mention to Sandy Smarch from the TRRC who is retiring from the RRC after many years of dedication.

Patrick James, C/TFN Elder provided a closing prayer.

Appendix 1 - List of Participants

- Kim Ayles-McKay - CRRC
- Barb Shannon - MRRC
- Sandy Johnson - Dän Keyi RRC
- Lorraine Graham, Carmacks RRC
- Alan Anderson - Dawson RRC
- Daniel Reynolds - DDRRC
- Bill Shanks - SRRC
- Darren Bullen - DDRRC
- Andy Silverfox - SRRC
- Meagan Grabowski - TRRC
- Jerry Alfred - SRRC
- Scott Sawyer - SRRC
- Brenda Alfred - SRRC
- Steve Hossack - YFWMB
- Neil Salvin - Laberge RRC
- Charlie James - C/TFN
- Sebastian Jones - YFWMB/YSSC
- Bryce Bekar - C/TRRC
- Miles Johnson - C/TRRC
- Sandy Smarch - TRRC
- Nick Wozniewski - DDRRC
- Joseph O'Brien - Carmacks RRC
- Tim Dewhusrt - TRRC
- Jo Lane Dillman - YG
- Minnie Clark - TRRC
- Patrick James - C/TFN
- Wes Barrett - C/TFN, C/TRRC
- Frank Johnstone - TRRC
- Frank James - C/TFN
- Cathy Merkel - DFO
- Steve Smith - DFO
- Taylor Bradley - YSSC
- Cameron Sinclair - YG Environment
- Colleen Arnison - YG - Environment
- Amy Jacobsen - YG Environment
- Joel Potie - YG Fish & Wildlife
- Shawn Taylor - YG Environment
- John Ryder - YG Environment
- Marc Cattet - YG - Environment
- Elizabeth MacDonald - YFNSSA / CYFN
- Wes Moir - YFNSSA / CYFN
- Steph Lyons - YFNSSA / CYFN
- Marina Milligan - YFNSSA / CYFN
- Mary Gamberg - Consultant
- Stuart Davis - Yukon Fly Shop
- Lesley Cabott - Stantec (Casino)
- Calista Morrison - Casino
- Shena Shaw - Casino
- Andrew Serack - C/TRRC
- Dennis Zimmermann - Facilitator - Big Fish Little Fish Consultants
- Rebecca Kingdon - Project Coordinator - Big Fish Little Fish Consultants

A seat was also provided at the table for fish, wildlife and habitat through a beautiful sign created by Heidi Marion for a past C/TRRC *On the Land Gathering*.

Appendix 2 - Agenda

Renewable Resources Annual General Workshop - Carcross, Yukon Hosted by the Carcross/Tagish RRC
June 6, 7 2024

Location: Haa Shagóon Hídi/Carcross Learning Centre, Carcross, Yukon

Annual General Workshop (AGW) Meeting Purpose:

- To gather momentum as RRCs and occupy the space as ENVISIONED in the Yukon First Nation Final Agreements.
- To discuss what RRCs are SEEING and EXPERIENCING on the land and water with Yukon's fish, wildlife, and habitat.
- To identify and prioritize collective issues, opportunities, and approaches to MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER.

AGENDA DAY 1 - Thursday, June 6, 2024

9:00am - Light breakfast provided

9:30 am - Opening Prayer, Welcome and Introductions

- Agenda Review and Adoption - *Facilitator, Dennis Zimmermann*
- RRCs Roundtable - Each RRC to present successes and challenges - Q and A with discussion (All RRCs)
- Review of the RRC Mandate, Role, Responsibility as per the UFA (Facilitator)

Break - 15 minutes

- Resolutions Update - Review of Past Resolutions and Discussion Re: status, relevancy and which ones to move forward. - (YFWMB - Facilitator)

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch - Provided

- Ungulate Working Group Public Engagement Discussion - (YFWMB - Steven Hossack, Michelle Dawson-Beattie, Sebastian Jones, and Lars Jessup).

Break - 15 minutes

- Check in on Trapping - Round-table discussion on RRC initiatives - may include DDRRC Trapper Allocation, Marten Conservation Area, feedback re: Trapline Allocation (Wildlife Act) - (All RRCs)
- Examples in Practice in working with your Government of Yukon Regional Biologists - (YG - John Ryder, Shawn Taylor, Colleen Arnison)
- Review of Emerging and Major Themes - *Facilitator*

4:30 pm Meeting Close - Day 1

AGENDA DAY 2 - Friday, June 7, 2024

9:00am - Light breakfast provided

9:30 am - Salmon Morning - Includes Seven-year Agreement, Rebuilding Plan, Stock Status and YSSC Recommendations - (DFO, YSSC, YFNSSA)

Break - 15 minutes

- Pike Monitoring and Discussion Re: Excessive Catch and Release - (YG - Cameron Sinclair)

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch - Provided - *Mary Gamberg Contaminants Monitoring - Workshop - Stuart Davis - Fly-fishing Lessons*

- Casino Project Update - (Casino Mining - Shena Shaw, Calista Morrison)
- Southern Lakes Wildfire Strategy - share videos

Break - 15 minutes

RRCs Planning and Purpose - Review of the Key Themes, Dialogue Around Shared Priorities and Potential Prioritization - (Facilitator)

- RRC Group Discussion - What's Important and What Do We Need Next?
- What should be brought forward to the Chair's meeting?

4:00 pm Meeting Close - Day 2 and Closing Prayer