

YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

20th Annual Meeting
Nulato, Alaska
Andrew K. Demoski School
February 15-18, 2010

February 15, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Burnham. Invocation was given by Pauline.

ROLL CALL:

Board members:

Lester Wilde
Frank Alstrom
Aloysius Unok
Ephrim Thompson
Alexie Walters, Sr.
Paul Beans
William Alstrom
Richard Burnham
Henry Wiehl
Stan Zuray
Philip Titus
Victor Lord
William Derendoff
Jan Woodruff

Alternates:

Aloysius Aguchak
Ole Hunter
Benedict Jones
Shirley Clark
Lester Erhart
Tim McManus
Ted Suckling
Stanley Ned

Quorum was established.

Canadian non-voting representatives:

Ron Chambers
Carl Sidney

WELCOMING REMARKS:

Mickey First Chief and Sheri Agnus, Mayor, welcomed everyone to Nulato.

INTRODUCTIONS OF MEETING ATTENDEES:

Everyone introduced themselves.

OPENING REMARKS:

Co-Chair Richard Burnham welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. This is the 20th anniversary of YRDFFA.

Co-Chair Bill Alstrom introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. They have just come from the Board of Fisheries meeting in Fairbanks. They now need to look forward. He hoped the Chinook salmon will rebound and will be available for future generations.

Co-Chair Burnham talked about how tough last spring was both with the flooding and the bad fishing.

REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

Under discussion Victor Lord asked to add a discussion on the seven and a half-inch mesh size for nets proposal that was passed at the Board of Fisheries meeting before the presentation by Senator Murkowski's office. It was suggested to add it under preparation for meeting discussions under reports at 9:00 on February 16, 2010.

The question was called. The motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW AND APPROVE SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING:

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the last annual meeting.

Under discussion, Bill suggested postponing the vote until the morning of February 16th to give people a chance to review the minutes.

The motion was tabled.

DISTRIBUTION/EXPLANATION OF MATERIALS:

Jill Klein explained what the Board members had before them in their binders. Co-Chair Burnham stated that there will time for public testimony.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEETING LOGISTICS:

Co-Chair Burnham stated that Jason has a list of where people will be staying. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m.

RECESS:

February 16, 2010

MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes from 2009.

Under discussion, Lester Wilde questioned whether there were minutes from the meeting in Hooper Bay. Co-Chair Burnham stated that work from that meeting was finished in Fairbanks in the spring when they concluded that meeting. Jill Klein pointed out that Page 11 under the yellow tab was a draft summary from the Hooper Bay meeting. Bill recommended that the draft minutes from Hooper Bay be included with the minutes from Fairbanks. That was accepted.

The question was called. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

Administrative: Jill Klein reported on projects that they did over the past year. These include the summer preparation process funded by the Yukon River Panel. YRDFFA initiated a process to work together along the river. They will be doing it again this year. They continued to hire people along the Yukon River to work in various projects. They have continued the teleconferences. This year they will start recording them and they will be on the website. There is now a cap on the number of Chinook salmon that can be caught in the Pollock fishery. It is hoped that the cap and the salmon savings incentive program will work to keep bycatch numbers lower. They will continue to work on this issue. She reported that while they have been able to continue to receive appropriations, they have gotten smaller. New funding sources include the Oak Foundation and the Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation. YRDFFA has received its first Americorps volunteer this year. She discussed the various methods of outreach they are using, which includes Twitter, Facebook, e-newsletters and others. She discussed partnerships they have with groups on the river as well as those they are developing. Co-Chair Burnham added that YRDFFA has been actively working against the issue of hatchery systems in southeast/Prince William Sound. He expected they will be actively engaged in the Area M issue and the chum bycatch.

In response to a question, Ms. Klein discussed what happened at the Area M meeting last week regarding lowering the chum bycatch. She stated that it seems that until they have genetic data people are not willing to make a decision. The Board of Fisheries did not support any of the efforts to try to put on a cap and left things at the status quo. Stan also talked about what happened at that meeting and Virgil Umphenour's efforts. Other Board members also discussed Area M and chum chucking as well as Chinook bycatch in the Bering Sea.

Financial: Ms. Klein stated that the financial report is under the orange tab. As of October 15, 2009 the projected fiscal year budget was just over \$789,000. They have already received some new sources of funding. As a result the budget will go up to

between \$800,000 and \$900,000. The main sources of funds are grants. She went over projects and other expenses. Co-Chair Burnham stated they have been trying to generate funds that have no strings attached so they can pay for projects and then be reimbursed through the grants. Ms. Klein stated that they do send out quarterly reports to Board members.

Committee Reports: Under the red tab there is a list of the subcommittees and their members. The committees meet in the fall. Notes from the meetings are under the yellow tab.

Bylaws: Ms. Klein stated that there are some proposed changes to the bylaws (green tab). They were sent to the Board members 30 days prior to this meeting. They will be discussed Thursday. Most of the changes are housekeeping.

Policies: Ms. Klein stated that there were some housekeeping amendments made at the fall meeting to the Board policies and to the financial policies. There were no changes made to the employee policies.

Resolutions Retrospective: Ms. Klein stated she looked past resolutions to see what the trends were. Trends include asking for funding for various things as well as resolutions regarding appointments to boards such as the Board of Fisheries as well as other trends. Co-Chair Burnham stressed that resolutions can be important.

Resolutions from 2009: (Yellow tab, Page 28) Ms. Klein gave a progress update on the resolutions from 2009. There was some discussion on hatchery fish. It is a problem not just for Alaska. There was also a discussion of genetics being used to identify where bycatch fish come from. There is a study due out in 2012. Ms. Klein stated that they are tracking developments of the proposed offshore oil and gas drilling in Bristol Bay.

Resolutions 2010 Process: Co-Chair Burnham stated ideas for resolutions were to be given to the committee. The committee members are: Stanley Ned, Lester Wilde, Stan Zuray and Jan Woodruff. They will work with Staff. Ms. Klein stated that the resolution process is outlined on the last two pages under the yellow tab.

Preparation for Meeting Discussions:

Board of Fisheries decision regarding mesh size of 7-1/2 inch: Co-Chair Burnham stated that there is a two-year implementation, but by 2011 fishermen will have to have the smaller mesh nets. The Board discussed how they might find funding to help alleviate the transition to new nets. Co-Chair Alstrom stated that this has been discussed by the villages in his area and they are concerned about the impact on local fishermen. Most will not be able to afford the cost themselves. He suggested trading in the old nets for the new ones. Carl Sidney, Yukon Salmon Subcommittee, stated they have voluntarily put restrictions on their fisheries for 12 to 15 years. He was concerned that the new restrictions the Board of Fisheries was imposing would take the next size of fish. He recommended they do what they did last year and just not fish the first pulse. That

resulted in some big fish on the Yukon side. Other Board members stated that the change in mesh size will cause problems. There were comments that not fishing the first pulse last year worked and should be tried again rather than changing the gear size. It was also stated that if there was to be money to replace the nets then they need to make sure that the nets are replaced. There was support for a net trade in. It was pointed out that part of the problem is the bycatch issue. There were public comments taken on the subject. Comments included needing to work together on the problem and that the solution needs to include the Pollack trawl fishery. There was support for not fishing the first pulse and concern about changing the mesh size. There were also comments regarding the need for more research including what happens in the ocean. Co-Chair Burnham felt that any plan to replace nets needs to take into consideration the variety of sizes of nets people are using. George Yaska suggested that if they are successful in getting funds from Congress for this that it not go through the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. There was a suggestion that there be more sonar towers to count the fish going up the river to Canada.

FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATORS:

Federal Disaster Declaration: Representatives from Senator Murkowski's office discussed the Federal disaster that was declared for the Yukon River. Edward Hild, Senator Murkowski's legislative director, stated he was there to listen and learn and to take what he learns back to Senator Murkowski. The disaster request was granted by the Secretary of Commerce in January. That does not guarantee any funds. It is up to Congress to find the funding for the disaster. The Senator has received a request from AVCP and YRDFA. The request is being reviewed by her staff and the Department of Commerce. She is committed to working with the rest of the Alaska Delegation, the Department and the Administration to find funding. He discussed the process that will occur. He will carry back to the Senator the discussion on who should receive the funding as well as other ideas that he has heard to include a net exchange program and additional funding for research. Bob Walsh, Senator Murkowski's outreach person, stated he liked the idea of the marine habitat research. He will task the member of their staff who looks for grants to start looking for grants to be used, for instance, for the replacement of nets, etc. He stated that the requests for additional sonar as well as the frustrations that have been voiced will not go unnoticed. He stated that anyone with ideas or concerns should contact either the Anchorage or Fairbanks office. Co-Chair Alstrom expressed concern that funds with respect to the net exchange that are appropriated get to the individuals who need them. There was also concern that people who do not subsistence fish would take advantage of the program. Mr. Hild stated that they heard the concern and it would be passed on. In response to Jan Woodruff regarding more funding for research, Mr. Hild stated that they would try to make the research as all-encompassing as possible to include both the river and marine environments. Jill Klein stated that with respect to the disaster funds, she has submitted a suggestion to the Senator's office that if possible funds also be used for educational outreach and training. She also stated that YRDFA has had a very good track record in managing their federal grants and funds and is a good entity to receive funding and help with any distribution efforts as well as to come up with a process and work with other entities that would like

to receive the funds and help distribute them. Benedict Jones stated he would like to see a study on the high seas. Alexie Walters suggested that if there is an exchange of nets, that it just be the webbing and hanging twine as many in his area prefer to hang their own nets. It would not be as expensive. Ted Suckling talked about the bycatch numbers. He asked if there was any law enforcement to make sure the high seas fishers do not exceed the cap and that the observers are doing their job. Mr. Hild stated that enforcement is through National Marine Fisheries. He felt that they are more cognizant of what they are catching due to the potential imposition of sanctions. Co-Chair Burnham thanked Mr. Hild and Mr. Walsh for attending the meeting asked them to thank the Senator for sending them to the meeting to hear the concerns first hand.

Senator Albert Kookesh – Legislative update: Senator Kookesh stated that the senate will be discussing adopting the second verse of the Alaska Flat Song. He is a co-sponsor. He has heard people talking about the mesh sizes and the impact the change will have. He has not seen what it will cost to switch out. He and Senator Murkowski's staff would like to know what the cost will be. They need to know in order to help. He stated that he wanted to get the focus back on subsistence. He stated that they met with the Secretary of Interior and told him that subsistence is broken in Alaska. They also told him that they do not like that the Federal Subsistence Board has people on it who are not subsistence users. The Secretary is now saying the same thing they told him. The Native community is also now looking at subsistence again and making it a priority. He added that he supports the Governor's proposed road to Nome because it starts in Manley Hot Springs and goes through Ruby, Nulato, Koyukuk and Council.

Senator Kookesh discussed school funding and building new schools to replace old ones. Three rural schools will cost around \$100 million. He pointed out that the State gives urban school districts \$120 million a year for building new schools. He informed them that the budget for education in Alaska currently is \$1.1 billion a year. He stated that there is a bill in the legislature to end the exit exam. Under the current system, if a student does not pass that exam, he does not get a diploma. Without a high school degree the student cannot get into a trade school, college, etc. He was in favor of using the exam to measure student progress and school progress, but not in favor of the way it is being used now. With respect to major maintenance, he thought the total will be \$129 million. The eight projects include rebuilding the Nome Junior High School fire alarm system, Nome emergency generator, and renovate the Metlakatla high school among other projects.

Senator Kookesh stated that last here there was no capital budget. This year there will be one. The details are still being worked out.

The student loan forgiveness program for health care professions will be voted on in the next couple weeks. The main emphasis of the program is to get people in the health field back to Alaska.

He thought the Governor's merit scholarship suggestion was a great concept, but he questioned the classes the student had to take as many of those classes are not available in rural schools.

With respect to fishing, he stated that there was money in the budget currently to replace lost federal receipts for subsistence management program (\$80,000). This is to replace funding for two subsistence programs in the AYK region: Nenana test wheel fall season video monitoring and the lower Yukon River cooperative salmon drift test fishery. Other programs include the lower Yukon River cooperative summer salmon drift test fishery (\$18,900), Hooper Bay/Dall Point offshore salmon test fishery feasibility study (\$67,000), and the Pilot Station sonar falls comprehensive sampling (\$24,000). He stated that he has gotten a commitment for one more sonar counter on the river system, and they are working to get a second one. He would like the group's help in where to put these sonar counters. He suggested Senator Murkowski's staff look at assisting getting the second counter. He left a document that showed the breakdown of the budget for the Department of Fish and Game for this area.

Other legislation Senator Kookesh touched on include House Bill 20, Amendment for Engine Upgrade Loans; Senate Bill 163/House Bill 207, Fisherman's Fund hike; House Bill 41, Fish Board conflicts, which states if a member of the Board of Fisheries has a conflict, they can vote anyway as long as the member declares their conflict. With respect to the Board of Fisheries, he stated that there are two seats up for appointment this year and they would like input from people on recommendations for these appointments. He felt they need to get more rural people and more Alaska Natives on this board. Other legislation included SGR 22, a resolution condemning UCIDA suit advances; House Bill 329 which has to do with transportation. He left a breakdown on these bills.

Senator Kookesh also discussed traditional knowledge and that it needs to be part of the decisionmaking in the state.

Georgianna Lincoln told him that there are a lot of fishermen on the Yukon River and Tanana River who purchase commercial permits every year and do not use them because they do not have an opening. The State should be forced to give them back their money if they do not allow a commercial fishing opening. He will be talking to her more about this idea.

With respect to Village Safe Water, Senator Kookesh stated they had noticed that funding has gone down every year because the state is having problems with its reporting system. Funding to Indian Health Service has gone up because the people who run it are very adamant about getting every penny they can. Twenty-five percent of homes in rural Alaska still do not have running water or sewer systems. In addition there are villages where half have been done and half have not. Those projects need to be finished. His office is pushing for more funding for Village Safe Water.

Ted Suckling felt it was important for the state to contribute to keep the dialogue along the river going and to make sure that the salmon make it back. Senator Kookesh explained that since YRDFA's office was in Anchorage, requests for the capital budget had to come from that legislator. He talked to the senator and the representative for that district and they got it into the capital request through their office. The operating budget does not have the same restrictions.

Carl Sidney stated that people have drifted away from fish camps and through education he hoped they would come back. An earlier speaker had suggested having a curriculum in the schools with a salmon background. He stated that he also stressed traditional knowledge and that it has the same weight as scientific knowledge. Governor Parnell visited Canada a couple weeks and stated that they would try to work together with regards to the salmon.

Senator Kookesh also talked about redistricting and reapportionment. He encouraged people to get counted in the villages. The Bush Caucus has objected to students being counted in Fairbanks and Anchorage where they have dorms as being part of those communities instead of their home communities. He stated that they were in danger of losing two house seats and one senate seat from rural Alaska after 2012. One possible solution was a constitutional amendment to enlarge the legislature.

One comment was that the people in the area do not hear enough from their legislators. Pat suggested putting a sonar counter across from Koyukuk. Senator Kookesh stated he wanted Fish and Game to hear from the people where the best places to put those counters are.

In response to Pete's question regarding federal and state water boundaries, Rich Cannon stated his understanding that the Board of Fisheries action would apply to all waters of the Yukon River. The Federal Subsistence Board will be taking action on similar proposals. If they take a different action, they will apply to federal land.

Senator Kookesh stated that a 90-day session is really short and the first thing that gets cut off is public testimony. He thinks they should go back to 120 days.

Co-Chair Burnham presented a sweatshirt from YRDFA to Stan Shepard who helped in the kitchen at lunchtime.

FISHERIES REPORTS:

Federal Proposal Process: Rich Cannon discussed the federal process involved with Yukon River fisheries management. The call for regulatory proposals through the federal system is open through March 24th. There will be a public comment period May through June 2010. The proposals will be discussed at the Regional Advisory Councils meetings in September/October 2010. The Federal Subsistence Board will consider the proposals in January of 2011.

Rich Cannon also touched on proposals that have been deferred that the Federal Subsistence Board will take up. These include proposals on mesh size (7-1/2 inch) and mesh depth (to 35 meshes deep). They will be taken up February 23rd through 26th at a joint meeting in Fairbanks with Eastern Interior and Western Interior Councils. The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Council will discuss these proposals at their meeting March 2nd through the 4th in Bethel. The federal staff analysis of these proposals is on the Office of Subsistence Management website. In response to Lester Wilde, Mr. Cannon stated that the federal staff conclusion on Proposal 09-12 (7-1/2-inch mesh) was to approve the change but to do it in concert with the Board of Fisheries action. He stressed that the input from the federal councils and others will be considered by the Federal Subsistence Board before they take any action. With respect to Proposal 09-13 (35 mesh depth), the staff conclusion was not to support that proposal.

In response to Co-Chair Alstrom, Mr. Cannon stated that when state and federal decisions do not coincide federal regulations would only apply to federal public waters. Stan Zuray stated that Eastern Interior initially submitted the 7-1/2-inch proposal and at a later meeting they voted to change it to 6-inch, and he wanted an explanation of the process by which it went back to 7-1/2-inch. In response to Mr. Zuray, Mr. Cannon explained that will be included in the analysis for the proposal. With new studies and information the Eastern Interior Council put in a request to modify their proposal. Because it had already gone to the other Councils and had been given a lot of attention the decision was they needed to take the 7-1/2-inch proposal up and make a decision on it.

Chinook and summer chum salmon: Eric Newland, Yukon summer season assistant area manager, and Katherine Howard, Yukon summer season research biologist, discussed some run trends and stock status with Chinook and summer chum salmon on the Yukon River. Mr. Newland stated that the YRDFA teleconferences are helpful for getting harvest rates and tracking of pulses. One trend was that in the period of 1998/2000 there is a shift in harvest with the subsistence harvest staying stable but the commercial harvest cut back. Two of the largest spawning escapements are the Chena and Salcha on the Tanana River. 2000 through 2009 they have made escapement goals or been close to making those goals in the Chena River and the Salcha. With respect to the Canadian escapement at Eagle, they did not make the goal in 2007 or 2008. With respect to run size, in 2005 there was a near average run size and escapement goals were met. In 2007 there was a below average run with most goals met. The subsistence fishery occurred on a normal schedule and there was a limited commercial fishery. In 2008 there was a below average run and restrictions started. Subsistence harvest in 2008 was impacted. In 2009 there were preseason meetings along the river. It was decided not to do any commercial fishing. The second big item was to delay implementing the windows until after some of the first fish came into the river and the windows were reduced by half on the first pulse. The federal system allowed only federally-qualified rural subsistence users to harvest Chinook salmon in the federal areas. When commercial fishing occurred for summer chum, incidental Chinook catch sales was prohibited. Over the last 10 years, the run size of Chinook has been variable.

With respect to summer chum, Mr. Newland stated 50 percent of spawning has been in the Anvik system historically, but in the recent past there have been reduced runs into the Anvik. There seems to have been a shift to upriver stocks. With respect to harvest, there was a drop off in subsistence harvest in the mid 80s and around 1997 there was a drop in the commercial harvest. Since 2006 there has been renewed interest for summer chum and commercial harvest has increased. Escapement has been met every year except 2000 and 2001.

Alaska Board of Fisheries outcomes: Mr. Newland pointed out the news release under the blue tab in the meeting book.

Proposal 81: Clarifies the subsistence fishing schedule in Subdistricts 4B and 4C. The Board of Fish supported changing the fishing schedule so it will be open from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays until 6:00 p.m. Sundays when there have been fishing closures longer than five days.

Proposal 82: Modify the subsistence fishing schedule in Subdistrict 4A. The Board of Fish supported allowing a fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods each week during commercial fishing seasons without interruption.

Proposal 87: Innoko River schedule. The Board of Fish supported changing the subsistence fishing schedule to seven days a week.

Proposal 90: Reducing commercial gill nets to no more than 6-inch mesh size. The Board of Fish amended this to restrict mesh size to 7-1/2 inches for the Yukon River drainage for both commercial and subsistence gill nets. This will go into effect in 2011.

Proposal 92: Prohibit the sale of Chinook salmon harvested during chum directed commercial fishing periods in the Yukon River drainage. The Board of Fish amended this to give the Department the emergency order authority to do so.

Proposal 94: Impose a windowed fishing schedule for both subsistence and commercial fishing in the entire Yukon River that would remain in effect all year. The Board of Fish amended this proposal to provide the Department with emergency order authority so that it may close subsistence salmon fishing in the Yukon River in the event that preseason forecasts or in-season assessment indicates an insufficient abundance of king salmon to meet escapement objectives on specific components of the run.

Proposal 183: Modifying the Yukon River summer chum salmon management plan by allowing commercial harvest on run sizes less than 1 million summer chum salmon specified in the plan. The Board of Fish modified the plan to add the option to allow a harvest up to 50,000 summer chum in a directed summer chum fishery when the run size is between 900,000 and 1 million summer chum salmon.

Proposal 194: Modifying the Yukon River fall chum salmon management plan by allowing commercial harvest on run sizes less than 600,000 fish. The Board of Fish

modified the plan by reducing the threshold required to allow a directed fall chum salmon fishery from a run size of more than 600,000 fall chum salmon down to 500,000. In addition, the threshold required to allow a directed Coho salmon fishery in the Yukon River Coho salmon management plan was changed from a run size of 550,000 fall chum salmon to 500,000 fall chum salmon.

Proposal 199: Allow commercial harvest of Coho salmon late in the season. The Board of Fish said if the Department determines that there is a harvestable surplus of Coho salmon above escapement needs and those necessary for subsistence uses, and that a directed Coho salmon commercial fishery will not have a significant impact on escapement or allocation of fall chum salmon, the Department may open a directed Coho salmon commercial fishery late in the season.

Summer Season 2010 Planning Process: Mr. Newland stated they do not have the subsistence information yet for 2009. When they get that information, they will be able to evaluate what worked and what didn't work. YRDFA is planning to do the summer preparedness meetings this year and the Department will work with YRDFA to get ready for this season. At this time they did not have a formalized projection. To develop the management strategies for 2010 the idea is to have these meetings and then by May the Department will have its outlook and flier together.

Mr. Newland touched on the Pilot Station sonar and the issues they have encountered there with the sonar and their test fishery. They will be looking at upriver at areas between Russian Mission and Marshal. They are looking at operating a down-looking sonar. They are also considering using a barge to house the sonar to get out in the river and get a different look at how the fish might be moving by. They will look at how the test fishery operates to see if there's a species-specific avoidance there. They will be looking at some new sites this year to help track the fish better starting at the mouth. He felt they do try to use traditional knowledge in the projects at Pilot Station and OITF. They will be working with local people to find sites. He added that they will be adding the Mountain Village test fishery to the summer suite of test fishery projects.

In response to Aloysius Unok, Ms. Howard stated that one of the main focuses of this summer's sonar program is to look for a suitable site in the lower Yukon River that is better than the one they have at Pilot Station. In response to Ted Suckling with respect to the decline in the Anvik River, Mr. Newland stated there is a lodge there but they did not consider that the major issue for the decrease. Mr. Suckling stated he was wondering if the jet boats might be disturbing the spawning fish. Ms. Howard stated that was something to think about. She added that the overall returns they are getting for summer chums are doing well and there have been high escapements. They have not figured out what is going on with production in the Anvik.

In response to Lester Wilde, Ms. Howard stated that they were seeing the return per spawner in the range of 1.5 to 2 per spawner in recent years. Mr. Wilde questioned if the Department had a plan for coming up with a better more realistic return rate. He stated that the current method doesn't always seem to work. Ms. Howard stated they are

working to get better escapement estimates and working with the Canadian managers to get more escapement information from Canada so they can have better numbers on how many fish are actually reaching the spawning grounds.

In response to Co-Chair Alstrom stated that Pitka's Point would be an ideal location for a sonar counting site. He also had several questions. In response to Co-Chair Alstrom regarding the barge-mounted sonar station, Ms. Howard stated that the idea was to get a downward-looking sonar. Mr. Newland stated he did not know how deep the water was at the Pilot Station sonar site. He will have Bruce email him with the answer. Ms. Howard stated that if people had specific locations to suggest, they could let them know. There was concern expressed about moving the sonar station further up the river as it would take the fish longer to reach it and for them to get an idea of the run size. It could be too late to make any decisions on fishing.

Stan Zuray expressed concern about the quality of fish passing the border into Canada, i.e. percentage and size of female fish. Currently it is the total number of fish that pass rather than the percentage of female fish. He felt they need to start looking at escapement in terms of quality rather than numbers. Ms. Howard stated that a lot of this is dictated by the Yukon River Panel and what is agreed upon as far as an escapement goal. The quality has not been addressed up to know because there are not enough research projects going on at the escapement sites looking at how many females, etc.

In response to Pat concerning the information the Board of Fish had for them to modify the regulations, Mr. Newland stated the Department would like to turn out numbers as quickly as possible but the crew doing the subsistence surveys is in the field until the end of October. They enter data through November and December. Because the actions taken in 2009 were so substantial, they were waiting for that data to come out.

In response to Mr. Zuray, Ms. Howard stated that they know Pilot Station under-counted the number of fish in 2009. When they get the final numbers and genetic information from the subsistence harvest as well, they will combine that information to get an understanding of how far under-counting Pilot Station was. The reason the official Pilot Station number is not changed is because that is the number that that project used. There will be a footnote stating the problems with the 2009 figures.

In response to Aloysius Unok, Mr. Newland stated that when the fish go by Pilot Station they will come up with an estimate. Those fish will be exposed to fishing if open. The fish could be going to many places such as the Tanana or Canada. The key is to get some fish by everybody to meet the goal in Canada and to meet the goals at the Chena and the Salcha. This is based on the numbers they see at Pilot Station. They look at genetics to look at stock composition as well.

George requested more sonar sites. He was not advocating eliminating the Pilot Station sonar as he felt they still need that site. There are more than 2,000 miles of river and they cannot rely on just one sonar.

Lester Wilde commented that they have sheefish going up the river that are the same size as the salmon. He wanted to know if the people are trained to tell what type of fish are going past by looking at the blips. Mr. Newland stated that the sonar does not distinguish between different species. The way they do it is through the test fishery to come up with an estimate for each species.

In response to Shirley Clark, Mr. Newland said that purchasing new sonars is expensive and then operating them 12 to 14 hours a day does cost. He added that they have a hard time getting through the data throughout the winter because they do not have the permanent staff to do so. It will be a challenge. It would be nice to get better assessment, a better idea of what is coming into the river so they can make better informed decisions. He could not give her a specific figure.

It was stated that the Department was too dependant on sonar and test nets down in Emo (ph), but rarely listen to the local people when they go out and do their subsistence harvest. The test fisheries do not use the same type of gear as the subsistence fishermen. It was asked how they would change the gear to the same type as the subsistence fishermen. Ms. Howard stated that has been proposed for the Chinook run test fishery. They are looking at a regular sized 7-1/2-inch mesh net. With respect to locations for the sonar it was stated that the fish will follow the channel but not in the center. Mr. Newland stated that the difficulty they face is they operate the test fisheries on a daily idea and they want to have comparable data between days and between years, but they also need to have the flexibility to respond and be able to change sites when necessary. It is an issue.

Benedict Jones requested a clarification of state water and federal water. He also asked if federally-qualified fishermen were Natives or included non-Natives. Mr. Newland stated he would sit down with Mr. Jones after the meeting to answer on state and federal waters. With respect to federally-qualified users, that refers to those individuals who reside in the communities along the river.

Fred Bue, USFWS area manager, introduced himself. He is new to the job and is not as conversant with the regulations as he will be. Federally-qualified users are people living along the river in rural areas adjacent to federal management units.

Lester Wilde thanks Mr. Newland for getting the Hooper Bay test fisheries started last year. Mr. Newland stated that at this time he did not know if he will be going to Scammon Bay or Hooper Bay. Logistically Hooper Bay was more ideal. While they have not been getting much information out of the test fishery, it still is a feasibility study. Mr. Wilde stated that the fish are very dependent on the winds which would affect the test fishery.

In response to a question, Mr. Newland stated that three or four years ago they were using the same technology. Things haven't really changed. There are also sonar sites at Eagle and Anvik for the chum salmon that go up the Anvik River. The federal side has a sonar site at Chandalar. There was also experimental sonar being used at Chena.

In response to Co-Chair Burnham, Mr. Newland stated he had talked to Philip Kobloski (ph) regarding a laser technology for finding fish from an aircraft. Someone will have to come up with the funds in order to be able to do this.

In response to Jeep, Mr. Newland stated that this year they will probably have more nets in new sites. There will be some changes.

Robert Walker talked about the hardship that was caused last year with the low prediction of salmon and then finding out that more had gone by than originally estimated. He did not want to see it happen again this coming season.

Fred Bue talked about the federal action the previous summer to impose a federally-qualified subsistence users only restriction. He has heard that it only affected a few people. He asked if a similar situation comes up this coming season, would that be a good restriction or not. It is designed to help subsistence fishermen and give them a priority over other users. He would not want to do it if it does more harm than good to the actual subsistence fishermen in the area. Co-Chair Burnham stated it was a tool to have in the toolbox in case it is needed. They will be looking at it in the spring at the meetings they will have.

Summer Season 2010 Planning Process: Jason Hale, YRDFFA, stated that it looks like this coming fishing season will not be a good year again according to the unofficial estimates. On March 10 at 1:00 p.m. there will be a teleconference. By then the projection will be out. He expected that the Department will say that based on what the people of the Yukon River told them last year and based on how many fish they think will be coming back, and based on what happened last year in terms of how many fish got across the border because of what was done, they will give their opinion of the best approach as managers and then ask for feedback. April 8th there will be a meeting in Fairbanks. April 21st there will be a wrap-up teleconference for everyone to hear the finalized plan.

In the evening there was elders' discussion and a music session.

February 17, 2010

Effective collaboration along the Yukon River: Sarah Palmer and Brian Manwaring, U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, were introduced by Jill Klein. The question is how everyone along the Yukon River can work better together (1) as an organization and (2) how does YRDFFA as a whole work with outside groups (state and federal agencies, tribal governments, and tribal organizations along the river as well as Canadian counterparts). Ms. Palmer and Mr. Manwaring discussed their experiences and work in other environmental and natural resource use conflict areas as well as areas where there was not a conflict. They also offered some observations from conversations they have had with people over the past two days. Mr. Manwaring explained that the institute is an independent and impartial federal agency. Their mission was to work with parties such as YRDFFA to address natural resource, public lands and environmental

issues or disputes, using collaborative process, consensus building and other dispute resolution tools and techniques.

Ms. Palmer congratulated YRDFA for its 20th year. She stated that they were just beginning to learn about where YRDFA is and the complicated landscape in which the members live. She discussed some of their observations. Some of the tools and principles they use are already being used by YRDFA. One is the importance of direct interaction and communication. She congratulated YRDFA for bringing people together as an association to have that space for conversation to happen. The second concept was openness and transparency. The third was diversity of views and inclusivity. By being inclusive and creating a forum for a diversity of views more workable options can be developed that are workable for more people. Being open and inclusive of a diversity of views, it creates strengths and it creates more options. She saw that in action at the meeting yesterday. Another observation she had was what does the Association look like and are there players that are not at the table currently who could be in another 20 years that might create more strength for YRDFA and might create more options around the sticky issues that are happening out in the ocean, might create more options for funding research to understand what happens to the salmon when they are in the Bering Sea. Being inclusive and expanding who sits at the table can bring strength to a process.

Mr. Manwaring stated another principle he felt applies to YRDFA was, is do with, not done to. The value and real strength of a group is to be able to set their own agenda to some degree and to have some power in what they are doing. He stated that this is a very vital point in the history of YRDFA and the Yukon River. This is when good collaborative decisions are the most important. Another key principle of collaboration is timely and accessible understandable information. It also needs to be information that makes sense and is timely enough to be used in decisionmaking processes on a local level. Tools to accomplish this include ones that YRDFA is already using, such as teleconferences and social media. The instruments of information need to be used not only within the group, but also with other groups where there might be a sharing of information as well.

He stated that another principle is coordinated technical resources. They have heard in private conversation over the past day or so that there is a lot of information available, but not all of it is agreed upon. There may be gaps in where that information is. There needs to be some mechanism to understand what information is available and determine what can be agreed upon, to know where everyone sits with that information. There can be very good data, but if people do not agree with that data, how can you make decisions around it if it is not something people can use as a beacon to really judge a situation.

Another principle is mutually defined objectives. Different people's objectives might be conflicting, but there are mutual objectives as well, i.e. people understand the need for a sustainable resource. They understand the need to maintain that resource for future generations. These objectives give people a place to start from.

The last principle Mr. Manwaring discussed was sustainable (long-term) impact and action. He felt YRDFFA was a case study in sustainability. The next question is how to maintain it for the next 20 years and what are the things they can do to maintain the adaptability and flexibility to keep the group grounded and effective moving into the future. He felt this would include the principles they have outlined.

Co-Chair Burnham stated that they have worked long and hard to get YRDFFA to where they are starting to build trust along the river. He was not sure they have come as far as he was hoping they would, but he has talked to people outside of YRDFFA who saw it when it was first formed to where it is now. There has been growth. While on some really controversial issues they have never been able to get consensus, he felt that they have come closer and closer. There is growth and coming together is happening.

Bill Derendoff felt there has to be better communication with traditional knowledge. He wanted to know how they could start utilizing cultural knowledge. Ms. Palmer felt that was a critical point, how traditional knowledge factors into management decisions. Ms. Klein stated that Ms. Palmer will be presenting on the natural indicators project and how they can use the local knowledge on the river, the natural indicators that people have for when salmon arrive and how abundant they might be, and try to make a model for management to utilize in their forecasts for when fish return and when they might be at which village along the river. Additional proposals for funding have been submitted to try to take that project to the next step.

Co-Chair Alstrom stated that originally upriver people sat on one side and downriver on the other side and it was like a face off. Now it is different. They are mingled together. Things can be worked out through communication and observing how other people in different parts of the river live. Lester Wilde stated he has seen a lot of changes over the years and now people trust each other more.

Carl Sidney stated his hope that one day this sort of meeting could be held in Canada at the headwaters of the Yukon. He hoped the day would come when they could disregard the border for the sake of the salmon, to be able to manage it, enhance it, protect it and sustain it for the future generations. He also asked about how incorporate traditional knowledge so that it has the same weight or in some cases more weight than scientific knowledge. He asked that they somehow incorporate the people across the border into the next 20-year vision for the future of the salmon.

Benedict Jones stated he has seen the river change since 1951. In 1951 there was a lot of subsistence fishing. The river itself has changed since then due to erosion. The size of Chinooks has gotten smaller. He also thought the ocean is changing environmentally, too, as well as the streams in the Interior due to lack of food for the fish.

Alexie Walters expressed appreciation that the door has been opened for communication between the different regions of the river. He stated they need to work together like a family from the mouth of the river to the headwaters. By working together they may be able to get things done.

Peter stated that being able to have people along the river with different ways of life come together and work together to create cooperative agreements about how to handle the salmon resource was commendable. He talked about the pros and cons of the proposed road from Fairbanks. One con was the negative impact it could have on any resources in the area.

Ted McManus stated that the salmon are declining in size and numbers. They need to keep the sustainability up into the future. They need to work together to keep YRDFA going.

CLIMATE CHANGE, OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

Paula Cullenberg, Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, University of Alaska, gave a PowerPoint presentation. She addressed the status of climate change in communities around Alaska and impacts to salmon fisheries, the North Pacific Council outreach efforts, and educational efforts to get more young people from communities like along the Yukon River to get more involved in fisheries and education. She stated that they do workshops and classes outside of the campus system. She touched on some that they have done. They also hold young fishermen summits and she hoped the next time they hold one YRDFA would consider sponsoring someone. MAP also links science to communities. They also bring researchers to communities to share information.

With respect to climate change, she touched on the politics, what they know and what they can do about it. In Alaska they know that change happens. On the Congressional level Senator Begich has introduced seven bills relating to the Arctic. For Congress, the Arctic includes the Yukon River watershed for example. One bill is called the Arctic Climate Change Adaptation Act which basically recognizes that a lot of the communities are being impacted by climate change. This includes such things as erosion, flooding, thawing permafrost, fire, fisheries impacts, etc. Hopefully the bill will pass and there will be some funding attached to it.

On the national level, two weeks ago NOAA created the NOAA Climate Service. People can go to www.climate.gov to find out what NOAA is doing. For Alaska they are just starting to hire a new Alaska region climate services director. On the state level, the State of Alaska has had the Alaska Climate Change Subcabinet. They have written a report called Adapting to Climate Change. Eventually it will go to the legislature. The University has a program called SNAP which shows models to look at various things like the amount of rain for every community in the state.

With respect to salmon and climate change, there are some university people studying fresh water aspects of salmon. There are many things that impact salmon, some of which are being studied and some which are not being studied. There are a lot of unknowns.

They are developing some workshops and some meetings to talk with communities (both geographic communities and groups such as fishermen) about how they can adapt to

climate change. The first step is to identify changes. The second step is to figure out how vulnerable the community is and how able is the community to respond positively to the changes. The third is to figure out what the community ultimately wants and what steps they can take to get there.

As fishermen, the three areas she suggested thinking about were: 1) whether or not they are observing and monitoring changes in a way that can be documented; 2) are there fishing practices that can be changed to adapt to change; and 3) is the fisheries management system flexible enough to change.

She stated that the program is willing and available to come out to a community to talk about these issues, to help them identify changes they have seen and ways to adapt.

Ms. Cullenberg next discussed the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council's outreach committee. The committee is designed to tell the Council how to do a better job of interacting with Alaska communities. The Council is planning to come to YR DFA's meeting next year to talk about the chum bycatch issue. She encouraged YR DFA to encourage them to come to the meeting. In June of 2011 they plan to meet for the first time in their history in rural Alaska in Nome. She stated that the Council does have an advisory panel. They have started to stream their meetings on the internet although there is no process set up for testifying or providing live feedback. There is interest around the state in developing an educational program for the Council process to explain how it works.

Ms. Cullenberg next discussed what university programs are going on related to youth. There is a curriculum for kindergarten through eighth grade called Alaska Season Rivers. There are also some rural ocean science fairs around the state. At the high school level there is the national ocean science fair which is a high school competition and meets in February in Seward. Mountain Village sent a team this year. There is also the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program, ANSEP, which is in quite a few high schools around the state. It is designed to start working with kids who are interested in science and math at the junior high level. At the college level there are one-year, two-year, four-year and graduate programs. There are a lot of internships available. Currently there are 27 students studying fisheries technologies, 55 students are in the under graduate program and 126 students in graduate programs. She stated that 70 percent of these students end up working in Alaska.

Co-Chair Burnham stated that he thought science can pick up the pieces of information that people are seeing about climate change and bring it together to paint a big picture of what it may mean overall. He would like to see more money spent researching those changes in the Bering Sea.

In response to Jeep, Ms. Cullenberg stated the predictions are that there will be more fire danger due to climate change. There is information on the SNAP web page about wildfires and what it might look like in the next 100 years. She recommended they communicate their concern about fire danger and the community's needs to the State.

It was stated that the rural villages have seen a lot of the climate changes in the last 20 years or more. It was stated that out in the ocean it is not just the salmon that are being affected. Barrow is now starting to see salmon in their area. Ms. Cullenberg stated that there is research going on in the Bering Sea. She felt YRDFFA has the ability to influence the North Pacific Research Board's priorities by letters or asking to be on their citizen's advisory panel.

There was some discussion of changes people have noticed, including how ice on the river in the winter is not as thick as it used to be. Another comment regarded the change in the distribution of berries.

Ted Suckling thought it would be important for YRDFFA to have a representative on the Council's outreach committee. Ms. Cullenberg stated that the committee does not speak for YRDFFA or any other rural group; they are just discussing how to do outreach better and how to get input. The meetings are open. Jill Klein stated that Becca Robbins Gisclair is on the advisory panel to the council.

Lester Wilde commented that they are noticing on the coast that the water is rising and the temperature of the water in the ocean is rising. Elders suspect that salmon are not entering the Yukon River due to the warmer water temperatures at the mouth. He would like to see a study on the temperature of the coastal plain, particularly at the entrance of the Yukon River.

In response to George Yaska, Ms. Cullenberg stated that there have been studies of ocean acidification. It looks like it is happening faster in colder waters.

Ms. ____ updated the group on what was happening with Koyukuk's emergency plans and how they are working with the State of Alaska with the Immediate Action Work Group. They have been doing water monitoring with the Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council in partnership with Laudén. Koyukuk is one of the communities threatened by flood, erosion and fire. They received funding to develop a fire plan which is currently in draft form as well as funding to do an emergency operation plan, evaluation plan, and a continuation of organization plan. They have received funding for a community plan. The community decided to build an evacuation shelter. They have selected a site to eventually move the community to. She also discussed other plans that have been developed or are in the process of being developed.

Co-Chair Burnham made a presentation to Clara Demientieff for her help with the meals. There was a presentation to Elisa Agnes and Brianna Stickman for the newsletter articles they wrote which will be included in the next YRDFFA newsletter.

There was a presentation by school students. There was a question and answer sessions with the students.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND CLIMATE CHANGE:

Catherine Moncrieff is an anthropologist working with YRDFA and has been working for the past seven years on traditional ecological knowledge projects. She reported on a project they just finished regarding natural indicators and then what future ideas are for how to start using the knowledge in fisheries management. The project was called natural indicators of salmon run abundance and timing. She thanked the elders, the fishers and the tribal offices that helped with the research and shared their knowledge. The objectives of the project were to document traditional knowledge of salmon, to learn about natural indicators of salmon arrival, and then work with the tribal councils in the research design, interview questions and selection of participants. They also gathered information about personal and family fishing histories. Another objective was to collect information on contemporary fishing practices. In all of the study communities, discussions about natural indicators of salmon led to information about fishers' concerns. These concerns included that today previously reliable natural indicators may be less reliable, possibly due to climate change. Another issue was the current regulatory program of subsistence windows. They were specifically concerned about the dictates of fishing by the calendar and the clock rather than the traditional practices that have long indicated the best times for fishing based on weather, run timing, run quality and run abundance. Ms. Moncrieff stated the next step is what to do with this information. Understanding the mechanisms underlying the people's observations and relationships may provide managers with useful information. Further research is needed to understand the relationships between plant growth and how their timing is related to salmon arrival; heavy snowfall and salmon abundance; salmon size and water levels; and salmon abundance and size. She felt they could learn the most from the available information through a multi-disciplinary team made up of many fields of science, Native leaders, knowledgeable elders and active fishers to understand the information from different perspectives and to talk to each other about these relationships. In addition they should continue to be aware of climate change impacts and observations and consider YRDFA's role in the climate change issue.

In response to Jeep, Ms. Moncrieff stated that this was a four-year study. This report is documentation of the natural indicators that people have used.

There were statements by various Board members of observations that they have made.

In response to Lester Wilde, Ms. Moncrieff stated that they have applied to several funding sources. She would like to get a group of people together and she mentioned several names and groups she would like to see included. The group would look at different information for each of the natural indicators and then look at the salmon records to try to make some correlations so they could perhaps develop a model that Fish and Game could use in their preseason projections.

In response to Jeep, Ms. Moncrieff stated that when they make a report on a study, it is public information. It is given to whoever funds the study as well as to the libraries. Jeep sees it as a valuable tool Fish and Game could use. Carl Sidney expressed concern that

the information could be misinterpreted. Ms. Moncrieff stated one way she would try to alleviate a misinterpretation is to make sure that there are some elders and active fishers on the team.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Fred commented that YR DFA has been a backbone for the people from the villages who do not have a voice. He talked about the Pilot Station sonar serves the whole Yukon drainage. He felt there should be more sonar stations on the Yukon River. He also talked about the bycatch on the high seas. He talked about the lack of fish last year. He encouraged YR DFA to approach Fish and Game and request more sonar stations to get more accurate data for both commercial and subsistence fishing. He would like to see a sonar station by Koyukuk.

George Yaska stressed the importance of talking to their legislators. He has been talking to Jill Klein about increasing the participation at YR DFA with the tribes. He will be making a presentation to the tribes and the Tanana Chiefs Conference at the convention in Fairbanks in March.

Patrick Madrose appreciated what YR DFA was doing. He supported getting a sonar station between Koyukuk and Galena. He stressed working together to solve differences.

Orville Huntington gave an update from the Alaska Federation of Natives Board of Directors. They are looking at trying to develop something with the Department of Commerce to stop the waste of salmon on the high seas in the Pollock fishery. He is also working on the climate change study. He appreciated the work YR DFA was doing.

Fred stated that the change in mesh size will cost him half his fish net next year. He wrote a letter to the editor, Fairbanks Daily News, pointing out the fact that the Pollock fisheries' net is like a big sock and the size is about three football fields and it scrapes the bottom of the ocean. The Board of Fisheries looks the other way and penalizes the people along the Yukon for their net size. He stated that the people of the drainage and YR DFA need to put their heads together and determine what direction they want to take.

Bergman spoke about what to do about fishing. He felt the 7-1/2 inch mesh nets would kill the king salmon and there will be nothing but small fish left. He suggested a petition signed by everyone in every village to stop it.

Albert Evans stated his belief that Mother Nature is the one that is causing all the problems with the fish. Climate change is the reason. It has changed before and will change again.

Mickey discussed the Arctic Council. It is the eight arctic nations and they discuss climate change. Indigenous peoples are participants on the Council although they are not voting delegates. Because of climate change, new fishing areas are opening up. When the Council came up with a declaration, they were going to leave fish out. Through his

efforts of telling them about the Yukon, the fish were left in. He appreciated YRDFFA for getting all the people along the river talking to each other and that the discussion had gone from fighting over allocation to talking about the fish and how to help it. The nonprofit organizations need to collaborate and focus on climate change and the environment. Working together will get things done.

Joann Malemute spoke on behalf of Katy Kangas about fishing last summer. She is angry about the size of the mesh being decreased. Fishwheels catch five to six times the amount she catches, so why don't they regulate the fishwheels instead of the fish nets. Ms. Malemute stated that some of the tributaries where the fish lay their eggs are no longer assessable to the fish because they are dammed up by beavers.

Percy Alden stated that he thought YRDFFA was doing a good job and commended all the Board members. They have built a working relationship which is very healthy. He stated they have to use their traditional knowledge in a good way. The current system does not work for people. He agreed with the comments about moving the sonar site and suggested around Tanana.

Michael Jimmy talked about the Pollock fleet and the bycatch between 2002 and 2007. Between those dates they caught over 404,000 Chinook salmon.

YRDFFA Looking Forward: The Next 20 Years:

Jill Klein pointed out that there was a letter from Nick Tucker in the binders. There is also a letter from the Governor. Nick Tucker is suggesting a new arm to YRDFFA to work with the tribes.

Jill Klein stated that while the Board members works well together, there are times when there are some divisions. For example at the Board of Fish meeting it was very separated in terms of upriver and lower river. There also are some key players that are involved in fisheries management that are not sitting at the table with the Board. Ms. Klein has also talked with Carl Sidney who will be stepping down from the Yukon Salmon Committee and who would like to stay involved in YRDFFA. There are some options they can look into regarding other organizations such as a memorandum of understanding or agreement about how they all work together along the Yukon River. Another option would be to create a new kind of working group on the river where YRDFFA would have a seat at the table.

Co-Chair Burnham suggested direction to Staff to look at some of these options and present them at the fall Board for them to look at. Ted Suckling was concerned whether it would be more burdensome and confusing to what they are trying to achieve as YRDFFA by itself. Stanley Ned stated that they need to start looking at the adverse impacts to other species of fish on the Yukon River.

Stan Zuray moved to direct Staff to write down the different options they have heard on the issue of working groups and have it ready for the Board at the next fall Board meeting. There was a second.

Under discussion, Victor stated that he also heard people bring up the sonar issue. He thought that could also be a working group, but he was concerned that they had the whole summer in front of them and it needs to be looked prior to that. Co-Chair Alstrom stated he was in favor of the motion. Lester Wilde stated that Staff needs to take all the suggestions that were made and make sure all of the suggestions are addressed at the next meeting. Jeep pointed out that the Nick Tucker is asking them to create another arm of YR DFA. Co-Chair Burnham stated the intent of the motion is to take letters like Nick Tucker's as well as other recommendations that have been made at the meeting by other people and compile them so the Board can look at them at the fall meeting and look at the pros and cons of how to address them.

The question was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Al requested to speak to the co-chairs regarding going into an executive session.

RESOLUTIONS:

Staff presented a list of resolutions.

1. Host Community Resolution: Since this resolution was not written up yet, it was suggested that if this type of resolution was similar for thanking other communities, then the name of the community could just be inserted.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the resolution thanking the Community of Nulato for hosting the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Salmon Bycatch Resolution: Staff presented a template for the Board to review. It was suggested to the committee members to state in more importance the status of the Chinook runs on the Yukon River and to ask for the Secretary of Commerce to reject the bycatch cap of 60,000 Chinook salmon as proposed by the State of Alaska and adopted by the North Pacific Council. It was suggested to amend the resolution state that the people who are counting the bycatch be trustworthy, because there is no guarantee of knowing who is counting the fish and whether they are counting all the bycatch. The proposer stated he knows the count is not an accurate count. He would like to amend it to add "have trustworthy counters on each of the trawlers." There was concern expressed whether the board can question whether or not they are being truthful. Ms. Klein stated that she and Todd met with NOAA in Juneau. NOAA is in charge of the sampling program. There is a group reviewing the sampling procedures and protocols on how they sample so she thought they could make some kind of statement. Observers sample only what they can get their hands on. It is not a true random sample that is statistically created to really reflect the numbers of

salmon. There are some issues from a scientific perspective whether it is the best sample. They are trying to come up with a better sampling program. Jeep expressed concern that the board was not including a specific number for the cap. It was stated that the lowest cap the North Pacific Management Council had to consider was around 28,000 to 32,000. Ms. Klein reminded them that in the past YR DFA supported a 32,000 cap. The Co-Chair Burnham suggested going with what YR DFA supported in the past and inserting 32,000 into the resolution.

It was moved by Alexie and seconded by Frank to adopt the resolution with the 32,000 number inserted. The motion passed unanimously.

3. A Resolution Supporting Chinook Habitat and Full Life Cycle Research:
This resolution would include a specific request to the Yukon River Panel to work on a quality of escapement method of managing for and assessing of acceptable border passage.

It was stated this resolution resulted from a proposal from someone who wanted YR DFA to ask for not just research on, for example, Pilot Station sonar or the spawning grounds, but to include all the way from the marine environment. Another proposal related to the quality of escapement management. The committee combined the two proposals into one. The quality of escapement management relates to the number of male and female escapement rather than just a total number of fish. In response to Ms. Klein it was stated the resolution could be sent to the Yukon River Panel, ADF&G and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stating that YR DFA supports habitat and full life cycle research as well as developing a quality of escapement method of managing for and assessment of acceptable border passage. It is important that the quality of escapement be reasonable. In response to the Co-Chair Burnham it was stated that it is more a mode of management and a methodology change. Instead of going by a number, they would go by other data, i.e. male/female ratio. In response to Bill, it was stated that the ratio would be developed by the Yukon River Panel. It will probably take years to fully develop. It was felt that current management methods are outdated and do not make sense; it is no longer used in Washington or Oregon. It was pointed out that through a treaty with the Canadians they are obligated by law to pass 45,000 Chinooks through the border plus another 10,000 for their subsistence uses, so it would also require a change to the treaty. There was concern that meeting a ratio would be detrimental to subsistence on the Alaska side. It was stated that there would have been years in the past where the escapement was reached under the current system but would not have been under the proposed ratio method. However, the proposed method would increase the quality of escapement. It was felt that if this proposed method had been in effect when the runs first started decreasing, while it might have caused a slight reduction in the commercial fishery, they might not be where they are at right now. Jan stated that the person who presented the habitat part of the resolution was requesting that YR DFA support more research into the ocean habitat. Mr. Lester Wilde stated that the resolution needs some explanation regarding how

putting quality salmon on the spawning grounds have to do with the management of the salmon. Jill stated her understanding that the resolution was also about getting data from the spawning grounds. The only way they can assess anything is if they have the data. She thought it also was related to the net mesh size change and seeing if it makes any difference on the spawning grounds. She will work on the language. The question is whether the Board conceptually supports this resolution. The Co-Chair Burnham stated that there has been recognition, including by the Yukon River Panel, that the spawning grounds need to be looked at to see what is there. He did not think they could come to a consensus on the next step which could require changes in the treaty. He felt YR DFA could support the need to look at the spawning grounds. Bill recommended tabling this resolution until it is rewritten so they can understand what the stipulations are. He liked the concept. Jeep expressed concern that YR DFA would not be acting on this resolution until next year.

4. Chum Wanton Waste in Area M: This resolution would request the State of Alaska to review past fish ticket information to see if there is chum wanton waste taking place in the Area M fishery.

The Co-Chair Burnham stated that conceptually they were trying to force the issue on managers to look at the idea that wanton waste is still taking place and that fish tickets are a way to get at looking at it. He asked if there was a consensus on the concept. After the wording is drafted, they will take another look at it. There was consensus supporting the concept.

Ms. Klein stated none of the resolutions were finalized yet. The Board decided to go through them and see if there is consensus on the concepts. After Staff has finished working on them, then the Board will look at the final product.

5. A Resolution Asking the State of Alaska to Require Board of Fish Members to have a Background in Salmon Fishery Issues: Ms. Klein thought the intent was to have better decisionmaking. The committee does not know logistically how this would be possible and how to put it into a resolution.

Carl commented about the decision by the Board of Fish regarding reducing net size to 7 and 1/2-inch mesh and not thinking about the impacts and hardships it would cause the people of the Yukon River. This includes the cost of the nets and causing problems for people to go out and get fish. He did not feel the Board of Fish has any grassroots background because they do not realize how much hardship it is causing people. He also did not know how much information they had. The big 7 and 8-year olds were decimated by big mesh and now they are moving down and taking the next size. He did not feel the Board of Fish members used their heads when they made this decision.

The Co-Chair Burnham stated the problem he sees is that the Governor picks the members who are then finalized by the Legislature. Usually they say they have

some background in fishing. Politically, if the Governor wants the person and they say they have some background then they will be put on the Board of Fish. It is more of a political process rather than scientific. Carl suggested putting the resolution forward to the Governor's office would make them aware that it is a bothersome process.

Ms. Klein stated that there was another resolution (Number 12) with respect to Board of Fish members that could possibly combine with this point. It says a letter of support, so she was not sure it was to be a resolution. It says that YRDFFA would support Board of Fish members coming from the Yukon River Drainage or working on behalf of Arctic, Yukon, Kuskokwim fisheries. Something could be stated in there about being knowledgeable about salmon fisheries among other points. She added that currently there some momentum for Art Nelson being appointed to the Board of Fish.

The Co-Chair Burnham stated he could support the concept of the knowledge of people that are put on the Board of Fish and telling the Governor that YRDFFA wants people who have knowledge about these fisheries that they are going to be making decisions on. He was not sure how to put it in the form of a resolution.

Mr. Lester Wilde felt that the statement made by Carl is valid and should be part of the resolution and that the resolution be addressed to the Governor.

Lester Wilde moved to accept the concept.

There was a suggestion that YRDFFA implement some kind of impact study on what the cost is going to be for people to switch their nets out in each community.

Fred raised a concern that some members of families were not considered qualified subsistence fishermen because they were not federally-qualified users. He asked that the Board address that issue. More people were moving to the cities because they cannot afford to live in the Bush any more. He would like them to be able to come home and use the fish and game like they always did. He would like to see a study on this.

The Co-Chair Burnham stated that he supported a resolution regarding the background of people that would be put on the Board of Fish. There was consensus supporting this.

6. A Directive to Staff to Try to Come up with the Number of Nets Needed: This directive is to work through fishermen and/or the tribal council in each village to get an accurate number of nets as soon as possible.
7. A Resolution Regarding Determining the Number of Nets Needed, the Cost to Purchase These Nets and to Create a Process for Fair and Even Distribution: Ms. Klein stated this refers to YRDFFA will work collaboratively with others through

this process. The resolution would state that YRDFA would like to be the group to work on the net distribution.

There were no objections to putting this forward in resolution form.

George Yaska who sat on the resolution committee stated they addressed numbers 6 and 7. He stated that they need to get this information gathered in the next week and then forward it on to Senator Murkowski's office as that appropriation process is occurring right now. Senator Murkowski has asked for this information. Co-Chair Burnham added that it was incumbent on everyone at the meeting as well as Staff to try to get to the tribes and villages to get that information as quickly as possible. Ms. Klein added that anyone can call Staff if they have that information already. Fred stated that there have always been about 40 fishermen in Galena. This would be 40 fish nets at a cost of \$800 apiece. Stan asked that a list of villages and names and phone numbers be started right now. Lester Wilde pointed out that it is not necessarily \$800 each for the nets. It depends on the type of net. The price range is probably from \$800 on up depending on the net. Fred stated that there are also unqualified Federal users who have moved to a city who also have fish nets in the villages. They will also have to be changed out, but they are not represented. Co-Chair Burnham stated that they knew there will be a few who would fall through the cracks that will have to be covered. They know this will be an issue. Stan stated that the question they need to ask people in the villages is if they have any nets larger than 7 and a half-inch mesh that they want to be exchanging. They will need the length, the depth and number of nets. In response to a question, Co-Chair Burnham stated that this is for all fishermen including commercial and subsistence. George Yaska suggested working with Tanana Chiefs and AVCP. They have a group fax and email method for contacting their members.

Recording ended at this point.

February 18, 2010

RESOLUTIONS (CONT):

Co-Chair Burnham asked that they first pass the resolution regarding getting information on nets from the communities. Staff will then get some information from people present prior to their departure.

1. Resolution Thanking Host Village: This resolution was passed February 17, 2010.
7. A Resolution Regarding Determining the Number of Nets Needed, the Cost to Purchase These Nets and to Create a Process for Fair and Even Distribution:

Ms. Klein stated that the first paragraph explains YR DFA and includes both Canada and Alaska. She then read the proposed resolution. Copies are proposed to be sent to the Congressional Delegation, State of Alaska, Governor's Office, Tanana Chiefs, AVCP, Yukon Delta CDQ Group, Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife Service.

In response to a question, Co-Chair Burnham stated that the resolution relates to the whole Yukon drainage.

George suggested "Whereas a Federal emergency disaster declaration was made". Stan recommended adding CATG to those getting a copy. It was suggested to add Yukon River and its tributaries; another suggestion was to say drainage instead. Jan requested adding city councils to the distribution.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the following resolution. The question was called. The motion passed unanimously.

The Resolution will read:

Whereas Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association works on behalf of the Yukon River drainage fishing families and others who depend on wild salmon for subsistence and commercial fisheries when possible in both Alaska and the upper Canadian headwaters; and

Whereas the Alaska State Board of Fisheries recently took action to restrict the size of nets along the Yukon River to a maximum mesh size of seven and a half inches and will require a majority of fishermen along the Yukon River to buy at least one to two new nets for summer fishing season in 2011; and

Whereas Yukon River fishermen have discussed a net exchange as an effective tool for people to trade in their old nets that are larger than seven-and-a-half-inch mesh for a new net in order to target current fishermen and also to ensure old nets are disposed of properly; and

Whereas a Federal emergency disaster declaration was made by the Secretary of Commerce due to low Chinook salmon commercial fisheries in 2008 and 2009; and

Whereas YR DFA would like to see a fair and equitable distribution of new nets to the fishermen along the Yukon River drainage; and

Whereas YR DFA has a successful record of managing Federal grants with strong administrative support, we would be able to take on any responsibility as necessary and valued by the public to assist in distribution of the nets and will work collaboratively with others through this process; and

Therefore be it resolved that YRDFFA will work riverwide to determine the number and size of new nets as needed, the amount it will cost to purchase these nets, and requests to be involved in determining a process for affordable, efficient and fair distribution.

2. Salmon Bycatch Resolution: This resolution was passed on February 17, 2010.
3. Chinook Salmon Escapement Data Gathering:

Ms. Klein stated that they changed the title. The introductory paragraph remained the same. She then read the rest of it.

Lester Wilde moved to adopt the following resolution. It was seconded.

Under discussion, George requested to add to the third whereas: It is not only important to deliver the required numbers to the spawning grounds; it is also important to deliver larger older male and female.

The question was called. Motion passed unanimously.

The Resolution will read:

Whereas it is important to deliver salmon to the spawning grounds in order to insure the sustainability of the salmon runs; and

Whereas it is not only important to deliver the required numbers to the spawning grounds, it is also important to deliver older larger male and female fish to the spawning grounds to sustain the high quality of Yukon River Chinook salmon; and

Whereas mesh size changes have taken place on the Alaskan side of the border and to effectively understand the impacts of this gear change on preserving older age class and bigger fish; and

Whereas additional sampling should take place to gather age, sex, length data and other quality data at the escapement projects in order to know more about the quality of escapement on the spawning grounds; and

Whereas ASL data from the spawning grounds can be used in management decisionmaking;

Therefore be it resolved that YRDFFA recommends that the Yukon River Panel address the quality of escapement by gathering data and creating a method to utilize this data in assessing acceptable border passage.

4. Area M Wanton Waste:

Ms. Klein read the proposed resolution.

George stated they need to ask the State of Alaska to review both the submitted information and the historical fish ticket information to compare. The point is there was no time where they did not catch chum in that directed sockeye fishery. The concern is the number of submitted fish tickets showing zero chum salmon reported.

There was a question whether “fishing families” should be changed to, for example, users. It is addressing subsistence, commercial and personal use. It was suggested to use “fishing families and others” in both this and the previous resolutions. This will be done.

It was moved and seconded to pass the following resolution.

Under discussion, Lester Wilde asked if the word fishing was required in the resolution when describing other users of salmon. He recommended striking the word fishing. George asked if they were talking about just the South Peninsula fishery rather than the Area M June fishery. He recommended keying in on the South Peninsula. Ms. Klein stated she will get the exact language for the area.

The question was called. The motion passed unanimously.

The proposed resolution currently reads (to be edited later):

Whereas Yukon River chum salmon travel through the Aleutian Islands, also known as Area M, on their migratory route returning back to Western Alaska and the Yukon River, and whereas chum salmon are important to people along the Yukon River who rely on it for both food and limited income as well as feeding to sled dogs as part of their subsistence activities; and

Whereas we have an agreement with Canada to deliver an agreed upon number of fall chum to the Canadian mainstem Border and Porcupine River drainage in Canada; and

Whereas there is no limit on the number of chum salmon caught in the directed sockeye fishery in Area M, and in 2009 there were _____ chum salmon harvested, which was the highest in _____ amount of years; and

Whereas previous Board of Fisheries have implemented conservation measures in order to protect chum and sockeye salmon returning to their natal streams in Western Alaska and were then removed by more recent Board of Fisheries, and chum catches have been unregulated;

Therefore be it resolved that YRDFA asks the State of Alaska to review fish ticket information submitted by Virgil Umpenhour to the Alaska State Board of Fisheries to review both the submitted information and the historical fish ticket information on chum harvests and potential under-reporting of chum harvest in Area M.

Lester Wilde asked if it would be possible later to put some of the resolutions into proposal form. Co-Chair Burnham stated this could be discussed at the fall board meeting. Mr. Wilde felt it would strengthen them to be put into proposals.

5. A Resolution Asking the State of Alaska to Require Board of Fish Members to have a Background in Salmon Fishery Issues:

Ms. Klein stated she combined two Board of Fisheries proposed resolutions into one. One was requiring board members to have experience with salmon fisheries and the other one required people from the AYK region and rural Alaska be appointed to the board. She then read the proposed resolution. Ms. Klein stated that the Board could discuss whether they wanted to include any name(s) or no names at all. George stated that while he wants to support Art Nelson, he did not want to insult the qualifications of those who are currently on the Board of Fisheries and the people that appointed them. Stan stated that if a name is mentioned then they should also try to mention some of the other names being discussed, such as Mike Smith. He did not feel they were insulting present board members. Jan suggested they be more neutral and not include names, but word it to say they would like someone from the regions that have knowledge about the lifestyle. Stanley suggested submitting the name of someone from the upper Yukon also, such as George Yaska. George declined but supported Mike Smith from Tanana Chiefs. With respect to staying neutral, he recommended changing the title of the resolution. He wanted to stay away from the implication that there are not qualified people on the Board of Fisheries. Stan stated that Carl submitted the resolution originally because he did not feel there were qualified people on the Board of Fisheries with respect to the Yukon River issues. Bill stated he agreed with Jan that the resolutions should not include any names.

Stan stated there has been a lot of work by the Board in collaboration with the ADF&G and others. Not a single advisory committee in the state was allowed to look at the changes that went before the Board of Fisheries at the last minute. And then for the board to accept those changes even though there was testimony that there was consensus from the mouth of the river to the border that those plans not be changed, there was some frustration that the board was not being professional and looking at things clearly. That is why there is a resolution like this. He felt the resolution was respectful considering what the Board of Fisheries did.

Co-Chair Burnham stated that when resolutions of any kind get too specific there will be trouble getting unanimous consent on them. This includes putting in

names, although he felt there are people who are qualified. With respect to Board of Fisheries members being qualified or unqualified, a lot of times it is in the eyes of the beholder as to who is qualified. He stated they should respect that people make reasonable efforts to find qualified people.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the proposal without the names.

Under discussion Jill pointed out she had changed the third whereas to read "Whereas there are currently a limited number of Board of Fisheries appointees". She asked if that would address the concerns about offending anyone. George suggested saying we strongly support appointees from rural Alaska and the AYK region. He also suggested "We respectfully request Alaska Board of Fisheries follows its" either rules and regulations or meeting protocol and "the advisory council process for review." Stan supported this concept. Jill suggested changing the title to include the Board of Fisheries process and then add a statement about the Board of Fisheries process. George recommended keeping the title Board of Fisheries appointments and delete appointee qualifications. He felt the other issued may need to be addressed separately. He wanted to add "Be it resolved that YRDFFA strongly supports people who have an intimate knowledge".

The question was called. The motion passed unanimously.

The proposal reads:

Whereas the Alaska State Board of Fisheries members are appointed by the Governor to make decisions on fishing regulations that impact fisheries statewide; and

Whereas there have been limited numbers of Board of Fisheries appointees from rural Alaska, and especially from the Arctic, Yukon, Kuskokwim region who have the intimate knowledge of fisheries and a subsistence life style dependent on healthy wild salmon populations; and

Whereas a recent decision at the Alaska Board of Fisheries to change the maximum mesh size along the Yukon River were highly controversial and complex and needed the utmost scientific review and understanding in addition to local knowledge from rural Alaska; and

Whereas the AYK region is experiencing the most hardship with respect to low salmon returns and restrictions on subsistence, and little to no commercial fisheries; and

Whereas there are many qualified people from rural Alaska and others that work on behalf of AYK fisheries; and

Therefore be it resolved that YRDFFA asks the Governor of the State of Alaska to take the utmost consideration of potential Board of Fish members to ensure they are suitable candidates to make decisions on behalf of salmon fisheries in the AYK region of Alaska.

6. Subsistence Harvest Data:

Whereas the Alaska Department of Fish and Game carries out post-season subsistence surveys on an annual basis in the Yukon River Drainage; and

Whereas subsistence salmon harvest data is important to know about in order to learn about the impacts of management decisions on people who live a subsistence lifestyle and fish for Yukon River salmon to feed their families and the remaining dog teams along the Yukon River that are used for subsistence activities; and

Whereas subsistence harvest data is necessary to utilize in winter meetings where people discuss fisheries management strategies and need to use in fisheries regulatory and management decisionmaking; and

Whereas the public has not been receiving timely information about subsistence harvest in communities along the Yukon River; and

Whereas the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is responsible for gathering data and carrying out analysis and should carry out this mandate in a timely manner;

Therefore be it resolved that ADF&G carry out analysis of post-season harvest surveys in a timely manner to deliver it to the public.

Jill asked if they wanted to define what a timely manner was. Co-Chair Burnham felt that while timely is vague, the group knows they want to hurry up the release of information.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the resolution as written. The question was called. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Water Temperature Monitoring

Jill Klein read the proposed resolution.

Lester Wilde suggested including all the mouths entering into the river as there are five or six mouths that enter the river. Co-Chair Burnham felt that the mouth of the Yukon would include all of them. Lester agreed.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the resolution.

Under discussion, George stated they were discussing near-marine estuary of the Yukon River Delta. He suggested adding it to the resolved section, replacing “coast of the”. Lester Wilde stated that if they wanted to cover the main mouths of the river that would be the North Mouth, the Bagumarek Mouth (near Kotlik), the Middle mouth and the South Mouth. The main thing is to get the temperature out where the mouths are that the fish need to swim through. Stan added that the concern is whether the water in those estuary areas getting so warm that it is deterring salmon from coming into the river. While including the whole river is important, it waters down the idea that Lester brought out. He suggested that before the “Be it resolved” adding “whereas this warm estuary water could be diverting salmon and not allowing salmon to come into the river”. Lester stated that that was what the elders wanted, a study at the mouth before the salmon enter the river. The elders believe that warm temperatures coming out of the tidal plans are causing the salmon to detour and follow the cold water north. He stated they wanted to check the temperature at the mouth at low tide, because when the tide comes in, that water is still warm. When the time comes in, it pushes the warm water into the river. George suggested adding “and investigate the relationship between the water temperature and in-river migration” to the “Therefore” clause. Jeep questioned what would be done with the information if they find out the water is warmer and felt the resolution was a waste of time. Co-Chair Burnham stated that if they do not find answers to questions then you are always wondering if that might be one of the causes.

The question was called. The motion passed unanimously.

The resolution now reads:

Whereas water temperatures in the Yukon River greatly impact salmon returning to rearing and spawning in the mainstem and river tributaries; and

Whereas scientific knowledge states that salmon depend on temperature of the water to return to their natal streams; and

Whereas climate changes are taking place and even slight increases in water temperature may deter the sustainability of Yukon River salmon; and

Whereas gathering and tracking temperature at the coast of the Yukon River and all along the Yukon River will be useful to use in monitoring the long-term health of the salmon and the habitat they depend on; and

Whereas local people living in the Yukon Delta communities should be involved in efforts to take temperature data; and

Whereas this warm estuary water could be diverting salmon and not allowing salmon to come into the river;

Therefore be it resolved that YRDFA supports increased water temperature monitoring at the near-marine estuary of the Yukon River Delta and investigation of the relationship between the water temperature and in-river migration and that this information be made available to the public on an annual basis.

9. Supporting Collaboration between Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association and Doyon, Limited

Ms. Klein explained that this resolution came before the meeting. There was discussion where Doyon was approached for financial contribution to YRDFA. Doyon would like to support YRDFA, but would like to see a resolution from YRDFA about YRDFA's relationship with Doyon and supporting collaboration between the two entities. The first few paragraphs are about the Yukon River.

Whereas the YRDFA's mission is to promote healthy wild salmon fisheries in the Yukon River Drainage; and

Whereas preservation of wild Yukon River salmon fisheries is important to residents throughout the drainage and YRDFA supports both subsistence and commercial fisheries; and

Whereas Yukon River communities depend on wild healthy salmon for food, cultural activities and also a source of limited income; and

Whereas YRDFA understands the need for economic development in the Yukon River region, provided that the highest standards for environmental protection are adhered to in order to provide for sustainable communities with strong economies; and

Whereas Doyon, Limited is a regional Alaska Native corporation with 17,550 shareholders and one of the largest private land owners in America, owns surface and subsurface lands over a large portion of the Yukon River drainage in Alaska and has a fiduciary obligation to develop its interests in gold, oil, gas, timber and other minerals on its lands on behalf of its shareholders, many of whom reside in the Yukon River drainage; and

Whereas Doyon, Limited's mission is to continually enhance their position as a financially strong Native corporation in order to promote the economic and social well being of their shareholders and future shareholders, to strengthen their Native way of life, and to protect and enhance their land and resources, which includes support for subsistence and commercial fisheries in the Yukon River drainage, as well as job creation and other opportunities related to natural resources development; and

Whereas Doyon remains expressly committed to meet state and federal standards of protection, but it has also committed itself to higher levels of protection which is reflected by one of the best industrial environmental and safety records in Alaska;

Now therefore be it resolved that YRDFA is fully supportive of collaborative work between YRDFA and Doyon that addresses salmon fisheries along the Yukon River in order to sustain the fishing way of life for people along the Yukon River; and

Now therefore be it further resolved that YRDFA shall use their best efforts to work with Doyon in a collaborative, nonjudicial and private forum to resolve any perceived concerns or objections which YRDFA may have with their natural resources development projects on Doyon lands.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the resolution.

Under discussion Co-Chair Burnham stated although they have been trying to seek funds to help augment YRDFA's abilities to function, etc. and they have received monies from other entities, the way the resolution is written it is almost like a contract and is trying to secure very specific views on how YRDFA may view Doyon in the future. It makes him uncomfortable. He was concerned there were too many strings associated with the resolution. Mr. Lester Wilde agreed. Jan also had great reservations about the strings attached to this resolution although she would like to see YRDFA work more closely with organizations such as Doyon. She added that some things that Doyon chooses to do are highly controversial even among their shareholders. Stanley did not support the resolution. Bill did not support the resolution. George pointed out that the resolution does not say YRDFA cannot oppose Doyon. They ask the Association to use their best efforts to work with them first before bringing opposition to any of their projects. Co-Chair Burnham applauded Staff's efforts to secure funds wherever they can. He did not think they would get consensus on the resolution. Mr. Lester Wilde did not support the resolution. Ted stated he and Jill talked to the president of Doyon about the donations they could possibly make. They know YRDFA's mission. He was concerned when he heard the stipulations Doyon wanted. Co-Chair Burnham cautioned that they do not preclude themselves from ever working with Doyon. He would like to continue to look at how YRDFA may be able to get some funding in a way that will satisfy both organizations' mandates. George asked if there was support for the resolution if the second resolve was eliminated.

Jill stated that Staff has identified other corporate entities and other organizations that YRDFA might be able to approach for funding. Doyon and Chalista were the two that came to mind as working on similar issues and represent similar people. There is a statement in the bylaws stating YRDFA will always work on riverwide issues and never work on one issue at the expense of another. She stated that

Staff was planning to also approach Chalista and ask for their support. They were striving for a balance. Stan stated he felt comfortable with the proposal. The key is the words best efforts, which is what Doyon is asking of YRDFA. He was in favor if Doyon was willing to work with YRDFA and give them support and funding.

The question was called. There was not consensus.

Jill Klein stated that she would like to continue to try to work with all of the corporations. Lester Wilde stated that they have worked hard to eliminate the upriver/downriver concept and to work together. There were other comments regarding creating divisions between upriver and downriver as well as resolutions like this jeopardizing the integrity of YRDFA.

Co-Chair Burnham thanked the resolution committee and Staff for their work.

Jill Klein went over the staff directives:

1. Write a letter to the Governor to conduct a review of the sonar technology through the National Academy of Sciences; to review the latest acceptable sonar technology and other best management tools that might be acceptable and how best to use this on the Yukon River for salmon enumeration.
2. Continue to increase awareness of Chinook run problems in villages so people understand the need for restrictions (outreach and education).
3. Get the number and size of nets that are needed for the new mesh size change.

BYLAW REVISIONS:

Jill Klein stated that the bylaw changes were housekeeping and nothing substantive. It can be addressed at the next meeting.

2011 MEETING LOCATION SITES:

Lester Wilde nominated Mountain Village. Bill nominated Scammon Bay as a secondary site.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

Co-Chair Burnham thanked the principal at the school and the people of Nulato for allowing them to use the school for the meeting, for expressing their views and for supporting the meeting in other ways. He thanked the people from other villages for also participating. He also thanked Henry for his service on the YRDFA board. He complimented and thanked the YRDFA Staff for their work.

On behalf of the lower river villages Bill extended their thanks to the community of Nulato. He also thanked the staff for their work to make the meeting possible. He thanked the people from the surrounding villages for attending the meeting and all the participants.

Stanley Ned thanked YRDFFA Staff for doing a good job. He thanked George Yaska for trying to find money for YRDFFA. He thanked the community of Nulato for hosting the meeting. He thanked the Canadians who came down and attended the meeting.

On behalf of the people on the Coast, Lester Wilde thanked the people of the Nulato.

Al thanked the people of Nulato as well as the Board members and Staff.

Ted thanked the people of Nulato as well as the Staff.

Carl apologized for not being present the first two days. He expressed his thanks to the YRDFFA Board. He thanked the community of Nulato for hosting the meeting.

Carl thanked the community of Nulato for their hospitality. He recognized the Board members and announced this would probably be his last meeting of YRDFFA on behalf of the Yukon Salmon Subcommittee. He hoped they would continue to work together for the benefit of the salmon and salmon habitat. He introduced Ron who is a new member on the subcommittee. Ron thanked the community for their hospitality.

Ole Hunter thanked everyone for coming. He thanked the people of Nulato for their hospitality.

Benedict Jones thanked everyone for coming to Nulato and also the people of Nulato for hosting the meeting.

Angie thanked everyone for coming to Nulato and also thanked the people of Nulato for hosting the meeting.

Al apologized for wanting to go into executive session on the 17th. He thanked the people of Nulato for their hospitality.

Larry Smelk (ph), vice mayor of Nulato, thanked everyone for coming.

Jill Klein thanked the community of Nulato for hosting the 20th annual YRDFFA meeting. She thanked the board members for their participation. She thanked the participants from the other communities for their participation. She also thanked the Staff as well as the Restoration and Management fund from the Yukon River

Panel Treaty Implementation Funds who funded the meeting. She also thanked those who contributed donations to the raffle.

Jeep thanked the community of Nulato for their hospitality as well as those who made the meeting possible. He liked YRDFA going into the villages to hear the people's points of view.

Alexie Walters, Sr. thanked the people of Nulato for hosting the meeting.

Ephrim Thompson thanked the people of Nulato for their hospitality.

Robert thanked them for the opportunity to come and learn. He thanked his host family as well as the people of Nulato for their hospitality.

Shirley Clark thanked the people of Nulato for their hospitality.

Bill thanked the people of Nulato for the good time they had at the meeting as well as the entertainment that was provided. He also thanked all the Board members.

Co-Chair Burnham thanked the musicians who played in the evenings. Bill thanked the ladies who danced for them the evening of the 17th. He thanked Benedict for his songs, the musicians and the people who participated in the dancing.

ADJOURN:

Lester Wilde moved to adjourn the 20th annual meeting of YRDFA. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.