



Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board





Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board
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from the chair

During my second term as Chair of the Board for 2013/14, the Executive furthered the objectives laid out in our Strategic Plan, continuing to improve on our relationships with First Nations, the Department of Environment, Renewable Resources Councils, the Yukon Salmon Subcommittee and the Department of Energy Mines and Resources.

An example of the Board's more inclusive approach was our collaborative efforts with the Department of Environment, First Nations, and Renewable Resources Councils, on the initiative to amend the Wildlife Act to conform with First Nation Final Agreements. Though this exercise has been set aside for now, the Board's position on this matter was shared openly with Renewable Resources Councils and Yukon First Nations. This willingness to share our work was very well received.

The Board spent considerable time creating opportunities for public involvement in initiatives that included changes to Canada's Fisheries Act, and the Yukon Wildlife Act Regulation Change Process. Through our Working Group the Board also engaged the public in its review of options to reduce roadside bear hunting and wildlife viewing conflicts which resulted in a formal recommendation to advance proposed harvest limitations through the Yukon Wildlife Act regulation change process. Our final goal is to effectively reduce conflicts without unduly affecting either interest.

As the Board Chair, I attended several meetings locally and nationally, including but not limited to, public and government sponsored meetings on proposed changes to Canada's Fisheries Act as well as the Yukon Wildlife Act, the Yukon Department of Economic Development, the Minister and Deputy Minister of Environment, the Minister of Energy Mines and Resources, the Southern Lakes Wildlife Spring Gathering, Board Working Groups, Yukon Water Strategy, meetings with Yukon Aboriginal Relations on Board and Renewable Resources Contribution Agreements, the inaugural Aboriginal Harvesters Conference and our annual Christmas Open House. I successfully chaired five meetings of the Board as a whole, including the RRC Chairs meeting.

The Board went paperless in 2013-2014, moving from printed to digital Board kits with the purchase of ipads and appropriate training for members. Our decision to move to paperless kits was based on cost, convenience and environmental concerns. Despite challenges at the start, the move has been a big success.

Finally, the Board made recommendations or sent correspondence on Class I Staking, the Peel Land Use Plan, the Yukon Amphibian Management Plan, COSEWIC Status Reports on Wood Bison, Wolverine, Mountain Caribou, and Grizzly Bears, along with letters on the MacMillan River Habitat Protection Area, the Yukon Animal Health Act, Southern Lakes Coordinating Committee, the Yukon Water Strategy, amendments to the Canada Fisheries Act and the Yukon Wildlife Act and accompanying Policy Discussion papers and applicable Regulation Changes. The Board made inroads with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, gaining national recognition for our effective public engagement in the review of their Fisheries Act Policy Discussion Paper.

It has been an honour to serve as Chair of the Board for the past two years and I would like to thank our Board members and staff for making my time as Chair such a success.

Sincerely,
Harvey Jessup
Chair, YFWMB 2012 – 2014



board members

from top, left to right:

Harvey Jessup, Chair
Frank Thomas, Vice-Chair

Richard Sidney
Shirley Ford
Terry Wilkinson
Bob Dickson
Wayne Jim
Gladys Netro
Dave Andrew
Simon Johnson
Jim King
Dennis Dickson (not pictured)



staff

from top, left to right:

Graham Van Tighem – Executive Director
Diane Sheldon – Office Manager
Maggie Wright – Researcher

executive

Harvey Jessup, Chair
Frank Thomas, Vice-Chair
Graham Van Tighem, Executive Director

what is

the yukon fish and wildlife management board?

In 1995 the Yukon Umbrella Final Agreement came into effect. This agreement established the framework for the settlement of First Nation Land Claims in the Yukon Territory. It also created several public bodies that bring First Nations and other Yukon residents together to manage Yukon lands and resources. Chapter 16 of the Umbrella Final Agreement recognizes the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board as “the primary instrument of Fish and Wildlife management in the Yukon.” At the working level, the Board deals with conservation and management of fish, wildlife, habitat and wildlife users on a territory-wide basis.

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board is an advisory body consisting of 12 members appointed by the Minister of Environment. Six members are nominated by the Council of Yukon First Nations and six by the Government of Yukon. Members are individuals with a demonstrated commitment to conservation and sustainable use of our fish and wildlife resources. Appointments to the Board are five-year terms.

The Board focuses its efforts on Territorial policies, legislation and other measures to help guide management of fish and wildlife, conserve habitat and enhance the renewable resources economy throughout the territory. The Board influences management decisions through public education and by making recommendations to Yukon, Federal and First Nation governments.

Recommendations are based on the best technical, Traditional and local information available.

In order to develop an understanding of issues and form recommendations, the Board works in partnership with Federal, Territorial and First Nation Governments as well as Renewable Resources Councils and other UFA Boards and Councils. The Board relies on its partners and the public for technical information and local or Traditional Knowledge. The governments are responsible for gathering information on fish and wildlife resources and designing management processes, as well as day to day management of fish and wildlife and the enforcement of laws.

Renewable Resources Councils are local management bodies established in Traditional Territories where First Nation final agreements are signed. The Councils are responsible for fish, wildlife, habitat and forestry matters specific to the appropriate Traditional Territory. They also play an important advisory role to the Board by raising awareness of specific issues and providing local and Traditional information.

In recent years all partners in the new fish and wildlife management regime in Yukon have experienced a steep learning curve. As each partner gains experience and further develops its role, Yukon will move toward a system wherein everyone works together to ensure the conservation of wildlife and their habitats.

powers+responsibilities

of the yukon fish and wildlife management board

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board will work within its mandate toward achieving the objectives of the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) established in 16.1.0. These general objectives related to the management of fish and wildlife in the Yukon provide the broad policy context for the Board. Specifically, the Board may exercise the following powers and responsibilities assigned by the UFA:

- make recommendations to the appropriate Minister, Yukon First Nations and Renewable Resources Councils on all matters related to Fish and Wildlife management, legislation, research, policies and programs (16.7.11);
- make recommendations to the appropriate Minister regarding policies for the management of Fish and Wildlife and their habitats (16.7.12.1);
- make recommendations to the appropriate Minister on the need for and the content and timing of all Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Plans for species included in international agreements, threatened species or populations, species or populations declared by the Minister as being of territorial, national or international interest, and transplanted populations and exotic species (16.7.12.2);
- review and make recommendations to the appropriate Minister and to Yukon First Nations on the management plans recommended by Renewable Resources Councils, specifically with respect to population goals and management options (16.7.12.3);
- where required by species or population management plans, recommend to the appropriate Minister a Total Allowable Harvest (16.7.12.4);
- review and recommend to the appropriate Minister adjustments to Basic Needs Levels (16.7.12.5);
- make recommendations to the appropriate Minister regarding positions on and the need for inter-jurisdictional agreements that affect the conservation and use of Fish and Wildlife in the Yukon (16.7.12.6);
- after consultation with affected Renewable Resources Councils, recommend to the appropriate Minister restrictions on methods and practices of harvest for reasons of conservation, public health, public safety and protection of the renewable resources economy associated with the use of Fish and Wildlife (16.7.12.7);
- at the request of a Renewable Resources Council, assist it with its duties (16.7.12.8);
- with the approval of the Minister, delegate the performance of its responsibilities to a Renewable Resources Council (16.7.12.9);
- in consultation with Renewable Resources Councils, identify new opportunities and recommend to the appropriate Minister specific management measures for commercial uses of Fish and Wildlife (16.7.12.10);
- participate in the public proceedings of any agency, board or commission dealing with matters that affect the management and conservation of Fish and Wildlife and their habitat in the Yukon (16.7.13);
- prior to the amendment or introduction of legislation for Fish and Wildlife in the Yukon, advise the Minister on the matters to be addressed in that legislation (16.7.16); and
- make recommendations prior to the Minister declaring a species or population to be of territorial, national or international interest (16.7.19).

strategic goals

2013/2014

Strategic/Policy Approach

From 2008-2010 Members of the Board discussed its goals and objectives relative to Chapter 16 with the intent of becoming more effective providers of broader strategic policy advice to the Minister and to Yukon First Nations for the long-term effective management of Yukon's fish and wildlife.

The Board's Strategic Plan was approved in 2012 and included the following four major goals:

GOAL 1: Apply a positive and respectful approach in fulfilling our responsibilities and mandate.

Strategies

- A. Maintain openness and transparency
- B. Build relationships with Governments and Yukon Public
- C. Provide support
- D. Build relationships and collaborate with other Boards and Councils
- E. Maintain/adhere to Board operating procedures and administrative policies

GOAL 2: Be integral in the management of fish and wildlife and their habitats as per Final Agreements.

Strategies

- A. Reaffirm advisory capacity in liaising and collaborating with partner Boards and Councils, First Nation, territorial, and federal governments, public, non-government organizations and other agencies.
- B. Take the lead on legislative and policy changes and engage in processes advanced by other Boards, Councils or Committees
- C. Advance timely regulation change, policy, management plan recommendations as per UFA and track deliverables/hold parties accountable

GOAL 3: Maintain confidence and integrity in the Board.

Strategies

- A. Enhance communication
- B. Maintain transparency and accessibility, consistent with 1.1
- C. Provide support to RRCs

GOAL 4: Be instrumental in creating partnerships with governments, agencies and other interests.

Strategies

- A. Ensure Yukon First Nations are involved at the outset of fish and wildlife management processes.
- B. Facilitate relationships between First Nations and RRCs.
- C. Work with government to build policies and management plans.

board special working committees

2013/2014

- **Angling Working Group**

Throughout 2013 the Angling Working Group continued to consider aspects of licenced fishing including barbless regulations, slot limits and habitat and stock restoration.

- **Communication Working Group**

A new Group which assisted in developing the new YFWMB website along with much-needed communication tools. In 2013 this Group merged with the YFWMB Calendar Working Group to continue to develop our ever-popular calendar. The calendar has become a partnership initiative with the Department of Environment, the Salmon Sub-committee and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust that provides numerous wildlife appreciation, education and harvest date reminders as well as educational sidebars and serves to support the Department of Environment TIPPS program.

- **Fish and Fish Habitat Working Group**

A Group reated out of the Board's mandate to make provisions for public involvement in our decision-making with respect to recent regulation and policy changes to the Federal Fisheries Act. Given assurance that as per 16.7.16 the Board would be involved in consultations on the policy and regulatory framework of the amended Fisheries Act, this Working Group utilized extensive resources to make provisions for public involvement prior to submitting the Board's comments on the Fisheries Act Policy Discussion Paper.

- **Habitat Management Working Group**

This Working Group was borne out of the YFWMB mandate which includes habitat management. As its first directive in 2012, the Group met with the Minister of Energy mines and Resources (EMR) to follow up on matters addressing decisions made by EMR that have implications for habitat in Yukon.

- **Licensed Hunting and Wildlife Act Regulation Change Review Group**

In 2013 this Working Group reviewed *Yukon Wildlife Act* regulation changes and made recommendations that were advanced in early 2014. The Group also continued to work on and apply new review criterion established by the previous Working Group (insert name here) to propose changes to regulations within the *Yukon Wildlife Act*.

- **Non-Consumptive Use Working Group**

This Group was begun in 2013 to address concerns over legal harvest of bears on roadways being observed by non-consumptive users (wildlife viewers). The Group examined roadside bear harvest statistics, background information and vetted five options which ranged from full closures of roadside bear harvest to a status quo of no change in 2013-2014.

- **Policy, Legislation, and Regulation Working Group**

Among many concerns related to policy, legislation and regulations, this Group addressed the review of the Yukon Wildlife Act toward bringing it into conformity with First Nation Final Agreements.



special working committees

2013/2014



- **Personnel Committee**

This Committee held regular meetings to conduct staff performance appraisals and address items consistent with the Board's Administrative Policies and Procedures.

- **Strategic Planning Working Group**

Established this year, the work plan of this Group – which includes our Executive Committee comprised of the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Executive Director – was based on the goals and objectives of the strategic plan which assisted the Board in:

- Fulfilling our mandate,
- Becoming integral in the management of fish and wildlife in the Yukon,
- Maintaining confidence and integrity in the Board, and
- Becoming instrumental in creating partnerships with various governments, agencies and other interests.

- **Sharing the Land Scholarship Working Group**

This Group makes the winning selection for YFWMB's Sharing the Land Scholarship through reviews of applicant submissions consisting of two-page essays, acceptance letters and academic transcripts. Winners of the Scholarship are chosen on an annual basis for the \$1000 award.

- **Trapper Working Group (Board and Renewable Resources Council)**

Created at the 2012 Renewable Resources Council Annual General Meeting, the Trapper Working Group is a partnership between YFWMB and representatives from the Renewable Resources Council. The Group has proposed to take a two-step approach to enhancing the Yukon's trapping industry that includes both short and long-term goals ensuring mandate fulfillment and the enhancement of a renewable resources economy. A special focus within this Group will be on community-based and community-driven solutions to challenges within the trapping industry. The Group has already received a letter of support from the Minister of Environment/Economic Development, the Hon. Currie Dixon, indicating a commitment of two staff from his offices to directly assist in furthering the objectives of this committee.

- **Wildlife Habitat Working Group**

In 2013-14 this Group worked on an analysis of current regulations governing the management of wildlife habitat within the territory. Early in this process members spent time focusing on current legislation and developing a strategic starting point for the Group toward assessing a relational gap between the Board and Yukon Energy Mines and Resources, that this gap may be minimised.

- **Wildlife Management Plan Working Group**

Members of this Group attended meetings to discuss management plans for various species including amphibians, bison and elk toward an analysis of which should be considered for future comprehensive management plans.

- **Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust Working Group**

A successful call for proposals was held by this Group in 2013-2014, followed by monitoring of the Group's portfolio and a review of submitted proposals with technical assistance from the Yukon Government.

legislation and regulation

2013/2014

Changes to Regulations Under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*



The Board worked cooperatively with staff at Yukon Environment to improve the regulation change proposal process. Many meetings were held between the two parties in 2012-2013 to improve our application package for submitting regulation change proposals. This new process was further developed in 2013-2014 and utilized in the regulation change cycle for that year. The Board's recommendations for regulation changes in 2013-2014 were as follows:

SUBSTANTIVE REGULATION CHANGES under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*:

1. Faro Area Moose Management

The Department of Environment proposed to review enabling provisions for the Minister to impose season timing date restrictions or a threshold hunt for game management subzones 4-42 to 4-46.

Recommendations:

- 1.1 The Board recommends a change to the regulations that will enable the Minister to modify harvest regulations adaptively in these Game Management Subzones in response to new information or emerging issues;
- 1.2 The Board further recommends the Minister employ a Threshold Hunt which would include a mandatory 72 hour reporting requirement and a hunt closure once the harvest limit is reached.

legislation and regulation

2013/2014

Rationale:

Voluntary restrictions in the listed subzones that would have hunters stop hunting moose once the harvest limit is reached are not working. As such, the Board supports the proposal to enable the Minister to modify harvest regulations adaptively. While many of the respondents to our public review supported this proposal, there was little support for a proposal that would include season timing. Given the past experience, many felt the harvest limit for these subzones (once determined) would be reached and likely exceeded regardless of season date timing restrictions. The Board therefore determined the best option would be a threshold hunt, which would have better success at ensuring the harvest limit was not exceeded.

2. Improve the Special Guiding License Process

The Department of Environment proposed to improve the special guiding license process by aligning with other permits and annually employing the existing lottery process.

Recommendation:

- 2.1 The Board recommends the Minister accept the proposal;
- 2.2 The Board further recommends the Department and the Board collaborate through a Special Working Group to assess and determine the specific details of this change and propose implementing a set of recommendations for the 2015-2016 hunting season.

Rationale:

The majority of the public supported this proposal. That said, details of the proposal did not address several factors raised during the public review. After some discussion it was agreed that, based on public input, the Board and the Department should "fine tune" specifics of the proposal to consider:

- The prospect of a special guide surrendering his/her hunting seal for the time during which he/she guides for the species being hunted;
- The prospect of limiting individuals on special guides to hunting only one, rather than all three, of the ungulates listed;
- The prospect of removing or raising the special guide cap;
- Determine details related to the possibility of implementing a limit entry draw

3. Permit Hunt for Mountain Goats in the Itsi Range

Establish a permit hunt with up to 3 permits for mountain goats in the Itsi Range, Game Management Subzones 11-01, 11-02, and 11-03, and enable the Minister to limit permits or refuse the issue of permits in one or more of these subzones.

Recommendations:

- 3.1 The Board recommends the Minister set aside the proposal.

Rationale:

It should be noted there was public support for this regulation change, but the Board had to consider this proposed regulation change in the context of many factors (some competing), including the current outfitter quota, the latest survey results, the present limited access, an almost total lack of interest from resident hunters and, if restricted today, future hunting opportunities.

After much deliberation it was agreed that pending addressing the present quota of 5 goats in 5 years, this proposal should be set aside and a total closure considered if and when access into aforementioned subzones becomes a reality.

legislation and regulation (continued)

2013/2014



4. Adaptive Management of the Fortymile Caribou Herd

The Department of Environment proposed enabling adaptive management of the harvest of Fortymile caribou in Game Management Subzones 2-19, 2-20, 2-21 and 2-24 along with all of Game Management Zone 3 except 3-18, and 3-20 and Game Management Subzones 5-01 and 5-02.

Recommendation:

- 4.1 The Board recommends the Minister accept the proposal to enable adaptive management of the harvest of Fortymile Caribou in the Game Management Subzones listed above while respecting the current commitment to the 2012-2018 Fortymile Caribou Harvest Management Plan.

Rationale:

There was considerable public support for this proposal, and the Board supports an initiative that enables future harvesting opportunities for Yukoners. However, it should be noted that the Board and the Department of Environment are both signatories of the 2012-2018 International Fortymile Caribou Harvest Management Plan. Within the Plan, Yukon, represented by Yukon Government's Department of Environment, the Dawson District Renewable Resources Council, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and the Board agreed to put its harvest share back into herd growth. The Board's support for this proposal is conditional on our commitment to the objectives of the Harvest Management Plan until its renewal in 2018.

5. Non-Retention of Lake Trout in Pine Lake

The Department of Environment proposed a regulation change that would require the release of all lake trout caught in Pine Lake.

Recommendation:

- 5.1 The Board recommends the Minister accept the proposal;
- 5.2 The Board further recommends the Department of Environment assess lake trout populations in Pine Lake to determine what can be done to enhance populations over the long term;
- 5.3 The Board also recommends the development and display of educational materials at Pine Lake explaining the mortality risks of live release angling of lake trout and include information on the status of lake trout;
- 5.4 The Board recommends that Pine Lake be designated a class of water similar to Dezadeash Lake wherein only single barbless hooks are permitted.

legislation and regulation (continued)

2013/2014



Rationale:

This proposal is a result of recent angler success surveys, estimates on productivity of the lake and the conclusion that harvest of lake trout has greatly exceeded recommended levels for maintaining a high-quality fishery. The Board supports the proposal with the understanding that future surveys on the lake will determine population recovery following this restriction having been put into place. Should lake trout numbers recover and increase, the Boards would like to see retention of lake trout reinstated.

As this proposal affects a localized population of fish, the Board consulted with the Alsek Renewable Resources Council (ARRC), given their responsibility as “the primary instrument for local renewable resources management in that Traditional Territory”. Recommendations 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 came to the Board from the Alsek RRC in accordance with 16.6.9 of the Final Agreements.

The Board has also requested a scientific presentation from the Department pertaining to the effects of harvesting fish species such as whitefish and burbot on the survival rates of young lake trout and lake trout eggs. If such an effect is deemed positive, the Board would like consideration given to educating the public on the benefits of and methods for harvesting these fish species.

6. Non- Retention of Lake Trout in Upper and Lower Snafu Lakes and Tarfu and Little Tarfu Lakes.

The Department of Environment proposed a regulation change to prohibit retention of lake trout caught in Upper and Lower Snafu Lakes and Tarfu and Little Tarfu Lakes.

Recommendations:

- 6.1 The Board recommends the Minister accept the proposal;
- 6.2 The Board further recommends periodic lake trout stock assessments and angler harvest/practices surveys at least every 5 years to determine the effectiveness and continuing need for the non-retention regulation for lake trout;
- 6.3 The Board also recommends development of on-site angler education programs in conjunction with the CTRRC to explain the need and rationale for the regulation and best live-release practices;
- 6.4 The Board recommends the Department of Environment assess the need for parallel regulations on Little Atlin Lake given the potential for the Snafu/Tarfu regulation to deflect angling pressure to other nearby lakes.

legislation and regulation (continued)

2013/2014



Rationale:

This proposal is a result of recent angler success surveys and estimates on lake productivity. As the proposal affects a localized population of fish, the Board consulted with the Carcross Tagish Renewable Resources Council (CTRRC) which is responsible for “local renewable resources management in that Traditional Territory”. The Carcross Tagish RRC supports our recommendation and submitted recommendations 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 in accordance with 16.6.9 of the Final Agreements. Similar to our rationale in 5.1, the Board has requested a scientific presentation from the Department pertaining to the effects of harvesting fish species such as whitefish and burbot on the survival rates of young lake trout and lake trout eggs. If such an effect is deemed positive, the Board would like consideration given to educating the public on the benefits of and methods for harvesting these fish species.

7. Change Louise (Jackson) Lake to a Special Management Water

The Department of Environment proposed to reduce the catch and possession limits for fish species on Louise (Jackson) Lake with a change from management under General Regulation to management under Special Management Waters – Category C.

Recommendations:

7.1 The Board recommends the Minister accept the proposal.

Rationale:

As with the previous two proposals, this proposal resulted from recent angler success surveys and estimates on productivity of the lake along with angler creel and effort surveys. It is our understanding there will be future surveys on the lake to determine whether the population recovered following this change. As outlined in the previous two proposals, the Board is interested in furthering public education on methods of harvesting species such as whitefish and burbot if evidence suggests such harvesting would improve survival rates of young lake trout/grayling and lake trout eggs.

8. Remove the Dempster 500 Meter No-Hunting Corridor

The Department of Environment proposed to remove the 500 meter no hunting corridor for all hunters along the Dempster Highway from km 68 to the Yukon/Northwest Territory (NWT) border.

Recommendation:

8.1 The Board recommends the Minister accept the proposal

Rationale:

This proposal mimics the original submission of recommendations from the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) which included the removal of the 500 meter no hunting corridor on the Dempster Highway for hunting Porcupine caribou.

legislation and regulation (continued)

2013/2014



During its public review, the Board received significant support for the proposal. In light of the fact that the no hunting corridor is not being enforced, its removal is the next logical step.

9. Remove the One Week Hunting Closure on the Dempster

The Department of Environment proposed to remove the one week hunting closure on the Dempster Highway.

Recommendations:

9.1 The Board recommends the Minister accept the proposal.

Rationale:

This proposal mimics the original submission of recommendations from the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) which included the removal of the one week hunting closure on the Dempster Highway. The Board supports the PCMB recommendation. However, like the PCMB, it would like to express shared disappointment with many in the public sphere that this first regulation generated solely from Traditional Knowledge is to be rescinded.

10. Compulsory Signaling of Traps by Yukon Trappers

A member of the Yukon public advanced a regulation change proposal that would make signaling of traps on trails or roads compulsory. Mandatory posting of visible signs would be required 100 meters ahead of the start of all active traplines.

Recommendation:

10.1 The Board recommends the Minister set aside this proposal;

10.2 The Board further recommends that the Department educate both the Yukon public and trappers that dogs and other domestic animals could be harmed should they encounter traps on traplines and well-traveled trails adjacent to traplines.

Rationale:

This proposal was advanced following an accidental catch of a family dog travelling on a road on an active trapline. The dog wandered off the road and was caught in a conibear trap and killed. The Board deliberated this proposal at great length and expressed serious regret for the death of this family pet. However, the challenge with this proposal was balancing the public interest with that of an already-struggling trapping industry. Voluntary signaling of traps is currently a fairly well accepted practice. With that in mind the Board deemed that from a practical, legal, and industry perspective mandatory signage is problematic at this time. Therefore the Board will continue to encourage the Department, the Yukon Trappers Association and others to address this issue through education.

administrative regulation changes

2013/2014

The Board further recommends the Minister accept the following administrative regulation change proposed by the Department:

Simplify Guided Trapping

Revoke s. 8.5(3) of the Trapping Regulations which requires both the concession holder and the prospective guided trapper to visit the office to acquire a guided trapping permit and manage permitting through administrative processes.

The proposal will allow trappers to obtain guided trapping permits without requiring the client to be physically present in an Environment Yukon office. The current regulation prescribing the criteria for a trapper to obtain a guided trapping license for a non-resident trapper is more onerous than the requirements for an outfitter obtaining a hunting license for a non-resident hunter.



sharing the land scholarship

2012/2013



Every year the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a post-secondary student who demonstrates, in writing, how his or her educational goals and commitment foster respectful relationships between people and the animals with whom we share the Yukon landscape.

Applicants are asked to submit a two-page essay outlining what significance the Yukon's wilderness holds for them and how, through their educational goals, they hope to continue sharing the land with fish and wildlife in the future. Deadline for submissions is August 31st of each year. In addition to the essay, the Board requires a copy of the student's transcripts and a letter verifying acceptance into a post-secondary institution. Board members assist in the selection of the recipient of the Sharing the Land Scholarship.

In 2013 the Sharing the Land Scholarship was awarded to Shauna Kormendy.

An excerpt from Shauna's essay:

"My peers and I created a short video about the importance of being connected to the land and it explains how we feel when we are out on our land and in nature. The rejuvenation we get when we put our bare feet on the ground cannot be duplicated anywhere else. For me it cannot be anywhere else than my home, Yukon Territory. It can be hard to explain the power that comes from our land to others, especially if they have never been North to Yukon. However, once they have made the trip, they understand the connection to the land and often feel it themselves. Our home has been a special place for thousands of years, and my people have lived in it for thousands of years."



auditor's report
march 31, 2013

auditor's report

management responsibility statement

The management of Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board is responsible for preparing the financial statements, the notes to the financial statements and other financial information contained in this financial statement.

Management prepares the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The financial statements are considered by management to present fairly the management board's financial position and results of operations.

The organization, in fulfilling its responsibilities, has developed and maintains a system of internal accounting controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that management assets are safeguarded from loss or unauthorized use, and that the records are reliable for preparing the financial statements.

The financial statements have been reported on by M. McKay & Associates Ltd., Certified General Accountants, the members' independent auditors. Their report outlines the scope of their examination and their opinion on the financial statements.



Executive Director

October 15, 2014

auditor's report

march 31, 2014

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2014, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the organization's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board as at March 31, 2014, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

M. McKay & Associates Ltd.
Certified General Accountants

Whitehorse, Yukon
October 15, 2014

financial statement

statement of operations

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
REVENUES		
Government of Yukon contribution agreement	\$ 543,443	\$ 533,687
RRC health benefits reimbursements	11,126	13,101
Rental	6,000	6,000
Reimbursements - Other	3,103	173
Government of Yukon - Other	1,990	1,990
Yukon fish and wildlife enhancement trust	1,000	-
Interest income	84	116
	<u>566,746</u>	<u>555,067</u>
EXPENSES		
Wages and benefits	303,220	252,077
Working groups	64,873	26,340
Honorariums	46,600	39,200
Travel	45,386	26,848
Meetings, conferences and committees	39,235	26,771
Board meetings	29,248	27,760
Rent	24,600	24,600
Printing, calendars and brochures	24,266	23,796
Office and general	22,429	16,654
Advertising and promotion	14,761	-
Amortization	13,862	4,910
Telephone and internet	9,064	9,248
Professional fees	8,898	8,838
Repairs and maintenance	3,101	3,093
Training	2,401	2,371
Insurance	1,918	1,954
Utilities	1,848	1,504
Equipment lease	1,475	4,207
Scholarships	1,000	1,000
Postage and courier	499	417
Interest and bank charges	349	349
Consulting and coordination fees	-	205
	<u>659,033</u>	<u>502,142</u>
(DEFICIENCY) EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ (92,287)</u>	<u>\$ 52,925</u>

financial statement

statement of changes in net assets

	<u>transfer</u> <u>agreement</u> <u>surplus (deficit)</u>	<u>Special projects</u> <u>surplus (deficit)</u>	<u>Investment in</u> <u>capital assets</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2014</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2013</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 231,599	\$ 9,443	\$ 15,803	\$ 256,845	\$ 203,920
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses	(92,287)	-	-	(92,287)	52,925
Purchase of capital assets	(39,878)	-	39,878	-	-
Amortization	<u>13,862</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(13,862)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 113,296</u>	<u>\$ 9,443</u>	<u>\$ 41,819</u>	<u>\$ 164,558</u>	<u>\$ 256,845</u>

financial statement

statement of financial position

	ASSETS	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 148,259	\$ 271,078
Marketable securities	15,593	15,511
Accounts receivable	10,073	8,548
Goods and services tax refundable	10,194	5,674
Prepaid expenses	<u>3,113</u>	<u>3,185</u>
	187,232	303,996
CAPITAL ASSETS (note 3)	<u>41,819</u>	<u>15,804</u>
	<u>\$ 229,051</u>	<u>\$ 319,800</u>
	LIABILITIES	
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 17,956	\$ 15,708
Payroll liabilities	<u>46,537</u>	<u>47,247</u>
	<u>64,493</u>	<u>62,955</u>
	NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted net assets	<u>164,558</u>	<u>256,845</u>
	<u>\$ 229,051</u>	<u>\$ 319,800</u>

Contingent liability (note 4)

Approved on behalf of the Board:



Director



Director

financial statement

cash flows

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash received from funding agencies and others	\$ 566,745	\$ 555,067
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	<u>(649,604)</u>	<u>(458,899)</u>
Cash flow (to) from operating activities	(82,859)	96,168
INVESTING ACTIVITY		
Purchases of capital assets	<u>(39,878)</u>	<u>(12,422)</u>
NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH	(122,737)	83,746
CASH, beginning of year	<u>286,589</u>	<u>202,843</u>
CASH, end of year	<u><u>\$ 163,852</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 286,589</u></u>
CASH CONSISTS OF:		
Cash	\$ 148,259	\$ 271,078
Marketable Securities	<u>15,593</u>	<u>15,511</u>
	<u><u>\$ 163,852</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 286,589</u></u>

notes to the financial statements

1. Purpose of the Board

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board was established in March 1995 under the terms of the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) and the related enabling settlement legislation as the primary instrument of fish and wildlife management in the Yukon. The Board, acting in the public interest and taking into consideration all relevant factors, make recommendations to the Federal and Territorial Ministers and to each Yukon First Nation as to management and preservation of fish and wildlife.

Since its inception, the Board has assisted First Nation, Territorial, Federal and Municipal governments in developing relevant fish and wildlife policies to reflect the wishes of all Yukoners.

It is exempt from income taxation under Paragraph 149(1)(1) of the Income Tax Act.

The UFA also established the Salmon Sub-Committee as an independent committee of the Board. This sub-committee functions independently from the Board and consequently is not included in these financial statements. The sub-committee issues its own audited financial statements.

2. Significant accounting policies

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations:

(a) Revenue recognition

Restricted contributions are deferred and recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable and the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

(b) Capital assets

Capital assets are initially recorded at cost and subsequently carried at cost less accumulated amortization. Cost includes the purchase price and other costs directly attributable to the acquisition. Capital assets are amortized using the following rates with a full year's amortization recorded in the year of acquisition.

- | | | |
|-------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| (i) | Computer equipment | 30% declining balance |
| (ii) | Furniture and equipment | 20% declining balance |
| (iii) | Leasehold improvements | 20% straight line |
| (iv) | Website | 30% declining balance |

(c) Financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition, financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, except for investments in instruments quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair value. Change in fair value are recognized in statement of operations and changes in net assets.

notes to the financial statements

continued

2. Significant accounting policies, continued

(d) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect reported amounts of assets, liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at statement of financial position date and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Significant areas requiring the use of management estimates relate to accrued liabilities and capital assets amortization. Actual results may differ from those reported.

3. Capital assets

	<u>2014</u>		<u>2013</u>	
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated amortization</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Net</u>
Furniture and equipment	\$ 74,280	\$ 65,935	\$ 8,345	\$ 10,432
Computer equipment	85,969	66,888	19,081	5,372
Website	17,991	3,598	14,393	-
Leasehold improvements	1,429	1,429	-	-
	<u>\$ 179,669</u>	<u>\$ 137,850</u>	<u>\$ 41,819</u>	<u>\$ 15,804</u>

4. Contingent liability

Under the terms of the funding agreements, the Yukon government can require repayment of unspent contributions.

notes to the financial statements

continued

5. Financial instruments

Transactions in financial instruments may result in an entity assuming or transferring to another party one or more of the financial risks described below. The required disclosures provide information that assists users of financial statements in assessing the extent of risk related to financial instruments.

(a) Fair value

The fair value of current financial assets and current financial liabilities approximates their carrying value due to their short-term maturity dates.

(b) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a transaction will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the other party to incur a financial loss. The Board reduces its exposure to credit risk by maintaining cash deposit and investments with reputable financial institutions.

(c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Board cannot repay its obligations when they become due to its creditors. The Board reduces its exposure to liquidity risk by ensuring that it maintains sufficient cash and marketable security to repay trade creditors as they become due.

(d) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the Board has interest rate exposure on its marketable security, which are variable based on the financial investor's interest rates. This exposure may have an effect on its earnings in future periods.

6. Contractual obligations

The Board has entered into two operating leases. A photocopier is leased for \$230 per month (2012: \$224 per month) until June 2013. Three parking stalls are leased for \$173 per month (2013: \$173 per month). This lease has no expiry date.

7. Economic dependence

The Board is dependent upon Yukon government for continued financial support.

8. Comparative amounts

The financial statements have been reclassified, where applicable, to conform to the presentation used in the current year. The changes do not affect prior year earnings.

ufa implementation plan obligations

MANDATE:

A Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall be established, as of the effective date of Settlement Legislation, as the primary instrument of Fish and Wildlife management in the Yukon (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.1).



The Fish and Wildlife Management Board, acting in the public interest and consistent with this chapter and taking into consideration all relevant factors including recommendations of the Councils, may make recommendations to the Minister, to Yukon First Nations and to the Councils, on all matters related to Fish and Wildlife management, Legislation, research, policies, and programs (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.11).

The Fish and Wildlife Management Board may make recommendations pursuant to Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.12.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall be comprised of twelve members.

Yukon shall nominate six members, one of whom shall be selected in consultation and concurrence with Canada (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.2).

Yukon First Nations shall nominate six members, by causing the Council for Yukon Indians to make the nominations on behalf of Yukon First Nations after consultation with Yukon First Nations (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.2).

The Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources shall appoint the nominees to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board (Umbrella Final Agreement 2.12.2.3, 2.12.2.4).

The majority of representatives of Government and the majority of representatives of Yukon First Nations shall be Yukon residents (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.4).

One third of the initial appointments to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall be made for three years, one third for four years, and one-third for five years. Thereafter, appointments to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall be for five years (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.5). All appointments to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall be during good behavior (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.5).

The provisions of Umbrella Final Agreement UFA 2.12.2 shall apply to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board.

ufa implementation plan

obligations
continued

OPERATIONS:

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall determine its own procedures for selecting its chairperson from its membership (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.3).

The Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources shall appoint the chairperson selected by the Fish and Wildlife Management Board (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.3).

In the event that the Fish and Wildlife Management Board fails to select a chairperson within 60 days of the position being vacant, the Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources shall appoint a chairperson from the membership of the Fish and Wildlife Management Board after consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Management Board (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.3.1).

The Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall be accountable to the Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources for its expenditures (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.8).

The Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall prepare an annual budget, subject to approval by the Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources. The budget approval process will respect the Board's discretion over the allocation of funds to be available to the Board under the Plan (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.9).



ufa implementation plan

obligations
continued

ACTIVITIES:

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall establish the Salmon Sub-Committee pursuant to Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.17 at its initial meeting or as soon as practicable thereafter.



The Yukon Salmon Committee is a sub-committee of the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, but functions independently as the main instrument of salmon management in the Yukon and focuses on the conservation of territorial salmon stocks. It makes recommendations to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on all matters related to Yukon salmon. Committee members also serve on the Yukon River Panel which represents the Yukon in ongoing Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiations between Canada and the United States.

K. Heuer

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The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall undertake activities pursuant to its obligations as set out in Chapter 16, and its obligations in Chapter 27 of the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust.



Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

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