

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
February 20 – 22, 2018
MINUTES
High Country Inn - Boardroom

DAY I: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Frank Thomas, John Burdek, Ron Chambers (PM), Danny Cresswell, Dennis Dickson, Carl Sidney, Eric Schroff, Blanche Warrington

REGRETS: Dave Andrew, Michelle Peter, Shirley Ford, Jim King

STAFF: Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon, Tecla Van Bussel

PUBLIC: Christine Cleghorn (Director, Fish & Wildlife, YE), Janice Sibbeston (Enhancement Trust), Brian Melanson (President, Yukon Trappers' Association), Tom Jung (Fish & Wildlife, YE), Tyler Kuhn (Fish & Wildlife, Habitat Programs), Nicole McCutcheon (Fish & Wildlife, YE), Harlan Inkster, Jodie Pongracz, Saleem Dar (CWS)

OPENING PRAYER – Carl Sidney

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

New Board members, Danny Cresswell and Eric Schroff were introduced.

2. AGENDA REVIEW (TAB 01) – F. Thomas

Frank Thomas reviewed the agenda provided. There were no additions.

Motion – 2018-01: That the Board accept the February 20 – 22, 2018 agenda as presented.

Moved by: John Burdek

Seconded by: Eric Schroff

Passed by: Consensus

3. EXECUTIVE REPORT (TAB 02) – G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem provided an overview of Board structure and operations for new members. He also provided an overview of the Executive Report provided in meeting kits for members' review.

Comments/Discussion:

- Frank Thomas provided an overview of the YFWMB RRC Chairs Meeting in preparation for the RRC AGM.

4. FINANCIAL UPDATE (TAB 03) – D. Sheldon

Diane Sheldon provided an overview of the Financial Variance Report.

Motion – 2018-02: That the Board approve the variance report to February 8, 2018 as presented.

Moved by: Blanche Warrington

Seconded by: John Burdek

Passed by: Consensus

Comments/Discussion:

- The working groups are separated. Graham provided an overview of the trapping quality bonus and working group activities.

5. DRAFT BUDGET AND WORK PLAN 2018-2019 (TAB 04) – D. Sheldon, G. Van Tighem

Diane Sheldon reviewed the 2018-19 operating budget and Graham Van Tighem reviewed the work plan. Both documents were provided in meeting kits for members' review.

Comments/Discussion:

- The budget is flexible and up to 10 percent of the funds can be moved between categories. The budget will be submitted to government.
- Diane provided an overview of the net income loss and carry-forward surplus.
- Bear management funding is separate.

Motion – 2018-03: That the Board approve the draft budget and work plan for 2018-19 as presented.

Moved by: John Burdek

Seconded by: Carl Sidney

Passed by: Consensus

6. DECEMBER MINUTES (TAB 05) – D. Sheldon

Members reviewed the meeting minutes for December 4 – 6, 2017.

Comments/Discussion:

- Page 4, first bullet, correct “Andy Grady” to “Adam Grinde”.

Motion – 2018-04: That the Board approve the minutes for December 4 – 6, 2017 as presented.

Moved by: Blanche Warrington

Seconded by: John Burdek

Passed by: Consensus

7. ACTION ITEM REVIEW (TAB 06) – G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem provided an action item review.

Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board Status of Action Items 2017-2018	
Action Item 2017-16: YFWMB ED will draft letter naming Carl Sidney as the new YFWMB representative on the Yukon Salmon Subcommittee as per Motion 2017-25: That the Board approves the appointment of Carl Sidney to the Yukon Salmon Subcommittee.	Completed
Action Item 2017-17: YFWMB ED will draft letter approving the Operating Budget for the Yukon Salmon Subcommittee as per Motion – 2017-26: That the Board approves the Yukon Salmon Sub-committee’s 2018-19 draft budget.	Completed

Action item 2017-18: YFWMB ED will send the letter to the Minister re: outcomes from the Dall Sheep Harvest Working Group.	<i>Completed</i>
Action Item 2017-19: YFWMB ED will draft a Terms of Reference for the Angling Working Group and present this to the Board at our February 2018 meeting.	<i>Terms of reference has been completed.</i>

8. CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW (TAB 07) – G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the correspondence. The list of correspondence and letters were provided in meeting kits for members' reference.

Comments/Discussion:

- Letter #4 – The report has not been completed yet.
- Letter #5 – An extension request letter from the government is in the mail.
- Letter #12 – Wetland policy meeting has taken place. Graham will further discuss the policy with YCS.
- Letter 13 – Members interested in reviewing the Board's submission on the five-year review should contact Graham.
- Terms for Terry Wilkinson, Margaret Njootli and Jim King have expired. Presentation to board members in person.
- Letter #22 – This letter was forwarded to the Board from the Teslin RRC. Graham provided an overview and clarification about: data, allocation of traplines, bylaws, and questions for Chris Gustafson on Day 2 of the meeting.
- Letter #23 – Members discussed trapping incentives. Trapping will be further discussed in the agenda.
- Letter #25 – Members discussed the meeting dates for the RRC AGW. Graham provide input into the development of the agenda.
- Caribou collisions – Christine Cleghorn provided a short update. There have been 11 collisions near Watson Lake, few in Southern Lakes. She also provided information about the collisions committee between Environment and Highways and Public Works. The light is bad and the foliage is grown up to the road.
- Drilling in ANWR – Christine Cleghorn provided information about: leases in year 4 and year 7, thresholds for activity in Alaska, seismic activity as early as 2019, environmental statements, national petroleum reserve and impact statement, parties, dialogue and timelines. Yukon government is engaged through the Porcupine caribou technical committee.

Action item 2018-01: YFWMB ED will complete and submit report requested by INAC for the Yukon Final and Self-Government Agreements Five Year Report (2012-2017). (February correspondence-Ltr#4)

Action item 2018-02: YFWMB staff will follow up on letter from Yukon Conservation Society expressing interest in engaging with the Board on wetlands. (February correspondence-Ltr#4)

9. YUKON SALMON SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE – J. Trerice, H. Jessup

Jesse Trerice provided an update on the meeting with DFO about the proposed amendments to the Fisheries Act (Bill C68). Work on the policies and programs will be ongoing for one to two years. Harvey Jessup provided an overview of the parliamentary process. The YSSC wrote to the Standing Committee and the YSSC's recommendations were accepted by the Standing Committee and the minister. The YSSC will consult with the public on the *Act*.

The presentation highlighted the following:

- Section 34 covers traditional knowledge which will be included in decision-making. Traditional knowledge will be protected but how it will be incorporated is yet to be seen but will form part of the federal government's engagement over the next year and a half.
- Subsection 4.1 addresses the Board's and committee's ability to engage.
- \$282 million will go toward building partnerships with indigenous organizations.
- Factors the minister must consider including cumulative effects, offset and credits, degradation of habitat, traditional knowledge.
- Codes of practice will be developed. The Board and committee will be able to provide input.
- New provision in the act requires the establishment of a public registry.
- The *Fisheries Act* will be reviewed every five years.
- Around the third week of March there will be a meeting to start the engagement process. During the day there will be a stakeholder meeting for members of the Board and YSSC, First Nations and RRCs. There will be a public meeting in the evening.
- The mandate is over in October 2019 and the act could pass through the House by spring 2019. There is a tight timeline and the future of the policy and regulations is unknown if they are incomplete following October 2019.

- The fisheries ministers will meet in June.
- Government has to be reminded that Yukon First Nations represent themselves and need to be engaged.

Harvey Jessup and Jesse Trerice provided a salmon update. There will be no fishing for Chinook salmon in Alaska. Sockeye commercial fishing will be closed until 99 percent of the Chinook salmon has been able to pass into the rivers. The salmon decline is happening throughout the Pacific, all the way down the west coast. It is a substantial closure and a ground-breaking move.

Comments/Discussion:

- Graham provided an overview of the relationship between the Board, the YSSC and DFO.
- Christine Cleghorn provided an overview of Yukon government's engagement and the advisory panel for other effective conservation measures. This will be a big priority for Robert. Yukon government is also engaged in aquaculture. Frank Thomas suggested a Yukon government employee attend meetings with the Board. Robert will be invited to the March meeting.
- John Burdek and Carl Sidney are also on the YSSC. Any other Board members interested in participating can approach Graham.

10. YUKON GRIZZLY BEAR PLAN PRESENTATION (IN CAMERA) (TAB 08) –

F. Thomas, T. Jung

Frank Thomas, Graham Van Tighem, Tom Jung and Tyler Kuhn provided an overview of the grizzly bear conservation plan. PowerPoint presentation included: plan overview and table of contents; Section A: Context; Section B: The Plan; Section C: Putting the Plan into Action; Section D: Plan Review and Implementation; and next steps. A copy of *A Conservation Plan for Grizzly Bears (Ursus arctos) in Yukon, Volume 1 – DRAFT – 15 February 2018* was included in meeting kits for members' review.

Comments/Discussion:

- Members provided an overview of information collected at regional meetings. For example, the bear population at Fishing Branch has decreased, but the population in the Dempster region has increased. There were no pre-programmed ideas.

- All First Nations were consulted but the level of engagement varied. Capturing the cultural component is important. The First Nations try to be as culturally appropriate as possible. There is a difference between culture and politics.
- Younger generations have a different perspective from older generations and really want to see bears around in the future.
- The current text of the guiding principle “... grizzly bear conservation must respect Indigenous Rights and be carried out in accordance with land claim agreements, where established...” may cause confusion and may need to be reworded. The plan recognizes that some First Nations don’t have agreements.
- Is there a need to include a provision for transplanting bears? (Similar to elk, bison, wolverine, goats etc.). It may be an action that comes out of the plan.
- The government in British Columbia didn’t consult with First Nations regarding its decision to ban grizzly bear hunting.
- Frontier attitude – This isn’t a frontier anymore. When people come in, someone needs to ensure their building requirements fit the established criteria. For instance, ensuring people don’t build in animal crossing areas. Traditional Knowledge needs to be re-established. Members were encouraged to provide comments to the working group.
- People don’t realize that bears have different personalities. That is important knowledge for monitoring. Not all bears are equal, and they shouldn’t all be treated the same.
- Some cultures don’t talk about bears. The respect is quite strong and discussions may not occur.
- “Ethics” can sometimes “step on the toes” of culture.
- Timelines – Near-term 1 to 5 years; mid-term 5 to 10 years, long-term 10 to 20 years?
- Community members clearly distinguish between areas where people would like to see bears and areas they would like to be bear-free.
- All actions work together to achieve the goal. The performance indicators will help determine if we are going in the right direction.
- The term “coexistence” was discussed, but there was no consensus on whether to use the term.
- The historical harvest is within the range deemed sustainable. There are a couple of areas that when you combine harvest with mortality there may be concerns, but on average, harvest is below the sustainable limit. There are currently 1,000 seals for the 6,000 population. The total sale of seals far exceeds the harvest. Hunter success rates are always a factor. Most people purchase a seal just in case they need to defend their life or property, but very few purchase tags with the intent to harvest. There is also a risk management issue. Messaging was also discussed.

- Goal 4.2 falls under harvest, even though this goal deals with defense of life or property kills. It may be better addressed under human-grizzly bear conflicts (Goal 3).
- Anecdotes and anecdotal evidence needs to be included/considered. It provides the lessons and creates more buy-in. They make stories interesting. One idea is to mix traditional knowledge with modern social media and have a short video that comes out with the plan as part of the release package.
- There are bear estimates for Yukon, including parks. There is a historical record in Kluane National Park.
- The budget to implement the plan will fall under monitoring.
- First Nations, non-First Nations and communities working together in different ways is unique in the world. This plan is another example. That message should be clear to the public. Questions from BC and NWT are coming in about how Yukon is developing its plan.
- An updated draft of volume 1 will be available by the next Board meeting in April. Government will then be able to release the draft plan to First Nations for review. Christine and Graham will further discuss timelines for public review.

DAY 2: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Frank Thomas, John Burdek, Ron Chambers, Danny Cresswell, Dennis Dickson, Carl Sidney, Eric Schroff, Blanche Warrington

REGRETS: Dave Andrew, Michelle Peter, Shirley Ford, Jim King

STAFF: Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon, Tecla Van Bussel

PUBLIC: Christine Cleghorn (Director, Fish & Wildlife), Janice Sibbeston (Trust Manager), Rob Florkiewicz (Fish and Wildlife), Mary Vanderkop (Chief Veterinary Officer), Frank Johnstone (Teslin RRC), Brian Melanson (Yukon Trappers Association), Frank Johnstone, Matt Clarke (Fish and Wildlife)

**11. ADAPTIVE MEASURES AND PHA ADJUSTMENTS (TAB 11) – R. Florkiewicz
(IN CAMERA – BOARD BUSINESS)**

Rob Florkiewicz reviewed the *Adaptive Measures in Regulation* Power Point presentation including: *Wildlife Act* and regulations; “adaptive management” approach and examples; and adaptive measures review for 2018/2019. The presentation was provided in meeting kits for members’ review.

Comments/Discussion:

- Finlayson caribou – Population decline could be due to wolves. The herd is monitored and calf ratios are good. Mines in the Kaska area will cause increase in traffic and mortality. Government is actively trying to engage Ross River in conversation about Finlayson caribou and moose. Total harvest is part of the conversation. Finlayson is one of the most studied herds. The last survey was 2016/17. Information can be provided to the Board.
- Rob Florkiewicz provided an overview of hunting success rates and the rule of thirds. Thirty percent or less of the permits result in harvest.
- 40-mile caribou example – Collars indicate one third of the herd is in Yukon. They don’t come as far as Aishihik. Drivers are unknown (climate, forage, crowding). It is hard to manage with questions marks and information gaps. We do counts for wolves and

bears, but do we have information about food sources? We can help ourselves by having more information.

- Bison season closure – The possibility of having the season open two weeks earlier has not been discussed. It is a complicated discussion. Members discussed ethics and respect. Ethics is a more political term. Respect is the suggested term to use. Members discussed the possibility of having two bison hunting seasons. Graham Van Tighem provided information on calving shift.
- Takhini herd – Government is in the middle of the adaptive conflict hunt approach. Two permits are issued for two bulls in Takhini and they were both harvested. There is uncertainty around the conflict hunt. There has been success with fencing. There has been discussion with the Agriculture branch and there has been a request for additional permits to help reduce the herd which will in turn help reduce the amount of compensation dollars every year. Environment and Agriculture are working closely together.
- Hunters in BC have secret places to launch their boats. The hunting pressure at the end of Teslin Lake is high. There are a lot of issues in that area.
- Ticks have been identified in the Watson Lake area.

Action item 2018-03: YFWMB staff will follow up with Rob Florkiewicz to arrange a presentation regarding the Finlayson caribou herd at a future Board Meeting.

12. ANIMAL HEALTH ACT REGULATIONS (TAB 12) – M. Vanderkop

Mary Vanderkop reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on: *Animal Health Act* and regulations; consultation with stakeholders; health hazards; power/authority of the *Animal Health Act*; reportable hazards, obligation (veterinarians) and criteria; What We Heard document; transmissible hazards including mammals, birds, fish and insects; clinical syndrome hazards for poultry, sheep, goats and camelids; exposure hazards; actions to be taken; compensation and federal regulation examples; animal products/things; eligible costs/deductions; refusal to consider; appeal board membership; and the appeal process.

The PowerPoint presentation, an information sheet on the proposed animal health regulations and a letter from Minister Frost to Chair Frank Thomas regarding the new Animal Health Regulation were provided in meeting kits for members' reference.

Comments/Discussion:

- Anthrax – Mary Vanderkop provided information about anthrax, dangers and transmission. It hasn't entered Yukon so far. It is a problem in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Anthrax can be transmitted from birds' feet and feathers if they move bones.
- Exemptions for transboundary First Nations – Free movement of animal parts in NWT and two northernmost zones in BC is allowed to accommodate First Nations. The real concern is animals coming from Saskatchewan and eastern Alberta. Game farmers cannot import live animals.
- Human health implications – People harvesting deer/elk in Alberta are recommended to test their animals for chronic wasting disease before consumption.
- Wild and domestic sheep – If a wild sheep comes into contact with a domestic sheep, it could be captured and quarantined at the Yukon Wildlife Preserve where it would become part of the collection. The second approach is to kill the wild sheep. There has been one confirmed contact in Dawson and the wild sheep was killed. Graham Van Tighem provided information on the Board presentations at the Anchorage symposium. There is a desire to ensure thin horn sheep are protected and to not tolerate more risk than necessary. Yukon government conducts testing on domestic sheep. Domestic animals are not controlled Yukon-wide.
- Saturday, February 24, 2018 meeting – The agenda and presentation will cover sheep and goat health and management.
- Exposure Hazards – Leaching in soil isn't as much of an attractant to animals like batteries, fuel etc.
- Winter tick in Yukon – A project is underway to examine the distribution of the winter tick. Researchers from Toronto did a brief session in Watson Lake in fall 2017. A presentation will be available in summer. The department will be proposing hunters submit the head and hide.
- Elk Management Plan review – Public review became a debate of ticks and moose ("Ticking time bomb"). Are there any mechanisms dealing for the unknown (precautionary principles)? The act gives the government the authority to act on any hazard and it doesn't have to be specified in the act.
- Graham Van Tighem will setup a meeting with Mary Vanderkop and board members are welcome to attend.

Action item 2018-04: YFWMB staff will follow up with Mary Vanderkop on the following: arrange an update presentation at future Board meeting regarding the tick situation in Yukon and Board's submission regarding *Animal Health Act*.

13. YUKON TRAPPER WORKING GROUP PROGRESS REPORT (TAB 13) –

G. Van Tighem, D. Sheldon

Graham Van Tighem provided an overview of the Trapping Working Group Final Report including: background and history; members of the working group; trapline management and use; trapping industry project; Phase 1 – Auction House Fees; Phase 2 – Fur Handling Training; characteristics of Yukon fur received by NAFA 2015; Phase 3 – Quality Bonuses; and the trapping working group. The PowerPoint presentation was included in meeting kits for members' reference.

Comments/Discussion:

- Brian Melanson provided information about the YTA, funding, feed administration, partnerships, Winnipeg International Fur Dressers and Tanners, discussions about starting a tannery in Yukon and environmental factors.
- Graham provided information about the working group, the new Environment Yukon representative and partnership with trappers.
- Members discussed the potential for a fur tanning factory in Yukon and tanners in and outside Yukon.
- It was suggested that a working group meeting be held after Unfurled.

Action item 2018-05: YFWMB staff will reinstate the Trapping Working Group upon the completion of the Unfurled event and begin the process of determining next steps.

14. 40 MILE CARIBOU MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE (TAB 14) – F. Thomas, G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem provided an overview of the Fortymile caribou management plan update including: history and background; Fortymile caribou management meetings in Alaska and Yukon; population goals; harvest; survey techniques; and next steps.

Matt Clarke provided an overview of: herd management in Nelchina (harvest and wolf control); population estimate of 80,000; definitions of subsistence; 1,000 animals are available for Yukon harvest; Yukon government discussions with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to implement hunt; Yukon objectives and phased-in approach; annual census estimate; and subsistence in Alaska.

The January 2018 management coalition meeting agenda, Alaska management plan working notes document and the population model document were included in meeting kits for members' reference.

The next meeting with Alaska will be held in June, possibly in Yukon.

Comments/Discussion:

- Wolf control – Alaska uses state biologists and licensed pilots for their wolf-kill program. Predator management will be stopped for a few years and will continue documenting caribou population. Harvest of 180 wolves is the standard.
- Permit Hunt Authorization – PHA may help alleviate concerns of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.
- Cumulative effects – Should look at the cumulative effects and opportunities on moose or Finlayson herd harvest.
- Outfitter hunt – There is no concession.
- Subsistence – There has to be some education done on what is considered "subsistence". We had the same issue with salmon. Ron Chambers has discussed subsistence at meetings.

15. MEMBERS TIME (IN CAMERA)

General discussion by members took place. Meeting dates for the next year were also selected. Meeting dates for the Board are as follows:

April 10-12, 2018

June 12-14, 2018

October 16-18, 2018

December 11-13, 2018

February 12-14, 2019

April 9-11, 2019.

DAY 3: Thursday, February 22, 2018 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Frank Thomas, John Burdek, Ron Chambers, Danny Cresswell, Dennis Dickson, Carl Sidney, Eric Schroff, Blanche Warrington

REGRETS: Dave Andrew, Michelle Peter, Shirley Ford, Jim King

STAFF: Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon, Tecla Van Bussel

PUBLIC: Minister Pauline Frost, Christine Cleghorn (Director, Fish & Wildlife), Kris Gustafson, Harlan Inkster, Mark Callan, Robert Perry (Fisheries, YE)

16. HON. MINISTER FROST, MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT

Minister Frost attended the Board meeting and members discussed the following: BC regulations and hunting issues and game guardians; meat wastage; new Board members; proposed regulation changes; Fish and Wildlife Act review and recommendations; education and awareness of wildlife conservation and management; Boards and Committees and merging traditional practices with contemporary/modern ways; conflict; resource management; discussions with RRCs; federal Fisheries Act, transboundary rivers, Pacific Salmon Treaty and discussions with the federal minister; land use planning processes including habitat and spawning areas; BC funding for salmon stock assessment (but no funds for Yukon); boreal caribou concerns, management discussions, recommendations, hunting; and transboundary responsibilities and co-management with Alaska, BC and NWT.

The grizzly bear management plan will be provided in late fall for consideration. Minister Frost reminded the Board that recommendations to Cabinet take time. The same is true for the Wildlife Act. A meeting between Executive and the Minister will take place in the fall.

Minister Frost thanked the Board for their work and acknowledged Chris Gustafson for his many years of service.

Comments/Discussion:

- Caribou pressures – While pressure is relieved in one location, they rise in another. Also, caribou are killed in highway collisions regularly. Minister Frost discussed managing people and impacts including ORVs, ease-of-access, protections.

- The term “ethics” – First Nations don’t have that word in their languages and ethics can be political and mean different things to different people. “Respect” means the same to everyone.

17. CONSERVATION OFFICER SERVICES UPDATE – K. Gustafson, Harlan Inkster, Mark Callan

Kris Gustafson introduced Harlan Inkster, the new First Nation liaison officer. Kris provided an overview of the 2017-18 highlights, including: wildlife conflict and projects (bears, beavers, elk); collaboration with other departments; education and communication efforts; restorative justice training; hunter education program; and the meat sharing program.

Harlan provided an update on his activities and discussions with First Nations.

Mark provided an update on his activities including: consolidation of trapping files; file digitization and accessibility; processes and form updates; meetings with RRCs and First Nations; trap lines in four traditional territories; overlap areas; trapping energy and revitalization; potential for a local tannery; and Yukon-wide fur strategy.

Comments/Discussion:

- Electric fencing – Graham Van Tighem received information on electric fencing and will provide it to Board members if they are interested.
- First Nation game guardians – Members discussed First Nation game guardians and enforcement historically.
- First Nations Liaison – Graham Van Tighem provided an overview of the Board function and recommendations to the Minister of Environment. The interface has an effect on the licensed component of the population. He would like to work with the First Nation liaison officer to bridge the gap with First Nations, including unsigned First Nations.
- Staffing – Developing (or redeveloping) a First Nation guardianship program would be an asset for the Wildlife branch.
- Youth engagement – Fish and wildlife camp and bison camp are examples of youth programs that involve First Nations, language and discussions about management on the land. The Executive Director has attended events in the past to give a talk.
- History – Years ago trappers didn’t have trapping lines. They collaborated among themselves and created the trapping lines. History is often not included enough in discussions. Having that knowledge included would facilitate with community buy-in.
- Trapper working group – Graham Van Tighem provided information on the trapper working group, the three-part trapping project and a territory-wide trapping initiative.

- Non-settled First Nations and overlapping traplines – Mark provided information on the government’s role to foster and encourage discussion among First Nation bodies and governments, however, he does not want to tell First Nation governments what to do. It is empowering and enabling First Nations to make agreements among themselves. Current work may encourage other First Nations.
- Culture and traplines – Trapping in Yukon is historical with First Nations and culture is very important and must be remembered.
- Beaver management – It was recommended the department consider having a trapping incentive for beavers.

18. ANGLING WORKING GROUP UPDATE AND PATH FORWARD (TAB 15) – G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem reviewed an angling working group update and next steps presentation including: angling work of the Board pre-2012; origin of angling working group; Yukon fisheries management considerations; current management options (barbless hooks and size limits); angling working group recommendation to the Board in 2013; management using size limits; restoration and enhancement options; angling working group tasks; fishery regulation changes; world recreational fishing conference; angling working group terms of reference; and next steps. A copy of the presentation and a licensed angling working group terms of reference were included in meeting kits for members reference.

Board members were asked to review the terms of reference and provide feedback.

Comments/Discussion:

- Harvest data – The 2015 totals for the number of fish harvested and caught is not available.
- Large fish photos – Tourists are looking at publications with photos of large fish. That influence has to be addressed to ensure it doesn’t contradict the regulations and educational messaging.
- Pike size limits – At Teslin Lake, an ice fisherman recently caught a huge pike but was unable to keep it due to size limit regulations. Pike is an underutilized species and is an overly abundant species in Teslin Lake. Consideration should be given to removing the limits on northern pike.
- Recreational fishing – Frank Thomas provided information on recreational fishing and the importance of understanding biology of fish and incorporating traditional knowledge.
- World recreational fishing conference – Rick Hansen – Ron Chambers provided information on Rick Hansen’s participation at the conference. Not all recreational fishing

is negative. Respect for fish can be taught by guides. Culture shouldn't be used as a weapon for or against the ideas of others (recreational fishing or wolf harvesting). The conference also highlighted how well-off Yukon is and we have to protect what we have.

- International Year of the Salmon is 2019.