



Photo credit : Don Toews Family Fishing Fun

CARCROSS TAGISH RENEWABLE RESOURCES COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
APRIL 1, 2020-MARCH 31, 2021

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Introduction

The Carcross Tagish Renewable Resources Council was established in February 2010. The fiscal year 2020-2021 was the ninth year of operation for the Council.

Our area of responsibility encompasses a wide region commonly referred to as the Southern Lakes. Four very distinct communities lie within the boundaries of the Carcross Tagish First Nation Traditional Territory: Carcross, Tagish, Marsh Lake and Mount Lorne. The C/TRRC meetings are open to the public and we invite everyone who is interested to attend the meetings, which are normally held on the first Monday of every month.

Mandate

The C/TRRC, established as the primary instrument for local renewable resource management under the Carcross Tagish First Nation Final Agreement, is the local advisory body for fish, wildlife, forestry and habitat related land use in the Carcross Tagish First Nation Settlement area.

The Council strives to be the voice of the Community in managing local renewable resources.

The Council provides strong input into planning and regulation processes by raising public awareness of specific issues and by providing local and traditional information.

The Council also plays an important advisory role to territorial, federal and First Nations governments and the Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board.

The C/TRRC is comprised of 8 council members including 2 alternate members, each appointed by First Nation and YTG.

Membership

Ken Reeder	Chair person	April 30, 2020 to April 29, 2023	YG Nominee
Edna Helm	Vice-chair	February 15, 2020 to February 14, 2023	CTFN Nominee
Don Toews	Member	March 8/21 to March 7/24	YG Nominee
Jacques Jobin	Alternate	April 11, 2019 to April 10, 2022	YG Nominee
Al Foster	Member	April 9/20 to resigned February 1 2021	YG Nominee
Fiona Giardino	Member	May 28, 2018 to May 28, 2021	CTFN Nominee
Zena McLean	Alternate	December 19, 2018 to December 18, 2021	CTFN Nominee
Donna Wolfe	Member	January 23, 2020 to December 17, 2021	CTFN Nominee
Patricia Reeder	Executive Director		

Highlights

C/TRRC supported the Caribou in the Yukools education program, this is ongoing support. Elder Interviews were finalized this spring. The program should be implemented in the schools 2021/2022.



C/TRRC did a fisheries campaign in May/June 2020 attending at Lubbock River, Snafu Lake, Tarfu Lake, and Little Atlin Lake sharing information with local anglers. Many First Nations and other organizers partnered with C/TFN to support this campaign. Informational posters were produced and displayed in various locations within the CTFN, TTC, TKC and KDFN Traditional Territories

CTRRC partnered with YG to produce educational signs to be placed at popular fishing spots, Little Atlin Lake, Carcross, Lewes Lake. These signs will be placed in May/June.

Underwater housing shortage / Crise du logement aquatique

Lake Trout require clear, cold water to survive. Little Atlin Lake is relatively shallow, with limited Lake Trout habitat. The natural features of this lake will limit how many Lake Trout can live here. Recent studies show there are fewer than 7,000 Lake Trout in Little Atlin Lake.

Since Lake Trout are slow-growing and don't mature and spawn until they are between 7 and 13 years old, this small population is very vulnerable. The Department of Environment, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Taku River Tlingit First Nation, and the Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resource Council are working together to better understand the Little Atlin Lake population and the pressures upon it, and management measures that will ensure its survival.

Respect it now to enjoy it forever

The Nares River is an important migratory waterway for several Yukon freshwater fish, including Arctic Grayling, Lake Trout, and their favorite prey, Least Cisco. This location is a spawning ground for cisco and grayling, as well as an important feeding ground for Lake Trout.

However, a recent research partnership between the Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council and the Carcross/Tagish First Nation has illustrated a decline in cisco within the Nares River.

Small, but old

In Yukon, small-bodied Lake Trout are found in lakes that lack Lake Whitefish. Though they can live for many decades eating small insects, without Lake Whitefish for food these Lake Trout remain quite small.

Lewes Lake is a relatively small lake, with few deep, cold areas that Lake Trout need to survive. With no whitefish to eat and limited suitable habitat, Lewes Lake will naturally support only a small population of trout.

Petit format, vieux poisson

Au Yukon, certains touladis n'atteignent jamais une grande taille. On trouve généralement ces touladis matures dans les lacs sans corégones. Leur longévité demeure toutefois la même que celle des touladis de grande taille, soit 40 à 50 ans.

Le lac Lewes est une étendue d'eau relativement petite comptant seulement quelques fosses profondes d'eau froide essentielles à la survie du touladi. Sans corégones pour se nourrir et disposant d'un habitat convenable, mais restreint, la population de touladis du lac Lewes demeure très petite.

Prenez-en soin aujourd'hui pour en profiter demain

La rivière Nares est un cours d'eau migratoire important pour plusieurs espèces de poissons d'eau douce du Yukon, comme l'omble arctique, le touladi et leur proie préférée, le cisco sardine. Ce lieu est une zone de fraie pour le cisco et l'omble, ainsi qu'une importante aire d'alimentation pour le touladi.

De récentes études réalisées en partenariat par le Conseil des ressources renouvelables de Carcross/Tagish et la Première nation de Carcross/Tagish montrent un déclin du cisco dans la rivière Nares.

Keep the fish wet at all times

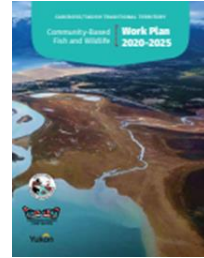
Release in cool water

Limit the amount of fish captured and released

Yukon

C/TRRC produced fish cleaning tables to be placed at various popular fishing spots and boat launches in the Traditional Territory.

C/TRRC completed the community-based Fish and Wildlife Work Plan, and C/TRRC has started work on implementation.



C/TRRC supported and participated in the wolf collaring and tracking program to provide information on wolf numbers, pack ranges, denning sites and diet when it was initiated in the winter of 2019-20 with the understanding that it would be trapper based and trappers would do all the live capture work. However, biologists who delivered and managed the program concluded in late winter of 2021 that the number of wolves captured and collared by trapping was too low for a good study and in addition a few collared wolves were lost due to mortality. Project managers proposed to collar some additional wolves using aerial helicopter capture techniques and C/TRRC agreed that this would be acceptable provided they consulted with all trappers in the region before proceeding. However initial helicopter work in March/21 raised some serious issues with trappers and did not result in any additional wolves collared and C/TRRC then requested YG to stop the helicopter work.



C/TRRC supported trappers this season by providing them with wolf snares, trail signs and information about different options for having their furs tanned.

Council participated in various workshops and events:

- Caribou in the Schools Planning Meetings
- Community Based Fish and Wildlife Work Plan meetings
- Tagish River Habitat Protection Area (HPA) process with the HPA Management Committee.

Council was represented and had input at various meetings:

- Tagish Habitat Protection Area Plan
- Yukon Salmon sub-committee meetings
- YFWMB meetings
- Yukon River Panel Meetings
- TRTFN Fish and Wildlife informational meeting

Land Use Applications

Council drafted and letters of intervention and ministerial recommendations on the following resource issues and YESAB Land use applications:

YESAB 2020-0133 timber harvest
YESAB 2020-0134 CTFN septic field removal
YESAB 2020-0156 granular pit development
YESAB 2020-0173 RCMP detachment
YESAB 2020-0201 Van Loon

Land Use Applications:

Leroux 2020-60-TG50
Phillips 2020-60-TG51
Widrig Cromarty 2019-5520

The Minister of Environment finally approved a hunting regulation change to prohibit the hunting of Grizzly bears along highways in the Southern Lakes that was first recommended by CTRRC in 2014. The Council hosted a number of public meetings on the proposal and Grizzly bear management over a 5 year period that were very well attended and the high level of support for the change from residents in the region was a major factor in its ultimate approval by government.

Challenges

- The vastness of the region, four distinct communities, and wide-ranging priorities for the residents of each community continue to present a variety of logistical and program challenges for the Council. It is challenging to hold meetings regularly in all the communities to engage the public.
- Due to close proximity to the Yukon's major population center the city of Whitehorse, the Southern Lakes region is under constant pressure from a variety of uses and interests wanting to recreate, use, occupy and develop land and natural resources in the area. This continuing pressure is impacting fish and wildlife populations and habitats and utilization of habitat and jeopardized the sustainability of traditional lifestyles and activities.

- The appointment process of new members is too slow and very often left vacant positions in the council making it difficult to meet quorum and conduct meetings.
- covid 19 caused some problems with hosting and attending meetings, as facilities were closed and gatherings had to be less than 10 persons. Council took advantage of the good summer weather and held a couple meetings outdoors.

Office Administration

- The office is centrally located in the Tagish Community Center, is open to the public by appointment and through phone and email contact.
- The Executive Director undertakes all facets of the day-to-day operation and does all bookkeeping duties.
- Successfully submitted Funding Agreement deliverables to YG, CYFN for common fund applications
- C/TRRC advertises meetings on its website, through email, and posters in the communities.
- The executive director submitted her resignation to the council effective March 31, 2021.

Financial Reporting

Council engaged the professional services of M McKay and Associates, Certified General Accountants, of Whitehorse, Yukon, to do the audit. The council, in fulfilling its responsibilities, has developed and maintained a system of internal accounting controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded from loss or unauthorized use, and the records are reliable for preparing the financial statements.

Council is provided with a monthly financial report.

Council Administration

Council held 20 meetings, a combination of in person meetings and zoom meetings.

Education and Training

C/TRRC council will participate in various local events (open houses, public meetings, workshops etc. hosted by other organizations, or in partnership with C/TRRC) to further awareness of the C/TRRC current projects.

C/TRRC members and staff participate in training opportunities as time and funds allow throughout the year but mainly by ensuring that all Council members are provided opportunities to participate in and represent the Council at special meetings processes.

Summary

Council continued to build relationships with local area planning organizations and stakeholders to support the advancement of common area of concern; make informed and responsible recommendations to governments and management agencies regarding fish, wildlife and their habitat; and engage the communities in participative renewable resources management.

Considering the pandemic that is affecting operations of the council, they were able to complete several projects from their workplan. Council stayed within the budget set out.

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Photo credit: Don Toews