2026 Draft Yukon Priority Information Needs

- Impacts of climate change to harvest and use of fish; and impacts of climate change on fish, for example, impacts to fish migration, spawning, and life cycle.
- Knowledge of population, reproduction, and health of spawning habitat for Bering Cisco and Humpback Whitefish.
- Estimates of Chinook, summer Chum, fall Chum, and Coho salmon escapements and/or harvests.
- Distribution, abundance, condition, and survival of juvenile and out-migrating salmon in the Yukon River drainage.
- **Increase understanding of the abundance, distribution, migration patterns, and spawning locations of Chinook and Chum salmon in the Innoko River.**
- **Non-lethal** estimates of "quality of escapement" for Chinook Salmon, for example, potential egg deposition, age, sex, and size composition of spawners, **weight and girth of spawners**, percentage of females, percentage of jacks, and spawning habitat usage, with an emphasis on Canadian-origin stocks.
- Community-based monitoring of **salmon and resident species'** presence, **abundance, life history patterns, harvests, genetics and age-sex-length composition, incidental and delayed mortality from entanglements and drop-outs, habitat restoration needs,** and/or environmental variables in tributaries to better understand fish and **keep users engaged during years of limited fishing opportunities**.
- In-season estimates of genetic stock composition of Chinook, summer Chum, and fall Chum salmon runs.
- Traditional ecological knowledge of fishes, **for example, to identify salmon spawning and/or rearing locations and expand the Anadromous Waters Catalog**.
- Advance genetic baselines for Chinook, summer Chum, fall Chum, and Coho salmon by screening additional populations and novel genetic markers to improve the accuracy, precision, and scale of stock composition estimates to inform stock assessment for Yukon River fisheries **at the tributary level**.
- Funding to facilitate interagency, **Tribal,** and stakeholder forums for gathering and sharing input on fishery management issues, **including cross-jurisdictional and co-management of salmon**.
- Seasonal salmon life-stage usage of tidal tributaries draining the Yukon Coastal District through an interdisciplinary approach documenting traditional ecological knowledge and biological surveys in order to update the Anadromous Waters Catalog and improve management's understanding of salmon in these streams.
- Meta-analysis of existing information and research examining the relative importance of freshwater (e.g., predation, stranding, heat stress, **reduction in marine-derived nutrients**) and marine (e.g., environmental conditions, bycatch, interception, **migration routes, hatchery production and** competition) factors in causing declines of Yukon River Chinook and Chum salmon **and/or resident species** to present at relevant Regional Advisory Council meetings.