

DRAFT 2028 YUKON REGION DRAFT PRIORITY INFORMATION NEEDS

Yukon Region volunteers made up of Council members from the Eastern Interior, Western Interior, and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Councils met on August 19, 2026 to discuss Priority Information Needs for fisheries resource monitoring in their region. In anticipation of a lower funding cycle similar to 2026, volunteers condensed some of the previous Priority Information Needs into a shorter list. The volunteers agreed that any submitted projects for the 2028 funding cycle should be grounded in community-based engagement, including community-based monitoring, co-management practices, incorporation of Local and Traditional Ecological Knowledge related to fisheries, and information sharing. The current draft list of priority information needs is shown below. This list will be discussed and finalized at Fall 2026 council meetings.

- Conduct community-based monitoring to support salmon and/or resident species management, integrating Local and Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Western science to assess species presence, abundance, distribution, spawning locations, harvest, age-sex-length composition, incidental and delayed mortality from entanglements and drop-outs, tributary environmental conditions, and/or climate change impacts.
- Facilitate interagency, Tribal, and stakeholder forums to gather and share information on fishery management issues, including cross-jurisdictional and co-management of salmon.
- Estimate salmon escapements with an emphasis on discrete stocks of Chum Salmon. Projects must include non-lethal estimates of “quality of escapement” such as weight and/or girth, potential egg deposition, age-sex-length composition, percentage of females, percentage of jacks, and/or spawning habitat usage.
- Examine the distribution, abundance, condition, survival, and/or effects of predation on juvenile and out-migrating salmon in the Yukon River drainage.
- Conduct genetic analyses aimed at estimating in-season genetic stock composition and/or advancing genetic baselines of salmon to inform stock assessment of Yukon River fisheries at the tributary level.
- Increase knowledge of population status, reproduction, and spawning habitat health for Bering Cisco and Humpback Whitefish.
- Examine seasonal salmon life-stage usage of tidal tributaries draining the Yukon Coastal District through an interdisciplinary approach documenting Local and Traditional Ecological Knowledge and biological surveys to update the Anadromous Waters Catalog and improve understanding of salmon in these streams.