

**Department of  
Environment**

And

**Yukon Fish & Wildlife  
Management Board**

Regarding

A Collaborative  
Process to Amend *Wildlife Act*  
Regulations and *Yukon Territory*  
*Fisheries Regulations*

Effective date

September 3, 2024

## **Proposed Regulation Change Process**

The Government of Yukon's Department of Environment (ENV) and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (the Board) [herein the "Parties"] want to establish a collaborative process to amend *Wildlife Act* Regulations and *Yukon Territory Fisheries Regulations* that is cost-effective, timely, and avoids duplication in effort. To that end, the Parties agree to the following process:

### **Intent:**

To provide a biannual opportunity and assistance for co-management partners (Government of Yukon, First Nations, and land claims boards and councils), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and Yukon residents to develop regulations in a fair and equitable process that guide the Conservation of fish, wildlife, and their habitats, as per the definition used in the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) and Inuvialuit Final Agreement.

To recognize and accommodate the interests and authorities of non-UFA co-management partners within the regulation change process.

To give the Parties the opportunity to engage with Yukon residents during the regulation change process.

To employ an inclusive, consistent, and transparent process that respects the independence of both Parties.

To satisfy the respective responsibilities and obligations of both Parties that are found within Yukon's comprehensive land claims agreements (First Nations Final Agreements, Inuvialuit Final Agreement, and Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim).

To allow for amendments to this agreement, as needed, to address identified improvements to the regulation change process, as agreed to by the Parties.

### **Review Committee**

1. The Parties will form a Review Committee to address proposals to develop new and amend existing regulations relating to fish, wildlife and their habitats;
  - a. The Parties will agree on a Terms of Reference for the Review Committee that defines composition, responsibilities, timelines and outcomes;

## **Regulation Change Proposals**

2. Proposals from Renewable Resources Councils (RRCs), NGOs, and Yukon residents will be received throughout the year by a dedicated Review Committee email address managed by the Board;
  - a. A rolling intake period will enable proposals to be received on an ongoing basis;
  - b. The Parties will publicly announce at least twice annually the opportunity to submit regulation change proposals;
  - c. The Board compiles a running list of all proposals received that will be provided to the Review Committee;
  - d. Both Parties will retain copies of the proposals;
3. The Review Committee will review and evaluate all incoming proposals;
  - a. The Review Committee Terms of Reference will delineate a clear process for screening requirements and responsibilities;
  - b. The Review Committee will determine which proposals should advance to public review;
  - c. The Board will review all proposals;
    - i. The Board may refer some proposals back to the proponents;
    - ii. The Parties will engage with RRCs, NGOs, and Yukon residents on all advancing proposals;
    - iii. The Minister of Environment will notify the affected Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups about the proposed changes that are advancing to public review;
4. The Review Committee will finalize the proposed Regulation Change Summary Package;

## **Consultation and Engagement**

5. The Review Committee and Yukon Bureau of Statistics will collaboratively develop a survey to receive input from Yukon residents on all proposals;
  - a. The Yukon Bureau of Statistics will conduct the survey;
  - b. ENV will cover the costs to develop and conduct the survey;
6. The Parties will collaborate with RRCs to host community review meetings;
  - a. The Parties will co-host meetings in Whitehorse, whereas the Board and local RRC will co-host meetings in other Yukon communities.
  - b. A third-party contractor will be engaged to facilitate the community review meetings;
    - i. ENV will transfer funds to the Board for contracting a third-party facilitator for community meetings;
    - ii. The Board will cover hosting expenditures in Whitehorse;
    - iii. The Board and local RRC will cover hosting expenditures in other communities;

- c. ENV staff will provide technical support;
- 7. The Minister of Environment will initiate formal Consultation with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups on the proposed regulation changes;
- 8. The Review Committee will document and track all comments received on the proposals and will prepare the "What We Heard" document;
- 9. The "What We Heard" document will be presented to representatives of both Parties with Review Committee members in attendance;
- 10. The "What We Heard" document will be made public following the presentation to the Party representatives;

### **Recommendations on Proposals**

- 11. The Parties may meet separately to discuss the proposals and formulate their respective recommendations or views;
- 12. In consideration of all the input and comments received from RRCs, NGOs, and Yukon residents, the Board will make recommendations under 16.7.11 (UFA) to the Minister on all regulation change proposals that advanced to public review;

### **Decisions on Proposals**

- 13. The Minister of Environment will Consult with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups on the Board's recommendations.
- 14. In accordance with 16.7.16 (UFA), the Board shall be Consulted by the Minister of Environment on all matters to be addressed in legislation;
  - a. The Board recognizes the recommending authority of non-UFA Indigenous governments and groups;
- 15. The Minister of Environment will seek Cabinet approval before proposals can be accepted and implemented.




IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement by their duly authorized representatives on the dates noted below.

Department of Environment

Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board

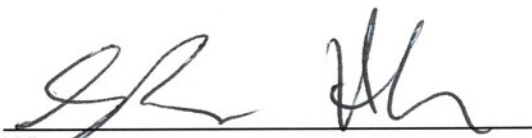
  
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Deputy Minister,  
Department of Environment

  
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Chair,  
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

Aug 23 2024  
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Date

August 23, 2024  
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