

**Fish Habitat Management System
for Yukon Placer Mining**

**Economic Health Monitoring Protocol
Panel Survey – Wave 2**

Submitted to:
Yukon Placer Secretariat
#206B Lowe Street
Whitehorse, Yukon

Prepared by:
Paul Kishchuk, MA

301 Hawkins Street, Suite 203
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1X5
paul@vectorresearch.ca
t: 867.668.3164

REVISED PANEL SURVEY
rev. 03 October 2009

Economic Health Monitoring Protocol: Wave 2 Panel Survey

Just before we begin, I would like to confirm for you that all the information gathered through this survey will be kept strictly confidential – your answers will not be provided to any level of government, or anyone else, in a form which would allow the identification of an individual business.

1. How did your mining season go? Please describe in a line or two how placer mining went for you this past season.

2. Have you permitted a placer operation under the new placer system?

- no [go to next Q]
- yes

[If yes] When you permitted your placer operation under the new system, did it require more effort than has been your experience in the past?

- no [go to next Q]
- yes

[If yes] Can you describe the additional effort that was needed to permit your mine?

[If yes] Did you incur any costs to permit your mine that you had not previously encountered when permitting your placer operation?

- no [go to next Q]
- yes

[If yes] Please describe the types of additional costs you encountered when permitting your placer operation and estimate the value of those additional costs.

\$_____ additional permitting costs

3. Have you found it necessary to take additional water quality samples in order to comply with the new placer system?

- no [go to next Q]
- yes

[If yes] How many additional water quality samples in total did you take during the last placer mining season?

_____ water quality samples

4. At your placer mine last season, was greater effort required to maintain or improve settling ponds in order to be compliant with the new placer system?

- no [go to next Q]
- yes

[If yes] How many more machine hours were required to maintain or improve settling ponds in order to be compliant with the new placer system?

_____ machine hours

5. At your placer mine last season, was greater effort required to construct new or improved diversion channels in order to be compliant with the new placer system?

- no [go to next Q]
- yes

[If yes] How many more machine hours were required to construct new or improved diversion channels in order to be compliant with the new placer system?

_____ machine hours

6. At your placer mine last season, did you make a more rapid transition from using temporary diversion channels to using final restoration channels in order to comply with the new placer system?

- no [go to next Q]
- yes

7. At your placer mine last season, did you move to a zero discharge approach (100% recirculation system) in order to conform with more restrictive sediment discharge standards?

- no [go to Q 7a]
- yes

[If yes] Have you incurred additional costs (e.g., more frequent pump servicing or pump replacement) as a result of moving to a zero discharge system?

\$_____ additional permitting costs

Economic Health Monitoring Protocol: Wave 2 Panel Survey

[If yes] Has your gold recovery rate been affected by the move to 100% recirculation?

- no [go to next Q]
- yes

[If yes] To what extent has your gold recovery rate been affected?

gold recovery rate has gone from _____% to _____%

7a. Have you considered moving to 100% recirculation system but are unable to do so because of the physical characteristics of your placer claim (e.g., steep valley walls, significant groundwater flows, valley gradient)?

- no
- yes

8. At your placer mine last season, did you have to undertake any other additional operating activities in order to conform with more restrictive sediment discharge standards?

- no [go to next Q]
- yes

[If yes] Please list and describe the types of additional activities that you had to undertake last season.

[If yes] What has been the impact of the additional costs related to the additional activities on your overall operating costs...by what percentage do you estimate your overall operating costs have increased?

_____%

9. Panel survey participants have previously indicated that opportunity costs (e.g., time spent on designing new pond systems, time taken away from sluicing to do additional sampling, etc.) associated with the new placer system are significant.

Describe the opportunity costs you faced in the last year that you believe are the result of the new placer system.

How many additional hours (your time and time of others working at your placer operation) do you estimate were required to comply with the new placer system last season?

_____hours

10. During the last year, the number of placer mines in operation in the Yukon has increased/decreased by ___%. A change in the number of operating placer mines could have been influenced by a number of factors, such as (but not limited to):

- \$US gold price
- fuel costs
- borrowing costs
- equipment costs (purchase and maintenance)
- labour costs
- permitting costs
- natural conditions (snow pack, water flows, forest fires)
- changes in costs for minesite access
- quantity and quality of the gold resource
- transportation costs
- new minesite management costs

Based on your own placer mining experiences in the last year, please tell me what you think were the top five factors that contributed to the increase/decrease in the total number of placer mines in operation.

Most important factor	
Second most important factor	
Third most important factor	
Fourth most important factor	
Fifth most important factor	

11. During the last year, the amount of gold royalty collected by the Government of Yukon has increased/decreased by ___%. This suggests that the overall amount of gold produced by Yukon placer miners has increased/decreased.

Thinking about your own placer operation over the last full season, did your gold production...

- increase?
- decrease?

A change in gold production could have been influenced by a number of factors, such as (but not limited to):

- \$US gold price
- fuel costs
- borrowing costs
- equipment costs (purchase and maintenance)
- labour costs
- permitting costs
- natural conditions (snow pack, water flows, forest fires)
- changes in costs for minesite access
- quantity and quality of the gold resource
- transportation costs
- new minesite management costs

...continued on next page

Economic Health Monitoring Protocol: Wave 2 Panel Survey

Based on your own placer mining experiences in the last year, please tell me what you think were the top five factors that contributed to the increase/decrease in gold production at your placer operation.

Most important factor:	
Second most important factor :	
Third most important factor:	
Fourth most important factor:	
Fifth most important factor:	

12. During the last mining season, the number of days of employment in the Yukon's placer mining industry has increased/decreased by ____%.

Thinking about your own placer operation over the last full season, did your labour requirements....

- increase?
- decrease?

A change in labour requirements could be the result of a number of factors. What was the primary reason for the change in your labour requirements?

13. During the last mining season, the total number of placer claims staked in the Yukon has increased/decreased by ____%.

Thinking about the overall Yukon placer industry during the past year, what do you think is the primary reason for the increase/decrease in the total number of placer claims staked?

14. Diesel fuel is a key input in the operation of all placer mines.

Thinking about your own placer operation over the last mining season, did your fuel consumption.....

- increase?
- decrease?

What are the primary reasons for the change in fuel consumption?

	Change in fuel consumption was/was not a result of a change in:
<input type="checkbox"/> was <input type="checkbox"/> was not	Fuel prices
<input type="checkbox"/> was <input type="checkbox"/> was not	Fuel efficiency of earth moving equipment
<input type="checkbox"/> was <input type="checkbox"/> was not	Quality of ground being mined
<input type="checkbox"/> was <input type="checkbox"/> was not	Other factor (please specify):
<input type="checkbox"/> was <input type="checkbox"/> was not	Other factor (please specify):

Thinking about your most productive placer operation, can you reasonably attribute some portion of the change in fuel consumption to the new placer system? Please explain.

15. During the last year, the number of active water licenses in the Yukon with greater than 40,000 cubic metres of material moved per year increased/decreased by ____%.

Thinking about the overall Yukon placer industry during the past year, what do you think is the primary reason for the increase/decrease in the number of active water licenses?

16. Has the new Fish Habitat Management System for Yukon Placer Mining discouraged you from expanding into new areas?

- no [go to next Q]
- yes

[If yes] Please provide a brief description of how the new placer system has discouraged you from expanding into new areas.

17. A key factor that influences the health of the placer industry, but which is very difficult to measure, is the extent to which all of the “good placer ground” has already been mined out. Thinking of your own placer operation over the past year, to what extent did the quality of the placer gold resource of the claims you mined affect the health of your placer operation?

- not at all
- to a small extent
- to a moderate extent
- to a great extent

18. Are there any other comments that you would like to make about how the new Fish Habitat Management System for Yukon Placer Mining affected your placer mining operation this past season?

19. To be able to understand if changes in the economic health of the Yukon placer industry are affecting a certain size of placer operation more than another size, I would like to ask you one last question concerning your operating costs during this past season. At your most productive placer operation, were your total operating costs [fuel, repairs, maintenance, labour, etc.]

- less than \$50,000?
- between \$50,000 and \$250,000?
- between \$250,000 and \$500,000?
- between \$500,000 and \$1 million?
- between \$1 million and \$2.5 million?
- between \$2.5 million and \$5 million?
- more than \$5 million?

That is all of my questions today. Thank you for taking time to answer them – your cooperation and assistance is greatly appreciated!