

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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Meeting Summary

June 20, 2012

Called to order at 10:00 am at ADFG in Bethel and adjourned at 1:30 pm. Nine of thirteen members were present (10 members including ADF&G) and a quorum was established.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1.) Continuing Business
- 2.) Old Business
- 3.) New Business

WORKING GROUP ACTION ITEMS: N/A

MEETING ACTION ANNOUNCEMENT:

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 28th, at 10:00 am.

This meeting time was later changed to Tuesday, June 26, at 10:00 am at the Call of the Chairs.

ADF&G RECOMMENDATION:

To open subsistence fishing to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets for 3 days after 12-day rolling closures.

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

- 1.) Approval of the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
- 2.) To support ADF&G's recommendation (shown above). Motion failed unanimously.
- 3.) To open subsistence fishing to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in each rolling closure section for 7 consecutive days (rolling openings). Motion passed unanimously.
- 4.) To request that law enforcement return confiscated nets and rescind citations for illegal fishing activity in the 2012 fishing season. Also requesting to limit law enforcement activity to asking people to desist from continuing prohibited activity [when found to be in violation]. Motion failed.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

- 1.) Angela Morgan (Middle River Subsistence alternate member) mentioned that KYUK had announced Section 3 closures incorrectly, causing confusion among fishers.

2.) Robert Nick from Nunapitchuk spoke about the tundra villages of Nunapitchuk, Atmautluak, and Kasigluk:

- People from these villages have to travel the longest distance to fish for salmon so they save money all winter for gas. Robert's journey to his fishing site near the mouth of the Johnson is 90 miles round-trip.
- People in Nunapitchuk were getting restless to start fishing because of the good drying weather. They would like an opportunity as soon as run abundance improves.
- An elder had told him that when the water is low and water clarity is good, the low tide is the best time to catch fish because all the salmon swim deep in the main channel. He tested this suggestion in the late 1980's and caught 45 Chinook in one drift.

3.) Tim Andrew (AVCP) provided perspectives from his organization: Individuals at AVCP "felt that the closure on June 11 was premature and unnecessary because of the location of the Bethel Test Fishery." AVCP felt that subsistence fishing opportunity for sheefish, sockeye, and summer chum in early June "was severely compromised in order to save a very small amount of Chinook salmon."

- Myron Nanning had asked Tim Andrew to advocate for a different location for the test fishery, such as upriver from Eek Island.
- The Yukon River has window periods allowing a maximum of 6-inch gear, which AVCP suggested was "a good management tool that provides for subsistence." Tim cited studies on fishing gear that indicated that 6-inch mesh harvests mostly small male Chinook salmon.
- AVCP also asked agency staff to address the issue of ocean bycatch, because the amount of Kuskokwim Chinook harvested incidentally "could fill a smokehouse, which is so desperately needed right now."

4.) Bev Hoffman read comments that had been emailed to her:

- Jennifer Hooper from Bethel wrote: "People are going to start getting desperate and following through with action, fishing no matter what. With rising fuel prices and the memory of last year's harsh winter still fresh in mind, having fish to feed your family will become so much more critical."
- Carol Christiansen Manumik Piakak from Bethel wrote: "Once Fish and Game opens the river it's going to be a mess with people going to fish. It's not safe the way they are trying to manage it. I don't want our river to feel like Bristol Bay with temps high, etc. It's not supposed to be that way for subsistence."
- Doreen O'Brien from Bethel was concerned about fish sent out of Bethel. She wrote: "The fish that are used to feed local people are a way of life here and that should come first. If we all just took what was needed to feed this area I think it would ease up on the returns we get." Doreen has stopped sending fish to her family members who have moved out of the area.
- Dr. Margaret Spencer Kepler from Bethel wrote: "I am leaving the river alone for those who need it. I hope the fish become plentiful again so that everyone can benefit from the subsistence diet that the river provides."
- Harry Jackson from Kwethluk wrote: "With the long wait of a closure, there is tension growing in the villages that depend on the fish as their supplement throughout the winter." Harry noted that many men from Napaskiak, Akiachak, Akiak, Kwethluk, Tuluksak, and other villages were going to fish regardless of closures. Harry mentioned that he had talked to an elder who mentioned that many mosquitoes were flying, which

was a sign that fish were in the river. The elder wished that he could see salmon hanging in the fish camps.

- Donny Perry from Anchorage wrote: "There is no better salmon than from the Kuskokwim." He asked for quotas for subsistence fishing.

5.) Bob Heron (Representative for District 38) shared his comments from a June 19 meeting with Commissioner Cora Campbell, Myron Nanning (AVCP), and Sky Starke (AVCP):

- He would like ADF&G and USFWS to listen to public testimonies and to seriously consider opening subsistence fishing to 6-inch mesh.
- Bob asked the Commissioner to consider additional test fisheries and possibly changing the location of Bethel Test Fish project. "Because of the magnitude of this fishery, and the impacts of these decisions, only relying on one test fishery is probably inadequate."
- He asked the governor to announce a "plan of hope" to the people, as well as a backup plan if the Chinook do not come.
- *Note: Although Representative Heron left the meeting after **People to be Heard**, many of his comments were addressed later in the meeting.*

6.) Lorrie O'Brien lives in Bethel but originally is from Nunivak Island. She said that people were desperate to fill their fish racks with any species of salmon. While she understands that Chinook caught incidentally in ocean fisheries are headed for different rivers, she pointed out that nearly 59,000¹ Chinook were caught three years ago which must have "impacted somebody somewhere and I believe that it has impacted the Kuskokwim." Finally, she commented that it was "understandable that people are wearing their hearts on their sleeves" and she hoped for a management plan that meets their needs.

7.) Ron Hoffman has a fish camp across from the Bethel Test Fish site. He is both a commercial and subsistence fisherman who "used to fish in that area, and does not anymore." He encouraged ADF&G to abandon the current BTF location and expand the project to include new test fish sites at the Johnson River, Bethel, and upriver. Ron suggested that fishing during both the high and low tides could give a clearer understanding of salmon abundance. Ron also suggested utilizing set nets and fish finders.

- Robert Nick (testified earlier) agreed with Ron Hoffman "...because the Kuskokwim River meanders, and eddies move." He added that because the smelt came up the river quickly this year, elders say that all the salmon species will do the same.

8.) John Andrew (YK Delta RAC alternate member) has been a subsistence fisherman his entire life. He is usually finished harvesting Chinook by the third week of June because they usually peak in the Kwethluk area around June 20th. Chum abundance is high the first three weeks of July. John also mentioned:

- There is a 90 foot "pocket" in the current Bethel Test fish site. He recommended that BTF fish across from Oscarville, by Schwabe Island, or at the "Kwethluk Y."
- His father taught him that fish swimming on the right channel at the Kwethluk Y go to Kwethluk, Kasigluk, and Kisaralik. Fish swimming in the north channel on the Akiakchak side are meant to go far upriver.

¹ For Chinook bycatch statistics online, please visit the following:
<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/bycatch/default.htm>
<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/inseason/goasalmonmort.pdf>

- In his experience, 6-inch mesh gillnets catch smaller salmon like “jacks” (small male Chinook), chum, and sockeye.

9.) Doug Molyneaux worked as a biologist on the Kuskokwim from 1989 through 2011.

Regarding comments about Bethel Test Fish, he said that “more tools are always better, especially early season tools, and more tools should be considered. However, different test fisheries might not be the answer.”

- ADF&G and other organizations have tried numerous types of test fisheries over the past two decades, such as the Kwegoooyuk set net fishery on Eek Island, Eek Island drift gillnet test fishery, a Lower Kuskokwim River test fishery with sites near Eek island and Tuntutuliak, subsistence test fisheries involving three to eleven villages at a time, Aniak Test Fishery, Chuathbaluk Test Fishery, and augmenting Bethel Test Fishery with set nets.
- Doug explained that, “All these test fisheries failed to provide the information that a test fishery needs to provide.”
- Effective test fisheries operate differently than commercial fisheries because the intent is consistency rather than “fish hunting.” The test fish site is chosen as a place where fish typically pass through instead of mill. Different sized net are fished on a rotating schedule through designated stations, so catches effectively index run abundance and timing.
- Doug explained that Bethel Test Fish remains consistent, which means that the tool is working. However, he is afraid that “...political pressure will try to change the BTF, which will destroy its utility to management.”

10.) Eva Lake from Bethel commented that she and her sisters agree with having closures, but seven days is too long. She would like the subsistence fishery to open now because the drying weather is good. She was also concerned about people living at fish camp who do not have refrigerators and need to dry fish to store it.

11.) Edward Nicholai from Atmautluak was concerned that “we are going to have a big disaster in wintertime” if closures continue. He explained that smaller, low-income villages like Atmautluak depend entirely on subsistence food gathered in the summer. Most people do not go to Bethel or Costco, and he said that they may have to become criminals to put food on the table. He stated that there had been conditions in which he was willing to risk becoming a criminal to feed his family. Edward also did not like the river being divided into five sections because closures seemed to have more impact on communities. He preferred the simple division of “upriver” and “downriver” instead.

12.) Fritz Charles (Member at Large alternate) stated, “All the comments today are fair and true.” He talked about how people on the Kuskokwim Delta rely on the land for food and he accused ADF&G and USFWS of criminalizing those trying to feed their families. Fritz warned, “Someday we are going to unite. There will be consequences [citations and seizures], but for desperate times we are going to fish. We are going to put food on the table somehow and some way.”

- Doug Molyneaux responded, “Recent decisions by state and federal managers have been based heavily on science in order to make sure that enough salmon spawn to provide for fishermen in future years. But this management also needs to be tempered by current societal need: people’s current need for food *now*. With that in mind, I think

allowing some fishing opportunity with 6-inch gear seems like a reasonable compromise.”

- Fritz then addressed agency staff: “Us natives have been scientists for hundreds of thousands of years, and yet you will not listen to our scientists.” He disagreed with ADF&G and USFWS making decisions after only being in the area for the last forty years.

13.) Megan Leary, Napaimute, stated that upriver was concerned about lower river protest fisheries. She urged the group “to realize that the closures are for the future... Right now Chinook need to reach the tributaries to spawn.” She encouraged fishermen to catch chum, sockeye, and Coho while Chinook conservation measures were in place. Megan believed that, “It’s really hard, but we will make it.”

14.) Father Daniel from Kasigluk commented that he still thinks that Bethel Test Fish should fish on the outgoing tide to catch more fish. Bev Hoffman replied that the goal of Bethel Test Fish was consistency rather than catching as many fish as possible.

15.) Marie Kameroff commented that many people in Aniak do not have 4-inch nets. She needs to start fishing because she is an elder and a widow.

16.) Nick Pavilla, Sr., from the tundra village of Atmautluak commented that it was good that closures help salmon reach their spawning grounds. However, he believed that closures in Section 1 and Section 2 were “way too long” for downriver communities. He explained that traditionally people spend the summer months preparing salmon and other available species for the winter. He was concerned because his ancestors were always able to use the river’s resources, but last year his family’s subsistence harvest was 30 Chinook, which was not enough to meet their needs. Nick was also worried that families would have to use their savings for other bills if fishing started too late in the season. It costs \$130 in gas roundtrip to go fishing from Atmautluak.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE REPORTS:

Douglas Kernak reported that fishermen who traveled out to the coast were catching Chinook with 8-inch gear.

NOTE: several people commented about this report following the meeting, saying that Doug had reported someone fishing illegally. These individuals simply missed the first part of Doug’s report: Doug was talking about fishing activity that took place in Kuskokwim Bay, outside the closed area. He reported legal fishing activity and the results of that effort.

James Charles (Downriver Elder) noted that most people in Tuntutuliak cannot travel to coastal areas to fish. He said that many people have not even eaten fresh fish yet because Section 1 had been closed for the last ten days. James also commented that Section 1 encompassed too small of an area. He did not like that Bethel could fish above Section 1 when rolling closures first started, and would prefer the rolling closure sections to be the same as commercial fishing boundaries (Commercial Fishing Subdistrict 1-B includes the entire river below Bethel).

Henry Lupie (Member at Large) commented that elders say that Chinook take three days to swim from the mouth at Kuskokwim Bay to the Johnson River. He reminded the group that

every year Charlie Brown (Commercial Fisher) from Eek had requested a test fish site near the mouth of the Kuskokwim in order for ADF&G to have an indication of Chinook coming into the river. Henry also strongly recommended that managers stop incidental Chinook catches in ocean fisheries.

Mike Williams (Lower River Subsistence) thanked managers for traveling to Akiak to explain closures. He reported that his Akiak catches with 4-inch mesh were 6 to 10 sockeye, 4 small Chinook, and possibly one larger Chinook. However, Mike felt that he did not have a good indication of Chinook salmon abundance because people were not targeting them. Mike had the following comments:

- Elders agreed to the original 7-day rolling closures because they believe that their Creator will provide for them. However, tribal government is missing from fisheries decisions. Tribal leaders have the same obligation as agency staff to manage resources.
- With desperation, greed sets in (for example, "combat fishing"). Therefore, management decisions may have a different effect on the fishery than originally intended.
- Managers need to listen to the testimonies of "our honorable people" who need immediate relief from closures.

[ONC IN-SEASON LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE REPORT:](#)

Please see the June 20 Information Packet for ONC's full report.

Alissa Joseph (ONC) reported that ten out of 27 families surveyed were fishing. Eight families reported catch rates for Chinook as "poor." People were concerned that they would not have an opportunity to fish before going back to work at the end of June.

Survey participants reported abnormalities in some salmon, such as yellow or orange pus in the meat, worms either in the flesh or in between the air bladder and kidney, rotten flesh, discolored livers, and deteriorating skin around the mouth and fins.

ONC was waiting for Chinook abundance to improve before distributing ASL sampling kits. No ichthyophonous sampling occurred during that week either.

[MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE REPORT:](#)

Gerald Simeon (Middle River Subsistence member) reported that Section 3 closures were in effect so Aniak fish racks remained empty. Even though everyone agreed with the original 7-day closures, they were frustrated because they thought that a 5-day extension was too much. Gerald tried to explain to people that "we have to do this for the fish."

Bob Aloysius (YK Delta RAC member) reported that fishing was slow, even for whitefish. Many people were confused about the 12:01 am start time for closures. They were not happy about extensions and asked him if Quinhagak and Goodnews Bay were intercepting Kuskokwim fish. Regarding complaints about bad weather, Bob reminded the group that the purpose of having a smokehouse was to keep a fire going so that fish could be preserved regardless of rain.

KNA INSEASON MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE REPORT:

Please see the June 20 Information Packet for KNA's full report.

Alexandria Waska (KNA) reported that people were anxious to fish and were concerned about closures.

UPPER RIVER SUBSISTENCE REPORT:

Mark Leary (Upriver Subsistence) reported that his section of the river had 36 hours left of unrestricted fishing. In Napaimute, it had taken two families twelve days of fishing with 6-inch mesh to catch a total of 5 Chinook, 3 sockeye, and 12 chum. However, they greatly appreciated all the fish and thought that the chum tasted delicious. Mark reported high and muddy water in Crooked Creek, where one family caught two chums in six hours of drifting. He also reported that from Napaskiak to Crooked Creek, he used his fish finder and saw a stream of large fish in the main channel. He also checked a 30-foot hole where salmon rest and found many large fish.

HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE REPORT:

Ray Collins (Headwaters Subsistence) had no report because people were not fishing in McGrath. He was encouraged by Mark Leary's fish finder report and said that if those large fish were indeed Chinook, he hoped that they make it upriver to spawn.

DISCUSSION OF RUN ASSESSMENT DATA:

Kevin Schaberg (ADF&G) reported near average water temperature and less than average water clarity at the Bethel Test Fish site.

The Bethel Test Fish Chinook CPUE was currently tracking below 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011. At this point, the Late Run Timing Tool showed that the Management Objective would not be met. However, Kevin noted that savings from closures were beginning to show up at the Bethel Test Fishery and that the Chinook run appeared to be building.

Chum and sockeye salmon abundances were increasing at Bethel Test Fish.

WEIRS/MARK-RECAPTURE/AERIAL SURVEYS/OTHER:

Weir projects were installing and dealing with high water.

Steve Miller (USFWS) reported that the Kwethluk River weir would be operational within a week. Normally the weir does not see Chinook salmon until the beginning of July.

COMMENTS:

Discussion regarding Bethel Test Fish (BTF) followed:

- Ray Collins asked Doug Bue (ADF&G) if anything has changed at the project since 1988 that would cause lower CPUEs. Doug Bue noted that river morphology has changed over the term of the project, but nothing has changed rapidly.
- Casie Stockdale asked if aerial photographs had been taken recently to check the river's morphology. Doug reiterated that changes in the river do not happen rapidly, so the data remains comparable.

- Douglas Kernak asked if ADF&G would listen to suggestions about changing BTF. Kevin Schaberg replied that the Department would take ideas into consideration. However, BTF remains highly correlated to escapement, even in years of low abundance.
- Doug Molyneaux explained to the group that there was no relationship between the water level at the Crooked Creek gauge and BTF indices.

PROCESSOR REPORT: none

SPORT FISH REPORT: none

WEATHER FORECAST:

The weather on the Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta was forecasted to be sunny to partly sunny for the following week.

RECOMMENDATION:

Before making a recommendation, Travis Elison (ADF&G) took a 15-minute caucus with USFWS to consider KRSMWG comments.

When Travis returned he stated,

“Managers have heard and recognize the sacrifices and burdens that subsistence fishermen have been experiencing with restrictions taken so far this year. These restrictions are not taken lightly by the managers, but are deemed necessary based on the agreed upon Management Objective and performance of the Chinook run so far this year. As you know, performance of the Chinook run in recent years has been poor and many escapement goals have not been achieved. We are making every effort this year to achieve all escapement goals to ensure future returns of Chinook salmon.

Current Chinook salmon run assessment information continues to indicate very late run timing and weak run abundance. Late run timing has complicated our ability to accurately project total run abundance at this time. However, information available does not indicate adequate abundance to achieve the agreed-upon Management Objective at average or even below average subsistence harvest levels. As a result, continued conservation measures are required to reduce Chinook subsistence harvest until such a time as run assessment indicates that the Management Objective will be achieved.

The Bethel Test Fishery indicates chum and sockeye abundance is increasing in the lower River, with their combined abundance in excess of Chinook salmon. This trend is expected to increase as the chum and sockeye runs continue to develop. Based on the 2012 Outlook, managers expect adequate abundance of chum and sockeye salmon to provide for subsistence harvest.”

Recommendation: State and federal managers recommended opening the Kuskokwim River subsistence fishery to gillnet mesh sizes of 6-inches or less for periods of 3 days. This restrictive mesh opening would be implemented in a stepwise manner consistent with the 12-day rolling closure schedule, currently in place.

- Pre-season closures in Lower and Middle river spawning tributaries would remain in place.
- This opening is expected to provide harvest opportunity on more abundant chum and sockeye while providing measures of conservation to reduce harvest of Chinook salmon.
- After this 3 day opening the subsistence fishery will revert back to the 4-inch mesh restriction.
- Managers will continue to monitor the development of Chinook, chum, and sockeye salmon and recommend appropriate management actions.
- Rod and reel for subsistence fishing for Chinook salmon will remain closed during the 3-day openings.

Travis clarified when each Rolling Closure section would have a 3-day opening for 6-inch mesh:

- Section 1: 12:00 am June 22 to 11:59 pm June 24
- Section 2: 12:00 am June 25 to 11:59 pm June 27
- Section 3: 12:00 am June 29 to 11:59 pm July 1
- Section 4: 12:00 am July 4 to 11:59 pm July 6
- Section 5: 12:00 am July 9 to 11:59 pm July 12

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

MOTION 1: Approval of the agenda. Motion passed unanimously (10 yeas).

MOTION 2: To support ADF&G's recommendation of opening subsistence fishing in each rolling closure section to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets for 3 days after 12-day rolling closures. Motion failed unanimously (9 nays).

COMMENTS FOR MOTION 2:

Henry Lupie suggested amending the motion so that openings scheduled for Sundays would have an extra day, because many people do not fish on Sunday. This amendment was not seconded.

Mark Leary added that many people were brought up not to hunt or fish on Sundays because it should be a day of rest. However, the elders excuse this rule if there is a harvest opportunity, as long as you rest in the morning.

Many members were confused about the start and end times of the ADF&G recommendation. Bev Hoffman said that people should call ADF&G if they have questions.

MOTION 3: To open subsistence fishing to 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in each rolling closure section after the original 7-day rolling closures. Sections 1 and 2 would open immediately, since the 7-day closures had already elapsed in those areas. Motion passed unanimously (9 yeas).

COMMENTS FOR MOTION 3:

Douglas Kernak agreed with Henry Lupie's earlier comment about not fishing on Sundays because of Sabbath. Bev Hoffman pointed out that if Motion 3 was passed, Section 1 would not be fishing this Sunday.

ADF&G did not accept Motion 3. USFWS supported the position of ADF&G.

Bev Hoffman replied that she was very disappointed. She encouraged people to call her with their comments and to call ADF&G.

MOTION 4: Law enforcement to return confiscated nets and invalidate citations issued for illegal fishing this season; and in the future to simply ask people to stop fishing when in found in violation. Motion failed (6 yeas, 3 nays).

COMMENTS FOR MOTION 4:

Ken Actin (Alaska Wildlife Troopers) stated that at this time the state was not in position to return nets or invalidate citations.

Mike Williams commented that he felt like "our emotions and way of life were being damaged...with that kind of treatment to people who are already poor." He supported the motion.

Mark Leary did not support the motion. He stated, "This is tough, but we all have to stick together. We either all fish or we all don't fish. If people choose to break the law, there have got to be consequences."

Gerald Simeon voted against Motion 4 because he agreed with nets being seized from Aniak guides who fished for Chinook illegally to feed their clients.

Ray Collins explained that he voted against the motion because it was not appropriate for the KRSWMG to ask Troopers to ignore the law.

Bob Aloysius commented that he made Motion 4 to de-validate citations simply because many people did not understand the start times of rolling closures.

OLD BUSINESS:

1.) Old business items were tabled until later in the season.

NEW BUSINESS:

1.) On June 19, 2012, Akiak Native Community Elders issued a resolution to fisheries biologists and the KRSWMG stating that if fishing restrictions were not lifted "the Community of Akiak is going to fish for their families at 12:00 pm on Wednesday, June 20th." See page 15 of the June 20 Information Packet for the full resolution.

2.) On June 18, 2012, Tuntutuliak Traditional Council issued a resolution stating that the Tuntutuliak Traditional Council had the authority to open the Kuskokwim River for subsistence Chinook fishing" and that the river "be open for subsisting Chinook salmon 24 hours a day until adequate catch is made for Tribal members." See page 16 of the June 20 Information Packet for the full resolution.

COMMENTS:

Since all of the items from the resolutions had already been addressed earlier in the meeting, the Chair asked for comments from members and agency staff:

- ADF&G had no comments regarding the resolutions.
- Tom Doolittle stated that USFWS and the Refuge supported the state's enforcement efforts and conservation measures for Chinook salmon.
- Sergeant Actin (Alaska Wildlife Troopers) explained that troopers have to issue citations and seize nets for illegal fishing. If a fisherman's net is seized it will not be available for subsistence fishing after the rolling closures. He said, "I urge that these protest fisheries be rescinded."

GENERAL COMMENTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

James Charles pointed out that, according to today's ADF&G recommendation, Section 1 would be open for fishing in two days. He said that he was happy with that.

Mike Williams commented that 6-inch mesh was an "unreal compromise" with chums and reds in the river. He said that he was tired of always having to compromise.

Tom Doolittle had to step out of the meeting to answer a request from his supervisor. Bev Hoffman insisted that the meeting pause until his return in order for him to hear KRSMWG comments. Tom Doolittle apologized for stepping out because, while he has responsibilities to staff in the field, "his primary responsibility is to the constituents that we have here on the Delta and the subsistence users."

Regarding subsistence closures, Mark Leary stated that the people "have endured a lot more than this." He reminded the group that moose moratoriums were difficult at the time but successfully brought back populations. "We can be proud to tell our kids that we sacrificed for a little while. I want to be able to tell my kids and grandchildren that in 2012 we sacrificed in this terrible, terrible salmon season, and that we sat on the beach so that they could have some. We have to stick together through this."

Henry Lupie said that he was quite disappointed that ADF&G did not adopt the KRSMWG suggestions. He was concerned that ADF&G recommendations would be difficult for KRSMWG members to explain to the public.

Ray Collins said that he looked forward to looking at escapement project numbers to see if Chinook conservation actions had any effect. He was concerned about how the run will materialize in 2014 if we do not meet escapement this year.

Travis Elison asked subsistence users to try their best to understand ADF&G's actions. "We are trying to do this on behalf of their interest for the future. I ask that you stick with us, and I promise that you will get your chance to catch fish as soon as we are able to allow that."

Regarding Chinook conservation, Tom Doolittle stated that, "In these lean years we are trying to make fish for future generations. I think that we are seeing a run late in timing possibly to a magnitude that we have not seen in our recent memories on the Kuskokwim River." He talked about how much he respects the subsistence users and that USFWS hopes for joint cooperation with all the users, state law enforcement, and state biologists. He continued, "We are part of this community, too, and our decisions are never taken lightly.... We applaud people's cooperation when working with our staff when they meet them in the field. We hope that as the run transpires we will be able to liberalize this fishery to the type of subsistence harvest that we all remember."

Bev Hoffman thanked everyone for participating in the meeting she was frustrated but she said that "it was better to be at the table in disagreement than not at the table at all." Her family would not break the law so they would not be fishing during closed periods. She hoped that other people would do the same.

Fritz Charles agreed with Mark Leary in that everyone needs to work together to conserve Chinook salmon. Fritz reminded everyone that they had known the potential for fishing restrictions since the Interagency Meeting and March 30 KRSWMG meeting in Anchorage. Even though "everyone has a heavy heart today, and has for two weeks," Fritz urged everyone to abide by the rules.

WORKING GROUP ATTENDANCE:

MEMBER SEAT:	NAME:
UPRIVER ELDER	<i>vacant</i>
DOWNRIVER ELDER	James Charles
COMMERCIAL FISHER	absent
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Mike Williams
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSTENCE	Gerald Simeon
UPPER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Mark Leary
HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE	absent
PROCESSOR	Nick Souza
MEMBER AT LARGE	Henry Lupie
SPORT FISHER	Bev Hoffman
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	Ray Collins
Y-K DELTA RAC	Bob Aloysius
ADF&G	Travis Elison
CHAIR	Bev Hoffman

Other Participants:	
<u>ADF&G Comm. Fish</u> : Jeff Estensen, Chris Shelden, Alice Bailey, Jan Conitz, Dan Bergstrom, Jennifer Yuhas, Zach Liller, Jordan Palmer, Travis Elison, Kevin Schaberg <u>Sport Fish</u> : John Chythlook, Tom Taube <u>Subsistence Division</u> : Hiroko Ikuta, Jeff Park	
<u>USFWS</u> : Alex Nick, Dan Gillikin, Steve Miller, Tom Doolittle <u>OSM</u> : Don Rivard, Pete Probasco, George Papas, Pippa Kenner	
Fritz Charles (alternate member) John Andrew (alternate member) Angele Morgan (alternate member) Alexandra Waska (KNA) LaDonn Robbins (KNA) Mike Thalhauser (KNA) Angela Denning Barnes (KYUK) Alissa Joseph (ONC) Gerri Sumpter (Senator Murkowski's office) Agatha Erickson (Senator Begich's office) Shawna Thoma (Senator Begich's office) Maridon Boario (Senator Hoffman's office) Jeff Sanders Representative Bob Heron Ron Hoffman Eva Lake	Megan Leary Audrey Leary Dave Cannon Father Daniel Marie Kameroff Doug Molyneaux Sheila Williams Douglas Kernak Robert Nick Lorrie O'Brien Sheila Williams (Akiak Native community) Timothy Andrew (AVCP) Casie Stockdale (AVCP) Carl Berger (Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council) Jess Mulligan (law enforcement officer) Sergeant Ken Actin (Alaska Wildlife Troopers)

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (**ADF&G**), Orutsarmiut Native Council (**ONC**), Kuskokwim Native Association (**KNA**), Association of Village Council Presidents (**AVCP**), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (**USFWS**), Bethel Test Fishery project (**BTF**), Catch Per Unit Effort (**CPUE**), Coastal Village Seafoods (**CVS**), ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Division (**CF**), ADF&G Sport Fisheries Division (**SF**), Regional Advisory Council (**RAC**), Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group (**KRSMWG or Working Group, WG**), Sustainable Escapement Goal (**SEG**), Biological Escapement Goal (**BEG**), Management Objective (**MO**), Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence (**ANS**), Emergency Order (**EO**)