

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

1 (800) 315-6338 (MEET) Code: 58756# (KUSKO)

ADF&G Bethel toll free: 1 (855) 933-2433

March 11, 2014

Meeting called to order at 1:45 pm. Initially, there weren't enough participants to establish a quorum. This was partially attributed to a mistake on the meeting agenda listing the wrong date and time. As the meeting progressed, participants became available and a quorum was established with 7 voting seats represented. No motions were brought and the meeting was generally conducted for discussion only. This meeting was not open to the public, and initially was not open to managers. Managers were ultimately permitted to attend but not to participate in discussions beyond providing information.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Emergency Petitions: status update

Comments from the Public – relayed by members

2014 Management: communicating the Working Group message

Looking Ahead: possible regulatory proposals from the KRSMWG.

Working Group business meeting: membership –*these items could not be addressed at that time.*

WORKING GROUP ACTION ITEMS: *these items were not called “action items” at the time of meeting; however work was assigned or volunteered.*

1. Distribute photos of traditional fishing practices in the Kuskokwim Area. -*Assigned/volunteered: Bev Hoffman/Chris Shelden*
2. Schedule radio talk shows with state managers to help convey the Working Group message. - *Assigned/volunteered: Fritz Charles, James Charles, Bob Aloysius, Bev Hoffman, and Travis Elision.*
3. Develop a proposal in which dipnets would permanently become legal gear in the Kuskokwim River under both state and federal management regimes. -*Assigned/volunteered: Dave Cannon via Napaimute.*
4. Develop a proposal to the state to create regulation that would recognize the spiritual connection to king salmon and allow for limited harvest in times of low abundance -*Assigned/volunteered: Greg Roczicka would develop this proposal under another organization's umbrella.*

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS: no motions were made at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS:

EMERGENCY PETITIONS: *See the March 11 Informational Packet to review draft petitions prepared by Dave Cannon. Dave described the emergency petitions that he had prepared and submitted to the Board of Fish at the Working Group's request. Dave also described recent discussion of the same petitions by Federal Regional Advisory Council's. It was anticipated that the Board of Fisheries would consider these petitions at the upcoming meeting beginning on March 17th.*

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Working Group members discussed input provided by the public. Points made included:

- the possibility that the village of Kwethluk was no longer in support of conservation measures;
- the suggestion of pursuing an endangered species designation for Kuskokwim king salmon;
- the possibility of an 804 review and/or discussion of a tier II fishery designation for the area;
- that the majority of folks commenting on management issues understand the problems and are open to closures;
- a fair number of people didn't intend to abide by closures, saying that conservation was taking place at the wrong time;

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- many people would fish out of a need to provide for their families regardless of closures;
- concern among upper river communities regarding the coming fishing season, and rumors that lower river communities would fish while upper river communities would have no opportunity;
- concern among lower river communities that opportunity would exist elsewhere and that lower river communities would miss-out;
- some felt that the government was not doing a good job of managing the fishery and that the people should stick with their traditional use patterns, believing these to be well suited to conservation;
- some indicated that in the past, fisheries were more self-limiting, because people didn't have the tools to seek resources so effectively, impact on kings was less, and people depended more on chum salmon.

2014 MANAGEMENT: communicating the Working Group message: The Working Group discussed an approach for getting the conservation message out to the communities and individuals. There was discussion of scheduling radio talk shows and continuing public meetings in communities.

LOOKING AHEAD: possibility of regulatory proposals: There was discussion of possible proposals to state and federal management agencies for changes in regulation. By the time this discussion occurred, there was no longer a quorum, which limited the ability of the Working Group to address suggested topics. Conversation quickly concluded.

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GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Orutsararmiut Native Council (ONC), Kuskokwim Native Association (KNA), Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), Georgetown Traditional Council (GTC), 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, Working Group, or WG), Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG), Biological Escapement Goal (BEG), Management Objective (MO), Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence (ANS), Emergency Order (EO), Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (BSFA)

WORKING GROUP ATTENDANCE:

MEMBER SEAT:	NAME:
DOWNRIVER ELDER	James Charles
UPRIVER ELDER	<i>Vacant</i>
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Mike Williams
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Dave Cannon
UPRIVER SUBSISTENCE	Barb Carlson
HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE	<i>Absent</i>
MEMBER AT LARGE	Fritz Charles
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	<i>Absent</i>
YK DELTA RAC	Bob Aloysius
COMMERCIAL FISHING	<i>Absent</i>
SPORT FISHING	LaMont Albertson
PROCESSOR	<i>Absent</i>
ADF&G	Travis Elison
CHAIR	Bev Hoffman

Other Participants:

ADF&G Comm. Fish: Chris Shelden,
Subsistence Division: Hiroko Ikuta

USFWS: Brian McCaffery

Dan Gillikin (KNA)
Art Nelson (BSFA)

Greg Roczicka (Lower River Subsistence alternate)

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