# **Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group AGENDA**

Date: 5/30/12	_Time:10:00 AM	Meeting Place: ADF&G Offices in Bethel
CALL TO ORDER:		
	Chairperson	Time
ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH (	QUORUM: QUORUM	MET? Yes / No
Upriver Elder:		Processor:
Downriver Elder:		Member at Large:
Commercial Fisher:		Sport Fisher:
Lower River Subsistence:		Western Interior RAC:
Middle River Subsistence:		Y-K Delta RAC:
Upper River Subsistence:		ADF&G:
Headwaters Subsistence:		

**INTRODUCTIONS:** 

**INVOCATION:** 

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda may be amended at this time.

**PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:** 

#### **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

- 1. Subsistence Reports:
  - a. Lower River:
  - b. ONC Inseason Subsistence:
  - c. Middle River:
  - d. Upper River:
  - e. Headwaters:
- 2. Overview of 2012 Kuskokwim River salmon run assessment projects:
  - a. Bethel Test fish and assessment of Escapement: Kevin Schaberg and USFWS Staff
- 3. Commercial Catch Report:
- 4. Processor Report:
- 5. Sport Fish Report:
- 6. Area M Report:
- 7. Weather Forecast:
- 8. Recommendation:
- 9. Motion for Discussion and Action:
- 10. Meeting Action Announcement:

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1) Working Group Action items from prior meeting
  - a) Proposals to the BOF-Greg Roczicka
  - b) Letter to the BOF-Bev Hoffman
  - c) Letter in support of HB332-LaMont Albertson
  - d) Letter in support of USFWS participation in cooperative management (working group)-LaMont Albertson.
- 2) Working Group by Laws
- 3) Working Group seats: Update the Roll-Call list, and add possible members and alternates.
- 4) Upriver Elder seat remains vacant: Options to discuss
- 5) Adding alternates
- 6) Discuss creating a Calvin Simeon Award

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) Plans and ideas for Public Outreach for salmon Conservation
  - a) Conservation of Salmon on Middle River Tributaries (Dave Canon).

	NTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:		
Time	Date	Place	
ADJOURNMENT TIM	1E		

# **Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group**

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

### **Information Packet**

30 May 2011

### 2012 Kuskokwim River Chinook Salmon Management ADFG/CF:

## Information from Interagency/working Group meeting (March):

- Forecast 197,000 (157,000 to 236,000)
- Management recommendations
  - Tributary Restrictions (because of prior year escapements)
    - Kwethluk
    - Kisaralik
    - Kasigluk
    - Tuluksak
    - Aniak
    - George
  - Mainstem required no action
    - Will manage for Stock-Recruit based objective for whole river
    - Tributary restrictions will result in conservation and reduce likelihood of further mainstem subsistence restriction.
  - Information from early draft version of Run Reconstruction was used to estimate escapement needs based on Spawner-Recruit (S/R) estimates of Spawners at maximum yield (Smsy=95,000)
  - 102,000 available at midpoint of forecast for subsistence harvest (ANS 64,500-83,000)

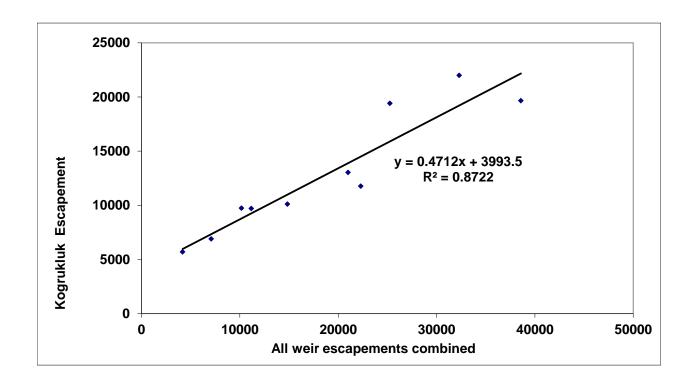
#### **New Information**:

- Subsistence harvest estimate revisions (Hamazaki 2011)
  - Decreased harvest estimate
- Corrections to run reconstruction
  - Revisions to estimates of Total Return for scaling
  - Harvest estimate changes reduced overall annual estimates
- Questions about run reconstruction estimates
  - Investigated and addressed concerns
  - Still needs formal peer review (Should start ~June 15)
- Not enough time to evaluate spawner-recruit information from run reconstruction for management objective in 2012 season
- Forecast using updated S/R data 195,000 (range 155,000 233,000)
  - Small change from previous forecast
    - 197,000 (157,000 to 236,000)
- Expect to be near midpoint of forecast

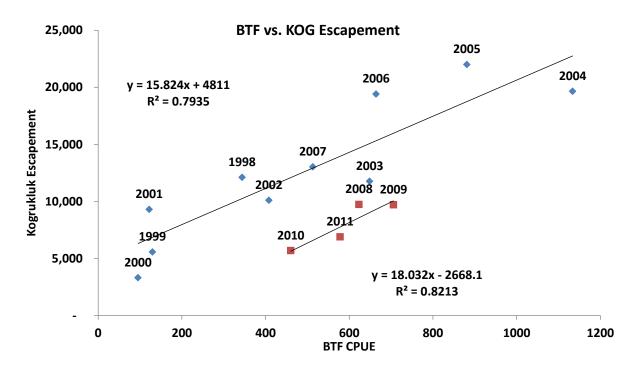
### Decided not to use S/R based Kuskokwim goal in 2012:

- Use Kogrukluk SEG as Inseason Management Objective for Kuskokwim Chinook
  - KOG has 33 year data set (several high and low abundance years)
  - KOG has been the escapement index for the Kuskokwim for a long time
  - KOG escapement is related to sum of all escapement weirs

# Kogrukluk relationship with All Escapement weirs



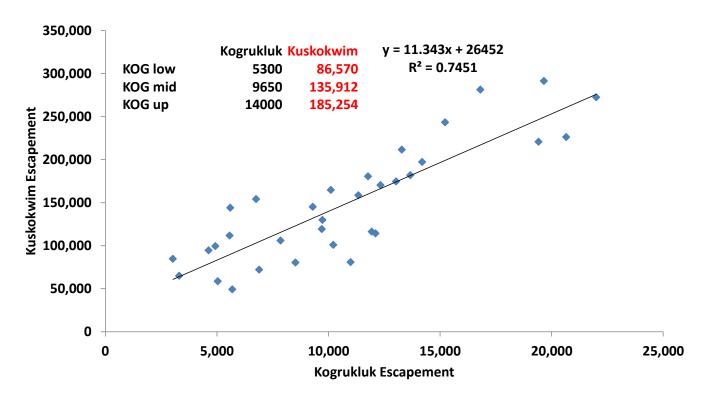
## Kogrukluk Relationship with BTF



### Kogrukluk as inseason tool:

- KOG relationship with BTF will allow for daily tracking
- KOG has SEG based on 29 of 33 years of observation
- Achieving this goal has been sustainable at KOG
- Achieving KOG SEG should achieve sustainable escapement in Kuskokwim
  - Relationship between KOG and Kuskokwim

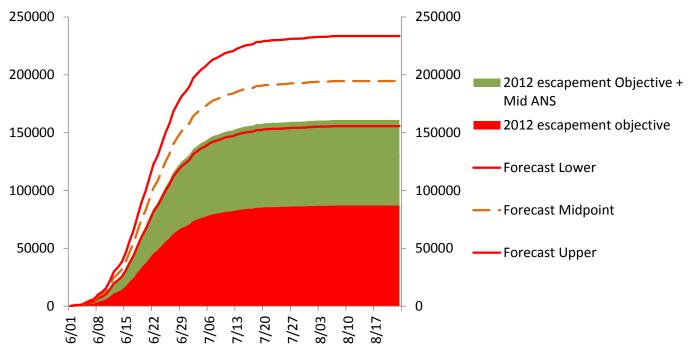
### **Kogrukluk relationship with Total escapement:**



### **ADFG Recommendation I:**

- Existing preseason tributary restrictions will remain in place due to recent years escapement at these systems
- Manage Kuskokwim using BTF tool developed for daily evaluation using Kogrukluk SEG range and relationships.
  - **5,300 14,000; 86,570 185,254**
- Management objective is the threshold of escapement below which additional harvest restriction will occur.
- Mainstem actions based on forecast
  - 195,000 (forecast *Midpoint*) 87,000 (Management Objective) = 108,000 (Above ANS)
  - No initial mainstem subsistence restrictions
  - Evaluate using BTF and consider taking/rescinding actions when indicated

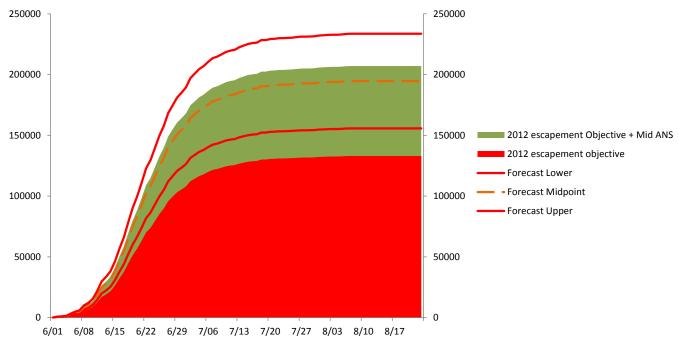
### ADFG Recommendation (87,000) relative to forecast



### **USFWS Alternative:**

- Achieving KOG SEG will not assure meeting other escapement goals
- Recommend KOG management objective 9,389 (133,000)
  - This number will increase likelihood of achieving all escapement goals.
- Mainstem actions based on forecast
  - 195,000 (forecast *Midpoint*) 133,000 (Management Objective) =
     62,000 available for subsistence (Below ANS)
  - Initial mainstem subsistence restrictions warranted
  - Evaluate using BTF and consider taking/rescinding actions when indicated

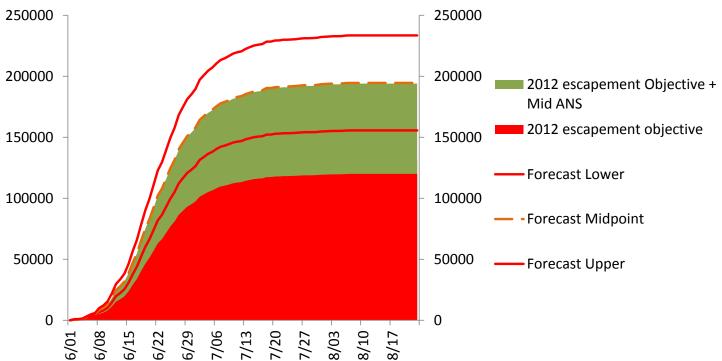
### USFWS Recommendation (133,000) relative to forecast



### **ADFG Compromise:**

- We believe there are enough Chinook salmon to achieve sustainable escapement (86,570) and meet subsistence needs in 2012.
- Most goals (not KOG) are believed to be higher than necessary because of the limited data sets used for their development.
- Using 133,000 as the management objective will result in subsistence restrictions at or near the beginning of the run, *before* inseason data indicates run strength.
  - Not enough fish identified with forecast to provide unrestricted subsistence fishery and meet this management objective.
- Use KOG Management objective (8,247; 120,000)
  - This increases likelihood of achieving tributary escapement goals.
  - Indicates subsistence restrictions at or near the beginning of the run would not be necessary
    - 195,000 (Forecast Midpoint) 120,000 (Management Objective) = 75,000 (Near recent subsistence average harvest )
    - Evaluate inseason with BTF data and consider taking/rescinding actions when indicated
  - Increased likelihood of additional subsistence restriction, compared to KOG SEG management objective.

### ADFG Compromise (120,000) relative to forecast



## **Board of Fish Proposals from KRSMWG:**

# ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES AND ALASKA BOARD OF GAME REGULATION PROPOSAL FORM

PO BOX 25526, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526

BOARD OF FISHER	IES REGULATIONS	BOARD OF GAME REGULATIONS	
☐ Fishing Area Kusk	okwim	Game Management Unit (GMU)	
Subsistence     Subsi	Personal Use	☐ Hunting ☐ Trapping	
Sport		Subsistence Other	
JOINT BOARD REG	ULATIONS	Resident	
Advisory Committee	Regional Council	Nonresident	
		swers will be printed in the proposal packets (blished). Use separate forms for each propos	
1. Alaska Administrat AAC	tive Code Number 5	Regulation Book Page No.	e 
returned at the lowes were not met in man were faced with unpr	t levels on record as noted by the moy of the assessment/monitoring projecedented closures by both state and etter, it is still well below average – a	Professional Formula F	pement goals stence fishers ough the 2012
	•	ents goals are not met. People go hungry f	or their
Reinstate Kuskokwii		adopted your solution, what would the new concern to facilitate rebuilding actions for nee needs into the future.	
Achieving and maint		resource harvested or products produced? If a carge range can only improve the quality of the Kuskokwim Area.	
6. Solutions to difficul	t problems benefit some people and hu	ert others:	
<b>A.</b> Who is likely to be Chinook salmon stoo		e who rely on the long-term integrity of Ku	uskokwim
B. Who is likely to suf	<b>fer if your solution is adopted?</b> No or	e	
7. List any other solut rejected them. None applicable.	ions you considered and why you	DO NOT WRITE HERE	
Submitted By: Name	Kuskokwim Salmon Manageme	nt Working Group	
	Individual or Group		
c/o P.O. Box 1467	F	Bethel, AK	99559
Address		City, State	ZIP Code

# ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES AND ALASKA BOARD OF GAME REGULATION PROPOSAL FORM

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BOARD OF FISHERIES REGULATIONS	BOARD OF GAME REGULATIONS
☐ Fishing Area Kuskokwim	Game Management Unit (GMU)
☐ Subsistence ☐ Personal Use	☐ Hunting ☐ Trapping
☐ Sport ☐ Commercial	Subsistence Other
JOINT BOARD REGULATIONS	Resident
Advisory Regional Council Committee	Nonresident
	All answers will be printed in the proposal packets along with the t be published). Use separate forms for each proposal.
1. Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC 07.33	Regulation Book Page No.
Kuskokwim commercial fishery remains in regulati	ddress? The allowance of up to 8" mesh gear in W-1 of the ion, while the large Chinook salmon (primarily females) that owards enhancing the quality of escapement, with any harvestable he subsistence fishery.
3. What will happen if this problem is not solved? Ar	n unnecessary regulation will remain on the books.
5 AAC 07.331 (c) In districts 1 and 2, salmon may	Board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say? be taken only with gillnets with six-inch or smaller mesh. [, SIONER MAY OPEN FISHING PERIODS, DURING WHICH TER THAN EIGHT INCHES.]
	of the resource harvested or products produced? If so, how? scapement and subsistence priority management objectives in the
6. Solutions to difficult problems benefit some people	and hurt others:
A. Who is likely to benefit if your solution is adopted? Chinook salmon stocks.	People who rely on the long-term integrity of Kuskokwim
B. Who is likely to suffer if your solution is adopted? hope of returning to the directed commercial Chino	Those who might attach some sentimental value to the illusory ook fishery of 1973-1985 (appx.).
7. List any other solutions you considered and why yo rejected them.  We initially considered amending the regulation to effective only after July 1, but further discussions supported eliminating it altogether as a more realist action.	remain
Submitted By: Name  Kuskokwim River Salmon Individual or Group	Management Working Group
/- DO D 1467	Data AV
c/o P.O. Box 1467 Address	Bethel, AK 99559 City, State ZIP Code

### **Ideas for Public Outreach for Salmon Conservation (Dave Canon):**

# CHINOOK SALMON CONSERVATION

Lets do everything we can to reverse the recent decline



Chinook Salmon Weir Escapement						
Year	Kwethluk	Tuluksak	George	Kogrukluk (Holitna)	Tatlawiksuk	Takotna
2007	13,267	374	4,883	13,029	2,061	418
2008	5,312	665	2,698	9,730	1,071	413
2009	5,710	404	3,663	9,702	1,083	311
2010	1,693	239	1,500	5,690	567	178
2011	4,076	286	1,571	6,891	1,012	134
10 Yr. Avg.	10,970	1,026	3,596	12,154	1,724	416
Minimum	1,693	239	1,500	3,310	567	134
Maximum	28,605	2,653	5,207	22,000	2,918	721

Due to the expected increase in Chinook salmon fishing pressure that the Owhut and Holokuk Rivers will receive this season due to the subsistence and sport fishing closures in the Aniak and George Rivers specifically for Chinook salmon, the Native Village of Napaimute, The Kuskokwim Corporation, the Aniak Traditional Council, the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group, and the Kuskokwim Native Association recommend that you limit your subsistence caught Chinook salmon at the mouths of, and within, these rivers.

In addition, considering the potential mortality for caught and released Chinook salmon, it's also recommended that after releasing several Chinook that sport fishermen switch to fishing for other more abundant species like sheefish and chum salmon.

The justification for such recommendations is to conserve our valuable resources. The past two years have been the two lowest years of escapement for Chinook salmon on record in the Kuskokwim River, and we feel that everyone must do their part to give the Chinook salmon every opportunity to reach the spawning grounds in good condition.

### By-laws of the KRSMWG:

#### **BY-LAWS OF THE**

#### KUSKOKWIM RIVER SALMON MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

#### **PURPOSE**

To provide local fishers and other users with an avenue for direct involvement in the management of their fishery. The goal is for all parties to work together to reach a consensus on management of the fishery. Final emergency order authority continues to rest with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

#### **RULES OF CONDUCT**

Meetings will be conducted by Robert's Rules of Order. The sequence of meetings is as follows:

- I. Call to order (by chair)
- II. Roll Call (by chair)
- III. Invocation
- IV. Approval of Minutes
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. People to be heard
- VII. Continuing Business
  - A. Reports
    - 1. False Pass Fishery
    - 2. Processor Report
    - 3. Traditional Native Fishery Knowledge
    - 4. Subsistence Reports
    - 5. Test Fisheries
    - 6. Commercial Catch
    - 7. Escapement Projects

(sonar, towers, weirs)

8. Aerial Surveys

- 9. Weather
- B. Recommendation
- C. Motion for Discussion and Action
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Meeting Action Announcement
- XI. Date, Time, and Place of next meeting
- XII. Adjournment

(This sequence may be changed at the discretion of the Group)

Continuing Business reports may not exceed 3 minutes in length, excluding questions and answers.

Under the 'People to be heard' agenda item the public would be provided an opportunity to discuss only topics or items which are **not** already listed as specific agenda items. A member of the public may also ask the Group to place an issue on the agenda.

Unlike other institutions or committees, the Working Group operates on a consensus basis. A simple majority vote of the members is not sufficient to pass a motion. For the purposes of the Group all motions must pass by a consensus of the members present at the meeting. If 7 (seven) or less of the members are present, then consensus is defined as a situation wherein either all voting members vote "yea" or all voting members vote "yea" except for one "nay" vote. If 8 (eight) or more of the members are present, then consensus is defined as a situation wherein either all voting members vote "yea" or all voting members vote "yea" except for two "nay" votes. Note that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game does not have voting status on motions concerning the setting of commercial openings.

-continued-

#### **ARTICLE I, OFFICE**

The principal office of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group (Working Group) shall be located in the City of Bethel, Alaska 99559.

The current address of the principal office is, P.O. Box 1467, Bethel, Alaska 99559. The physical address is 570 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

#### **ARTICLE II, MEMBERS**

Section 1. Members: The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group shall have 13 member organizations or constituencies. These members represent: Elders (Upriver, Downriver) (2), Subsistence Fishermen (Lower River, Middle River, Upriver, and Headwaters) (4), Processors (1), Commercial Fishermen (1), Sport Fishers (1), Member at Large (1), Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Committees (Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Western Interior) (2), and the Department of Fish and Game (1). Each member of the Working Group will designate a representative and an alternate in the event the representative is unable to attend a meeting. In the case where more than one person is nominated to represent a member organization or constituency, the Working Group will appoint one of the nominees to represent the member organization or constituency.

#### Section 2. Annual Meeting:

An annual meeting of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group may be held in Bethel during the month of March at the call of the Co-Chairs. The purpose of the meeting will be to conduct any unfinished administrative functions that the Working Group needs to complete for the following year.

#### Section 3. Special Meetings:

Special meetings of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group may be called by the Co-Chairs.

#### Section 4. Notice of Meetings:

The Department of Fish and Game will be responsible for informing the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group members of the time, place and date of any meetings. Notification of meetings to the Working Group will be not less than 48 hours (when possible) or more than 30 days in advance.

#### Section 5. Quorum:

In order for a meeting of the Working Group to be held and for actions taken at a meeting to be legitimate, it is necessary for there to be a quorum at a meeting, that is at least 7 of the 13 member constituencies must be represented.

If a quorum of the full committee is not present, business may be conducted in executive session. The executive committee is composed of at least 5 representatives: one Co-Chair, any two representatives of the following member groups; Member at Large, Processors, Commercial Fisherman, and any two representatives of the following member groups; Lower, Middle, Upriver and Headwaters Subsistence, Federal RAC, Sport Fisher.

#### **ARTICLE III. REPRESENTATIVES**

#### Section 1. Working Group:

The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group shall be comprised of 13 representatives from the areas described in Article II, Section 1.

#### Section 2. General Powers:

The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group shall make recommendations to the Department of Fish and Game for the purposes of managing the salmon fisheries on the Kuskokwim River after subsistence and commercial catch, test fishery, weir, tower and sonar reports and other information are provided to the group.

#### Section 3. Voting Rights:

Each Working Group member shall be entitled to one vote. Alternates designated by the member shall also be entitled to one vote in the absence of that member. Members may abstain from voting on any motion.

The Elder member shall designate any respected Elder to serve as their alternate.

Working Group members must hear all the Continuing Business reports to vote on a motion to set commercial openings

#### Section 4. Resignation:

Any member or representative may resign by submitting a letter of resignation to a Co-Chair of the Working Group. The resignation must give the Working Group at least 4 weeks notification so that a new member or representative may be appointed.

#### Section 5. Vacancies:

A vacancy on the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, forfeiture or otherwise, may be filled by the Working Group from nominations by member groups for the remainder of the term.

#### Section 6. Forfeit, participation or removal:

- A. FORFEIT. The Working Group will give written notification, by certified mail, to any member organization, their representative and alternate whose seat has not been represented for 2 consecutive meetings that their membership in the Working Group will be forfeited if the seat is not represented by the following meeting. Whereas, a member's failure to be represented at a meeting is excused by the Working Group, as appropriate, such failure shall not be considered an absence within this section.
- B. PARTICIPATION. No representative will be allowed to participate in a Working Group meeting who is deemed to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- C. REMOVAL. A representative may be removed from their seat on the Working Group for cause and must be provided the opportunity for a hearing before the Working Group. A representative may be removed for cause for any reason allowed, including but not limited to, conviction of a felony, gross misconduct, violation of their trust to the Working Group as a representative, or harassment of any kind to the other representatives of the Working Group.

#### ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS OF THE WORKING GROUP

#### Section 1. Officers:

The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group shall elect Co-Chairs for the

purpose of conducting meetings. The Co-Chairs will be elected annually at the first meeting occurring after March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Working Group shall elect or appoint other officers as deemed necessary. An officer of the Working Group may not hold more than one position. The Co-Chairs must be official representatives of the Working Group.

#### Section 2. Terms of Office:

Each representative of the Working Group shall be elected or appointed every 2 years. A representative shall hold their position until their successor has been duly elected or appointed and has been qualified

#### Section 3. Co-Chair:

A Co-Chair of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group shall preside at all meetings of the Working Group.

#### Section 4. Other Committees:

The Co-Chairs shall have the authority to appoint representatives to serve on committees as deemed necessary. Any representative appointed to a committee may be removed in the best interest of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group.

#### **ARTICLE V. DEFINITIONS**

- **1. Member.** The member organizations or constituencies of the Working Group as listed in Article II, Section 1.
- **2. Alternate.** An individual designated to act in the place of a member or representative unable to attend a meeting.
- **3. Representative.** Person designated by a Working Group member organization or constituency to represent that member organization or constituency at Working Group meetings.
- **4. District W-1.** The Lower Kuskokwim River consists of the Kuskokwim River from a line between Apokak Slough and Popokamiut, upstream to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located about eight miles above the Tuluksak River.

- **5. District W-2.** The middle Kuskokwim River consists of the Kuskokwim River from ADF&G regulatory markers located at the upstream entrance to the second slough on the west bank downstream from Kalskag to the regulatory markers at Chuathbaluk.
- **6. Elder.** Any respected Elder that resides within the Kuskokwim Area.
- **7. Headwaters Subsistence.** Representatives that are active subsistence users in the Kuskokwim River drainage from McGrath upstream to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River.
- **8. Upriver Subsistence.** Representatives that are active subsistence users in the Kuskokwim River drainage above Chuathbaluk.
- **9**. **Middle River Subsistence**. Representatives that are active subsistence users in the Kuskokwim River drainage from Lower Kalskag to Chuathbaluk within District W-2.
- **10. Lower River Subsistence.** Representatives that are active subsistence users in the Kuskokwim River drainage from Eek to Tuluksak within District W-1.
- **11. Processor.** Representatives that own or operate commercial salmon buying and/or processing businesses within District W-1 and W-2.
- **12. Member at Large.** Representatives that are Area residents selected by the Working Group for their knowledge of, appreciation for, and experience with Kuskokwim River fisheries.
- **13. Federal Regional Advisory Council.** Representatives that are current members of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Western Interior Advisory Councils and reside in the Kuskokwim Area.
- **14. Commercial Fishermen.** Kuskokwim commercial fishing permit holder or crew member, supported by commercial fishing permit holders who fish primarily within Districts W-1 and W-2.
- **15. Sport Fisher.** Representatives that actively participate in sports fishing within the Kuskokwim River drainage. Appendix A1.—Page 8 of 8.
- **16. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.** Representatives that are presently employed with ADF&G in Bethel. This position is an associate member and has no voting powers but has the authority to veto recommendations for commercial fishing periods from the Working Group. Final emergency order authority continues to rest with the ADF&G.

#### ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS

These by-laws may be altered, amended or repealed and new by-laws may be adopted by consensus of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group representatives present at any regular or special meeting, if at least thirty (30) days written notice is given by certified mail, phone call, or intention to alter, amend or appeal or to adopt new by-laws at such meeting.