

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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

Meeting Agenda

Date: **June 6, 2012**

Time: **10:00 am**

Place: **Bethel**

Time Called to Order

Chair

Time Adjourned

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:

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Subsistence Reports:
 - a. Lower River:
 - b. ONC Inseason Subsistence:
 - c. Middle River:
 - d. KNA Inseason Subsistence:
 - e. Upper River:
 - f. Headwaters:
2. Overview of Kuskokwim River salmon run assessment projects:
 - a. Bethel Test Fish:
 - b. Weirs/Sonar/Mark-Recapture/Aerial Surveys/Other:
3. Commercial Catch Report:
4. Processor Report:
5. Sport Fish Report:
6. Weather Forecast:
7. Recommendation:
8. Motion for Discussion and Action:

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Working Group Action Items from prior meetings
 - 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 KRSWMG- LaMont Albertson
- 2) Plans for public outreach
- 3) KRSWG Bylaws
- 3) KRSWMG seats (update roll-call list, add possible alternates, and alternates)
- 4) Discuss open Upriver elder seat
- 5) Discuss creating a Calvin Simeon award

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Information request from Mike Thalhauser, Eva Patton, Casie Stockdale**

COMMENTS:

NEXT MEETING DATE: _____ **Time:** _____ **Place:** _____

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Information Packet

June 6, 2012

LOWER KUSKOKWIM RIVER INSEASON REPORTS:

Orutsarmiut Native Council (ONC)

Kuskokwim River Inseason Subsistence Catch Monitoring Report

Date June 04, 2012

Fishing reports from Jun 2 – Jun 3, 2012.

Families Surveyed	Families Fishing	Using Driftnets	Using Setnets	Both	Gillnets More than 6" mesh	Gillnets 6" mesh or less	Both	Rod & Reel
29	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	0

Compared with this time in a normal year, how are catch rates for salmon this week?

Chinook			Chum			Sockeye		
Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Does the salmon run appear to be running early, late, or normal?

Chinook			Chum			Sockeye		
Early	Normal	Late	Early	Normal	Late	Early	Normal	Late
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Comments:

Subsistence Chinook ASL sampling program: For the week ending June 3rd, the ONC inseason subsistence survey crew prepared the boat, field gear, and survey forms. ONC technicians distributed 3 Chinook ASL sampling kits to families that had sampled for the program in previous years. This year technicians also began outreach to new samplers and additional fish camps, and are currently preparing more ASL kits for distribution. Some families still had kits from last year and planned to sample again this year. A couple of fishers said that they had decided not to participate in ASL sampling this year because last year's subsistence closures made sampling too challenging.

ONC Technicians Net Observation: For June 2nd, 2012, from Bethel to the mouth of Gweek, ONC technicians observed 11 set nets, 2 drifters, and 1 whitefish net. On the 3rd of June from the top of the Bethel Test fish site down to Napaskiak slough, we observed 22 set nets and 13 drift fishing boats.

ONC Inseason Survey:

29 families were interviewed this week for the inseason subsistence monitoring program in the usual survey areas on the Kuskokwim from the mouth of the Gweek River down through Napaskiak slough. Of

the families surveyed this week only 2 (7%) had started subsistence fishing specifically for salmon. Many families were drying smelts or indicated that they were fishing for sheefish and whitefish prior to the arrival of salmon. Of the two families targeting salmon, one used a mesh size of 4 3/8" (a whitefish net) and reported that this mesh size it caught good numbers of sockeye salmon last year.

27 (93%) of families surveyed had not started fishing this week. Many of the families were mending and preparing nets, cleaning camp, fixing drying racks and smoke houses, gardening, or tending to other fish camp maintenance. A few families were in the process of moving their fish camp structures back from the river's edge due to encroaching erosion. Many fishers expressed that they were waiting for the salmon runs to increase in abundance in order to fish efficiently and save on boat gas costs.

FOR ALL SALMON SPECIES:

First report of salmon caught on the Kuskokwim: Of the 29 families interviewed this week, 2 (7%) of the families started fishing specifically for salmon, but none reported catching any salmon themselves yet. During our discussions with fishers there was a report of someone in the Oscarville-Napaskiak area that caught a small male Chinook on Sunday.

On the June 1st, a few families reported hearing that 2 Chinook were caught at the mouth of Kwethluk, 1 Chinook at the Oscarville-Napaskiak area, and 1 Chinook in Quinhagak. On June 3rd, there were additional reports of Chinook being caught downriver of Bethel during the evening and early hours of the morning tide.

Run timing and Catch rate: None of the 29 families surveyed on June 2nd and 3rd had caught any salmon yet. They all felt that it was still too early to evaluate run timing or catch rates for the all salmon species.

Harvest Goals: A few families commented that they were not able to put up enough fish in 2011 and they did not meet their harvest goals to sustain their families throughout the winter. Some families chose to put up fewer fish because of conservation efforts. Families that did not meet their accustomed harvest goals ran out of salmon 2 to 5 months before they normally would. Some families interviewed reported sharing salmon with other families, neighbors, or elders to help others get through their shortage this winter. Some people expressed that they were hoping to have more chances to fish this season in order to gather enough salmon for next winter. Others expressed they recognized that Bethel was growing and the larger population meant less of the accustomed fish for everyone. Several fishermen interviewed expressed an interest in participating in the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group meetings.

ONC Inseason Subsistence Surveys – 2011 Current and Historical Catch Rate Information

Responses from the question: "Compared with this time in a "Normal" year, how were catch rates for salmon this week"?
 "ND" indicates that no data was collected because respondents felt it was too early in the run to assess this information.

Year	Week Ending	Number of Families			Chinook salmon			Chum salmon			Sockeye salmon		
		Inter-viewed	Fishing	Not Fishing	Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor	Very Good	Normal	Poor
2011	Jun 05	36	11	25	36%	36%	0	ND	ND	ND	9%	9%	0
	Jun 12	69	41	28	7%	34%	49%	10%	46%	10%	10%	46%	7%
	Jun 19	57	56	1	25%	38%	37%	14%	52%	20%	14%	57%	18%
	Jun 26	49	44	5	14%	22%	64%	21%	36%	34%	23%	59%	9%
	Jul 03	45	41	4	66%	15%	19%	78%	10%	10%	76%	17%	5%
	Jul 10	71	15	56	13%	0	67%	80%	7%	0%	33%	20%	33%
2010	Jun 06	19	6	13	0	100%	0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 13	39	28	11	4%	50%	46%	0	72%	28%	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 20	26	23	3	9%	65%	26%	0	100%	0	0	96%	4%
	Jun 27	37	37	0	3%	73%	24%	3%	92%	5%	5%	81%	14%
	Jul 04	38	36	2	8%	69%	22%	14%	78%	8%	3%	69%	28%
	Jul 11	20	11	9	0	91%	0%	27%	64%	0	18%	55%	18%
2009	Jun 07	20	6	14	0	67%	33%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 14	43	38	5	29%	50%	21%	0	100%	0	0	100%	0
	Jun 21	44	44	0	41%	36%	23%	0	100%	0	0	86%	14%
	Jun 28	36	31	5	39%	55%	6%	3%	77%	9%	6%	71%	23%
	Jul 05	36	5	31	0	100%	0	0	100%	0	0	100%	0
	Jul 12	36	2	34	0	100%	0	0	100%	0	0	100%	0
2008	Jun 08	27	5	22	20%	60%	0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 16	34	17	17	0	76%	24%	0	100%	0	0	100%	0
	Jun 22	32	27	5	56%	44%	0	0	74%	26%	81%	19%	0
	Jun 29	33	27	6	52%	48%	0	15%	85%	0	56%	44%	0
	Jul 08	35	15	20	20%	80%	0	0	100%	0	47%	53%	0
	Jul 13	32	3	29	0	100%	0	33%	67%	0	0	100%	0
2007	Jun 03	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 12	39	28	11	0	29%	71%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 17	40	33	7	0	30%	70%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 24	44	40	4	0	35%	65%	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jul 02	36	20	12	45%	45%	10%	80%	20%	0	0	40	60%
	Jul 08	33	10	23	60%	40%	0	80%	20%	0	30%	70%	0
2006	Jul 14	33	6	27	0	0	100	0	33%	67%	0	17%	83%
	Jun 03	22	0	22	0	0	0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 10	32	19	13	32%	68%	0	0	0	0	ND	ND	ND
	Jun 17	36	30	6	60%	40%	0	60%	40%	0	53%	47%	0
	Jun 25	48	43	5	79%	21%	0	91%	9%	0	19%	56%	26%
	Jul 02	46	14	32	21%	79%	0	71%	29%	0	43%	57%	0
	Jul 09	38	8	30	0	100%	0	25%	75%	0	37%	63%	0
Jul 17	26	5	21	0	100%	0	100	0	0	0	100%	0	

OVERVIEW OF KUSKOKWIM RIVER SALMON RUN ASSSSMENT PROJECTS

Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery

Bethel Test Fishery
Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index
(UNCORRECTED)

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
6/01	0	1	3		0	0	0	0	0	3	
6/02	1	13	5		0	0	3	0	3	5	0
6/03	1	29	7	0	0	0	3	1	4	8	0
6/04	1	35	13	0	0	1	3	4	7	11	2
6/05	6	44	19	1	3	3	3	10	7	20	
6/06	13	48	23	1	6	3	4	17	8	31	
6/07	15	59	27	6	6	4	4	24	10	47	
6/08	18	70	40	7	8	7	10	28	10	63	
6/09	36	106	70	11	9	11	20	33	11	67	
6/10	51	131	75	23	9	19	36	40	13	70	
6/11	59	147	118	30	14	23	40	52	17	75	
6/12	82	172	147	49	18	30	46	62	23	78	
6/13	101	199	174	91	33	33	56	71	34	88	
6/14	127	221	217	118	48	42	63	81	42	102	
6/15	165	258	258	137	77	60	96	114	73	116	
6/16	181	285	311	173	96	62	115	171	112	136	
6/17	196	332	347	186	126	82	135	189	130	165	
6/18	217	362	396	236	170	97	142	209	168	192	
6/19	243	390	430	265	207	117	160	232	193	229	
6/20	248	413	484	299	208	138	195	255	210	247	

ESCAPEMENT MONITORING

Status of Salmon Assessment Projects as of June 6, 2012

- Weirs are currently being installed on the Kwethluk, Tuluksak, Salmon, George, Kogrukuk, Tatlawiksuk, Telaquana, Takotna River

Information request

June 4, 2012

On behalf of the Association of Village Council Presidents, Kuskokwim Native Association, and Orutsararmiut Native Council we are writing this letter to request specific information that would be helpful for us and the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group to consider for the upcoming meeting on Wednesday. We have discussed some shared concerns and questions with the Working Group chairs regarding the Chinook salmon management recommendations presented to the Working Group 5/30/12. Some confusion remains as to some of the data and information presented at this last meeting. In the interest of each Native organization, the Working Group, and the public to fully understand the implications of the proposed management recommendations and to be able to best engage in informed decision making through the collaborative Working Group process we would like to request if the following information could be prepared or presented at the upcoming KSMWG meeting on 06/06/2012.

1. How many times has escapement on the Kuskokwim been in the range of 87,000?
2. Due to the fact that current changes are linked to the nearly completed Kuskokwim River Chinook Run Reconstruction, we would like to see in a powerpoint, a bar chart of the run reconstruction with the 2012 forecast. Furthermore, we would like to know how the 2012 forecast was reached and what confidence the department has in this forecast (which is the first formal Chinook forecast that the Kuskokwim has seen)
3. Using the reconstructed subsistence harvest estimates, what is the average subsistence harvest of Chinook on the Kuskokwim?
4. Is there a final 2011 Chinook harvest estimate available?
5. We would like to see the relationship between Kogrukluk with the lower river tributaries of concern with years labeled.
6. Finally, we would like to see the relationship between Kogrukluk with Total escapements with the years labeled.

This information would be very helpful to understand the new in-season management approach proposed by ADF&G and will further assist clarity in the Working Group process. Please do contact us if you have any questions and we look forward to working with you to bring in this data to the Working Group discussions on Wednesday.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Casie Stockdale, Eva Patton, and Mike Thalhauser