

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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

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

Meeting Agenda

Date: **June 11, 2013**

Time: **10:00 am**

Place: **Bethel**

Fritz Charles

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:

→Discussion of By-laws: *Based on the May 10 meeting (Motion 5), this item is first order of business (usually under Old Business).*

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/Mark-Recapture/Aerial Surveys/Other: N/A
3. Commercial Catch Report: N/A
4. Processor Report: N/A
5. Sport Fish Report: N/A
6. Weather Forecast:
7. Recommendation:
8. Motion for Discussion and Action

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Working Group member attendance: Chronically absent members and alternates.
2. Working Group member recruitment
 - a. 2013 elder recruitment letter: results?
 - b. New letters: what seats/villages
3. Meeting time preferences

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Data requests and the new online data release system (AYKDBMS)
2. Weekly packet
3. Kuskokwim Subsistence Calendars
4. Kuskokwim Survey Fish Measures
5. ONC Report content

COMMENTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

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

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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Information Packet

June 11, 2013

Kuskokwim River In-season Subsistence Catch Monitoring Report Orutsararmiut Native Council

Date June 10, 2013

Fishing reports from Jun 5– Jun 10, 2013.

Families Surveyed	Families Fishing	Using Driftnets	Using Setnets	Both	Gillnets More than 6" mesh	Gillnets 6" mesh or less	Both	Rod & Reel
16	5	1	1	1	3	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	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	1

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	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0

Comments:

Subsistence Chinook ASL sampling program: For the week ending June 10th, the ONC inseason subsistence survey crew prepared the boat, field gear, and survey forms. ONC technicians distributed 8 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. Some families still had kits from last year and planned to sample again this year. A couple of families reported deciding not to participate in ASL sampling this year because last year's subsistence closures made sampling too challenging.

ONC Technicians Net Observation: From Bethel to the mouth of Gweek, ONC technicians observed 14 set nets and 8 drifters. From (Bethel Boat Harbor entrance across to the Old Airport site) down to Napaskiak slough, we observed 11 set nets and 4 drift fishing boats. For this week's survey there were a few families that reported their nets that were just recently hung beginning of this week were stolen from their camps.

ONC Inseason Survey:

16 families were interviewed this week for the inseason subsistence monitoring program in the usual survey areas on the Kuskokwim from the mouth of Gweek River down through Napaskiak slough. Of the families surveyed this week 5 (31%) families 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.

9 (56%) 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. This year we have families that are returning to fish camp after a few years of absence from camp.

FOR ALL SALMON SPECIES:

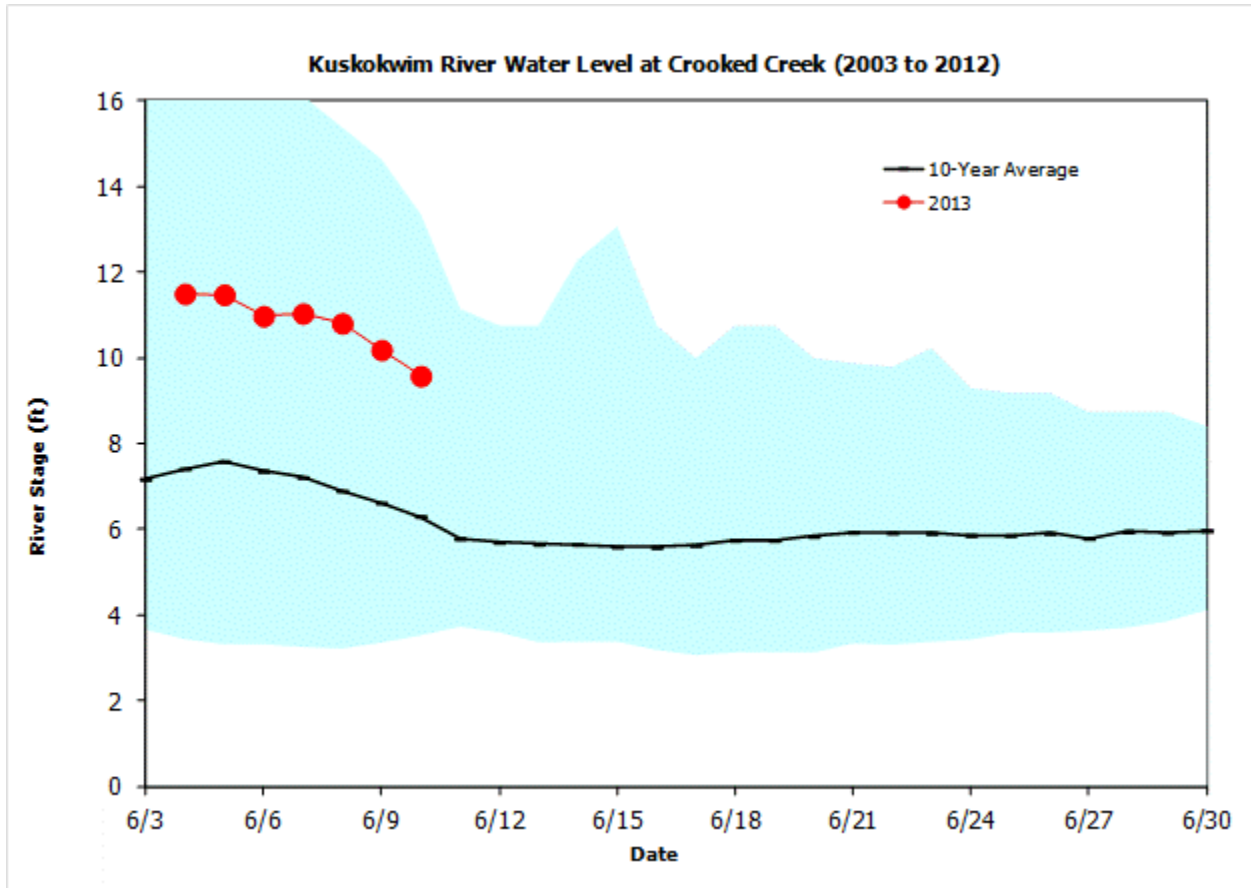
First report of salmon caught on the Kuskokwim: Of the 5 fishing families interviewed this week, 1 (20%) of the families started fishing specifically for salmon and many have reported other family and friends catching salmon already this year. During our discussions with fishers there was a report of someone in the Oscarville-Napaskiak sandbar area that caught 9 Chinook in less than a 24 hour set net.

On the June 5th, a few families reported hearing that 1 Chinook were caught at the mouth of Tuntutuliak, 1 Eek, 1 Tuluksak, 1 Aniak, 12 Chinook at the Oscarville-Napaskiak area, and 1 Chinook in Quinhagak. By the 8th of June, there were additional reports of small male (Jack size) Chinook that were being caught abundantly below Oscarville and Napaskiak.

Run timing and Catch rate: 5 of the 16 families surveyed this week had reported the Chinook catch rate to be normal. A few of our elder fisherman reported the Chinook salmon would be coming in, due to the condition of weather, the warmth of the water and high tides. For Sockeye Salmon 1 family out of the 5 fishing families reported on catching Sockeye Salmon and had reported the Sockeye catch rate to be normal. Another family had reported the Sockeye salmon to be poor this year, because they were expecting more Sockeye with these smaller Chinook.

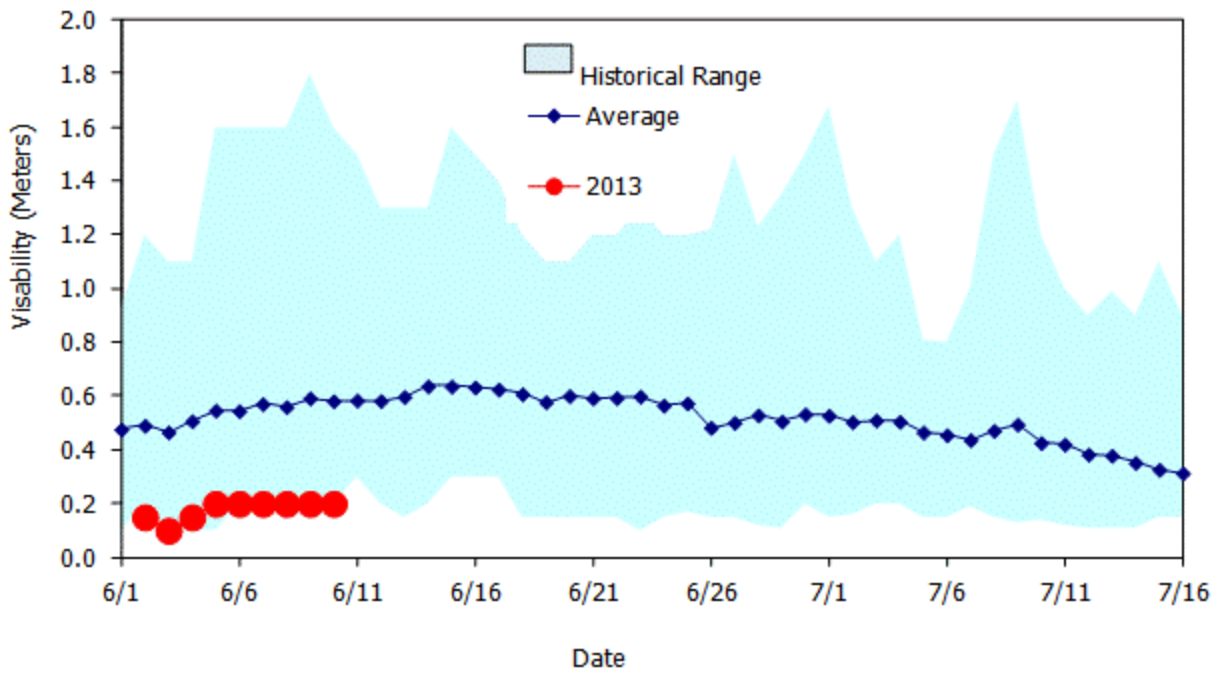
Harvest Goals: A few families commented that they were not able to put up enough fish in 2012 and they did not meet their harvest goals to sustain their families throughout the winter. Some of the families ran out of fish this year for the first time since they could remember. Some families chose to put up fewer fish because of conservation efforts, but also ran out of Sockeye and Chum in the beginning of this year. 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.

OVERVIEW OF KUSKOKWIM RIVER SALMON RUN ASSSSMENT PROJECTS

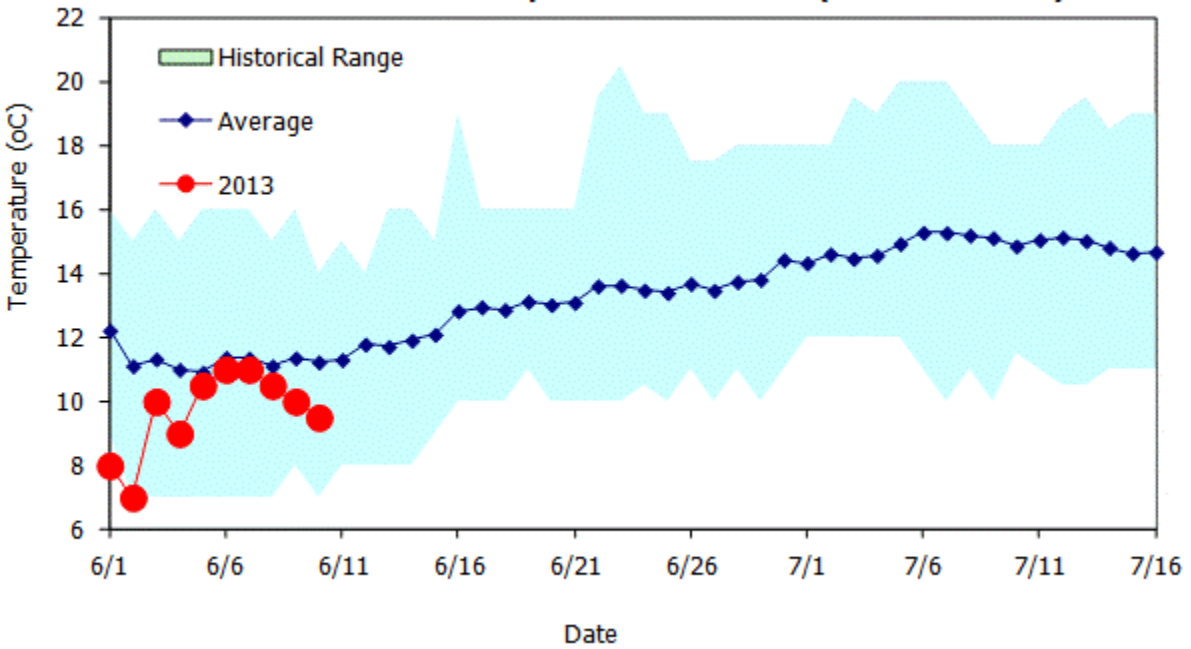


Data obtained through: <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=pafc2&gage=cjxa2>

Historical Water Clarity at BTF site (1984 to Present)



Historical Water Temperature at BTF Site (1984 to Present)



Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery

Bethel Test Fishery Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index (UNCORRECTED)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
6/01	0	0	0	3	0	0
6/02	3	0	3	5	0	0
6/03	3	1	4	8	0	0
6/04	3	4	7	11	1	0
6/05	3	10	7	20	1	0
6/06	4	17	8	31	1	0
6/07	4	24	10	47	1	0
6/08	10	28	10	63	1	2
6/09	20	33	11	67	3	1
6/10	36	40	13	70	4	
6/11	40	52	17	75	6	
6/12	46	62	23	78	6	
6/13	56	71	34	88	6	
6/14	63	81	42	102	7	
6/15	96	114	73	116	11	
6/16	115	171	112	136	24	
6/17	135	189	130	165	33	
6/18	142	209	168	192	34	
6/19	160	232	193	229	50	
6/20	195	255	210	247	74	
6/21	230	286	244	262	103	
6/22	262	320	267	283	119	
6/23	298	371	285	308	148	
6/24	323	426	297	317	168	
6/25	339	463	302	335	192	
6/26	374	522	314	363	228	
6/27	399	555	327	369	240	
6/28	422	575	335	376	252	
6/29	451	606	349	402	271	
6/30	488	615	355	423	286	

ESCAPEMENT MONITORING

Status of Salmon Assessment Projects as of June 11, 2012

Weir installation is currently in progress. Projects will be operational by the following dates if weather cooperates:

- George, Tatlawiksuk and Salmon River weirs by June 15th
- Takotna and Kogruklu River weirs by June 24th
- Telaquana River weir by July 4th

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

P.O. Box 1467 • Bethel, AK 99559 • 907-543-2433 • 907-543-2021 fax

Dear

The Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group needs someone to serve as an Alternate Downriver Elder member. James Charles from Tuntutuliak is the Primary Downriver Elder and we need alternate to attend meetings in his absence. The Alternate Downriver Elder can be from any community from the mouth of the Kuskokwim River up to Chuathbaluk.

We would like your community to consider an individual who will work with other stakeholders on issues and management of our Kuskokwim Salmon. This person will need to attend Working Group inseason meetings via teleconference and at least once a year in person. It would be good if the elder's family or tribal organization could be responsible for receiving emails and agenda packets prior to each meeting, and making sure the upper river elder has a place to use a telephone to call into meetings.

The Working Group is anxious to fill this position. Please contact any of the Co-chairs regarding this matter. I have attached a list of all the current Working Group members who volunteer their time to work on the issues and management of all Kuskokwim Salmon Species.

Quyana for your help!

Sincerely,

Beverly A. Hoffman, Co-Chair

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

P.O. Box 1467 • Bethel, AK 99559 • 907-543-2433 • 907-543-2021 fax

Dear

The Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group needs someone to fill the Alternate Commercial Fisher seat. Charlie Brown from Eek serves as the Primary Commercial Fisher member and we need an individual to attend meetings in his absence. The Alternate Commercial Fisher can be from any village between the mouth of the Kuskokwim River and Akiachak.

We would like your community to consider an individual who will work with other stakeholders on issues and management of our Kuskokwim Salmon. This person will need to attend Working Group inseason meetings via teleconference and at least once a year in person. The member needs to have access to a telephone to call into meetings. Preferable, the member would have internet or access to internet to receive emails about meetings, agendas, and information packets.

The Working Group is anxious to fill this position. Please contact any of the Co-chairs regarding this matter. I have attached a list of all the current Working Group members who volunteer their time to work on the issues and management of all Kuskokwim Salmon Species.

Quyana for your help!

Sincerely,

Beverly A. Hoffman, Co-Chair

ONLINE DATABASE SYSTEM (AYKDBMS)

Data from escapement projects, ASL, and Bethel Test Fishery can all be accessed online this year. *Please bookmark these links*, so they are at your fingertips any time you have a question about daily data. ADF&G will enter information into the test fishery and escapement pages on a **daily** basis. We hope to have them updated by 10am each day.

To access current Bethel Test Fish Catch Per Unit Effort:

You can access historical data from escapement, ASL, and Test Fish projects through the AYK database at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/CommFishR3/WebSite/AYKDBMSWebsite/Default.aspx>

Select Management Area: "Kuskokwim"

Select Filter by Area

Select Data Types: "Test Fish"

Select Filter by Data Type

On the bottom right select "Go to Projects"

Two options should appear:

"B"

"C"

Select "B" and "Bethel Test Fishing" will appear

Scroll down to

"Available Data Views by Data Type" and select "Test Fish"

You can then select 2013, a number of year, or all years holding down the shift key and highlighting all years.

Select "Go to Data View"

Select "I accept"

A Report will appear but you will want to "Select a format" at the top. I suggest selecting "excel". Then hit export right next to there and the report will open in excel.

Escapement counts at all operating ADFG escapement projects:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

All published project reports:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications/>

Archived and current Working Group packets:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.salmon#/management>

KUSKOKWIM AREA SUBSISTENCE SALMON SURVEY
APPROXIMATE MEASURES USEFUL FOR ESTIMATING CATCH

Amounts	Description	Relevant Area/Source
<p><u>Salmon</u> 1 king salmon = 5-8 lb. strips 1 gal. Ziploc = 5 lb. strips 1 qt. Ziploc = 2 lb. strips 6 gal. bucket = 4-5 kings</p> <p>5 gal. "poke fish" = 25-30 chum 30 gal. barrel = 150-180 chum 1 gal. Ziploc = 2-3 chum 5 gal. bucket = 25 chum</p> <p>1 dried summer chum = 2/3 lb. 1 bundle = 50 dried summer chum 300 dog salmon/dog/winter 1 dried chum = 1 1/4 to 1 1/3 lbs.</p> <p>1 pink salmon = 3 lb.</p>	<p>dried and smoked king salmon dried and smoked king salmon dried and smoked king salmon dried king salmon</p> <p>dried summer chum in seal oil dried summer chum in seal oil dried summer chum filets summer chum filets, tightly packed</p> <p>summer chum salmon for dog food summer chum salmon for dog food feeding summer chum to a dog team summer or fall chum</p> <p>pink salmon</p>	
<p><u>Other fish</u> 1 small whitefish = 1 lb.</p> <p>1 large whitefish = 4 lb.</p>	<p>round whitefish, least, Bering, or arctic cisco, caught in whitefish net (4" or smaller mesh) or fish wheel</p> <p>broad or humpback whitefish, caught in chum net (5" or larger mesh) or fish wheel</p>	
<p>125 smelt= 5 gal. bucket</p> <p>1 gunny sack = 50 to 100 lbs. (ask fisherman)</p> <p>14 blackfish = 1 lb. 350 blackfish = 5 gal. bucket 5 gal. bucket = 25 lb.</p> <p>1 eel = 1/3 lb.</p>	<p>smelt</p> <p>"tomcod", whitefish, herring</p> <p>blackfish blackfish blackfish</p> <p>arctic lamprey</p>	<p>coastal villages</p>

Excerpts from: DIVISION OF COMM. FISH & SPORT FISH
NEWS RELEASES - Preseason outlooks and news releases

Yukon River Chinook salmon

Projection: Poor to below average
Escapement: Expect difficulties meeting all goals
Subsistence: Expect harvest reductions will be necessary
Commercial: No fishery anticipated
“Subsistence fishing on the first pulse of Chinook salmon will be closed. Based on the poor preseason projection, it is likely the closure will be extended to protect the second pulse. Fishermen are strongly encouraged to voluntarily reduce their Chinook salmon harvest to not exceed 25% of their average annual harvest...”



Upper Cook Inlet Chinook salmon

Northern District – “With a below-average outlook for the upcoming season, and uncertainty over how quickly king salmon abundance may rebound, both sport and commercial fisheries in the Northern Cook Inlet area will be managed conservatively during the 2013 season.” “The outlook for Deshka River king salmon is for another below average run of about 26,800 fish. Given the below average outlook for the Deshka run, past performance of fisheries within the Susitna drainage, and uncertainty over how returns may recover, more conservative actions must be taken in the 2013 Susitna drainage fisheries than were taken in 2012.”



Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon

“Forecast is for a total run of **160,000 to 240,000.**”
NOTE: Low Chinook production trend observed statewide. 2013 Kusko Forecast is the only **Highly Optimistic** forecast in W. or S.Cent. AK, calling for **twice** as many fish as last year’s run?! [2012 total run = ~100,000 total- the lowest on record in the past 30 yrs]



Togiak River Chinook salmon

“Chinook salmon run strength in the Togiak River has been considered below average for several years.... Anticipating another poor Chinook salmon run, reduction to the weekly fishing schedule is again likely for the 2013 season.”



Nushagak River Chinook salmon

“Based on the poor performance of Chinook salmon statewide, and the poor run to the Nushagak in 2010, a directed Chinook salmon opening is unlikely.”



Kenai River Chinook salmon

“The preseason outlook for early-run Kenai River king salmon is for a total run of approximately 5,300 fish. If realized the 2013 run would rank as the lowest run measured (28th out of 28 years), be similar in abundance to the 2012 run, and be less than one-half the 1986-2012 average run of approximately 14,000 fish.**There is little indication to date of a change in the low Chinook production trend observed statewide.**”



KUSKOKWIM RIVER SALMON MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

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

2013 MEMBERS

MEMBER SEATS	NAMES	VILLAGE
DOWNRIVER ELDER ELDER	JAMES CHARLES CHUCK CHALIAK	Tuntutuliak Nunapitchuk
UPRIVER ELDER	<i>vacant</i>	
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	MIKE WILLIAMS GREG ROCZICKA CASIE STOCKDALE	Akiak Bethel Bethel
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE	GERALD SIMEON DAVE CANNON ANGELA MORGAN WAYNE MORGAN	Aniak Aniak Aniak Aniak
UPRIVER SUBSISTENCE	MARK LEARY BARBARA CARLSON EVELYN THOMAS PETE MELLICK	Napaimute Sleetmute Crooked Creek Sleetmute
HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE	DANIEL E SAI NICK PETRUSKA	Nikolai Nikolai
MEMBER AT LARGE	HENRY LUPIE FRITZ CHARLES GEORGE ALEXIE RON SIMON	Tuntutuliak Bethel Eek Tuntutuliak
YK DELTA RAC	BOB ALOYSIUS JOHN W. ANDREW	Kalskag Kwethluk
PROCESSOR	STUART CURRIE NICK SOUZA	Bethel Bethel
COMMERCIAL FISHING	CHARLIE BROWN GEORGE ALEXIE SAM ALEXIE	Eek Eek Eek
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	RAY COLLINS CARL MORGAN	McGrath Aniak
SPORT FISHING	LAMONT ALBERTSON BEV HOFFMAN	Aniak Bethel
ADF & G	TRAMS ELISON	Bethel

*Primary members are in bold type

CO CHAIRS

**Lamont Albertson, Beverly Hoffman, Fritz Charles,
Mark Leary, Casie Stockdale**