

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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

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

August 1, 2018

Meeting called to order at 10:04 a.m. on Wednesday August 1, 2018 and adjourned at 11:38 a.m. Meeting time was approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes. Eight full voting members were present and a quorum was established at 10:40 a.m. Barb Carlson chaired the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS:

USFWS/KRITFC Update:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Management Actions Under Consideration:

People to be Heard:

Continuing Business: Run assessment and management actions.

Old Business Discussion Topics: *N/A*

New Business Discussion Topics: *N/A*

WORKING GROUP ACTION ITEMS: *No Action Items at the time of this meeting.*

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

1. Approve the agenda. *Passed (Unanimous)*
2. For the next Working Group meeting to be scheduled for Wednesday August 15, 2018 beginning at 10:00 a.m. *Passed (Unanimous)*
3. To adjourn [11:38 a.m.]. *Passed (Unanimous)*

USFWS/KRITFC UPDATE: Ken Stahlnecker (USFWS) commented that there were no new USFWS updates.

ADF&G MANAGEMENT ACTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION: Aaron Tiernan (ADF&G Area Management Biologist) reported that there were no ADF&G management actions under consideration at the time of the meeting.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

- Rebecca Wilmarth (Red Devil) commented that she had not received any silver salmon catch reports from people in her area. She reported that she fished near the George River and caught sheefish.
- Jen Peeks (ADF&G) commented that she had provided information regarding the Board of Fish (BOF) Agenda Change Request (ACR) deadline to Working Group members via email.

SUBSISTENCE REPORTS:

- **ONC Subsistence Report:** Janessa Esquible (ONC) commented that most people, at the time of the meeting, were waiting for silver salmon.
- **Lower River:** Mary Peltola (Lower River Subsistence alternate) commented that she caught 22 fish on July 21 and 26 fish on July 22 with a setnet. She reported that her fish dried quickly when she used a fan. John Andrew (Downriver Elder alternate) reported that during the weekend of July 28 he operated a 4 ½" mesh, 60' length set gillnet and harvested five "red" salmon; on July 31 he caught 14 chum salmon, 1 king salmon, 1 whitefish, and 2 silver salmon using a 5 ½" mesh gillnet.
- **Upriver:** Barb Carlson (Upriver Subsistence alternate) reported that the fish wheel was operating periodically near Sleetmute and catching chum salmon and Bering cisco.
- **Headwaters:** Ray Collins (Western Interior RAC) reported that the fish wheel was catching primarily whitefish and had caught 4–5 "red" salmon. Dan Esai (Headwaters Subsistence) commented that no one in his area was currently fishing; people were picking berries.

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CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- 1. Overview of Kuskokwim River Salmon Run Assessment Projects:** Nick Smith (ADF&G Research Biologist) provided an overview of the ADF&G assessment projects. Mr. Smith reported that, to date, the water temperature was above the historical average, water clarity was slightly above the historical average; and the water level was average. *(For more information on the 2018 inseason assessment projects, please see the August 1 Informational Packet).*
 - **Bethel Test Fish:** As of July 30, the cumulative CPUE for coho salmon was 127. BTF continued to catch Chinook, chum, and sockeye salmon.
 - **Aerial Surveys:** To date, all aerial escapement goals for Chinook salmon had been achieved for the 2018 season.
 - **Weirs:** To date, the Kwethluk River weir had experienced several inoperable days due to high water. As of July 29, the Salmon River (Aniak) weir cumulative Chinook salmon escapement was 1,648. The cumulative Chinook salmon escapement at the George River weir was 3,167, which was near the upper end of the tributary escapement goal. The Kogrukluk River weir, to date, had passed 4,199 Chinook salmon and the Salmon River (Pitka Fork) weir had passed 5,107 Chinook salmon. To date, chum salmon escapement was above the long term average. The Telaquana Lake weir escapement for sockeye salmon had record high escapement at the time of the meeting. Single digits of coho salmon were passing through the George River and Kogrukluk River weirs to date.
 - **Subsistence Division:** Chris McDevitt (ADF&G) reported that he had completed his field work in the Middle River. Dave Runfola (ADF&G) reported that people had been successful in operating dipnets to target sockeye salmon.
 - **NVN Projects:** Dan Gillikin (NVN) reported that the Aniak Test Fishery had completed its 2018 operations and the George River weir internship project had completed for the season.
- 2. Commercial Fishing:** Aaron Tiernan commented that the catcher-seller commercial harvest dates had not been determined at the time of the meeting.
- 3. Sport Fish:** John Chythlook (ADF&G) reported that he had discussed Aniak River fishing concerns and enforcement with Wildlife Trooper Simeon; Trooper Simeon had been patrolling the Aniak River area.
- 4. Discussion of ADF&G Management Consideration and Discussion of Possible Alternatives:** *There were no management motions made at the time of this meeting.*

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

- 1. Approve the agenda. Passed (Unanimous)**
- 2. For the next Working Group meeting to be scheduled for Wednesday August 15, 2018 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Passed (Unanimous)**

Working Group members discussed the possibility of holding a meeting prior to August 15 if coho salmon numbers become a management concern.
- 3. To adjourn [11:38 a.m.], Passed (Unanimous)**

COMMENTS FROM THE WORKING GROUP:

- Lisa Feyereisen commented that she was concerned that people were selling subsistence caught fish and suggested that there be education and outreach regarding the legality of this practice. Dave Runfola commented that he would provide regulatory information on customary trade to Working Group members at the next Working Group meeting.

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WORKING GROUP ATTENDANCE:

MEMBER SEAT:	NAME:
DOWNRIVER ELDER	John Andrew
UPRIVER ELDER	<i>Absent</i>
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Mary Peltola
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Lisa Feyereisen
UPRIVER SUBSISTENCE	Barbara Carlson
HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE	Daniel Esai, <i>Arrived 10:15 a.m.</i>
MEMBER AT LARGE	Fritz Charles, <i>Arrived 11:20 a.m.</i>
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	Ray Collins
YK DELTA RAC	<i>Absent</i>
COMMERCIAL FISHING	<i>Absent</i>
SPORT FISHING	LaMont Albertson, <i>Arrived 10:40 a.m.</i>
PROCESSOR	<i>Vacant</i>
KRITFC	<i>Absent</i>
ADF&G	Aaron Tiernan
CHAIR	Barbara Carlson

Other Participants:

ADF&G Comm. Fish: Nick Smith, Colton Lipka, Bobbette Dickerson, Zach Liller, Jen Peeks

Subsistence Division: Chris McDevitt, Dave Runfola

Sport Fish: John Chythlook

USFWS: Ken Stahlnecker

OSM: Christine Bremmer

Rebecca Wilmarth (Red Devil)	Kevin Whitworth (KRITFC)	<u>Media:</u> Anna Rose MacArthur (KYUK) Petra Harpak (KYUK)
Dan Gillikin (NVN)	Meredith Witte (GTC)	
Bill Bechtol (KRITFC)	Albert Kawagley (Bethel)	
Jonathan Samuelson (KRITFC)	Robert Lekander (Bethel)	

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (**ADF&G, department, State**), Orutsarmiut Native Council (**ONC**), 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, 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**), Law Enforcement (**LE**), Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (**KRITFC**), Native Village of Napaimute (**NVN**), Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation (**YKHC**), Alaska State Troopers (**AST**)

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