

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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

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

July 10, 2019

Meeting called to order at 10:01 a.m. on Wednesday July 10, 2019 and adjourned at 11:15 p.m. Meeting time was approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. Eight full voting members were present and a quorum was established. Lamont Albertson 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:

Old Business Discussion Topics:

New Business Discussion Topics:

WORKING GROUP ACTION ITEMS:

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

1. Approve the agenda. *Passed (Unanimous)*
2. To schedule the next Working Group meeting at the call of the chair. *Passed (Unanimous)*
3. Adjourn at 11:15 p.m. *Passed (Unanimous)*

KRITFC/ USFWS UPDATE: Gary Decossas (USFWS) reported no updates.

ADF&G MANAGEMENT ACTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION: Ben Gray (ADF&G) reported that no management actions are under considerations.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD: Alissa Rogers (Lower River Subsistence alternate) reported a public comment made to her from Napakiak. The commenter reported two hundred chum salmon and sockeye salmon floating in the river between Napakiak and Johnson River. He reported that the fish had no signs of stress or trauma.

SUBSISTENCE REPORTS:

- **ONC Subsistence Report:** Avery Hoffman (ONC) reported that from July 6-8 a total of 39 fish camps were contacted to conduct an end of the season survey. Mr. Hoffman reported that majority of responders were satisfied with their Chinook salmon, sockeye salmon and chum salmon harvest goals for the 2019 season. Mr. Hoffman commented that reasons people had not met their chum salmon goal was due to a weak chum salmon run this season. Peter Crow (ONC) commented that majority of people reported to have benefited from being involved with the ONC in season harvest monitoring program. Janessa Esquible (ONC) informed the Working Group that this would conclude ONC reports for the 2019 season.
- **Lower River:** Alissa Rogers (Lower River Subsistence) reported that the fish caught over the past few weeks were healthy and that her family was satisfied with their harvest this season.
- **Middle River:** Lisa Feyereisen (Middle River Subsistence alternate) reported in Quinhagak people were very satisfied with the 2019 salmon run. Ms. Feyereisen commented that there has been an “uptick” of people fishing in the Middle River.
- **Upriver:** Barbara Carlson (Upriver Subsistence alternate) reported that several families who rely on the fishing wheel have now met their 2019 salmon harvest goals. Ms. Carlson commented that they were finding more dead fish in the box than usual.

Meeting summaries are prepared and distributed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). The department is responsible for summary content. Summaries are not comprehensive or considered meeting minutes, and are designed to provide context on meeting proceedings for the convenience of interested parties/participants. Audio recordings of meetings can be found at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.kswg#2019>

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CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. **Overview of Kuskokwim River Salmon Run Assessment Projects:** Nick Smith (ADF&G) provided an overview of the ADF&G assessment projects. *(For more information on the 2019 inseason assessment projects, please see the July 10 Informational Packet).*
 - **Bethel Test Fish:** Mr. Smith reported that the cumulative CPUE at BTF for Chinook salmon was 777, chum salmon was 1,007, and sockeye salmon was 857.
 - **Aniak Test Fish:** Aniak test fishery concluded July 5.
 - **Sonar:** The sonar site reported between 500–1,000 Chinook salmon were passing through the sonar site per day, along with 1,000–10,000 chum salmon and 10,000-20,000 sockeye salmon per day.
 - **Weirs:** Five weirs are passing Chinook salmon this 2019 season. All weirs except Takotna River weir are tracking above the five and ten year averages. Four weirs are passing chum salmon this season. All weirs except Kwethluk River weir were tracking below average runs for chum salmon this season. Three weirs are passing sockeye salmon this season. Kwethluk River weir is the only weir that is tracking above average this season.
 - **Subsistence Division project update:** No comments were made.
2. **Sport Fishing:** LaMont Albertson (Sport Fishing) reported that an abundance of Chinook salmon were being caught and released.
3. **Discussion of ADF&G Management considerations and discussion of possible alternatives:** *(Please see Motion 4 on page 3).*

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

1. **Approve the agenda. Passed (Unanimous)**
2. **To schedule the next Working Group meeting at the call of the chair. Passed (Unanimous)**
3. **Adjourn at 11:15 p.m. Passed (Unanimous)**

COMMENTS FROM THE WORKING GROUP: *No additional comments were provided from the Working Group members.*

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WORKING GROUP ATTENDANCE:

MEMBER SEAT:	NAME:
DOWNRIVER ELDER	Absent
UPRIVER ELDER	Absent
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Alissa Rogers
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Lisa Feyereisen
UPRIVER SUBSISTENCE	Barbara Carlson
HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE	Daniel Esai
MEMBER AT LARGE	Fritz Charles
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	Ray Collins
YK DELTA RAC	Absent
COMMERCIAL FISHING	Absent
SPORT FISHING	LaMont Albertson
PROCESSOR	<i>Vacant</i>
KRITFC	Robert Lekander
ADF&G	Chuck Brazil
CHAIR	Alissa Rogers

Other Participants:		
ADF&G Comm. Fish: Ben Gray, Nick Smith, Lily Reichard, Zach Liller, Chuck Brazil, Keegan Birchfield, Dave Cannon Sport Fish: Lamont Albertson Subsistence Division:		
USFWS: Gary Decossas OSM:		
John Orr (AVCP) Janessa Esquible (ONC) Avery Hoffman (ONC) Peter Crow (ONC) Deja Jackson (ONC)	Jonathan Samuelson (GTC) Rebecca Wilmarth (NVN) Bill Bechtol (KRITFC)	Media: WG Alternates:

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS:

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

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