

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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

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

May 5 and 6, 2020

On Tuesday, May 5, 2020 the meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m., recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m., and reconvened at approximately 1:15 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. Meeting time was approximately seven hours. A quorum was established and kept with seven to nine full voting members in attendance throughout the day. Lamont Albertson and Barbara Carlson co-chaired the meeting

On Wednesday, May 6, 2020 the meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. and adjourned at 12:52 p.m. Meeting time was approximately four hours. A quorum was established and kept with seven to nine full voting members in attendance throughout the day. Barbara Carlson and Alissa Rodgers co-chaired the meeting

AGENDA ITEMS:

People to be Heard:

A. Review of Meeting Conduct

B. 2019 Fishing Season Recap/ Presentations

- Subsistence Section Project Overview
- Southern Bering Sea Survey
- Assessment projects review
- Chinook salmon total run and drainage wide escapement estimate
- 2020 Chinook Salmon Forecast

C. 2020 Fishery Management:

- 2020 Assessment projects
- 2020 Alaska Board of Fisheries Summary
- ADF&G Management Presentation & Discussion On Specific Management Actions For 2020
 - Date to begin early season closure
 - Set gillnet fishing periods during early season closure
 - Tributary Management
 - Use of live release gear
 - Chum/sockeye salmon management
 - Sport Fishing
- Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

D. Donlin Mine

- Draft Letter of Support for Smelt Spawning/Migration in the Kuskokwim River
- Letter of Opposition for Donlin Gold Mine

E. Working Group Business:

- Election of Co-Chairs
- Working Group In-Season Meeting Schedule
- Nominate WG representative to serve at KRITFC inseason meetings
- Procedures regarding the submission of documents associated with KRSMWG (Name/Logo)

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WORKING GROUP ACTION ITEMS:

- To continue discussions involving Donlin Mine and to request more research regarding the timing of salmon smolt outmigration so that barge traffic might be limited during such times (*WG Members*)
- For Dave Cannon (Aniak) to make minor revisions to Resolution 01-20 and provide this revision to the Working Group for signatures (*Dave Cannon/WG Members*)

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

1. Approve the agenda as amended. *Passed (Unanimous)*
2. Adjourn May 5 at 11:55 a.m. for lunch. *Passed (Unanimous)*
3. For the 2020 front-end closure for king salmon fishing on the Kuskokwim River to begin May 30 in sections 1 and 2. *Vote was taken to support friendly amendment below.*
 - a. *A friendly amendment was made to move the start date to June 1 in sections 1 and 2. (See language in Motion 4). Motion to support friendly amendment Passed (Unanimous)*
4. For the 2020 front-end closure for king salmon fishing on the Kuskokwim River to begin June 1 in sections 1 and 2, to be consistent with the Federal Subsistence Board Action. *Passed (Unanimous)*
5. To recommend that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game enacts rolling closure dates starting June 3 for section 3 and June 9 for section 4. *Passed (Unanimous)*
6. To recommend that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game enact a rolling closure date of June 11 for section 5. *Passed (Unanimous)*
7. To allow 3-24 hour set gillnet period(s) during the front-end closure on June 3, 6, 9 *Passed (7 yes, 1 no)*
8. To set an 11:00 am start time for the 3-24 hour set gillnet periods occurring June 3, 6, 9 *Passed (Unanimous)*
9. To support the Alaska Department of Fish and Game pre-released fishing schedule of 5-24 hour, 6" or less mesh drift-gillnets, 25-fathoms in length above the Johnson and 50-fathom in length nets below the Johnson. These 5 periods would occur every other day between June 12 and 20th in the mainstem Kuskokwim River, sections 1 and 2. *Failed (4 yes, 4 no)*
10. To amend the Alaska Department of Fish and Game pre-released fishing schedule of 5-24 hour periods to 3-24 hour periods, fishing would take place with 6" or less mesh drift-gillnets, 25-fathoms in length above the Johnson and 50-fathoms in length below the Johnson. These 3 periods would occur on June 12th, 15th, 18th and then ADF&G and the Working Group will reevaluate for future openings. *Passed (Unanimous)*
11. Adjourn the first day of meeting May 5 at 5:00 p.m. *Passed (Unanimous)*
12. To support the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's recommendation to open subsistence sections 3, 4, and 5 until further notice beginning June 12 with 6" or less mesh nets, 25 fathoms in length. Chinook salmon may be retained if caught with fish wheels, dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line. *Passed (Unanimous)*

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13. To support the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's recommendation to close the Aniak Box to fishing with gillnets, to allow selective methods from June 12 to the 23 (with kings being released to the water), and beginning June 23, until further notice, allow the subsistence retention of king salmon with rod and reel in the Aniak Box. *Failed (2 yes, 4 no, 1 abstention)*
14. To support the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's recommendation to close the salmon spawning tributaries to fishing with gillnets, allow selective methods until June 12 (with kings being returned to the water), and after June 12 to allow subsistence retention of king salmon with rod and reel. *Passed (Unanimous)*
15. To reconsider Motion 13. *Failed (4 yes, 3 no)*
16. To close the Aniak Box to fishing for king salmon with gillnets and selective gear types from June 12 to the 23, but to allow for fishing for other species with selective gear types during that time (kings must be released to the water). *Passed (Unanimous)*
17. To support the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's recommendation to allow king retention with all selective gear types in the mainstem Kuskokwim River beginning June 12. *Passed (Unanimous)*
18. To table discussion for chum and sockeye fisheries management until a later meeting date. *Passed (Unanimous)*
19. For the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to continue adhering to Travel and Social Distancing mandates 11 and 12 as it relates to the 2020 Sport Fishing Season. *Passed (Unanimous)*
20. For the Working Group to support Resolution 01-20, which has the intent to protect the long-term viability of the rainbow smelt run of the Kuskokwim River. *Passed (7 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention)*
21. To elect Mary Peltola, Alissa Rodgers, Barbara Carlson, Lamont Albertson, and Fritz Charles to serve as the 2020 Working Group co-chairs. *Passed (8 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention)*
22. To schedule inseason Working Group meetings for Mondays during the hours of 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., and for the first meeting to take place June 8, 2020. *Passed (8 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention)*
23. To nominate Lamont Albertson as the Working Group representative to serve at KRITFC inseason meetings. *Passed (8 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention)*
24. To support the language that is in option 1 for Working Group Bylaw additions regarding use and distribution of materials on behalf of the Working Group. *Passed (9 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention)*
25. Adjourn meeting May 6 at 12:52 p.m. *Passed (Unanimous)*

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD: None.

- A. REVIEW OF MEETING CONDUCT:** Nick Smith (ADF&G Area Management Biologist) provided an overview of the meeting conduct expected at Working Group meetings. Mr. Smith spoke on four main points that would help keep meetings on track and allow for a more respectful meeting environment. These points included: 1) sticking to the agenda, 2) being acknowledged by the Chair prior to speaking, 3) keeping on topic, and 4) being polite when debating motions. Mr. Smith also stressed the need for members to review Robert's Rules of Order and the use of point of order.

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B. 2019 FISHING SEASON RECAP/ PRESENTATIONS

- **Subsistence Section Project Overview:** Dave Runfola (ADF&G, Subsistence Division) gave his overview later in the meeting during *Bullet Point C. 2020 Assessment Projects*
- **Southern Bering Sea Survey:** Sabrina Garcia (ADF&G Research Biologist) gave an overview of the Southern Bering Sea Juvenile Chinook Salmon Survey project. This project operated in 2018 and 2019 and is scheduled to operate again in 2020. During the 2019 cruise, Ms. Garcia reported that 50 out of the 56 stations had been sampled and a total of 42 juvenile Chinook salmon were captured. She explained that catches were low likely due to a mismatch between survey timing and juvenile Chinook salmon outmigration timing. A wider sampling timeframe in 2020 (mid-August to late-September) may help to identify peak outmigration timing and allow for more samples to be collected. *(For more information on the Southern Bering Sea Survey, please see the May 5-6 Informational Packet, Page 2)*
- **Assessment projects review:** Sean Larson (ADF&G Research Biologist) first provided an explanation of methods used at both the Bethel Test Fishery (BTF) and the mainstem Kuskokwim River Sonar. Mr. Larson then provided a summary of the 2019 assessment project results. All Chinook, chum, sockeye, and coho escapement goals in both the Kuskokwim River Drainage and Kuskokwim Bay Area were either met or exceeded during the 2019 season. *(For more information on the 2019 assessment projects review, please see the May 5-6, 2020 Informational Packet, Pages 3–12).*
- **Chinook salmon total run and drainage-wide escapement estimate:** Sean Larson (ADF&G) reviewed the results of the 2019 age and sex summary as well as the run reconstruction model. A large component of the 2019 run was age-4 fish with a lower than average female return. Mr. Larson stated that a large component of the 2020 run could be made up of age-5 Chinook salmon due to high production the 2015 brood year. Mr. Larson also gave an overview of the estimated size of the 2019 total run, escapement, and harvest. *(For more information on Chinook salmon total run and drainage wide escapement estimate, please see the May 5-6, 2020 Informational Packet, Pages 13–17).*
- **2020 Chinook salmon Forecast:** Sean Larson (ADF&G) stated that the 2020 forecast was estimated to be between 193,000–261,000 Chinook salmon. *(For more information on the 2020 Chinook salmon Forecast, please see the May 5-6, 2020 Informational Packet, Page 16).*

C. 2020 FISHERY MANAGEMENT

- **2020 Assessment Projects:** *(For information on the specific organizations responsible for the 2020 assessment projects, please see the May 5-6 Informational Packet, Pages 18-19).* Sean Larson (ADF&G) provided an overview of the 2020 assessment projects. Mr. Larson stated that the Bethel Test Fishery, Aniak River Test Fishery, and the Kuskokwim mainstem sonar project are each scheduled to begin June 1. Inseason subsistence harvest surveys and subsistence ASL sampling are scheduled to begin between May 29 and June 12 in Bethel / lower Kuskokwim River. The escapement projects scheduled to operate during the 2020 season are the George River weir, Kogrukluk River weir, Telaquana Lake weir, Takotna River weir, and the Salmon River (Pitka Fork) weir. Aerial surveys are scheduled to occur

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near the end of July. The third year of the juvenile salmon survey will be conducted in the Southern Bering Sea starting mid-August. Dave Runfola (ADF&G) described the subsistence-interview research his team intends to carry out near the mouths of the non-salmon-spawning tributaries. Additionally, Mr. Larson, Dave Runfola, and Dan Gillikin (NVN) briefed the Working Group of their respective contingency plans regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and stated they had reached out to various city and tribal councils about the plans.

- **2020 Alaska Board of Fisheries Summary:** Nick Smith (ADF&G) summarized the regulatory changes made by the Board of Fish (BOF) during the statewide meeting, March 2020. Proposal 280 (Organized Village of Kwethluk) passed with amendments. The original proposal was to change set gillnet regulations within the Kuskokwim River to 6-inch or less mesh with no bank orientation. The proposal was amended at the BOF meeting with input and agreement from representatives of the Lower Kuskokwim, Bethel, Central Kuskokwim, and Stony-Holtna Advisory Councils. The amended proposal that passed allows for 6-inch or less mesh to be used during the front-end closure when the escapement goal is projected to be exceeded. In times when the projected escapement of Chinook salmon is within or below the escapement goal, then legal mesh size would revert to 4-inch. Six-inch mesh was also added as an option after the front-end closure for setnets. Bank orientation will still be required. *(For more information on the BOF changes pertaining to the Kuskokwim area please review the 2020 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery Announcement 1)*
- **ADF&G Management Presentation & Discussion On Specific Management Actions For 2020:** Nick Smith (ADF&G) briefed the Working Group on the results of the Federal Special Action (FSA) and advised the group that even though a FSA will be in place from June 1 to June 30, the Working Group still had work to do as the State's advisory body. Mr. Smith gave a brief overview of what guides the State's management strategy: the preseason forecast, the Bethel Test Fishery, the Kuskokwim River mainstem sonar, and inseason harvest reports. Mr. Smith went on outline his salmon management strategy for the 2020 season. *(For more information on 2020 Kuskokwim River Management Outlook and Strategy, please see the May 5-6 Informational Packet, Pages 21-24)*
 - **Date to begin early season closure:** Working Group members discussed possible dates to begin the early season closure, ultimately recommending a closure date of June 1 for sections 1 and 2, with rolling closure dates beginning June 3 for section 3, June 9 for section 4, and June 11 for section 5. *(See motions 3-6).*
 - **Set gillnet fishing periods during early season closure:** Working Group members recommended 3-24 hour set gillnet periods during the front-end closure to begin on June 3, 6, and 9 with the 24-hour start/end times occurring at 11:00 a.m. *(See motions 7 and 8)*
 - **Tributary Management: For 2020 tributary management,**
 - **Salmon Tributaries-** The Working Group supported closing the salmon spawning tributaries to fishing with gillnets, allowing selective methods until

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June 12 (with kings being returned to the water), and after June 12 allowing subsistence retention of king salmon with rod and reel. *(See motion 14)*

- **Non-Salmon Tributaries**-Working Group members supported closing non-salmon tributaries at their confluence with the Kuskokwim River to 100 yards upstream of the confluence. There was no motion related to this issue. The Working Group rather adopted ADF&G's 2019 strategy for 2020.
- **Use of live-release gear:** Working group members supported the use of selective, live-release gear (i.e., fish wheels, dip nets, beach seines, hook and line) in the Kuskokwim River drainage during the front-end closure (June 1-11), but not for the targeting of Chinook salmon. All Chinook salmon caught during the front-end closure using these gear types must be released alive to the water. After June 12, Working Group members supported the retention of Chinook salmon by selective, live-release gear in the mainstem Kuskokwim River, and subsistence retention using rod and reel only in the salmon spawning tributaries. Much discussion was afforded to the 2020 regulations for the Aniak Box. Ultimately, the Working Group supported the use of live-release gear within the Aniak Box from June 12-23, with any Chinook salmon caught being released alive to the water. Management strategies after June 23 specific to the Aniak Box will be discussed at a future meeting. *(See motions 12–17)*
- **Chum/sockeye salmon management:** Working Group members voted to table discussions involving chum and sockeye salmon management until later in the season *(See motion 18)*
- **Sport Fishing:** John Chythlook (ADF&G Kuskokwim Area Manager Sport Fish Division): Mr. Chythlook stated that sport fishing would remain closed from June 1 until June 12 to be consistent with the front-end closure and that there will be a reevaluation after June 12. Mr. Chythlook gave an overview of COVID-19 State of Alaska Travel and Social-Distancing Mandates 11 and 12 and how those would affect 2020 sport fishing during the summer. Working Group members voted in support of ADF&G Sport Fishing staff also following these mandates *(See motion 19)*.
- **Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge:** Ray Born (USFWS Acting Refuge Manager) explained the Federal Special Action that would begin on June 1 and remain until June 30. *(For more information on the FSA, contact YDNWR Headquarters at (907) 543-3151)*

D. DONLIN MINE

- **Draft Letter of Support for Smelt Spawning/Migration in the Kuskokwim River:** Dave Cannon (**Aniak**) presented his resolution to the working group. The Working Group supported drafting this letter.
- **Letter of Opposition for Donlin Gold Mine:** Lamont Albertson, Alissa Rodgers, and Lisa Feyereisen each stated that more information was needed prior to writing a letter of opposition. Ms. Feyereisen suggested that research should be conducted to look at the timing of outgoing salmon smolt and then limit Donlin barge traffic during that time. Ultimately, members wanted to keep this issue on the horizon so that it can be discussed in future meeting, but would need more research in order to take a position on Donlin Mine.

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E. WORKING GROUP BUSINESS

- **Election of Co-Chairs:** The Working Group elected as the 2020 co-chairs: Mary Peltola (Lower River Subsistence Alternate), Alissa Rodgers (Lower River Subsistence Alternate), Barbara Carlson (Upriver Subsistence), Lamont Albertson (Sport Fishing), and Fritz Charles (Member At Large).
- **Working Group In-Season Meeting Schedule:** Working Group meetings will take place on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The first meeting will be held Monday, June 8. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings will be held via teleconference until further notice.
- **Nominate WG representative to serve at KRITFC inseason meetings:** Lamont Albertson will serve as the Working Group representative at 2020 KRITFC inseason meetings.
- **Procedures regarding the submission of documents associated with KRSMWG (Name/Logo)** The Working Group supported the language in option 1 for Working Group Bylaw additions regarding use and distribution of materials on behalf of the Working Group. (For WG Bylaw language, please see the May 5-6 Informational Packet, Page 32; Also see Motion 24)

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

1. Approve the agenda as amended. Passed (Unanimous)
2. Adjourn May 5 at 11:55 a.m. for lunch Passed (Unanimous)
3. For the 2020 front-end closure for king salmon fishing on the Kuskokwim River to begin May 30 in sections 1 and 2. Vote was taken to support friendly amendment below.
 - a. A friendly amendment was made to move the start date to June 1 in sections 1 and 2. (See language in Motion 4). Motion to support friendly amendment Passed (Unanimous)

Fritz Charles made a motion for the 2020 front-end closure to begin May 30, 2020 for sections 1 and 2. After some discussion between Working Group members, Ray Born (USFWS) stated that a May 30 front-end closure date would cause a conflict between state and federal regulations because there are no fishing restrictions for federally qualified users prior to June 1. With this new information, Mr. Charles, made a friendly amendment to his own motion to start the front-end closure on June 1, 2020 to be consistent with actions taken by the Federal Subsistence Board. Because Mike Williams Sr. (who seconded the original May 30 motion) had to leave during discussions, a vote was taken on whether to allow the friendly amendment.

4. For the 2020 front-end closure for king salmon fishing on the Kuskokwim River to begin June 1 in sections 1 and 2, to be consistent with the Federal Subsistence Board Action. Passed (Unanimous)

Discussion of this motion mirrored that of the previous motion regarding Mr. Charles' friendly amendment. Working Group members were in unanimous supportive of a June 1, 2020 front-end closure in sections 1 and 2.

5. To recommend that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game enacts rolling closure dates starting June 3 for section 3 and June 9 for section 4. Passed (Unanimous)

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Nick Smith (ADF&G) explained how closures during these dates in sections 3 and 4 would offer protection for Chinook salmon of headwater origin. Working Group members supported implementing subsistence rolling closures, similar to what has been done previous years.

6. **To recommend that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game enact a rolling closure date of June 11 for section 5. Passed (Unanimous)**

There was discussion amongst Working Group members as to if there even needed to be a closure for section 5. Nick Smith (ADF&G) stated that by regulation, section 5 must close for a period of time during the front-end closure. With that information, Working Group members agreed on a June 11 closure date.

7. **To allow 3-24 hour set gillnet period(s) during the front-end closure on June 3, 6, 9 Passed (7 yes, 1 no):**

There was majority support for these 3-24 hour setnet opportunities during the front-end closure. Alissa Rodgers stated that from her experience, 12-hour periods were too short because of people's weekly working hours. Additionally, Working Group members were in support of maximizing subsistence user's opportunities to harvest fish during these setnet periods on account of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and effects that has had on local food supply.

8. **To set an 11:00 a.m. start time for the 3-24 hour set gillnet periods occurring June 3, 6, 9 Passed (Unanimous)**

Mary Peltola made a motion for the 3-24 hour set gillnet periods to begin at 7:00 am. Lisa Feyereisen remarked that it would be difficult for someone to retrieve a net before a 7:00 a.m. closure and suggested a time of 11:00 a.m. Mary Peltola agreed and made a friendly amendment to her motion for the 3-24 hour set gillnet periods to begin at 11:00 a.m.

9. **To support the Alaska Department of Fish and Game pre-released fishing schedule of 5-24 hour, 6" or less mesh drift-gillnets, 25-fathoms in length above the Johnson and 50-fathom in length nets below the Johnson. These 5 periods would occur every other day between June 12 and 20th in the mainstem Kuskokwim River, sections 1 and 2. Failed (4 yes, 4 no)**

There was a mixed support for announcing 5-24 hour drift gillnet periods after the front-end closure and the motion ultimately failed. Fritz Charles asked Ray Born (USFWS) for clarification as to what Fish and Wildlife Service would be implementing as fishing periods after June 11. Mr. Born indicated that he was looking at doing something similar to what ADF&G was proposing but would need to consult with the Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission prior to announcing dates and times. Lamont Albertson remarked that we should still take a conservative approach to management of the 2020 Chinook fishery. Mr. Albertson had concerns that the 5-24 hour periods would not be conservative enough and recalled back to the issues seen during the 2013 season. Mr. Albertson said that he would support an every third day option which would result in 3-24 hour periods. This idea gained traction and ultimately became Motion 10.

10. **To amend the Alaska Department of Fish and Game pre-released fishing schedule of 5-24 hour periods to 3-24 hour periods, fishing would take place with 6" or less mesh drift-gillnets, 25-fathoms in length above the Johnson and 50-fathoms in length below the**

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Johnson. These 3 periods would occur on June 12th, 15th, 18th and then ADF&G and the Working Group will reevaluate for future openings. Passed (Unanimous)

11. **Adjourn the first day of meeting May 5 at 5:00 p.m. Passed (Unanimous)**
12. **To support the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's recommendation to open subsistence sections 3, 4, and 5 until further notice beginning June 12 with 6-inch or less mesh nets, 25 fathoms in length. Chinook salmon may be retained if caught with fish wheels, dip nets, beach seines, and hook and line. Passed (Unanimous)**

Lisa Feyereisen stated that these sections of the Kuskokwim River have had severe COVID-19 restrictions in place that have impacted local food supply. Ms. Feyereisen said that allowing more subsistence activity would be very helpful for people. James Charles agreed and recalled back to the importance of subsistence fishing during his youth. Barbara Carlson supported the motion, but with reservations. Ms. Carlson stressed that if the run were to come back weaker than forecasted this would need to be revised. Fritz Charles supported the motion and stated that if the run is strong, there should be consideration to ease up restrictions on sections 1 and 2 beginning June 12.

13. **To support the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's recommendation to close the Aniak Box to fishing with gillnets, to allow selective methods from June 12 to the 23 (with kings being released to the water), and beginning June 23, until further notice, allow the subsistence retention of king salmon with rod and reel in the Aniak Box. Failed (2 yes, 4 no, 1 abstention)**

Lisa Feyereisen stated that keeping the Aniak Box closed to Chinook retention is important to the run. Ms. Feyereisen voiced concern regarding a large construction project in Aniak that would bring in workers that might target Chinook salmon. Robert Lekander stressed that this should be subsistence fishing only. Dan Gillikin (NVN) told the Working Group that allowing subsistence retention of Chinook salmon with rod and reel fishing would be a good thing for Aniak residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. There was discussion between group members as to who would enforce these regulations and who would be eligible to harvest Chinook salmon, i.e., state or federally qualified users.

14. **To support the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's recommendation to close the salmon spawning tributaries to fishing with gillnets, allow selective methods until June 12 (with kings being returned to the water), and after June 12 to allow subsistence retention of king salmon with rod and reel. Passed (Unanimous)**

The original motion made by Lisa Feyereisen did not have the word "subsistence" preceding "retention of king salmon with rod and reel." Robert Lekander made a friendly amendment to Ms. Feyereisen's motion to include the word "subsistence" in this location. This friendly amendment was accepted and there was unanimous support for the motion.

15. **To reconsider Motion 13. Failed (4 yes, 3 no)**

Mike Williams Sr. made a motion to reconsider Motion 13. Lisa Feyerheisen voiced similar concerns to those documented in the above Motion 13 summary. Robert Lekander spoke in

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opposition and stated that rod and reel fishing should be restricted within the Aniak Box given that gillnets and other fishing methods are restricted.

16. **To close the Aniak Box to fishing for king salmon with gillnets and selective gear types from June 12 to the 23, but to allow for fishing for other species with selective gear types during that time (kings must be released to the water). Passed (Unanimous)**

Fritz Charles made an original motion would have closed the Aniak Box to all fishing methods from June 12-23. This was discussed by Dan Gillikin (NVN) and Mike Williams Sr. and each found this perhaps too restrictive. Lisa Feyereisen made a friendly amendment to Mr. Charles' motion that would allow for fishing with selective methods during June 12-23, but would not allow retention of Chinook salmon. Mr. Charles accepted the friendly amendment but stated that this was similar to what ADF&G recommended in Motion 13. Barbara Carlson stated that the amended motion was different because it did not state what the regulations would be post-June 23. Ms. Carlson stated that adopting this motion gives the option to keep these restrictions in place past June 23 if need be.

17. **To support the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's recommendation to allow king retention with all selective gear types in the mainstem Kuskokwim River beginning June 12. Passed (Unanimous)**

Working Group members discussed as to what sections of the river that this motion applied to. Lisa Feyereisen clarified that her motion was for the entire river (i.e., all sections).

18. **To table discussion for chum and sockeye fisheries management until a later meeting date. Passed (Unanimous)**

The Working Group was in support of not discussing chum and sockeye fisheries management until a time later in the season.

19. **For the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to continue adhering to Travel and Social Distancing mandates 11 and 12 as it relates to the 2020 Sport Fishing Season. Passed (Unanimous)**

20. **For the Working Group to support Resolution 01-20, which has the intent to protect the long-term viability of the rainbow smelt run of the Kuskokwim River. Passed (7 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention)**

Dave Cannon (Aniak) drafted Resolution 01-20 prior to the Working Group meeting and it was included in the packet on Pages 29-31. Working Group members were in support of the Resolution which has the intent to protect the long-term viability of the rainbow smelt run on the Kuskokwim River. Members requested for Mr. Cannon to make minor edits to the resolution and send out the Working Group to sign.

21. **To elect Mary Peltola, Alissa Rodgers, Barbara Carlson, Lamont Albertson, and Fritz Charles to serve as the 2020 Working Group co-chairs. Passed (8 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention)**

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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22. **To schedule inseason Working Group meetings for Mondays during the hours of 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., and for the first meeting to take place June 8, 2020. Passed (8 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention)**

The Working Group agreed on this schedule as it would allow for members who have regular worktime hours to attend the inseason meetings.

23. **To nominate Lamont Albertson as the Working Group representative to serve at KRITFC inseason meetings. Passed (8 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention)**

24. **To support the language that is in option 1 for Working Group Bylaw additions regarding use and distribution of materials on behalf of the Working Group. Passed (9 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention)**

Lisa Feyereisen and Barbara Carlson stated that there has been disagreement between members in the past regarding use of Working Group letterhead without a consensus from other Working Group members. This bylaw addition clearly outlines solutions to this issue during inseason and offseason meetings. *(For WG Bylaw language, please see the May 5-6 Informational Packet, Page 32)*

25. **Adjourn meeting May 6 at 12:52 p.m. Passed (Unanimous)**

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

WORKING GROUP ATTENDANCE:

MEMBER SEAT:	NAME:
DOWNRIVER ELDER	James Charles
UPRIVER ELDER	Absent
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Mike Williams Sr.
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Lisa Feyereisen
UPRIVER SUBSISTENCE	Barbara Carlson
HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE	Absent
MEMBER AT LARGE	Fritz Charles
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	<i>Vacant</i>
YK DELTA RAC	John Andrew
COMMERCIAL FISHING	Greg Hoffman, Jr.
SPORT FISHING	LaMont Albertson
PROCESSOR	<i>Vacant</i>
ADF&G	Nick Smith
CHAIR	LaMont Albertson/ Barbara Carlson/ Alissa Rogers
Other Participants:	
<u>ADF&G Comm. Fish:</u> Nick Smith, Ben Gray, Chuck Brazil, Sean Larson, Zach Liller, Ben Mulligan, Keegan Birchfield, Bobette Dickerson, Sabrina Garcia <u>Sport Fish Division:</u> John Chythlook, Klaus Wutig <u>Subsistence Division:</u> David Runfola, Chris McDevitt	

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<u>USFWS:</u> Ray Born, Gary Decossas, Aaron Webber, Eva Patton, Jan Conitz	
<u>OSM:</u> Dave Cannon (Aniak), Dan Gillikin (NVN), Janessa Esquible (ONC), Amanda Hoeldt (NVN)	
<u>Media:</u> Anna Rose Macarther (KYUK)	Jennifer Hooper (AVCP), Paige Jones (AVCP) Curry Cunningham (UAF), Daniel Schindler (UW)
<u>WG Alternates</u> Mary Peltola (Lower River Subsistence)	

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (**ADF&G**), Orutsararmiut 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**), ADF&G Subsistence Division (**SD**), 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**),

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