

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working group

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

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

June 26, 2020

Six full voting members were present, and a quorum was not established. A work session was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on Friday June 26, 2020 and adjourned at 6:11 p.m. The work session time was approximately 2 hours and 13 minutes. Barbara Carlson chaired the work session.

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:

- Include P-star model documentation /explanation (Working Group / ADF&G)
- Contact headwater villages to see how fishing is going (Working Group / ADF&G / Kevin Whitworth)

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS: *A quorum was not established; this was a work session and there were no motions.*

KRITFC/ USFWS UPDATE: Gary Decossas (USFWS) gave a brief overview of the harvest estimates from the June 24 opening. Mr. Decossas reported that an estimated 5,000 to 8,000 Chinook salmon were harvested on June 24. Due to the poor weather conditions on the June 24 opener the harvest estimate is believed to be in the lower end of the estimate. Kevin Whitworth (KRITFC) reported that the decision was made not to support any additional set net or drift net harvest opportunities between June 25 through July 1 downriver from the Kalskag Bluffs.

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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ADF&G MANAGEMENT ACTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION: Nick Smith (ADF&G, Area Management Biologist) reported there are no management actions under consideration.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

SUBSISTENCE REPORTS:

- **ONC Subsistence Report:** Janessa Esquible (ONC) provided an overview of the ONC inseason harvest monitoring project. *(For more information on the ONC subsistence survey report, please see the June 22, 2020 Informational Packet.)*
- **Lower River:** James Charles (Downriver Elder) reported that not many people were out fishing on the June 24 subsistence opener due to the poor weather conditions. Mr. James Charles commented that the people who did go out fishing were catching sockeye salmon in a larger abundance than Chinook salmon. Charlie Brown (Commercial Fishing) reported that there has been an influx of sockeye salmon and they are beginning to outnumber the amount of Chinook salmon in the river. Fritz Charles (Member at Large) reported that not many people were out fishing due to the poor weather conditions. Mr. Fritz Charles commented that he caught 8 Chinook, 2 sockeye, and 1 chum. Mary Peltola (Lower River Subsistence Alternate) reported that she did not fish on the Kuskokwim mainstem on the June 24 subsistence opening.
- **Middle River:** Megan Leary (Middle River) reported that people in the middle river are seeing fish, but that the Chinook run is coming slow.

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- **Upriver:** Barbara Carlson (Upriver Subsistence) reported that she has met her Chinook salmon harvest goal and is no longer fishing. Ms. Carlson commented that the Aniak fish wheel is still running, and they had their best catch of 4 Chinook salmon on June 25.
- **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 2020 inseason assessment projects, please see the June 26 Informational Packet).*
 - **Bethel Test Fish:** Mr. Smith reported that as of June 25, the cumulative CPUE at the BTF was 230. Based on historical data, the 2020 Chinook salmon run appeared to be tracking slightly lower than average at this date in the season.
 - **Aniak Test Fish:** Mr. Smith reported that as of June 25, the cumulative CPUE at the ATF was 403. Based on historical data, the 2020 Chinook salmon run appeared to be tracking slightly lower than average at this date in the season.
 - **Sonar:** Mr. Smith reported that as of June 24, an estimated 31,000 Chinook salmon have passed through the sonar site. 2,800 chum salmon have passed through the sonar site. 39,700 sockeye salmon have passed through the sonar site.
 - **Weirs:** *No discussion on weirs took place at this work session.*
 - **Subsistence Division project update:** No projects in the water.
 2. **Sport Fishing:** *No comments on sport fishing were made at this work session.*
 3. **Discussion of ADF&G Management considerations and discussion of possible alternatives:**

OLD BUSINESS:

- Meeting attendance and vacant seats
 - Deep discussion into this topic was tabled until the June 29 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

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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	James Charles
UPRIVER ELDER	Absent
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Mike Williams Sr.
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Absent
UPRIVER SUBSISTENCE	Barbara Carlson
HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE	Absent
MEMBER AT LARGE	Fritz Charles
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	<i>Vacant</i>
YK DELTA RAC	Absent
COMMERCIAL FISHING	Charlie Brown
SPORT FISHING	LaMont Albertson
PROCESSOR	<i>Vacant</i>
KRITFC	Absent
ADF&G	Nick Smith
CHAIR	LaMont Albertson

Other Participants:	
<u>ADF&G Comm. Fish:</u> Ben Gray, Lily Reichard, Keegan Birchfield, Andrew Kastning, Bobette Dickerson, Chris McDevitt, Charles Brazil <u>Sport Fish:</u> John Chythlook <u>Subsistence Division:</u> Dave Runfola	
<u>USFWS:</u> Ray Born, Aaron Moses, Gary Desossas <u>OSM:</u> Frank Harris	
Jennifer Hooper (AVCP) Janessa Esquible (ONC) Avery Hoffman (ONC) Bill Bechtol (KRITFC) Kevin Whitworth (KRITFC) Jim Simon (KRITFC) Amanda Hoeldt (NVM) Jen Peeks (Bethel) Tad Lindley (Bethel)	<u>Media:</u> Anna Rose MacArthur (KYUK) <u>WG Alternates:</u> Mary Peltola (Lower River Sub. Alt.) Alissa Rogers (Lower River Sub. Alt.)

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (**ADF&G, department, State**), Orutsaranmiut 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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