

# 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 20, 2012**

Time: **10:00 am**

Place: **Bethel**

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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:**

1. Angela Morgan
- 2.

### **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:
3. Commercial Catch Report:
4. Processor Report:
5. Sport Fish Report:
6. Weather Forecast:
7. Recommendation:
8. Motion for Discussion and Action:

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Old business items from previous meetings have been tabled until mid-July

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. June 18, 2012, Resolution from Tuntutuliak Traditional Council
2. June 19, 2012, Resolution from Akiak Native Community Elders

**COMMENTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:**

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Place:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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## Information Packet

June 20, 2012

### LOWER KUSKOKWIM RIVER INSEASON REPORTS:

#### Orutsararmiut Native Council (ONC)

#### Kuskokwim River Inseason Subsistence Catch Monitoring Report

Date June 18, 2012

#### **Fishing reports from Jun 11 – Jun 17, 2012.**

Families Surveyed	Families Fishing	Using Driftnets	Using Setnets	Both	Gillnets More than 6" mesh	Gillnets 6" mesh or less	Both	Rod & Reel
27	10	5	1	4	3	7	1	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
1	1	8	0	2	2	0	4	0

#### **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	1	9	0	4	0	0	4	0

#### **Comments: For the week ending June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

Subsistence Chinook ASL Sampling Program: ONC in-season subsistence survey crew has not distributed any ASL Chinook sampling kits to families this week. We are expecting for ASL distribution to really start when the Chinook salmon start running in stronger numbers.

Ichthyophonous Fungal Disease Sampling Program: There was no sampling this week.

ONC Technicians Net Observation: From Gweek down to Napaskiak slough, ONC in-season subsistence crew observed a total of 9 white fish nets for this week's net count.

#### **ONC In-season Survey:**

The Kuskokwim River survey ranges from the mouth of Gweek and concludes at Napaskiak slough. ONC In-season subsistence crew interviewed 27 families this week for the in-season subsistence monitoring program. Of the 27 families surveyed this week, only 10 (37%) of the families were fishing before the closure took place.

17(63%) of the families interviewed had reported not fishing this week. Of the 17 families not fishing this week 8 (47%) of the families interviewed still had not even started fishing this year. Many fishers expressed the price of gas is too expensive to go out fishing when the run of salmon run is weak and poor.

### **Salmon Species Survey:**

#### **Chinook:**

**Catch rate:** Of the 10 families fishing this week, 1(10%) family reported the Chinook catch as very good, 1 (10%) family reported the catch as normal, 8 (80%) families reported it as poor, and 3 families refused to comment.

**Run timing:** 0 (0%) families reported the run as early, 1 (10%) family reported the run timing as normal, and 9 (90%) families reported the run to be late this year, due to high levels of mountain water and extreme cold temperatures.

#### **Chum:**

**Catch rate:** Of the 10 families fishing this week, 0 (0%) families reported the Chum catch as very good, 2 (20%) family reported the catch as normal, 2 (20%) families reported it as poor.

**Run timing:** 0 (0%) families reported the run as early, 1 (10%) family reported the run timing as normal, and 9 (90%) families reported the run to be late this year.

#### **Sockeye:**

**Catch rate:** Of the 10 families fishing this week, 0 (0%) families reported the Sockeye catch as very good, 4 (40%) family reported the catch as normal, and 0 (0%) families reported it as poor.

**Run timing:** 0 (0%) families reported the run as early, 4 (40%) families reported the run timing as normal, and 0 (0%) families reported the run to be late this year.

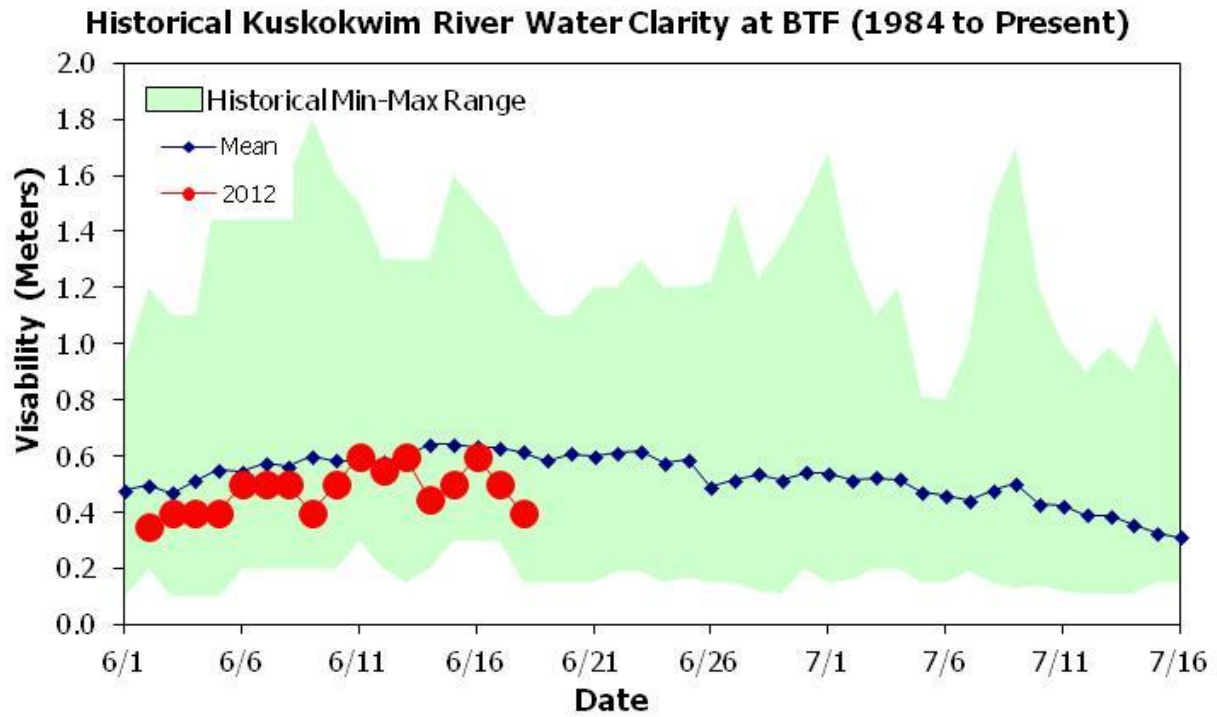
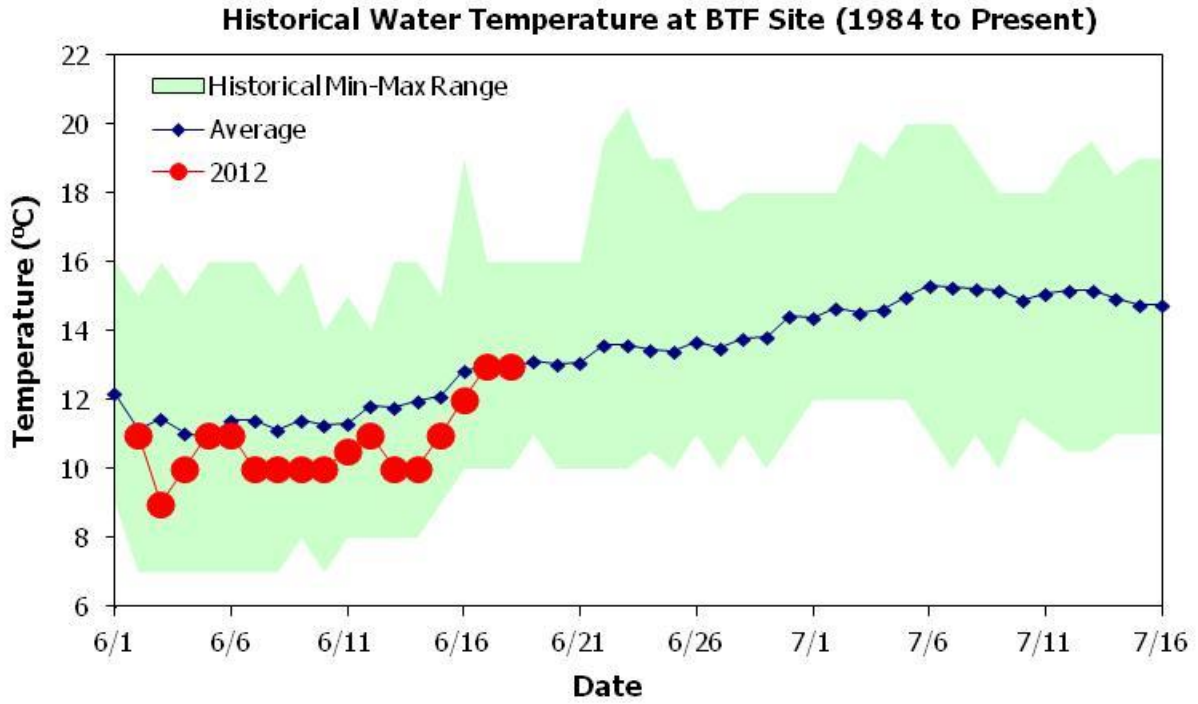
**MIDDLE AND UPPER KUSKOKWIM RIVER INSEASON REPORTS:**

**Kuskokwim Native Association (KNA)**

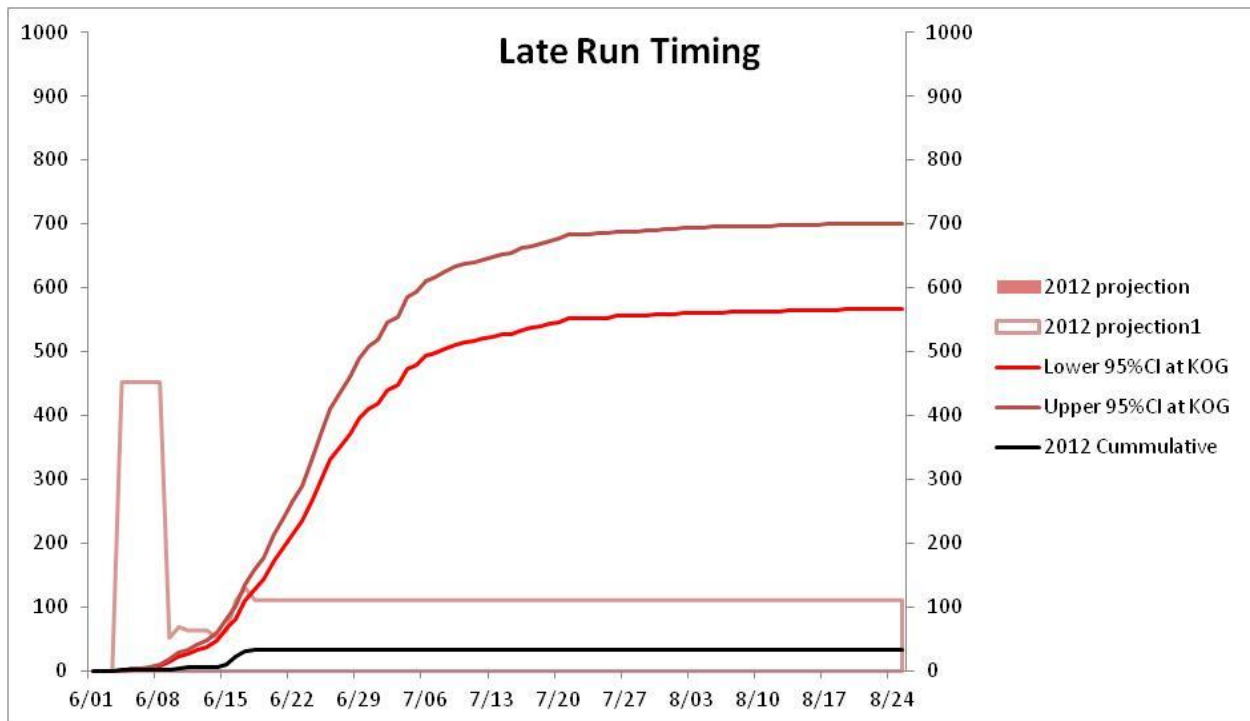
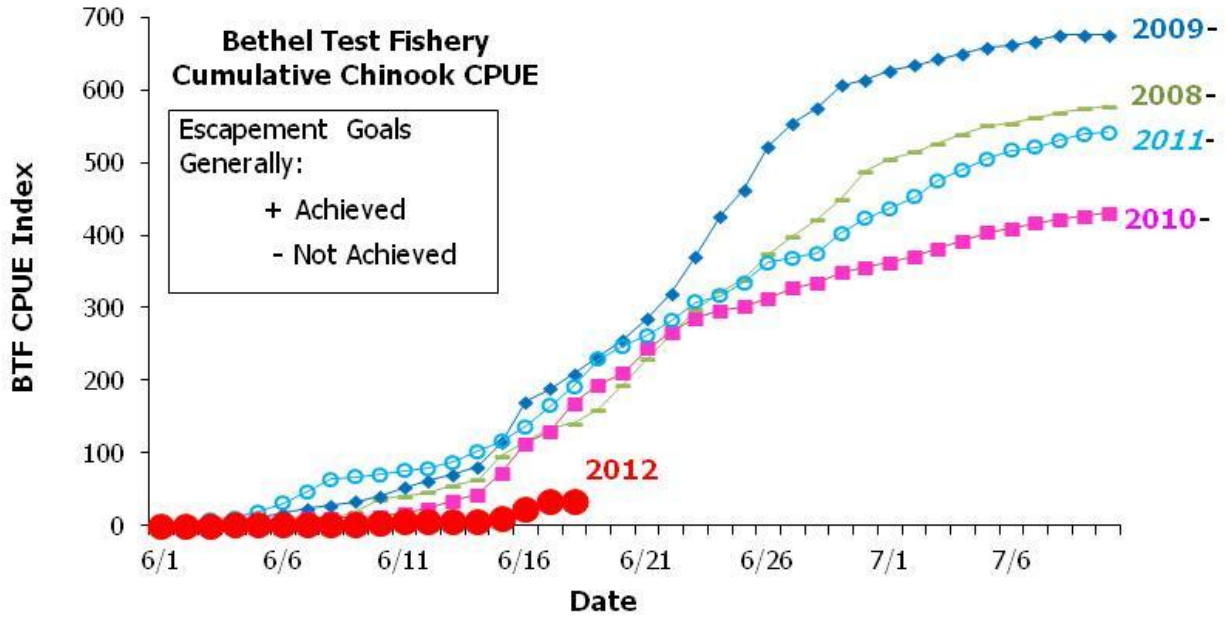
**KNA Weekly Subsistence Fishing Reports, June 15 to June 19, 2012**

VILLAGE	GEAR TYPE	SPECIES	Run Timing Compared to Most Years (Early, Average, Late)	Run Strength Compared to Most Years (Below Avg., Avg, Above Avg.)
<b>Aniak</b>	Drift (5 7/8")			
Comments: Weather is nice, but the water is still to high		<b>Chinook</b>	Late	Below Avg
		<b>Chum</b>	Avg	Avg
		<b>Sockeye</b>	N/A	N/A
		<b>Coho</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Aniak</b>				
Comments: No FishinG until after closure.		<b>Chinook</b>		
		<b>Chum</b>		
		<b>Sockeye</b>		
		<b>Coho</b>		
<b>Aniak</b>	Drift (5 7/8")			
Comments: No comment		<b>Chinook</b>	Late	Below Avg
		<b>Chum</b>	Late	Below Avg
		<b>Sockeye</b>	N/A	N/A
		<b>Coho</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Chuathbaluk</b>	Drift (6")			
Comments: 5 drifts and no fish. Angry about the numbers.		<b>Chinook</b>	Late	Below Avg
		<b>Chum</b>	Late	Below Avg
		<b>Sockeye</b>	N/A	N/A
		<b>Coho</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Sleetmute</b>				
Comments: No fishing, not until fish numbers are up. Poor king salmon runs, maybe just chum only. People around here are starving for fish.		<b>Chinook</b>		
		<b>Chum</b>		
		<b>Sockeye</b>		
		<b>Coho</b>		
<b>KNA COMMENTS:</b>				
People are concerned and angry about fishing. They are worried about having no fish for the winter. This closure is not helping villages.				

# OVERVIEW OF KUSKOKWIM RIVER SALMON RUN ASSSSMENT PROJECTS



### Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery



**Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery (Continued)**

**Bethel Test Fishery  
Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index  
(UNCORRECTED)**

*Note: CPUE index numbers for years prior to 2008 are less comparable due to change in net catchability.*

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
6/01	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
6/02	1	13	5	0	0	0	3	0	3	5	0
6/03	1	29	7	1	0	0	3	1	4	8	0
6/04	1	35	13	1	0	1	3	4	7	11	1
6/05	6	44	19	6	3	3	3	10	7	20	1
6/06	13	48	23	7	6	3	4	17	8	31	1
6/07	15	59	27	11	6	4	4	24	10	47	1
6/08	18	70	40	23	8	7	10	28	10	63	1
6/09	36	106	70	30	9	11	20	33	11	67	3
6/10	51	131	75	49	9	19	36	40	13	70	4
6/11	59	147	118	91	14	23	40	52	17	75	6
6/12	82	172	147	118	18	30	46	62	23	78	6
6/13	101	199	174	137	33	33	56	71	34	88	6
6/14	127	221	217	173	48	42	63	81	42	102	7
6/15	165	258	258	186	77	60	96	114	73	116	11
6/16	181	285	311	236	96	62	115	171	112	136	24
6/17	196	332	347	265	126	82	135	189	130	165	33
6/18	217	362	396	299	170	97	142	209	168	192	34
6/19	243	390	430	330	207	117	160	232	193	229	
6/20	248	413	484	389	208	138	195	255	210	247	
6/21	262	439	556	430	252	146	230	286	244	262	
6/22	263	450	600	464	263	156	262	320	267	283	
6/23	273	463	643	488	298	165	298	371	285	308	
6/24	284	478	691	520	329	182	323	426	297	317	
6/25	295	493	738	555	356	206	339	463	302	335	
6/26	308	508	785	589	388	221	374	522	314	363	
6/27	316	515	801	600	417	237	399	555	327	369	
6/28	325	527	848	611	444	259	422	575	335	376	
6/29	328	537	893	632	469	289	451	606	349	402	
6/30	339	556	928	653	493	325	488	615	355	423	
7/01	344	558	951	672	511	354	505	626	362	438	
7/02	356	563	967	684	530	377	515	635	370	453	
7/03	359	569	979	696	553	406	527	643	381	476	
7/04	368	578	985	715	576	425	539	650	393	490	
7/05	374	588	993	744	579	433	551	659	404	505	
7/06	378	595	1,002	775	598	443	554	662	409	517	
7/07	381	599	1,006	795	604	451	562	668	417	521	
7/08	383	601	1,013	809	607	457	569	676	422	531	
7/09	384	605	1,023	821	611	459	575	676	426	539	
7/10	390	607	1,026	831	616	476	578	676	431	542	



**Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery**

**Bethel Test Fishery  
Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
6/01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/03	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/04	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/05	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/06	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
6/07	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
6/08	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	4	0
6/09	3	5	8	11	0	0	0	4	0	4	0
6/10	8	24	11	22	0	0	0	4	0	7	0
6/11	18	38	22	46	0	0	0	7	0	10	0
6/12	35	46	27	63	3	3	0	10	3	13	0
6/13	61	54	38	96	3	17	3	13	6	15	0
6/14	67	67	49	149	3	23	6	13	6	24	0
6/15	92	97	77	154	11	31	34	16	21	33	0
6/16	138	176	130	181	24	36	45	31	46	62	3
6/17	158	279	145	236	42	50	48	34	65	102	12
6/18	174	335	189	336	81	60	62	61	84	126	14
6/19	196	446	212	444	136	74	87	86	142	191	
6/20	240	518	270	634	160	98	102	113	149	231	
6/21	272	585	364	866	219	147	128	146	251	274	
6/22	290	646	509	1,056	239	186	237	171	323	326	
6/23	325	670	628	1,239	350	197	320	251	347	365	
6/24	346	718	833	1,370	422	290	381	340	366	400	
6/25	353	771	966	1,489	454	338	455	429	375	543	
6/26	368	793	1,027	1,640	556	393	518	528	394	586	
6/27	385	836	1,055	1,785	748	436	572	588	411	664	
6/28	407	994	1,133	1,901	869	560	619	629	428	709	
6/29	424	1,207	1,222	2,052	920	710	660	729	446	813	
6/30	446	1,296	1,283	2,204	971	833	813	766	491	952	

**Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery**

**Bethel Test Fishery  
Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
6/01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/02	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/03	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/04	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	0
6/05	0	0	11	0	3	0	0	3	6	3	0
6/06	8	0	11	0	9	0	0	4	6	3	3
6/07	8	0	11	0	9	3	0	4	6	3	3
6/08	11	0	14	0	12	3	6	6	6	6	3
6/09	41	0	22	0	12	3	9	9	6	11	3
6/10	50	6	22	0	15	8	9	9	9	17	8
6/11	103	8	25	13	35	11	12	9	9	22	8
6/12	146	11	34	25	41	11	18	12	15	22	8
6/13	180	17	71	38	133	23	18	14	26	31	16
6/14	202	30	110	49	210	34	20	20	31	39	24
6/15	285	49	144	87	266	57	41	42	50	60	24
6/16	299	77	179	95	350	74	66	69	86	63	27
6/17	338	103	229	131	499	94	80	75	133	85	42
6/18	552	108	310	188	747	110	94	91	386	135	57
6/19	665	148	371	252	927	138	106	99	542	199	
6/20	801	198	450	537	1012	258	161	105	588	241	
6/21	836	226	547	844	1482	343	190	135	764	276	
6/22	903	235	659	1288	1595	407	264	149	954	371	
6/23	1047	270	959	1587	1916	506	337	301	1049	414	
6/24	1181	291	1260	1817	2188	632	437	397	1163	433	
6/25	1329	312	1583	1918	2412	840	598	532	1224	597	
6/26	1466	349	1926	2077	2646	1075	753	783	1340	769	
6/27	1622	375	2014	2183	2941	1308	921	904	1524	963	
6/28	1897	496	2271	2273	3402	1783	1099	1028	1613	1165	
6/29	2048	791	2514	2631	4031	2589	1176	1407	1738	1607	
6/30	2136	1059	2653	2989	4660	2917	1550	1800	1931	2223	

**Kalskag Fish Wheels**

**Chinook Salmon Cumulative Catch, Kalskag Fish Wheels**

*(Data is not comparable due to changes in fishing effort)*

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
6/1				1	0						
6/2				4	0						
6/3				10	0						
6/4				14	0						
6/5		0		23	0						
6/6		8		39	0						
6/7		17	12	50	2						
6/8		34	29	55	3					4	
6/9		44	45	64	7					7	
6/10		45	58	71	8					8	1
6/11		45	75	90	14	0			1	14	1
6/12		45	92	106	18	0			2	25	1
6/13		48	124	120	21	0			11	27	2
6/14		52	169	135	21	0			16	31	2
6/15		56	237	164	23	0			23	31	2
6/16		75	280	193	24	0			23	31	2
6/17		91	331	222	25	0			34	31	8
6/18	11	107	391	263	30	0			49	35	18
6/19	18	174	445	327	33	0			65	42	
6/20	58	203	473	397	36	2			81	47	
6/21	83	230	494	454	40	13			88	50	
6/22	120	247	516	483	42	13			97	50	
6/23	175	297	543	498	46	26			97	64	
6/24	229	341	581	521	107	49			105	96	
6/25	282	386	603	538	203	77			107	129	
6/26	312	439	629	544	293	95			113	158	
6/27	329	488	696	548	371	120			122	191	
6/28	346	503	746	563	439	152			123	209	
6/29	359	551	766	567	482	152			128	209	
6/30	378	623	771	578	510	189			128	228	

Did  
 Not  
 Operate  
 During  
 Chinook  
 Run

**Kalskag Fish Wheels (Continued)**

**Sockeye Salmon Cumulative Catch, Kalskag Fish Wheels**

*(Data is not comparable due to changes in fishing effort)*

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
6/1				0	0						
6/2				0	0						
6/3				0	0						
6/4				0	0						
6/5		0		0	0						
6/6		0		0	0						
6/7		0	0	1	0						
6/8		0	0	1	0					0	
6/9		0	1	3	0					0	
6/10		0	3	3	0					1	0
6/11		0	4	5	0	0			0	1	0
6/12		0	5	7	0	0			0	2	0
6/13		1	5	9	0	0			0	4	0
6/14		1	9	11	1	0			0	4	0
6/15		1	14	17	1	0			0	4	0
6/16		7	18	26	1	0			0	4	0
6/17		18	24	62	2	0			1	4	2
6/18	1	35	30	87	2	0			4	4	3
6/19	1	61	35	115	2	0			10	4	
6/20	3	80	42	149	2	0			15	6	
6/21	3	91	42	178	4	0			16	7	
6/22	5	102	47	212	4	0			16	7	
6/23	12	131	63	243	8	1			16	35	
6/24	21	147	102	303	45	3			21	62	
6/25	24	185	209	377	96	12			24	79	
6/26	27	228	293	437	136	20			33	94	
6/27	35	277	445	493	227	29			37	134	
6/28	40	302	505	552	340	41			40	193	
6/29	47	336	571	654	447	41			42	193	
6/30	55	365	617	739	605	59			42	239	

Did  
Not  
Operate  
During  
Sockeye  
Run

**Kalskag Fish Wheels (Continued)**

**Chum Salmon Cumulative Catch, Kalskag Fish Wheels**

*(Data is not comparable due to changes in fishing effort)*

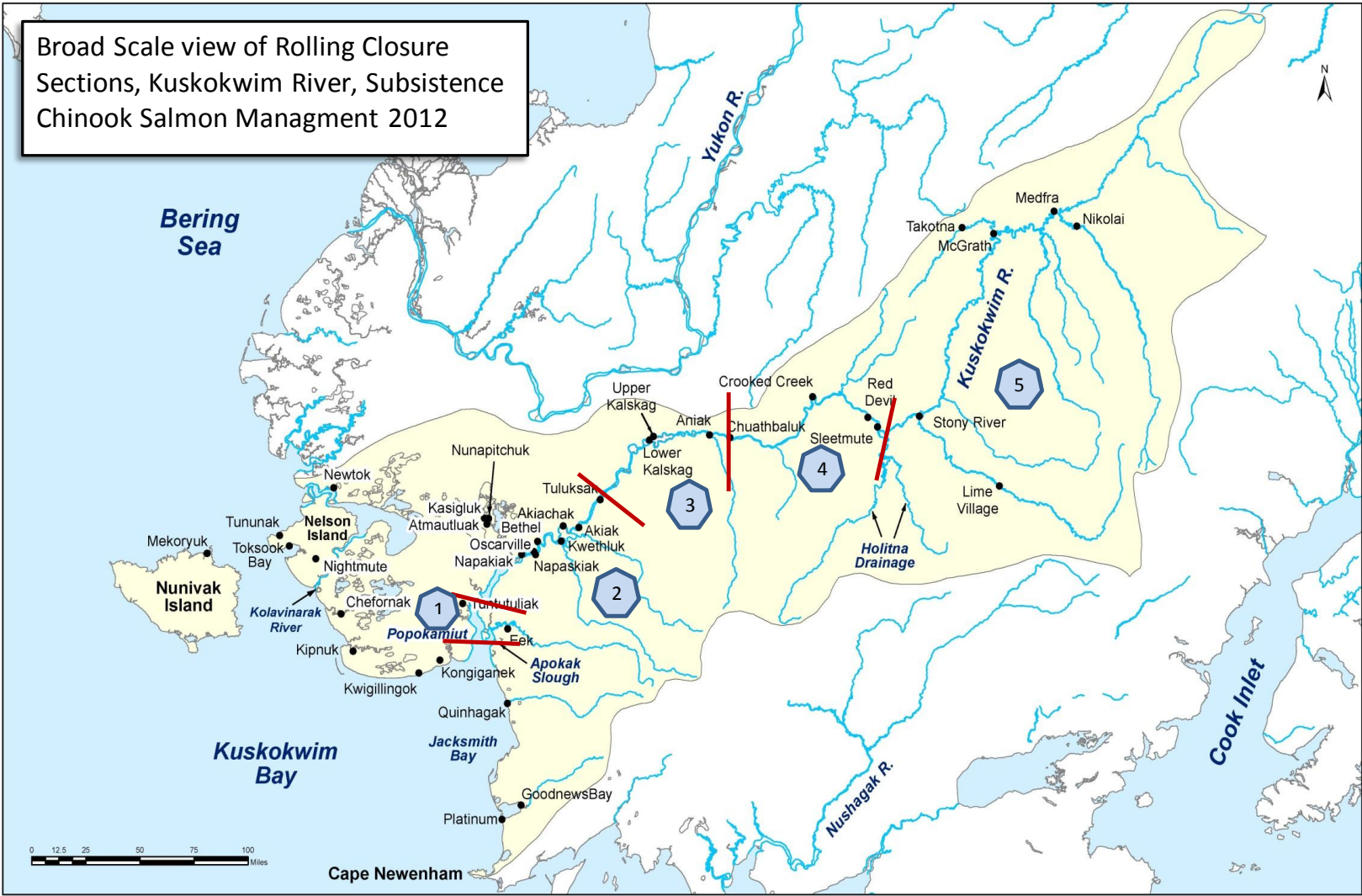
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
6/1				0	0						
6/2				1	0						
6/3				1	0						
6/4				1	0						
6/5		0		1	0						
6/6		1		1	0						
6/7		2	1	2	0						
6/8		3	2	2	1					1	
6/9		3	2	2	1					2	
6/10		3	2	2	5					2	0
6/11		3	2	3	5	0			0	4	0
6/12		3	2	3	12	0			2	7	0
6/13		3	2	4	18	0			3	9	1
6/14		5	4	4	23	0			4	10	5
6/15		9	7	5	27	0			7	10	6
6/16		16	12	6	36	0			7	10	6
6/17		19	19	11	75	1			14	10	15
6/18	3	26	20	16	114	1			31	13	25
6/19	8	43	24	21	157	1			46	17	
6/20	21	73	27	50	179	1			75	24	
6/21	31	85	37	87	202	2			83	28	
6/22	48	101	58	139	236	2			109	28	
6/23	131	134	101	239	305	7			109	111	
6/24	189	146	144	311	643	12			198	169	
6/25	241	163	215	404	972	36			239	248	
6/26	295	178	287	474	1214	69			269	391	
6/27	364	198	362	534	1497	121			410	587	
6/28	435	213	386	645	1803	196			477	805	
6/29	505	245	404	838	2328	196			543	805	
6/30	573	301	423	951	2825	246			543	1024	

Did  
Not  
Operate  
During  
Chum  
Run

**ESCAPEMENT MONITORING**

**Status of Salmon Assessment Projects as of June 20, 2012**

- At this time there is no weir data for any ADF&G projects. All projects are currently being installed.



# *Akiak Native Community*

*Akiak IRA Council*

*P.O. Box 52127*

*Akiak, Alaska 99552*

*Phone: (907) 765-7112 Fax: (907) 765-7512*

TO: Kuskokwim Management Working Group and Fisheries Biologists

FROM: Akiak Native Community Elders

SUBJECT: Kuskokwim River Subsistence closure

DATE: June 19, 2012

We, the Akiak Native Community Elders met on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at eth community center due to large number of complaints by the members of our community regarding the 13 day subsistence closure. The excessive number of days is unacceptable to our way of life due to several reasons:

- 1) Our community members have fished this river for thousands of years and try to get as much as we need to survive through the winter.
- 2) The high seas fishing for Pollock and reports state that it may have affected the fewer returns on the YK River Chinook.
- 3) People in Akiak have not gotten their quotas and cost of gas to drift net for the kings requires gas and the closure results in catching only 2-3 kings for 5-6 hours of drifting.

These are the reasons that we are requesting the Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Wildlife lift the closure on Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The Community of Akiak is going to fish for their families at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday June 20<sup>th</sup> as directed by the Elders of the Akiak Native Communities.

Quyana.

*Jackson Williams Sr*  
*Robert Ivan*  
*Frieda Japhet*  
*Elizabeth Lake*  
*Raman Jackson*  
*Elizabeth Jackson*  
*Helena Williams*



**Tuntutuliak Traditional Council  
P.O. Box 8086  
Tuntutuliak, AK 99680**

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**Phone: (907) 256-2128  
Fax: (907) 256-2080**

**Resolution No. 12-06-04**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBSISTENCE FISHING FOR CHINOOK BY  
RESIDENTS OF THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF TUNTUTULIAK**

**WHEREAS, The Native Village of Tuntutuliak is a federally recognized Tribe and;**

**WHEREAS, The Tuntutuliak Traditional Council is the federally recognized Tribal governing body for the Native Village of Tuntutuliak and;**

**WHEREAS, The Tribal Council represents the best interests of the Tribal members of the Native Village of Tuntutuliak and;**

**WHEREAS, The Tribal Members depend on land and waters for subsistence activities necessary for our survival and;**

**WHEREAS, Subsistence activities, especially for Chinook, are a vital part of the way of life since time immemorial and;**

**WHEREAS, Chinook is the main diet & species of the Tribal residents harvested and;**

**WHEREAS, The Test Fishery is located above Bethel and once the Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) meets standards, the bulk of the Chinook are going to be past the Native Village of Tuntutuliak and;**

**WHEREAS, The Tuntutuliak Traditional Council, through its inherent sovereign powers granted by the Federal Government, has the authority to open the Kuskokwim River for subsistence Chinook fishing and;**

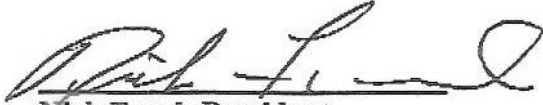
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tribal Members shall be permitted to subsist for Chinook Salmon without mesh size restrictions and;**

**BE IT FURTHER RESLOVED that the Kuskokwim River be open for subsisting Chinook salmon 24 hours a day until adequate catch is made for Tribal members.**

**CERTIFICATION**



ADOPTED AND APPROVED BY A CONSTITUTED QUORUM OF THE  
TUNTUTULIAK TRADITIONAL COUNCIL ON THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2012  
BY A VOTE OF 4 YEA, 0 OPPOSED, AND 0 ABSTAINING

  
Nick Frank-President

  
John Fitka- Secretary