

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: 5/01/2015

Time: 10:00am

Place: Bethel

Time Called to Order:

Chair: Bev Hoffman

Time Adjourned:

ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM:

Upriver Elder:

Downriver Elder:

Commercial Fisher:

Lower River Subsistence:

Middle River Subsistence:

Upper River Subsistence:

Headwaters Subsistence:

QUORUM MET? Yes / No

Processor:

Member at Large:

Sport Fisher:

Western Interior RAC:

Y-K Delta RAC:

ADF&G:

INTRODUCTIONS:

INVOCATION:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *the agenda may be amended at this time.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Optional. ADF&G does not prepare official meeting minutes.*

1. Summary of Foraker meeting (10 mins; Bev and Chris)
2. 2015 Kuskokwim River Preseason Management Plan Review (Aaron)
 - a. Potential fishing with short 6-inch mesh gillnets (45 mins)
 - b. Input on schedule for allowing 4-inch mesh set gillnet openings to harvest non-salmon species and minimize incidental harvest of Chinook salmon. (20 mins)
 - c. Location requirement for 4-inch mesh set gillnets (10 mins)
 - d. Schedule to begin the subsistence salmon fishing closure in the Kuskokwim River. (15 mins)
3. A report to the Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group: Description of Kuskokwim River Chinook Salmon Run Reconstruction and an Investigation of Data Weighting; Ben Staton, Matt Catalano, Lew Coggins, Bill Bechtol, and Dan Gwinn. (5 mins)
4. Seat Elections: Crooked Creek has nominated David John and Tim Zaukar to join the Working Group (see info packet).

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

COMMENTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

NEXT MEETING DATE: _____ **Time:** _____ **Place:** _____

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Foraker Group/KRSM Working Group meeting; April 22, 2015; Anchorage

On April 22, the Foraker Group conducted a meeting in Anchorage to help the Working Group and the Department of Fish and Game improve their understanding, relationship, and working process. The meeting was not a management meeting and was not conducted according to Working Group by-laws. Fifteen of 19 Working Group members and alternates were present. Four additional ADF&G staff attended in addition to the ADF&G WG member (5 staff).

Below is a list of a few items that were discussed and agreed upon by participants. The list is not comprehensive. The idea behind clarifying these points is to make the relationship better between the department and the rest of the Working Group, and to improve the quality and effectiveness of the meeting.

All parties agreed to experiment with the meeting process by applying the items below to early season 2015 management meetings. Items that are later determined to be beneficial by the group (including the department) could be adopted as changes to the regular process.

- Purpose of Working Group meetings: the group recognized that the agreement under which the Working Group operates defines that the group will meet to discuss and cooperate with ADF&G on:
 - preseason salmon management,
 - inseason salmon management, and
 - ongoing development and refinement of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.
- Recognition of disagreement: All parties recognized that recent tensions between the department and the rest of the Working Group are based primarily on recent low abundance of Chinook salmon and the effect on the livelihoods of Kuskokwim River residents. Other recognized sources of frustration include:
 - Working Group members have often felt that their advice was ignored or overruled by the department.
 - Department staff has often felt that advice from the Working Group has been in conflict with state statute, fish and game regulation, and/or department policy.
- Meeting length, timing, and effectiveness: Parties agreed to experiment with the following strategies in order to improve the meeting process:
 - Strictly adhere to a 2 hour limit on meeting duration. With a known time limit, participants will make an effort to be more focused.
 - Meetings will begin at 10:00am on Wednesdays during the early part of the fishing season to ensure that staff will have time to prepare news releases and notify fishermen of actions. Some participants would prefer evening or afternoon meetings. Any additional meetings in a given week would be at the call of the chair.
 - Informational packets will be distributed as early as possible. Members will review them before the meeting to be better informed.
 - Inseason subsistence reports (ONC/KNA) will be more direct and full details need not be read aloud.
 - Focused Discussion: Members and public are asked to shorten their remarks and stay on topic.
 - Staff will try to speak plainly. Agency Jargon and complex scientific terms should be limited or explained.
- Agenda format change:
 - The Working Group will no longer operate as a “committee of the whole”: Discussion will be limited to Working Group members/ADF&G staff or upon request from other participants.
 - People to be heard will appear at the end of the meeting, prior to comments from the Working Group.
 - The department will present its proposed management actions first in the agenda. This will be followed by data reports to explain why these actions are being considered. All other reports will come afterward. Discussion of the proposed actions, possible alternatives, and recommendations from the Working Group will take place after reports. With this proposition up front, the Working Group will not have to guess what the department will be proposing. This may streamline discussion and cut down on distractions caused by folks not knowing what to expect.

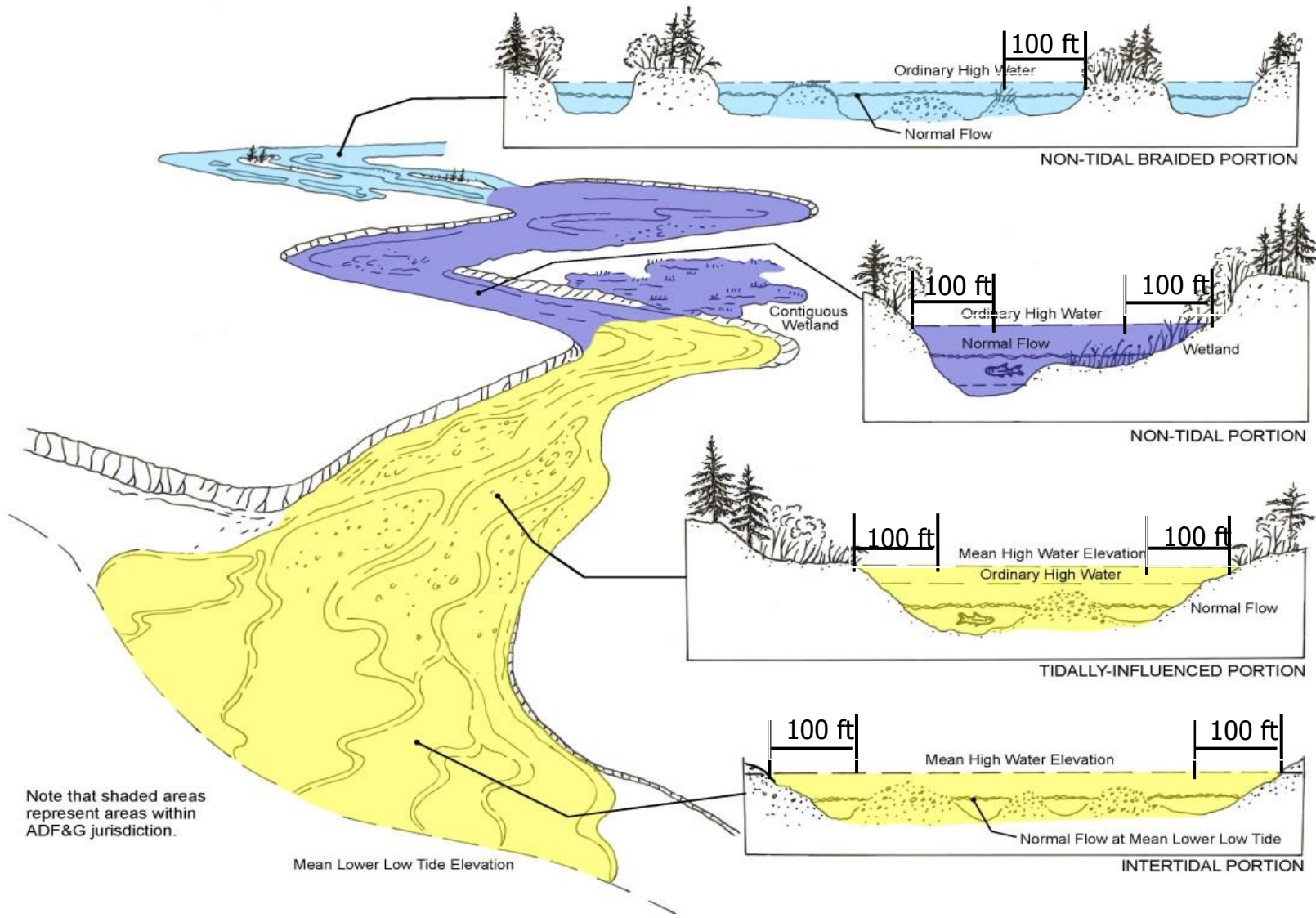
These actions do not constitute a permanent change to the Working Group process at this time. The Working Group will try them out and may choose to keep the ones that seem to work well.

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Ordinary High Water Mark



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The portion of the bed(s) and banks, up to the ordinary high water mark (OHW)” means:

(A) in the **non-tidal portion** of a river, lake, or stream: the portion of the bed(s) and banks up to which the presence and action of the non-tidal water is so common and usual, and so long continued in all ordinary years, as to leave a natural line or “mark” impressed on the bank or shore as indicated by erosion, shelving, changes in soil characteristics, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, or other distinctive physical characteristics;

(B) in a **braided river**, lake, or stream: the area delimited by the natural line or “mark,” as defined in Part A above, impressed on the bank or shore of the outside margin of the most distant channels; or

(C) in the **tidally influenced portion** of a river, lake, or stream: the portion of the bed(s) and banks below the (1) OHW as described in A or B above, or (2) mean high water elevation; whichever is higher at the project site.

Title 5 Fish and Game. Part 5 Protection of Fish and Game Habitat, Chapter 95 Fish and Game Habitat

Article 1 Fish Habitat, 5 AAC 95.010

Set Gillnet Bank Orientation:

By emergency order the Department of Fish and Game may restrict subsistence harvest to the use of gillnet mesh size that may not exceed four inches and the gillnet may only be operated as a set gillnet; no part of a set gillnet may be more than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark.

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Nominees for Working Group

From: Evelyn Thomas [mailto:bbcc@starband.net]

Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 1:10 PM

To: Sheldon, Christopher A (DFG)

Subject: Re: RSVP: info on the candidates.

David John, Crooked Creek tribal elder born and raised in Crooked Creek, David has hunted and fished to help feed his brothers and sister all of his life.

David was sent out of State for school , so he has also seen the 9 to 5 working world too so he brings a wealth of experience to the table and he will be a great choice for the working group.

Tim Zaukar is a tribal member of Crooked Creek and is married to Julie (john) Zaukar they have 5 children, Tim practices a subsistence life style and is always sharing what he catches with other elders of the community, he knows and understands the terrain up here and how to use our natural resources wisely I am extremely proud of him and know that any organization he is part of will be glad to have him.

Evelyn Thomas /president, Crooked creek traditional Council