Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group  
AGENDA

Date: 5/30/12  Time: 10:00 AM  Meeting Place: ADF&G Offices in Bethel

CALL TO ORDER:  
Chairperson 
Time

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: The agenda may be amended at this time.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

CONTINUING BUSINESS:
1. Subsistence Reports:
   a. Lower River:
   b. ONC Inseason Subsistence:
   c. Middle River:
   d. Upper River:
   e. Headwaters:
2. Overview of 2012 Kuskokwim River salmon run assessment projects:
   a. Bethel Test fish and assessment of Escapement: Kevin Schaberg and USFWS Staff
3. Commercial Catch Report:
4. Processor Report:
5. Sport Fish Report:
6. Area M Report:
7. Weather Forecast:
8. Recommendation:
9. Motion for Discussion and Action:
10. Meeting Action Announcement:

OLD BUSINESS:
1) Working Group Action items from prior meeting
   a) Proposals to the BOF-Greg Roczicka
   b) Letter to the BOF-Bev Hoffman
   c) Letter in support of HB332-LaMont Albertson
   d) Letter in support of USFWS participation in cooperative management (working group)-LaMont Albertson.
2) Working Group by Laws
3) Working Group seats: Update the Roll-Call list, and add possible members and alternates.
4) Upriver Elder seat remains vacant: Options to discuss
5) Adding alternates
6) Discuss creating a Calvin Simeon Award
NEW BUSINESS:

1) Plans and ideas for Public Outreach for salmon Conservation
   a) Conservation of Salmon on Middle River Tributaries (Dave Canon).

COMMENTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS: ________________________________

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

__________________________________________

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ADJOURNMENT TIME ________________________
2012 Kuskokwim River Chinook Salmon Management ADFG/CF:

Information from Interagency/working Group meeting (March):

- Forecast – 197,000 (157,000 to 236,000)
- Management recommendations –
  - Tributary Restrictions (because of prior year escapements)
    - Kwethluk
    - Kisaralik
    - Kasigluk
    - Tuluksak
    - Aniak
    - George
  - Mainstem required no action
    - Will manage for Stock-Recruit based objective for whole river
    - Tributary restrictions will result in conservation and reduce likelihood of further mainstem subsistence restriction.
  - Information from early draft version of Run Reconstruction was used to estimate escapement needs based on Spawner-Recruit (S/R) estimates of Spawners at maximum yield (Smsy=95,000)
  - 102,000 available at midpoint of forecast for subsistence harvest (ANS 64,500-83,000)
New Information:

- Subsistence harvest estimate revisions (Hamazaki 2011)
  - Decreased harvest estimate
- Corrections to run reconstruction
  - Revisions to estimates of Total Return for scaling
  - Harvest estimate changes reduced overall annual estimates
- Questions about run reconstruction estimates
  - Investigated and addressed concerns
  - Still needs formal peer review (Should start ~June 15)
- Not enough time to evaluate spawner-recruit information from run reconstruction for management objective in 2012 season
- Forecast using updated S/R data 195,000 (range 155,000 – 233,000)
  - Small change from previous forecast
    - 197,000 (157,000 to 236,000)
  - Expect to be near midpoint of forecast

Decided not to use S/R based Kuskokwim goal in 2012:

- Use Kogrukluk SEG as Inseason Management Objective for Kuskokwim Chinook
  - KOG has 33 year data set (several high and low abundance years)
  - KOG has been the escapement index for the Kuskokwim for a long time
  - KOG escapement is related to sum of all escapement weirs
Kogrukluk relationship with All Escapement weirs

\[ y = 0.4712x + 3993.5 \]
\[ R^2 = 0.8722 \]

Kogrukluk Relationship with BTF

\[ y = 15.824x + 4811 \]
\[ R^2 = 0.7935 \]

\[ y = 18.032x - 2668.1 \]
\[ R^2 = 0.8213 \]
Kogrukluk as inseason tool:

- KOG relationship with BTF will allow for daily tracking
- KOG has SEG based on 29 of 33 years of observation
- Achieving this goal has been sustainable at KOG
- Achieving KOG SEG should achieve sustainable escapement in Kuskokwim
  - Relationship between KOG and Kuskokwim

Kogrukluk relationship with Total escapement:

\[ y = 11.343x + 26452 \]
\[ R^2 = 0.7451 \]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kogrukluk</th>
<th>Kuskokwim</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KOG low</td>
<td>5300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOG mid</td>
<td>9650</td>
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<tr>
<td>KOG up</td>
<td>14000</td>
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ADFG Recommendation I:

- Existing preseason tributary restrictions will remain in place due to recent years escapement at these systems
- Manage Kuskokwim using BTF tool developed for daily evaluation using Kogrukuk SEG range and relationships.
  - 5,300 – 14,000; 86,570 – 185,254
- Management objective is the threshold of escapement below which additional harvest restriction will occur.
- Mainstem actions based on forecast
  - 195,000 (forecast Midpoint) – 87,000 (Management Objective) = 108,000 (Above ANS)
  - No initial mainstem subsistence restrictions
  - Evaluate using BTF and consider taking/rescinding actions when indicated

ADFG Recommendation (87,000) relative to forecast
USFWS Alternative:

- Achieving KOG SEG will not assure meeting other escapement goals
- Recommend KOG management objective 9,389 (133,000)
  - This number will increase likelihood of achieving all escapement goals.
- Mainstem actions based on forecast
  - 195,000 (forecast Midpoint) – 133,000 (Management Objective) = 62,000 available for subsistence (Below ANS)
  - Initial mainstem subsistence restrictions warranted
  - Evaluate using BTF and consider taking/rescinding actions when indicated

USFWS Recommendation (133,000) relative to forecast
ADFG Compromise:

- We believe there are enough Chinook salmon to achieve sustainable escapement (86,570) and meet subsistence needs in 2012.
- Most goals (not KOG) are believed to be higher than necessary because of the limited data sets used for their development.
- Using 133,000 as the management objective will result in subsistence restrictions at or near the beginning of the run, before inseason data indicates run strength.
  - Not enough fish identified with forecast to provide unrestricted subsistence fishery and meet this management objective.
- Use KOG Management objective (8,247; 120,000)
  - This increases likelihood of achieving tributary escapement goals.
  - Indicates subsistence restrictions at or near the beginning of the run would not be necessary
    - 195,000 (Forecast Midpoint) – 120,000 (Management Objective) = 75,000 (Near recent subsistence average harvest)
    - Evaluate inseason with BTF data and consider taking/rescinding actions when indicated
      - Increased likelihood of additional subsistence restriction, compared to KOG SEG management objective.

ADFG Compromise (120,000) relative to forecast
Board of Fish Proposals from KRSMWG:

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES AND ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
REGULATION PROPOSAL FORM
PO BOX 25526, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526

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<tr>
<th>BOARD OF FISHERIES REGULATIONS</th>
<th>BOARD OF GAME REGULATIONS</th>
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<td>☑ Subsistence</td>
<td>☑ Personal Use</td>
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<td>☑ Sport</td>
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<td>☑ Game Management Unit (GMU)</td>
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<td>☑ Subsistence</td>
<td>☑ Other</td>
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<td>☑ Resident</td>
<td>☑ Nonresident</td>
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Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. All answers will be printed in the proposal packets along with the proposer's name (address and phone numbers will not be published). Use separate forms for each proposal.

1. Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC xx-xxxx Regulation Book Page No. 

2. What is the problem you would like the Board to address? For the past two years Kuskokwim Chinook salmon have returned at the lowest levels on record as noted by the most recent data in Run Reconstruction. Escapement goals were not met in many of the assessment/monitoring projects throughout the drainage. In 2011 subsistence fishers were faced with unprecedented closures by both state and federal managers due to this situation. Though the 2012 forecast is slightly better, it is still well below average – and it remains unknown at the pre-season proposal deadline what the actual return may be.

3. What will happen if this problem is not solved? Escapements goals are not met. People go hungry for their traditional food.

4. What solution do you prefer? In other words, if the Board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say? Reinstate Kuskokwim Chinook salmon as a stock of yield concern to facilitate rebuilding actions for achieving long term management objectives for escapement and subsistence needs into the future.

5. Does your proposal address improving the quality of the resource harvested or products produced? If so, how? Achieving and maintaining adequate run returns in the average range can only improve the quality of harvest and the winter food supply product the Chinook salmon provide to the Kuskokwim Area.

6. Solutions to difficult problems benefit some people and hurt others:
   A. Who is likely to benefit if your solution is adopted? People who rely on the long-term integrity of Kuskokwim Chinook salmon stocks.

   B. Who is likely to suffer if your solution is adopted? No one

7. List any other solutions you considered and why you rejected them. None applicable.

Submitted By: Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group

Name

Individual or Group

Address

City, State

ZIP Code

99559

99559
Please answer all questions to the best of your ability. All answers will be printed in the proposal packets along with the proposer's name (address and phone numbers will not be published). Use separate forms for each proposal.

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<td>JOINT BOARD REGULATIONS</td>
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1. Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC 07.331(c) Regulation Book Page No.

2. What is the problem you would like the Board to address? The allowance of up to 8” mesh gear in W-1 of the Kuskokwim commercial fishery remains in regulation, while the large Chinook salmon (primarily females) that would be targeted by this gear should be directed towards enhancing the quality of escapement, with any harvestable surplus of that stock component fully allocated to the subsistence fishery.

3. What will happen if this problem is not solved? An unnecessary regulation will remain on the books.

4. What solution do you prefer? In other words, if the Board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say? 5 AAC 07.331 (c) In districts 1 and 2, salmon may be taken only with gillnets with six-inch or smaller mesh. [EXCEPT THAT IN DISTRICT 1, THE COMMISSIONER MAY OPEN FISHING PERIODS, DURING WHICH THE GILLNET MESH SIZE MAY BE NO GREATER THAN EIGHT INCHES.]

5. Does your proposal address improving the quality of the resource harvested or products produced? If so, how? Adoption of this regulation is consistent with the escapement and subsistence priority management objectives in the Kuskokwim River.

6. Solutions to difficult problems benefit some people and hurt others:

   A. Who is likely to benefit if your solution is adopted? People who rely on the long-term integrity of Kuskokwim Chinook salmon stocks.

   B. Who is likely to suffer if your solution is adopted? Those who might attach some sentimental value to the illusory hope of returning to the directed commercial Chinook fishery of 1973-1985 (appx.).

7. List any other solutions you considered and why you rejected them. We initially considered amending the regulation to remain effective only after July 1, but further discussions supported eliminating it altogether as a more realistic action.

Submitted By: Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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<th>99559</th>
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Ideas for Public Outreach for Salmon Conservation (Dave Canon):

Due to the expected increase in Chinook salmon fishing pressure that the Owhut and Holokuk Rivers will receive this season due to the subsistence and sport fishing closures in the Aniak and George Rivers specifically for Chinook salmon, the Native Village of Napalmute, The Kuskokwim Corporation, the Aniak Traditional Council, the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group, and the Kuskokwim Native Association recommend that you limit your subsistence caught Chinook salmon at the mouths of, and within, these rivers.

In addition, considering the potential mortality for caught and released Chinook salmon, it’s also recommended that after releasing several Chinook that sport fishermen switch to fishing for other more abundant species like sheefish and chum salmon.

The justification for such recommendations is to conserve our valuable resources. The past two years have been the two lowest years of escapement for Chinook salmon on record in the Kuskokwim River, and we feel that everyone must do their part to give the Chinook salmon every opportunity to reach the spawning grounds in good condition.
**By-laws of the KRSMWG:**

BY-LAWS OF THE

KUSKOKWIM RIVER SALMON MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

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**PURPOSE**

To provide local fishers and other users with an avenue for direct involvement in the management of their fishery. The goal is for all parties to work together to reach a consensus on management of the fishery. Final emergency order authority continues to rest with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**RULES OF CONDUCT**

Meetings will be conducted by Robert's Rules of Order. The sequence of meetings is as follows:

I. Call to order (by chair)
II. Roll Call (by chair)
III. Invocation
IV. Approval of Minutes
V. Approval of Agenda
VI. People to be heard
VII. Continuing Business
   A. Reports
      1. False Pass Fishery
      2. Processor Report
      3. Traditional Native Fishery Knowledge
      4. Subsistence Reports
      5. Test Fisheries
      6. Commercial Catch
      7. Escapement Projects
         (sonar, towers, weirs)
      8. Aerial Surveys

-continued-
9. Weather

B. Recommendation

C. Motion for Discussion and Action

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

X. Meeting Action Announcement

XI. Date, Time, and Place of next meeting

XII. Adjournment

(This sequence may be changed at the discretion of the Group)

Continuing Business reports may not exceed 3 minutes in length, excluding questions and answers.

Under the ‘People to be heard’ agenda item the public would be provided an opportunity to discuss only topics or items which are not already listed as specific agenda items. A member of the public may also ask the Group to place an issue on the agenda.

Unlike other institutions or committees, the Working Group operates on a consensus basis. A simple majority vote of the members is not sufficient to pass a motion. For the purposes of the Group all motions must pass by a consensus of the members present at the meeting. If 7 (seven) or less of the members are present, then consensus is defined as a situation wherein either all voting members vote "yea" or all voting members vote "yea" except for one "nay" vote. If 8 (eight) or more of the members are present, then consensus is defined as a situation wherein either all voting members vote "yea" or all voting members vote "yea" except for two "nay" votes. Note that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game does not have voting status on motions concerning the setting of commercial openings.

-continued-
ARTICLE I, OFFICE

The principal office of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group (Working Group) shall be located in the City of Bethel, Alaska 99559.

The current address of the principal office is, P.O. Box 1467, Bethel, Alaska 99559. The physical address is 570 4th Avenue.

ARTICLE II, MEMBERS

Section 1. Members: The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group shall have 13 member organizations or constituencies. These members represent: Elders (Upriver, Downriver) (2), Subsistence Fishermen (Lower River, Middle River, Upriver, and Headwaters) (4), Processors (1), Commercial Fishermen (1), Sport Fishers (1), Member at Large (1), Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Committees (Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Western Interior) (2), and the Department of Fish and Game (1). Each member of the Working Group will designate a representative and an alternate in the event the representative is unable to attend a meeting. In the case where more than one person is nominated to represent a member organization or constituency, the Working Group will appoint one of the nominees to represent the member organization or constituency.

Section 2. Annual Meeting:

An annual meeting of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group may be held in Bethel during the month of March at the call of the Co-Chairs. The purpose of the meeting will be to conduct any unfinished administrative functions that the Working Group needs to complete for the following year.

Section 3. Special Meetings:

Special meetings of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group may be called by the Co-Chairs.

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Section 4. Notice of Meetings:

The Department of Fish and Game will be responsible for informing the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group members of the time, place and date of any meetings. Notification of meetings to the Working Group will be not less than 48 hours (when possible) or more than 30 days in advance.

Section 5. Quorum:

In order for a meeting of the Working Group to be held and for actions taken at a meeting to be legitimate, it is necessary for there to be a quorum at a meeting, that is at least 7 of the 13 member constituencies must be represented.

If a quorum of the full committee is not present, business may be conducted in executive session. The executive committee is composed of at least 5 representatives: one Co-Chair, any two representatives of the following member groups; Member at Large, Processors, Commercial Fisherman, and any two representatives of the following member groups; Lower, Middle, Upriver and Headwaters Subsistence, Federal RAC, Sport Fisher.

ARTICLE III. REPRESENTATIVES

Section 1. Working Group:

The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group shall be comprised of 13 representatives from the areas described in Article II, Section 1.

Section 2. General Powers:

The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group shall make recommendations to the Department of Fish and Game for the purposes of managing the salmon fisheries on the Kuskokwim River after subsistence and commercial catch, test fishery, weir, tower and sonar reports and other information are provided to the group.

Section 3. Voting Rights:

Each Working Group member shall be entitled to one vote. Alternates designated by the member shall also be entitled to one vote in the absence of that member. Members may abstain from voting on any motion.
The Elder member shall designate any respected Elder to serve as their alternate.

Working Group members must hear all the Continuing Business reports to vote on a motion to set commercial openings.

Section 4. Resignation:

Any member or representative may resign by submitting a letter of resignation to a Co-Chair of the Working Group. The resignation must give the Working Group at least 4 weeks notification so that a new member or representative may be appointed.

Section 5. Vacancies:

A vacancy on the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, forfeiture or otherwise, may be filled by the Working Group from nominations by member groups for the remainder of the term.

Section 6. Forfeit, participation or removal:

A. FORFEIT. The Working Group will give written notification, by certified mail, to any member organization, their representative and alternate whose seat has not been represented for 2 consecutive meetings that their membership in the Working Group will be forfeited if the seat is not represented by the following meeting. Whereas, a member’s failure to be represented at a meeting is excused by the Working Group, as appropriate, such failure shall not be considered an absence within this section.

B. PARTICIPATION. No representative will be allowed to participate in a Working Group meeting who is deemed to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

C. REMOVAL. A representative may be removed from their seat on the Working Group for cause and must be provided the opportunity for a hearing before the Working Group. A representative may be removed for cause for any reason allowed, including but not limited to, conviction of a felony, gross misconduct, violation of their trust to the Working Group as a representative, or harassment of any kind to the other representatives of the Working Group.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS OF THE WORKING GROUP

Section 1. Officers:

The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group shall elect Co-Chairs for the
purpose of conducting meetings. The Co-Chairs will be elected annually at the first meeting occurring after March 1st. The Working Group shall elect or appoint other officers as deemed necessary. An officer of the Working Group may not hold more than one position. The Co-Chairs must be official representatives of the Working Group.

Section 2. Terms of Office:

Each representative of the Working Group shall be elected or appointed every 2 years. A representative shall hold their position until their successor has been duly elected or appointed and has been qualified.

Section 3. Co-Chair:

A Co-Chair of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group shall preside at all meetings of the Working Group.

Section 4. Other Committees:

The Co-Chairs shall have the authority to appoint representatives to serve on committees as deemed necessary. Any representative appointed to a committee may be removed in the best interest of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group.

ARTICLE V. DEFINITIONS

1. Member. The member organizations or constituencies of the Working Group as listed in Article II, Section 1.

2. Alternate. An individual designated to act in the place of a member or representative unable to attend a meeting.

3. Representative. Person designated by a Working Group member organization or constituency to represent that member organization or constituency at Working Group meetings.

4. District W-1. The Lower Kuskokwim River consists of the Kuskokwim River from a line between Apokak Slough and Popokamiut, upstream to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located about eight miles above the Tuluksak River.

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5. **District W-2.** The middle Kuskokwim River consists of the Kuskokwim River from ADF&G regulatory markers located at the upstream entrance to the second slough on the west bank downstream from Kalskag to the regulatory markers at Chuathbaluk.

6. **Elder.** Any respected Elder that resides within the Kuskokwim Area.

7. **Headwaters Subsistence.** Representatives that are active subsistence users in the Kuskokwim River drainage from McGrath upstream to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River.

8. **Upriver Subsistence.** Representatives that are active subsistence users in the Kuskokwim River drainage above Chuathbaluk.

9. **Middle River Subsistence.** Representatives that are active subsistence users in the Kuskokwim River drainage from Lower Kalskag to Chuathbaluk within District W-2.

10. **Lower River Subsistence.** Representatives that are active subsistence users in the Kuskokwim River drainage from Eek to Tuluksak within District W-1.

11. **Processor.** Representatives that own or operate commercial salmon buying and/or processing businesses within District W-1 and W-2.

12. **Member at Large.** Representatives that are Area residents selected by the Working Group for their knowledge of, appreciation for, and experience with Kuskokwim River fisheries.

13. **Federal Regional Advisory Council.** Representatives that are current members of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Western Interior Advisory Councils and reside in the Kuskokwim Area.

14. **Commercial Fishermen.** Kuskokwim commercial fishing permit holder or crew member, supported by commercial fishing permit holders who fish primarily within Districts W-1 and W-2.

15. **Sport Fisher.** Representatives that actively participate in sports fishing within the Kuskokwim River drainage.

16. **Alaska Department of Fish and Game.** Representatives that are presently employed with ADF&G in Bethel. This position is an associate member and has no voting powers but has the authority to veto recommendations for commercial fishing periods from the Working Group. Final emergency order authority continues to rest with the ADF&G.

**ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS**

These by-laws may be altered, amended or repealed and new by-laws may be adopted by consensus of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group representatives present at any regular or special meeting, if at least thirty (30) days written notice is given by certified mail, phone call, or intention to alter, amend or appeal or to adopt new by-laws at such meeting.