

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: December 17, 2013

Time: 1:00 pm

Place: Bethel

Time Called to Order

Chair

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:

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Review of 2012 preliminary escapement results
 - a. Weir project results
 - b. Aerial survey results
 - c. Run reconstruction total return
2. Figures showing our management dilemma
 - a. Harvest power, illustrated by commercial fishing data
 - b. Subsistence harvest tables
 - c. 2012 subsistence salmon fishing closure schedule
 - d. 2012 BTF results vs. closures
 - e. BTF harvest timing viewed in relations to subsistence harvest timing based on calendar data
3. Draft Mission Statement follow-up and responses received to date.
4. Choke point letter follow-up and responses
5. Management recommendation responses from community meetings and public input received (letters, emails, resolutions, meeting summaries and radio shows).
6. Continued management recommendation discussion.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Working Group outreach
 - a. Facebook page
 - b. Idea of Working Group radio public service announcements
 - c. Summary of upcoming meetings and outreach opportunities.

COMMENTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

NEXT MEETING DATE: _____ Time: _____ Place: _____

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Information Packet

December 17, 2013

CHINOOK SALMON SPAWNING WEIR ESCAPEMENT, KUSKOKWIM RIVER

Year	Chinook Salmon Escapement						
	Kwethluk	Tuluksak	George	Kogrukuk	Tatlawiksuk	Takotna	Salmon
2003	14,474	1,064	4,693	11,771	1,683	378	^a
2004	28,605	1,475	5,207	19,651	2,833	461	^a
2005	^a	2,653	3,845	22,000	2,918	499	^a
2006	17,619	1,043	4,357	19,414	1,700	539	^a
2007	13,267	374	4,883	13,029	2,061	418	6,220
2008	5,312	701	2,698	9,730	1,071	413	2,376
2009	5,710	362	3,663	9,702	1,071	311	^a
2010	1,693	201	1,500	5,690	567	178	^a
2011	4,079	288	1,571	6,891	1,012	134	^a
2012	^a	560	2,302	^a	1,116	228	^a
2013 ^b	^a	193	1,158	1,713	495	94	598
SEG	4,100-7,500		1,800-3,300	4,800-8,800			
Average							
2003–2012	11,345	872	3,472	13,098	1,603	356	4,298

^a Weir did not operate or counts were incomplete.

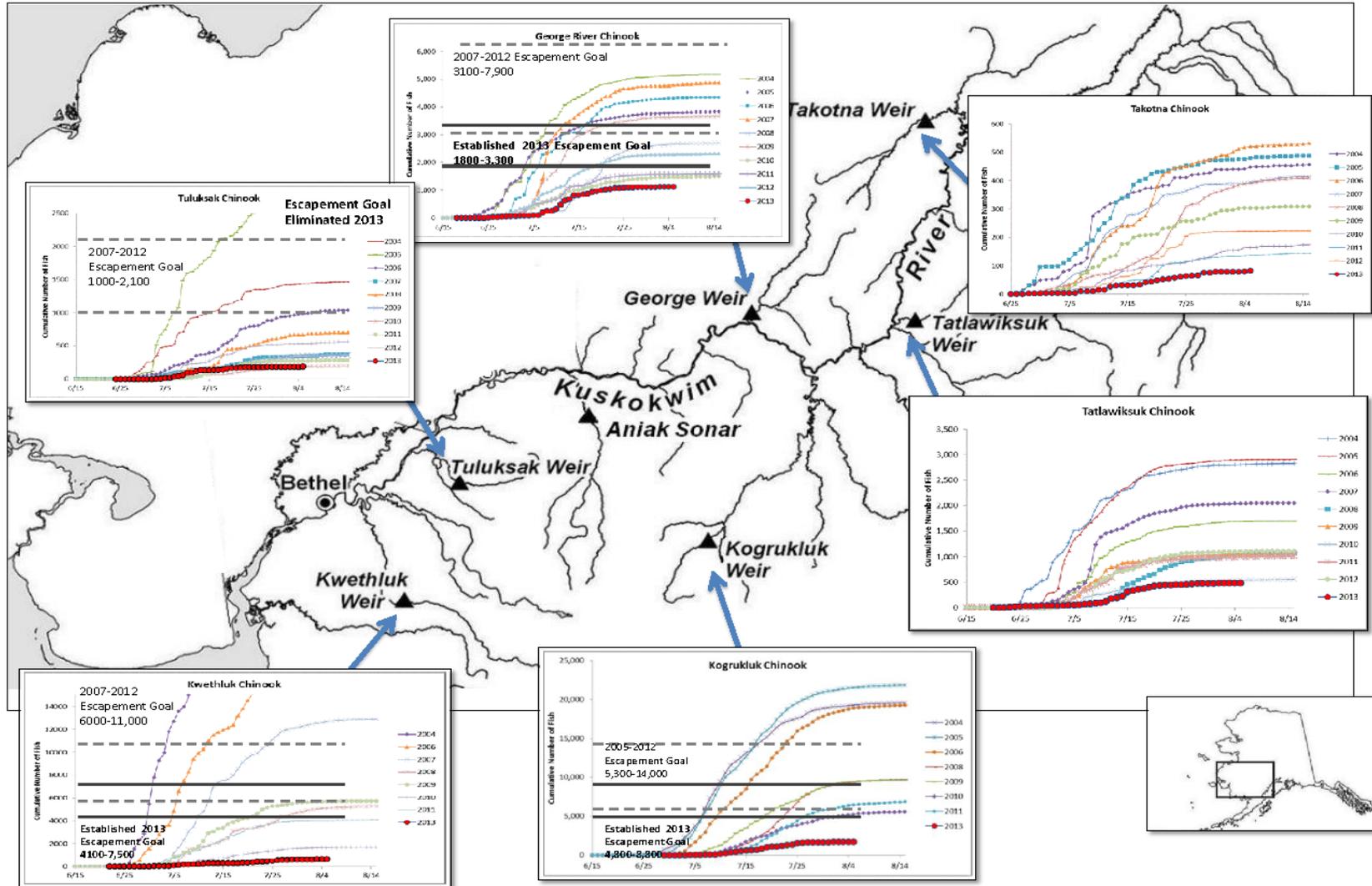
^b Preliminary numbers subject to change.

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Kuskokwim River Chinook Escapement Monitoring



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CHINOOK SALMON SPAWNING AERIAL SURVEY INDEX ESTIMATES, KUSKOKWIM RIVER DRAINAGE, 2003-2013

Year	Lower Kuskokwim River ^a				Middle Kuskokwim River ^a						Upper Kuskokwim River ^a		
	Eek	Canyon C.	Kisaralik	Tuluksak	Aniak	Kipchuk	Salmon	Holokuk	Oskawalik	Holitna	Gagarayah	Cheeneetuk	Salmon (Pitka)
2003	1,236	2,628	654	94	3,514	1,493	1,242	528	844	^b	1,095	810	1,241
2004	4,653	6,801	5,157	1,196	5,362	1,868	2,177	306	293	4,051	670	918	1,138
2005	^b	5,059	2,206	672	^b	1,679	4,097	268	582	1,760	788	1,155	1,801
2006	^b	^b	4,734	^b	5,639	1,618	^b	365	386	1,866	531	1,015	862
2007	^b	^b	692	173	3,984	2,147	1,458	146	^b	^b	1,035	^b	943
2008	^b	487	1,074	^b	3,222	1,061	589	190	213	^b	177	290	1,305
2009	^b	^b	^b	^b	^b	^b	^b	390	379	^b	303	323	632
2010	^b	^b	235	^b	^b	^b	^b	108	^b	587	62	^b	135
2011	263	^b	534	^b	^b	116	79	20	26	^b	96	249	767
2012	^b	^b	610	^b	^b	193	49	9	51	^b	178	229	670
2013	240	1,165	597	83	754	261	154	29	38	670	74	138	475
Escapement Goal Range:			400- 1,200		1,200- 2,300		330- 1,200			970- 2,100	300- 830	340- 1,300	470- 1,600
Average 2003–2012	2,051	3,744	1,766	534	4,344	1,272	1,384	233	347	2,066	494	624	949

^a Estimates are from aerial surveys conducted during peak spawning periods under 'good' or 'fair' survey conditions.

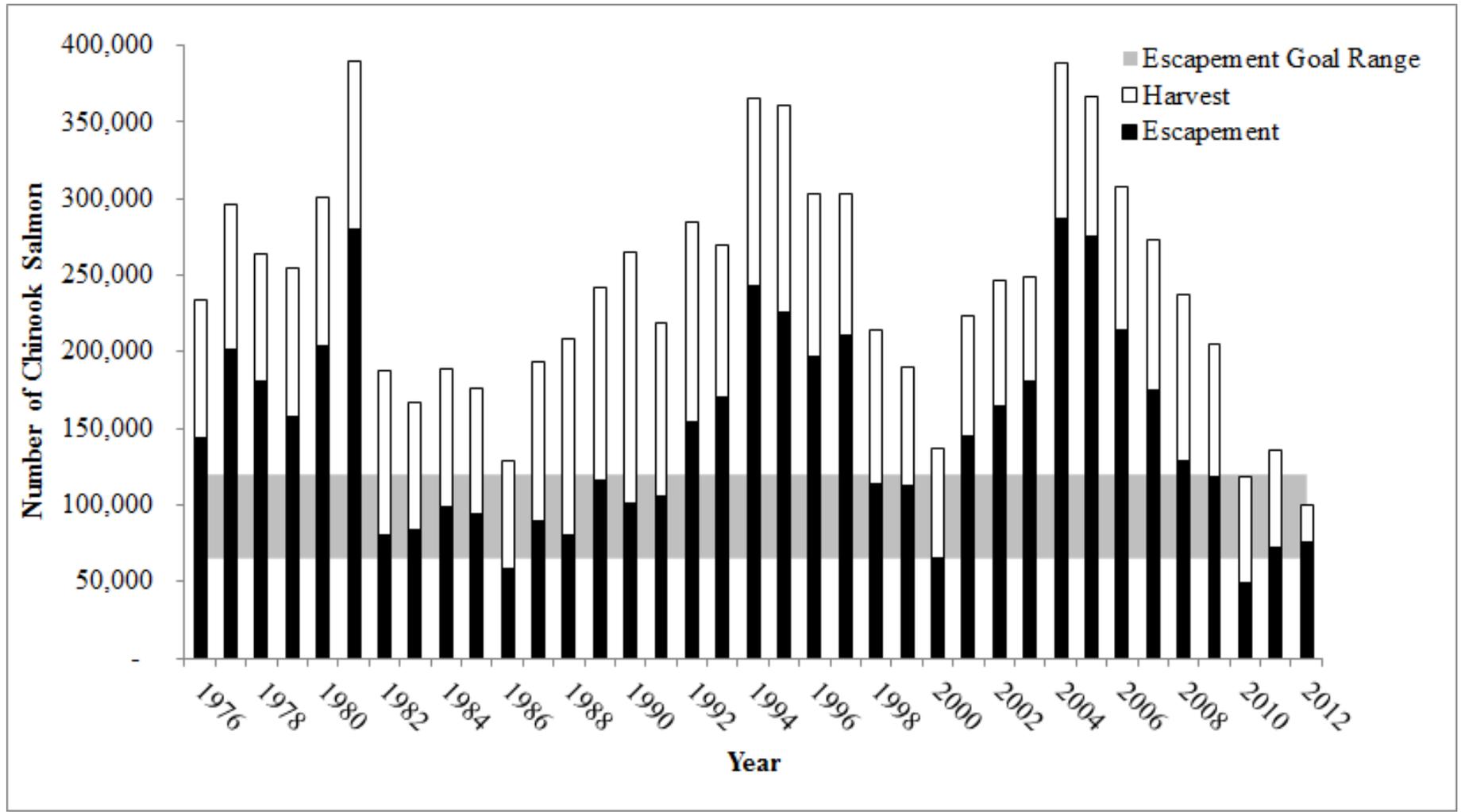
^b Survey was either not flown or did not meet acceptable criteria.

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CHINOOK SALMON RUN RECONSTRUCTION, KUSKOKWIM RIVER.



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KUSKOKWIM RIVER COMMERCIAL CATCH STATISTICS 1985-2011, RESTRICTED TO 6-INCH OR LESS MESH SIZE

June 16 - 23 Historical Commercial Catches

Date	Subdistrict	Permits	Hours	Chinook		Sockeye		Chum	
				Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE
6/16/1988	1-B	602	6	12,640	3.50	7,408	2.05	72,219	19.99
6/17/1996	1-B	245	2	2,045	4.17	1,850	3.78	11,560	23.59
6/18/1987	1-B	527	9	19,126	4.03	9,118	1.92	13,478	2.84
6/18/1992	1-B	567	8	9,756	2.15	8,508	1.88	32,695	7.21
6/19/1989	1-B	374	8	9,204	3.08	5,504	1.84	41,789	13.97
6/20/1985	W1 & W2	431	6	6,611	2.56	5,361	7.89	20,409	7.89
6/20/1988	1-B	612	6	11,708	3.19	14,502	3.95	113,628	30.94
6/20/1990	1-B	630	6	16,690	4.42	10,318	2.73	30,306	8.02
6/20/1991	1-B	601	6	13,813	3.83	19,732	5.47	13,266	3.68
6/20/1996	W1 & W2	283	2	2,046	3.61	6,423	11.35	27,442	48.48
6/20/2008	1-B	171	6	6,415	6.25	8,653	8.43	12,910	12.58
6/22/1992	W1	619	8	14,554	2.94	6,423	1.30	74,296	15.00
6/22/1995	1-B	569	4	6,895	3.03	4,420	1.94	49,157	21.60
6/23/1989	1-B	277	8	6,011	2.71	7,002	3.16	65,650	29.63
6/23/2009	1-B	167	4	3,003	4.50	8,112	12.14	9,149	13.70
Avg		445	6	9,368	3.6	8,222	4.7	39,197	17.3
Min		167	2	2,045	2.2	1,850	1.3	9,149	2.8
Max		630	9	19,126	6.3	19,732	12.1	113,628	48.5

June 24 - 27 Historical Commercial Catches

Date	Subdistrict	Permits	Hours	Chinook		Sockeye		Chum	
				Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE
6/24/1985	W1 & W2	499	6	10,676	3.57	25,876	8.64	45,189	15.09
6/24/1987	W1	607	9	12,867	2.36	24,355	4.46	54,454	9.97
6/24/1988	W1 & W2	657	6	10,379	2.63	20,930	5.31	124,040	31.47
6/24/1991	W1	616	6	12,612	3.41	19,262	5.21	30,632	8.29
6/24/1994	1-B	576	8	14,221	3.09	38,958	8.45	87,214	18.93
6/24/1998	1-B	338	6	6,413	3.16	9,043	4.46	32,467	16.01
6/24/2005	1-B	188	4	2,276	3.03	7,938	10.56	13,553	18.02
6/24/2008	1-B	126	3	1,372	3.63	2,906	7.69	6,576	17.40
6/25/1990	W1	611	6	16,031	4.37	27,024	7.37	58,944	16.08
6/25/1992	W1 & W2	643	8	10,005	1.94	22,852	4.44	59,030	11.48
6/25/1993	1-B	622	8	8,184	1.64	26,363	5.30	34,123	6.86
6/25/2010	1-A	115	4	543	1.18	734	1.60	9,808	21.32
6/26/1986	W1 & W2	517	6	7,972	2.57	41,084	13.24	69,386	22.37
6/26/1989	W1	126	8	1,862	1.85	3,746	3.72	32,373	32.12
6/26/1995	W1 & W2	583	4	11,108	4.76	18,402	7.89	91,719	39.33
6/26/2006	1-A	74	6	1,647	3.71	5,218	11.75	19,694	44.36
6/26/2009	1-B	189	4	2,552	3.38	6,870	9.09	14,466	19.13
6/27/1985	W1 & W2	504	6	9,339	3.09	26,894	8.89	49,706	16.44
6/27/2008	1-B	135	3	990	2.44	3,842	9.49	7,867	19.42
Avg		407	6	7,424	2.9	17,489	7.2	44,276	20.2
Min		74	3	543	1.2	734	1.6	6,576	6.9
Max		657	9	16,031	4.8	41,084	13.2	124,040	44.4

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June 28 - July 4 Historical Commercial Catches

Date	Subdistrict	Permits	Hours	Chinook		Sockeye		Chum	
				Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE
6/28/1998	W1 & W2	626	6	6,096	1.62	18,267	4.86	160,114	42.63
6/28/2005	1-A	51	3	405	2.65	2,879	18.82	3,178	20.77
6/28/2006	1-B	99	6	846	1.42	6,456	10.87	16,312	27.46
6/28/2010	1-B	216	4	1,181	1.37	3,536	4.09	22,038	25.51
6/29/1990	W1 & W2	659	6	10,069	2.55	19,509	4.93	78,749	19.92
6/29/1992	W1 & W2	617	6	8,138	2.20	26,607	7.19	82,652	22.33
6/29/1995	W1 & W2	579	4	5,679	2.45	20,390	8.80	92,218	39.82
6/29/1998	W1	426	6	6,358	2.49	22,506	8.81	66,789	26.13
6/30/1986	W1 & W2	589	6	4,586	1.30	23,804	6.74	62,399	17.66
6/30/1987	W1	564	9	6,193	1.22	39,112	7.71	112,963	22.25
6/30/1989	W1 & W2	657	8	9,842	1.87	10,801	2.05	138,982	26.44
6/30/1999	1-B	409	6	4,668	1.90	16,772	6.83	22,700	9.25
6/30/2004	1-A	52	2	522	5.02	1,781	17.13	2,798	26.90
6/30/2005	1-A	71	4	850	2.99	6,290	22.15	7,317	25.76
7/1/1985	W1 & W2	528	6	6,947	2.19	32,182	10.16	50,325	15.89
7/1/1991	W1 & W2	646	6	6,449	1.66	25,628	6.61	53,164	13.72
7/1/2005	1-B	151	4	874	1.45	6,962	11.53	27,901	46.19
7/1/2009	1-B	173	3	762	1.47	7,798	15.03	18,833	36.29
7/2/1988	W1 & W2	599	6	3,999	1.11	15,681	4.36	196,071	54.56
7/2/1996	W1	224	2	545	1.22	3,962	8.84	20,915	46.69
7/2/2004	1-A	44	3	488	3.70	1,900	14.39	2,426	18.38
7/3/1986	W1 & W2	564	6	3,392	1.00	16,031	4.74	67,088	19.83
7/3/1987	W1 & W2	595	6	7,295	2.04	44,541	12.48	69,983	19.60
7/3/1989	W1 & W2	647	6	4,971	1.28	6,046	1.56	96,446	24.84
7/3/1995	W1 & W2	484	4	3,131	1.62	17,535	9.06	91,627	47.33
7/3/1998	W1	445	4	2,277	1.28	15,985	8.98	51,471	28.92
7/4/1985	W1	461	6	3,777	1.37	16,126	5.83	28,630	10.35
Avg		414	5	4,087	1.9	15,892	9.1	60,892	27.2
Min		44	2	405	1.0	1,781	1.6	2,426	9.3
Max		659	9	10,069	5.0	44,541	22.1	196,071	54.6

July 5 - 8 Historical Commercial Catches

Date	Subdistrict	Permits	Hours	Chinook		Sockeye		Chum	
				Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE
7/5/1988	W1	579	6	2,340	0.67	7,284	2.10	163,971	47.20
7/5/1989	W1 & W2	567	6	3,575	1.05	3,093	0.91	89,269	26.24
7/5/1990	W1 & W2	606	6	4,538	1.25	11,320	3.11	91,232	25.09
7/5/1996	W1 & W2	194	2	316	0.81	3,481	8.97	16,853	43.44
7/5/2000	1-B	224	4	357	0.40	3,658	4.08	11,026	12.31
7/5/2011	1-B	112	4	237	0.53	2,520	5.63	13,884	30.99
7/6/1991	W1 & W2	605	6	2,443	0.67	24,832	6.84	42,441	11.69
7/6/1992	W1 & W2	596	8	3,560	0.75	8,448	1.77	87,036	18.25
7/6/1995	W1 & W2	489	4	1,595	0.82	15,096	7.72	83,618	42.75
7/6/2004	1-A	38	3	238	2.09	1,853	16.25	1,946	17.07
7/6/2010	1-A	87	6	290	0.56	3,554	6.81	17,467	33.46
7/7/1986	W1 & W2	588	6	1,922	0.54	8,373	2.37	56,370	15.98
7/7/1987	W1 & W2	599	6	4,571	1.27	10,655	2.96	107,211	29.83
7/7/2004	1-B	50	4	384	1.92	1,780	8.90	5,086	25.43
7/7/2011	1-A	62	3	106	0.57	2,348	12.62	8,132	43.72
7/8/1988	W1	605	6	1,895	0.52	3,628	1.00	138,858	38.25
7/8/1989	W1	621	6	3,136	0.84	3,177	0.85	119,066	31.96
7/8/1996	W1 & W2	211	2	178	0.42	6,795	16.10	18,801	44.55
Avg		380	5	1,760	0.9	6,772	6.1	59,570	29.9
Min		38	2	106	0.4	1,780	0.9	1,946	11.7
Max		621	8	4,571	2.1	24,832	16.3	163,971	47.2

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**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CHINOOK SALMON HARVESTED IN THE
KUSKOKWIM AREA, 2002 TO 2012.**

Community	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011*	2012*	5-yr avg ^a	10-yr avg ^a
Kongiganak	1,349	2,003	2,663	1,536	1,729	1,984	2,086	1,148	1,470	1,208	571	1,579	1,718
North													
Kuskokwim Bay	1,349	2,003	2,663	1,536	1,729	1,984	2,086	1,148	1,470	1,208	571	1,579	1,718
Tuntutuliak	3,907	2,657	3,912	4,545	4,469	4,614	4,341	3,067	3,205	3,032	1,123	3,652	3,775
Eek	2,514	2,075	2,954	3,133	2,700	2,635	2,877	1,812	1,761	1,378	1,004	2,093	2,384
Kasigluk	4,470	4,212	7,859	4,488	4,304	5,350	2,928	2,341	3,020	2,823	552	3,292	4,180
Nunapitchuk	4,503	3,179	4,921	4,103	4,121	4,661	4,296	3,320	2,548	3,559	845	3,677	3,921
Atmautluak	1,479	547	2,153	1,927	1,422	1,890	1,737	1,581	1,091	1,236	234	1,507	1,506
Napakiak	2,702	2,438	2,839	3,060	5,125	3,245	2,165	2,335	1,640	1,963	457	2,270	2,751
Napaskiak	3,922	3,390	4,058	4,485	5,877	6,392	4,425	5,170	4,313	3,360	1,108	4,732	4,539
Oscarville	1,115	1,153	1,325	1,069	1,052	1,360	1,351	754	618	694	51	955	1,049
Bethel	22,892	24,584	29,443	28,293	27,805	30,422	35,205	26,302	24,973	25,093	7,321	28,399	27,501
Kwethluk	6,880	4,206	7,157	6,089	7,258	6,466	8,209	6,409	4,445	2,467	1,709	5,599	5,959
Akiachak	6,946	2,493	7,131	5,411	5,561	7,621	9,509	7,078	4,470	3,852	2,862	6,506	6,007
Akiak	3,390	3,905	3,775	3,860	4,423	4,297	3,784	3,247	3,625	2,455	856	3,482	3,676
Tuluksak	2,860	3,286	3,766	2,655	2,372	3,886	3,374	3,212	2,110	1,230	651	2,762	2,875
Lower													
Kuskokwim	67,580	58,125	81,293	73,118	76,488	82,839	84,201	66,628	57,819	53,142	18,773	68,926	70,123
Lower Kalskag	1,535	1,556	1,991	1,417	3,494	1,937	2,442	2,525	1,030	1,260	459	1,839	1,919
Upper Kalskag	1,545	1,328	2,498	2,533	1,569	1,383	2,368	1,696	1,500	1,772	562	1,744	1,819
Aniak	4,576	1,837	3,022	1,977	2,412	3,417	3,252	2,062	2,212	2,214	993	2,631	2,698
Chuathbaluk	505	405	1,460	913	887	1,007	772	877	551	409	103	723	779
Middle													
Kuskokwim	8,161	5,126	8,971	6,840	8,362	7,744	8,834	7,160	5,293	5,655	2,117	6,937	7,215
Crooked Creek		582	946	948	736	734	573	608	240	402	124	511	641
Red Devil	293	31	156	181	232	301	177	258	33	186	225	191	185
Sleetmute	604	600	906	522	750	861	668	723	272	242	132	553	615
Stony River	415	118	688	325	278	561	699	704	189	134	212	457	411
Lime Village	206	34	69	176	125	120	57	100	81	120	29	96	109
McGrath	970	395	587	882	689	495	619	593	257	829	68	559	632
Takotna	10	0	16	9	0	12	4	11	0	0	0	5	6
Nikolai	535	120	493	553	696	504	184	298	402	450	276	368	423
Telida	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upper													
Kuskokwim	3,033	1,880	3,861	3,596	3,506	3,588	2,982	3,295	1,474	2,363	1,066	2,740	2,958
Kuskokwim River ^b	80,123	67,134	96,788	85,090	90,085	96,155	98,103	78,231	66,056	62,368	22,527	80,183	82,013
Quinhagak	2,649	2,563	4,563	3,505	5,163	4,686	3,923	2,976	2,692	2,588	2,396	3,373	3,531
Goodnews Bay	723	807	863	869	713	647	1,012	585	480	834	389	712	753
Platinum	154	45	122	74	45	66	42	61	14	62	24	49	69
South													
Kuskokwim Bay	3,526	3,415	5,548	4,448	5,921	5,399	4,977	3,622	3,186	3,484	2,809	4,134	4,353
Total													
Estimated Harvest	83,649	70,549	102,336	89,538	96,006	101,554	103,080	81,853	69,242	65,852	25,336	84,316	86,366

-- Harvest was not estimated

Bold Italic : Bayesian Imputed estimates

^a 5 and 10 year averages do not include the current year.

^b Kuskokwim River Total includes the Lower, Middle, Upper Kuskokwim areas and North Kuskokwim Bay.

* 2011 and 2012 data considered preliminary pending publication.

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group
1 (800) 315-6338 (MEET) Code: 58756# (KUSKO)
ADF&G Bethel toll free: 1 (855) 933-2433

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CHUM SALMON HARVESTED IN THE KUSKOKWIM AREA, 2002 TO 2012.

Community	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011*	2012*	5-yr avg ^a	10-yr avg ^a
Kongiganak	3,247	897	2,958	1,960	2,420	2,158	1,592	1,307	2,513	2,809	1,901	2,076	2,186
North													
Kuskokwim													
Bay	3,247	897	2,958	1,960	2,420	2,158	1,592	1,307	2,513	2,809	1,901	2,076	2,186
Tuntutuliak	4,150	1,288	2,546	3,568	4,024	3,350	4,416	3,330	2,439	1,865	2,614	3,080	3,098
Eek	1,228	578	688	877	1,256	803	761	696	721	486	1,552	693	809
Kasigluk	5,783	2,733	5,064	3,413	4,958	4,292	1,677	1,648	2,403	2,029	3,261	2,410	3,400
Nunapitchuk	8,002	2,865	5,053	4,167	5,150	6,619	4,726	3,468	3,223	4,257	5,312	4,459	4,753
Atmautluak	2,514	849	2,271	1,940	2,664	2,193	2,207	1,673	1,406	1,864	2,701	1,869	1,958
Napakiak	3,421	1,560	2,328	3,238	8,143	3,628	1,811	1,679	1,766	1,546	1,711	2,086	2,912
Napaskiak	4,010	2,061	2,705	2,205	4,323	3,032	2,638	1,410	3,110	1,783	3,216	2,395	2,728
Oscarville	1,319	804	828	686	1,151	932	836	534	352	402	599	611	784
Bethel	17,731	11,452	13,448	14,273	20,953	16,540	18,660	10,480	10,986	15,324	26,872	14,398	14,985
Kwethluk	8,019	2,294	4,288	4,328	6,328	6,291	5,935	3,331	3,082	3,484	3,849	4,425	4,738
Akiachak	5,173	2,650	3,880	2,428	4,333	4,782	4,043	2,844	2,856	3,205	4,150	3,546	3,619
Akiak	2,571	2,928	3,499	3,528	3,095	4,141	3,184	1,350	1,163	2,421	2,416	2,452	2,788
Tuluksak	3,719	894	2,433	2,183	3,094	3,204	4,005	1,570	3,249	2,697	2,585	2,945	2,705
Lower													
Kuskokwim	67,640	32,956	49,031	46,834	69,472	59,807	54,899	34,013	36,756	41,363	60,838	45,368	49,277
Lower Kalskag	1,445	1,087	1,316	997	4,703	1,997	2,030	930	691	1,643	3,284	1,458	1,684
Upper Kalskag	2,460	516	1,656	1,201	2,469	294	1,829	329	393	1,599	1,930	889	1,275
Aniak	4,367	820	2,535	2,952	3,722	4,108	2,839	2,626	2,538	2,391	5,667	2,900	2,890
Chuathbaluk	1,458	2,502	2,352	530	1,451	1,741	593	937	535	686	796	898	1,278
Middle													
Kuskokwim	9,730	4,925	7,859	5,680	12,345	8,140	7,291	4,822	4,157	6,319	11,677	6,146	7,127
Crooked Creek	1,417	750	1,583	1,064	1,513	853	930	519	539	862	610	741	1,003
Red Devil	384	63	135	214	41	186	188	244	122	434	516	235	201
Sleetmute	1,293	468	1,054	422	1,475	818	358	388	524	689	1,004	555	749
Stony River	696	361	754	523	727	535	1,470	771	338	516	619	726	669
Lime Village	817	110	199	609	320	437	495	430	277	504	419	429	420
McGrath	969	513	290	525	999	464	1,352	841	482	476	885	723	691
Takotna	1	0	0	5	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	1
Nikolai	187	124	277	178	308	204	54	300	440	349	1,044	269	242
Telida	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upper													
Kuskokwim	5,764	2,389	4,292	3,540	5,384	3,498	4,851	3,493	2,722	3,830	5,097	3,679	3,976
Kuskokwim													
River ^b	86,381	41,167	64,140	58,013	89,620	73,603	68,633	43,635	46,148	54,321	79,513	57,268	62,566
Quinhagak	2,011	559	1,383	994	2,754	2,249	1,795	1,297	1,376	1,255	2,001	1,594	1,567
Goodnews Bay	349	200	240	192	555	307	643	141	324	349	322	353	330
Platinum	95	19	42	21	108	28	106	28	37	70	76	54	55
South													
Kuskokwim													
Bay	2,455	778	1,665	1,207	3,417	2,584	2,544	1,466	1,737	1,674	2,399	2,001	1,953
Estimated													
Harvest	88,836	41,945	65,805	59,220	93,037	76,187	71,177	45,101	47,885	55,995	81,912	59,269	64,519

-: Harvest was not estimated

Bold Italic : Bayesian Imputed estimates

^a 5 and 10 year averages do not include the current year.

^b Kuskokwim River Total includes the Lower, Middle, Upper Kuskokwim areas and North Kuskokwim Bay.

* 2011 and 2012 data considered preliminary pending publication.

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group
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**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF SOCKEYE SALMON HARVESTED IN THE
KUSKOKWIM AREA, 2002 TO 2012.**

Community	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011*	2012*	5-yr avg ^a	10-yr avg ^a
Kongiganak	1,347	929	1,809	1,103	1,464	1,083	1,347	830	1,842	1,266	1,211	1,274	1,302
North													
Kuskokwim Bay	1,347	929	1,809	1,103	1,464	1,083	1,347	830	1,842	1,266	1,211	1,274	1,302
Tuntutuliak	1,045	1,148	1,620	2,145	1,834	1,763	2,418	932	2,068	1,274	1,516	1,691	1,625
Eek	759	586	567	1,033	673	663	739	1,019	1,241	664	1,490	865	794
Kasighuk	1,537	1,683	1,668	1,273	1,926	1,635	1,230	945	1,448	1,269	1,451	1,305	1,461
Nunapitchuk	1,500	1,714	1,659	1,821	1,871	2,147	2,331	1,484	1,902	2,223	2,396	2,017	1,865
Atmautluak	1,150	679	1,103	1,444	1,011	1,041	1,381	628	735	827	1,623	922	1,000
Napakiak	1,688	1,453	1,351	2,122	1,845	1,962	1,625	917	1,187	1,351	1,141	1,408	1,550
Napaskiak	1,296	1,643	1,148	1,344	1,784	1,738	2,505	1,523	1,979	1,587	2,065	1,866	1,655
Oscarville	400	806	436	278	778	712	677	334	250	228	323	440	490
Bethel	8,850	12,198	11,679	14,297	12,816	13,902	18,016	11,329	10,662	16,946	18,282	14,171	13,070
Kwethluk	2,100	1,903	3,302	2,457	2,770	3,536	5,097	2,183	2,571	2,357	2,884	3,149	2,828
Akiachak	2,507	1,607	3,109	2,372	2,661	3,269	4,731	2,408	2,433	2,647	3,443	3,098	2,774
Akiak	1,214	995	1,258	1,920	2,000	3,695	2,644	1,290	1,161	2,576	1,820	2,273	1,875
Tuluksak	1,205	875	1,670	987	2,247	2,021	2,276	1,691	2,534	1,699	1,380	2,044	1,720
Lower													
Kuskokwim	25,251	27,290	30,570	33,493	34,215	38,084	45,670	26,683	30,171	35,648	39,814	35,251	32,708
Lower Kalskag	347	515	775	439	1,434	780	1,736	1,044	507	802	891	974	838
Upper Kalskag	508	431	686	945	563	417	996	369	465	938	770	637	632
Aniak	1,059	756	996	1,015	692	1,261	1,796	941	1,055	1,168	1,375	1,244	1,074
Chuathbaluk	313	274	526	369	508	523	363	564	403	300	297	431	414
Middle													
Kuskokwim	2,227	1,976	2,983	2,768	3,197	2,981	4,891	2,918	2,430	3,208	3,333	3,286	2,958
Crooked Creek	449	571	732	693	544	604	754	329	302	243	234	446	522
Red Devil	109	309	88	272	510	318	475	477	475	502	511	449	354
Sleetmute	706	504	980	673	1,181	1,303	1,111	707	1,024	693	715	968	888
Stony River	602	158	896	709	853	1,085	1,759	977	372	303	398	899	771
Lime Village	1,176	374	874	1,377	1,182	1,495	1,315	967	796	745	780	1,064	1,030
McGrath	407	112	194	481	149	375	1,392	984	622	630	233	801	535
Takotna	0	2	0	1	0	1	2	3	4	0	2	2	1
Nikolai	22	16	1	19	20	10	13	66	65	13	0	33	25
Telida	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upper													
Kuskokwim	3,471	2,046	3,765	4,225	4,439	5,192	6,821	4,510	3,660	3,129	2,873	4,662	4,126
Kuskokwim River^b													
Quinhagak	909	805	1,375	1,745	3,128	1,755	2,692	1,744	1,671	1,582	2,015	1,889	1,741
Goodnews Bay	855	705	873	1,213	995	880	2,225	908	1,093	1,328	1,197	1,287	1,107
Platinum	257	64	183	90	63	118	156	186	175	135	173	154	143
South													
Kuskokwim Bay	2,021	1,574	2,431	3,048	4,186	2,753	5,073	2,838	2,939	3,045	3,385	3,330	2,991
Total Estimated Harvest													
Harvest	34,317	33,815	41,558	44,637	47,501	50,092	63,802	37,779	41,042	46,296	50,616	47,802	44,084

-: Harvest was not estimated

Bold Italic : Bayesian Imputed estimates

^a 5 and 10 year averages do not include the current year.

^b Kuskokwim River Total includes the Lower, Middle, Upper Kuskokwim areas and North Kuskokwim Bay.

* 2011 and 2012 data considered preliminary pending publication.

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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2012 KUSKOKWIM RIVER SUBSISTENCE SALMON FISHING RESTRICTIONS.

	June																													
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30									
Rolling Closure/Open Section	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat									
Section 1: Lower Section of 1-B													≤ 6 in																	
Section 2: Lower Section 1-B to Tuluksak													≤ 6 in																	
Section 3: Tuluksak to Chuathbaluk													≤ 6 in																	
Section 4: Chuathbaluk to Holitna River mouth													≤ 6 in																	
Section 5: Holitna River mouth to Headwaters													≤ 6 in																	

	July																								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21				
Rolling Closure/Open Section	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat				
Section 1: Lower Section of 1-B	≤ 6 in																								
Section 2: Lower Section 1-B to Tuluksak	≤ 6 in																								
Section 3: Tuluksak to Chuathbaluk	6 in																								
Section 4: Chuathbaluk to Holitna River mouth	≤ 6 in																								
Section 5: Holitna River mouth to Headwaters	≤ 6 in										≤ 6 in														

	July											August																			
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11										
Rolling Closure/Open Section	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat										
Section 1: Lower Section of 1-B																															
Section 2: Lower Section 1-B to Tuluksak																															
Section 3: Tuluksak to Chuathbaluk	≤ 6 in																														
Section 4: Chuathbaluk to Holitna River mouth	≤ 6 in																														
Section 5: Holitna River mouth to Headwaters	≤ 6 in																														

Key

- Salmon fishing closure
- ≤ 6 in Open to subsistence fishing with gillnets no larger than 6 inch mesh
- Unrestricted gillnets and subsistence Chinook hook and line open
- Hook and Line Subsistence Chinook open to bag limit of three a day. Additionally, No livebox required.

****All subsistence closures pertain to gillnets larger than 4 inches and hook and line fishing.**

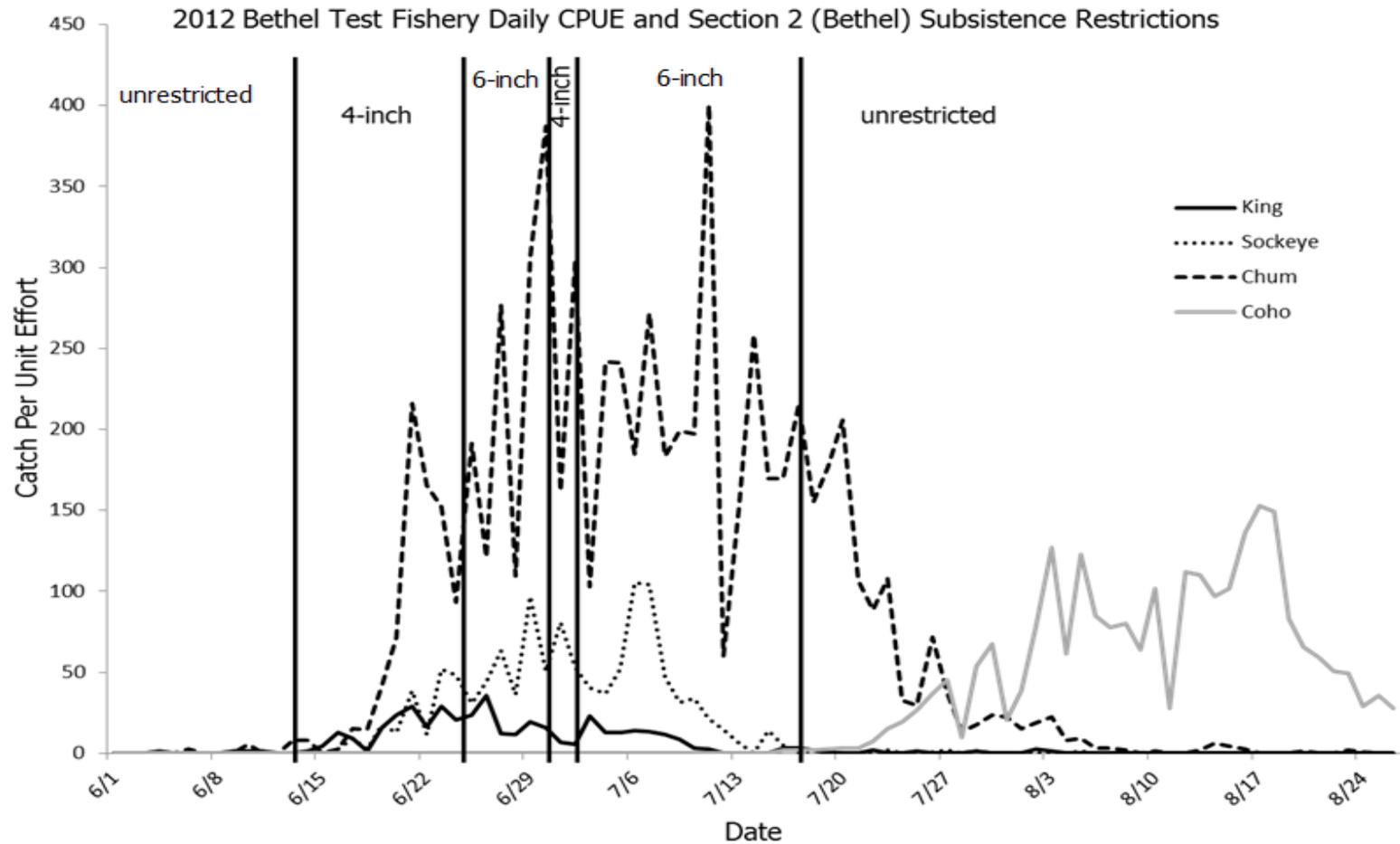
****Sport fishing for Chinook Salmon is closed in the entire Kuskokwim River drainage as of Friday, June 22, 2012 (all other salmon species are open)**

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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2012 BETHEL TEST FISHERY DAILY CPUE AND SECTION 2 SUBSISTENCE RESTRICTIONS.

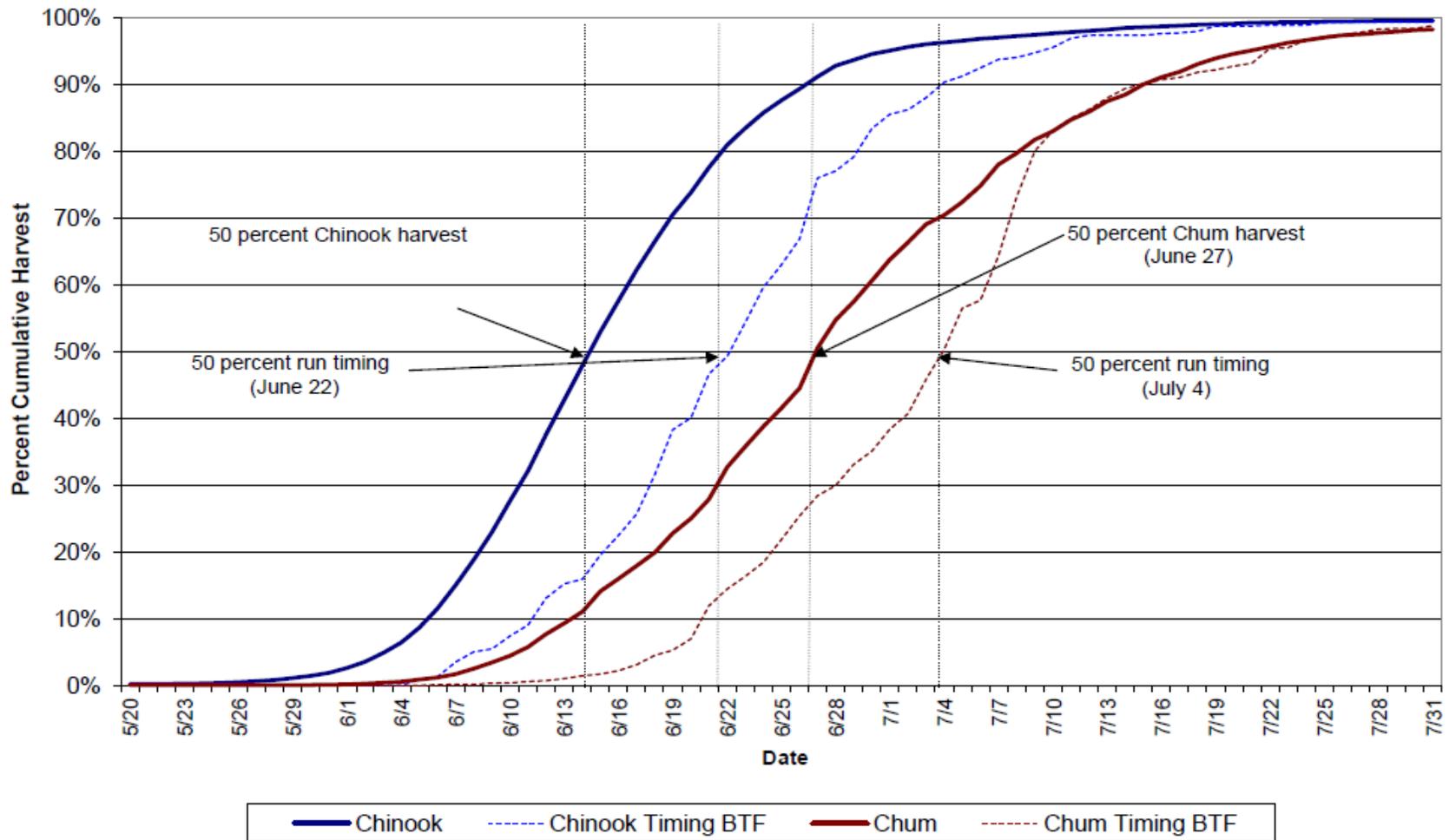


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KUSKOKWIM DISTRICT 1 CHINOOK & CHUM SUBSISTENCE HARVEST BTF TIMING: 1989 - 1999.



Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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DRAFT: KRSMWG MISSION STATEMENT.

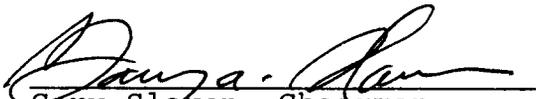
RESPONSE FROM GEORGETOWN TRIBAL COUNCIL:

The Mission of the Kuskokwim Salmon Working Group is to promote the sustainability of our salmon populations **on the** Kuskokwim River from its mouth to the headwaters. We recognize the importance of salmon to all user groups, **and strive to represent each group** including: Subsistence fishers, Commercial fishers, and Sports Fishers. We also recognize that the ultimate priority is the salmon themselves. **Therefore,** adequate escapement must take the highest priority above all user groups, **and we will work together to ensure that this need is met.**

JOINT STATEMENT ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE
KUSKOKWIM RIVER SALMON FISHERY

The Board of Fisheries, the Department of Fish and Game, the local Fish and Game Advisory Committees, and local subsistence and commercial fishermen agree to work together towards the goal of increasing the sustained yield of Kuskokwim River salmon stocks to provide for subsistence needs and an economically viable commercial fishery. To achieve that goal, the parties agree to the following:

1. Kuskokwim River salmon users will form a working group.
2. The local department staff will meet with the working group to discuss pre-season and in-season management of the fishery and evaluate items such as, but not limited to:
 - (a) test fishery data;
 - (b) CPUE data from historic and in-season commercial fisheries; and
 - (c) in-season subsistence catch data.
3. It is understood that the purpose of these meetings shall be to arrive at a consensus regarding the openings and closures of the Kuskokwim River fishery. If a consensus cannot be reached emergency order authority will continue to be at the area management biologist's discretion.
4. The department will announce the opening of the first commercial fishing period by June 10.
5. The fishing periods may be separated by six days to assist king salmon passage.
6. The department and the working group will work towards the development of a comprehensive management plan for all of the Kuskokwim River salmon stocks, and report to the board on their progress.
7. Working group/staff meetings will be at the discretion of the chair of the working group.


Gary Slaven, Chairman
Board of Fisheries

Date: March 14th 1988


Don W. Collinsworth
Commissioner, ADF&G

Date: 4.20.88

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

P.O. Box 1467 • Bethel, AK 99559 • 907-543-2433 • 907-543-2021 fax

September 13, 2013

Dear Tribal Councils and community members,

The Kuskokwim River has experienced poor Chinook salmon returns since 2010. We would like your council and community involved to help address this issue. By taking action now we are working to try to prevent what we've seen in other areas of the State like Norton Sound and the Yukon River which have experienced dramatic declines and poor returns for over a decade.

*Despite an expectation for this declining trend to reverse, we do not anticipate Chinook salmon to rebound to historical numbers in the near future.

*During 2013, the number of Chinook salmon which reached the spawning grounds could very well be the lowest return on record:

*Tributary escapement goals for Chinook salmon were not met nor is it likely that the drainage-wide escapement goal for the whole river was met.

*All but one of these tributaries had the lowest return on record.

*The number of Chinook salmon that reached tributary spawning grounds were in some cases by far the lowest recorded escapements on record.

*The Kogruluk River, the large Chinook salmon producer on the Kuskokwim, had a preliminary escapement estimate that was just 35% of the lower end of the established escapement goal.

*The Takona River saw less than 100 Chinook salmon this year on the spawning ground. Many of the tributaries on the Kuskokwim have had multiple years, some up to five consecutive years, of poor Chinook salmon returns.

* The declining trend over time is of a conservation concern.

* The Tuluksak River has now seen seven consecutive years of drastically low returns and the escapement goal was discontinued in 2012.

This adds up to a very serious concern for the future of our Kuskokwim king salmon and we need your help.

Low returns of Chinook salmon had a drastic effect on our, upriver communities who had a difficult time catching Chinook salmon and meeting their subsistence needs. This is not the first year where middle and upriver communities have suffered. The combination of low Chinook salmon returns and not meeting subsistence needs in this and past years for communities to call for action. In response to this conservation concern and the inability to meet subsistence needs - despite exercising due diligence, the Native Village of Napaimute along with the Native Village of Chuathbaluk, the Village of Lower Kalskag and the Kuskokwim Native Association have all passed resolutions requesting that the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service take significant management measures to address the declining Chinook salmon returns in the Kuskokwim River. Resolutions from the Village of Lower Kalskag and the Native Village of Chuathbaluk specifically recommend closing two identified choke points of Oscarville/Napaskiak and Joe Pete's during the

Chinook salmon migration. We believe closing these areas will increase the Chinook salmon escapement upriver.

The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group met on August 27th to discuss management recommendations to address the king salmon conservation concern. Identifying and addressing choke points in the river was a recommendation previously made at Working Group meetings and was made a priority in resolutions from middle river communities. The choke points of Oscarville/Napaskiak and Joe Pete's area identified very narrow areas in the river with a concentrated number of fishers and high fishing pressure that can greatly reduce the number of Chinook salmon that pass by. The purpose of addressing choke points in the river is to increase the number of Chinook salmon that are allowed to pass upriver of Bethel and make it to headwaters spawning areas as well as allow for more equal harvest opportunity for communities upriver of Bethel. Closing these identified choke point areas to Chinook salmon fishing entirely or to limit Chinook salmon fishing to set net only sites has been suggested. Many other recommendations have been made and it is likely that a number of sacrifices by various communities and fishers will be required to get more Chinook salmon on the spawning grounds and provide more equal opportunity to all of the subsistence users along the river.

The Working Group voted to contact communities in the adjacent areas, identify their concerns, and to work together to find solutions. Addressing these choke point areas is of importance. Your communities are most directly impacted by these recommendations and we feel that the first step should be to work with Tribal Councils and local residents to find a solution to our common goal which is to preserve our Chinook salmon resource for future generations. We would like to welcome your communities to respond and participate in future management discussions.

Sincerely,


Beverly Hoffman
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Cc Oscarville Traditional Council
Cc Napaskiak Tribal Council
Cc Orutsararmiut Native Council

OSCARVILLE TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

P. O. BOX 6129

NAPASKIAK, ALASKA 99559

OFFICE PHONE NUMBER: (907) 737-7099 OFFICE FAX NUMBER: (907) 737-7428

OTC-ADMINISTRATION

Michael Stevens
OTC-Tribal Administrator

Alexandria Henry
OTC- Tribal Secretary

DATE: October 1, 2013
TO: Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group
FROM: OSCARVILLE TRADITIONAL COUNCIL
RE: SUBJECT: CHOKE POINT BY NAPASKIAK/OSCARVILLE
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

IN RESPONSE TO YOUR LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 13 BY THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER SALMON MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP PROPOSING TO REGULATE OUR TRADITIONAL SUBSISTENCE FISHING AREA ON THE KUSKOKWIM, IN YOUR WORDS THE "NAPASKIAK/OSCARVILLE CHOKE POINT".

IT IS IN OUR GREATEST BELIEF THAT CLOSING DOWN OUR TRADITIONAL FISHING/HUNTING AREA ISN'T GOING TO SOLVE THE DECLINING KING SALMON ISSUE. WE DO NOT COME TO YOUR LAND OR YOUR WATERS AND ASK THAT YOU STOP YOUR SUBSISTENCE LIFESTYLE FOR OUR OWN BENEFIT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE KING SALMON LANDS UNDER THE WATER, IN THE OCEAN ARE BEING RANSACKED BY THE TRAWLING FLEET OF THE DEEP SEA SCRAPERS. THE SALMON BYCATCH AS THEY CALL IT IS AT A HIGH 33,000 KING SALMON. WHY NOT KEEP A SHARP EYE ON THEM INSTEAD OF THE SUBSISTENCE USERS OF THE KUSKOKWIM DELTA.

WE SUPPORT THE LETTER FROM NAPASKIAK TRIBAL COUNCIL DATED OCTOBER 1, 2013 TO THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER SALMON WORKING GROUP SUBJECT: CHOKE POINT BY NAPASKIAK/OSCARVILLE FROM: STEPHEN MAXIE, NAPASKIAK TRIBAL COUNCIL TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR

WE DO BELIEVE OVER THE YEARS THERE HAS BEEN MORE AND MORE FISHERMEN FROM OTHER VILLAGES INCLUDING BETHEL FISHERMEN FISHING OUR TRADITIONAL SALMON FISHING AREA. WE HAVE SEEN SET NETS THAT AREN'T BEING TAKING CARE OF PROPERLY AND FISH LEFT TO ROT. OUR UNWRITTEN YUP'IK LAWS ARE BEING BROKEN BY WHO ARE NOT TRADITIONALLY KNOWLEDGEABLE PEOPLE. THE SET NET TIME IS USUALLY DETERMINED BY HOW COLD THE WATER IS TO HOLD THE FISH IN PRESTINE CONDITION TO THE TIME WE PROCESS THE FISH. DURING THE TIME WHEN THE WATER TURNS WARM THE FISH EASILY DETERIORATE THAT'S WHEN SET NET TIME IS OVER. IF YOU WANT YOUR SET NET OUT LATER PLEASE CHECK YOUR SET NET AT LEAST TWICE A DAY, MORNING/EVENING.

BY CLOSING DOWN OUR FISHING AREA, WHERE WOULD YOU SUGGEST WE FISH? IN THE LATE SPRING MONTHS AND DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS WE DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF GAS AND OIL TO FISH FURTHER AWAY FROM OUR VILLAGE; THUS MAKING IT A COMPROMISE TO SUGGEST A FARTHER FISHING AREA.

WE ALSO BELIEVE IN CONSERVATION MEASURES ON OUR KING SALMON TO SUSTAIN EVERYONE OF US AND FOR THE FUTURE GENERATION, BUT CLOSING OUR TRADITIONAL FISHING AREA JUST FOR EVERYBODY ELSE'S BENEFIT WILL NOT CONSERVE THE KING SALMON. IF YOU WANT TO CLOSE OUR AREA CLOSE YOURS TOO, BECAUSE WE WILL FISH FOR OUR FISH IN OUR TRADITIONAL FISHING BASIN.

Sincerely,

OSCARVILLE TRADITIONAL COUNCIL



Marie S. Jacob
O.T.C. - Vice President



Olga Mesak
O.T.C. - Secretary/Treasurer

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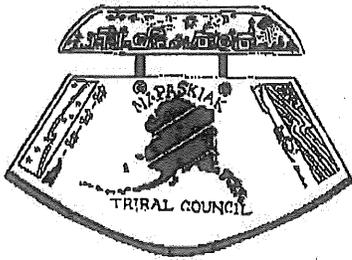
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OTC-Council Member

Nastasia Larson
OTC-Council M.

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OTC- Village Delegate/CVRF Board Member



NAPASKIAK TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 6009

Napaskiak, Alaska 99559

(907) 737-7364 • Fax (907) 737-7039

October 1, 2013

To: Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

Subject: Choke Point by Napaskiak/ Oscarville

From: Stephen Maxie, Napaskiak Tribal Council Tribal Administrator

Dear Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group Members,

In response to the letter dated September 13 by the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group concerning proposing or regulating our Traditional subsistence fishing area on the Kuskokwim. Our Tribal Council met on September 25 and discussed this issue. We believe that our communities of both Napaskiak and Oscarville should not be regulated or restricted from practicing our subsistence salmon fishing in this considered "choke point" which is our Traditional salmon fishing spot. The boundaries are within our Constitution/Bylaws within our Jurisdiction as a Federally Recognized Tribal Government.

This action of regulating our Traditional salmon fishing spot will affect our livelihood. The problem is that other fishermen are invading our Traditional fishing spot mainly coming from Bethel. Our subsistence salmon fisherman have limited gear and gasoline. With our people that pool together as fishcamp families are forced to subsist further downriver because of the overcrowding in this considered "choke point". We agree that there needs to be some sort of resolution to this problem but to close down or regulating Napaskiak and Oscarville subsistence users is not the answer and we shall not compromise to give up our Traditional fishing spot.

Most of the set nets in this area do not belong to Napaskiak/Oscarville residents. We do practice set nets but most of us take them out during mid June do to warm water that rots salmon for waste. We been seeing set nets that have no name on buoys' which are rarely checked daily. We would like to encourage everyone to check set nets 2 times a day to reduce waste. One other concern is theft, theft of salmon in set nets, and theft of set nets, this needs to addressed as we hear this is a growing problem in this river system.

We believe in conservation measures on our king salmon to sustain us and for our future generation but let's all work together on this issue and not create regulations/restrictions that may divide us.

Any questions feel free to contact us at 737-7364.

Sincerely,

Stephen Maxie Jr., Tribal Administrator

CC: Napaskiak Tribal Council



Napaskiak Incorporated
 P.O. Box 6089
 Napaskiak, Alaska 99559
 (907) 737-7418

October 1, 2013

Fax 543-2021

State Board of Fish and Game/Kuskokwim Salmon Working Group
 Bethel, Ak 99559

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you from the Napaskiak Corporation, we are stakeholders in the current proposed regulations of fish in our neighborhood of Napaskiak and Oscarville labeled as choke points for salmon fishing in our region. Napaskiak and Oscarville residents either tribally enrolled or shareholders of their respective Corporations stand to be affected by this current proposal. We have been fishing your so called "choke point" since before inception of our concurrent villages before even ANCSA and ANILCA were ever whispers of lawmakers, and over the past few years this traditional fishing spot has been invaded by people outside of Napaskiak and Oscarville that are either Tribal members or shareholders of the perspective villages.

The Napaskiak Corporation is organized under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. ANCSA is the most important legislation for Alaska since statehood. Its effects have been, and continue to be, felt by all the citizens of this state. Beyond our state, other countries and indigenous groups around the world are carefully following the results of this historic document.

December 18, 1971

The passage of this Act settled the issue of what lands Alaska Natives owned by right of traditional use and occupancy. The phrase "traditional use and occupancy" means that the land was used for subsistence and occupied for a very long time. The Act was based on the rights of Alaskan Natives to the land they had used and occupied for generations and generations. The Act also stated the terms by which Alaska Natives would give up much of their land.

Section 3 (j) "Village Corporation" means an Alaska Native Village Corporation organized under the laws of the State of Alaska as a business for profit or nonprofit corporation to hold, invest, manage and/or distribute lands, property, funds, and other rights and assets for and on behalf of a Native village in accordance with the terms of this Act.

There were numerous complaints of the BIA approving mineral and timber contract sales at far below fair market value on tribal lands. These contracts were lucrative for the exploiting companies, while depriving the tribes of fair and needed revenues. BIA run schools were also criticized for attempting to assimilate Indian children and smother tribal loyalty.

Congress and many Alaska Natives, therefore, tried to develop an approach which would leave Alaska Natives in sole control of their land and money without BIA intervention. It was

feared that if the land became a reservation and the money was turned over to a traditional government, the BIA might have had control.

The State of Alaska enacted the first subsistence law in 1978, which recognized subsistence uses of fish and game to have a priority over sport, personal and commercial uses. This law did nothing to protect the Alaska Native way of life as it defined all Alaskans to be subsistence users, and the growing urban majority of Alaskans could go into any rural area and compete with local villagers for the food supply.

A couple of years later, Congress reacted to the State's lack of protection of Alaska Native subsistence uses and attempted to carry out the unfulfilled settlement of aboriginal hunting and fishing rights through the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) in 1980. The Act placed over 104 million acres of Alaska land into national parks, preserves, refuges, monuments, wilderness and wild and scenic river areas, and contained a provision in its Title VIII to give rural Alaskans a subsistence user priority on federal lands and waters. In report language that went with the Act, subsistence was defined as "...the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for such direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools or transportation; the making and selling of handicraft articles... 'for barter or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary trade."

A subsistence use priority was given to rural Alaskans in Title VIII of ANILCA rather than to Alaska Natives because the State of Alaska objected to a Native preference. The State argued that a Native preference would conflict with the State's Constitution which declares that Alaska's natural resources belong equally to all citizens. In order to get the State of Alaska to comply with the rural subsistence priority in Title VIII, the State was offered the option to manage subsistence hunting and fishing on federal lands in addition to State and private lands if the State Legislature enacted a law of general application containing the same rural priority. The State of Alaska adopted a regulation in 1982, then a statute in 1986 giving a rural subsistence priority on State and private lands which allowed the State to manage subsistence uses on all lands in Alaska.

The federal government manages subsistence hunting on all federal public lands in Alaska as well as fishing on certain navigable waters, giving rural residents a subsistence priority use for the fish and game resources. The State manages subsistence hunting on State and private land, giving all Alaskans a subsistence priority.

Federal and regional advisory boards made up primarily of subsistence users form the regulations regarding subsistence uses on federal public land and navigable waters. The State Boards of Fish and Game create subsistence regulations on behalf of the State. The dual federal-state management of subsistence hunting and fishing in Alaska is cumbersome, is not satisfactory to any of the stakeholders, and the results are far from the original intent of Congress to protect the hunting and fishing rights of the Alaska Native people, extinguished by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

After reading and trying to comprehend the two acts above in summary, ANCSA and ANILCA Title VIII, we agree to the conservation of the salmon species that sustains us, however, we would like to state that we are not the only ones that fish in your stated "choke point" our traditional fishing grounds. We have seen for ourselves our traditional fishing grounds being overrun by outsiders and we do not have space to set our nets, and at the same time this "choke point" is being fished all day and far into the evening, not by the traditional users of this said "choke point" but outsiders. Tribal Members and Shareholders of Napaskiak and Oscarville should have priority in this "choke point" for fishing. Our residents observe outsiders going net to net checking for fish and taking them even though it isn't their net forcing the traditional users of your said "choke point" to pull their nets out only to be replaced by outsider's nets. We fish for 2 weeks and at the most 3 weeks to catch our quota of fish, your said "choke point" is fished not by the traditional users but outsiders well into the summer.

We have also seen and are aware of other "choke points" up and down the Kuskokwim, those should also be addressed, or is our traditional fishing grounds a beacon because those on the salmon management working group themselves witnessed this fishing of outsiders from Bethel in your said "choke point".

Our villages have limited jobs and prices of gasoline have skyrocketed of the past years and we do not go very far from our traditional fishing grounds because of this, but recent overcrowding and over fishing has pushed us further and further away from our traditional fishing grounds. The main outsiders that fish in your stated "choke point" are residents of Bethel, which leads us to question if Bethel is considered "Rural" in regards to population and definition. Nets are also expensive, and we will not force our residents to comply by cutting their nets trashing their hard earned money down the drain to comply with this regulation.

Before you impose such a sanction to the traditional users of your "choke point" consider formally inviting us to your meeting instead of broadcasting and blindsiding us with your intentions with a newspaper article, as we ourselves are concerned and believe in the conservation of the salmon that sustains every user on the Kuskokwim.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at (907)737-7413, our return address in the letterhead.

Cordially,



Phillip Nicholai Jr.
General Manger

CC: Board of Directors



Village of Lower Kalskag
PO Box 27
Lower Kalskag, AK 99626
NEW Phone #: (907) 471-2300 Fax #: (907) 471-2378
Email: village_of_lower_ta@yahoo.com

Resolution 13-008

A RESOLUTION TO ENSURE THE LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF CHINOOK SALMON STOCKS AND PROVIDE FOR A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET OUR MEMBERS SUBSISTENCE NEEDS WE REQUEST THAT THE ADF&G COMMERCIAL FISHERIES DIVISION AND THE USFWS INSEASON FEDERAL MANAGERS FOR FISHERIES ON THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER TAKE SIGNIFICANT CONSERVATION MEASURES PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE 2014 CHINOOK SALMON FISHING SEASON

WHEREAS, The trend of low abundance and non-achievement of escapement objectives on the Kuskokwim River for Chinook salmon brings to question the long term sustainability and health of the population; and

WHEREAS, The voluntary conservation efforts by subsistence fishermen have not been successful to the point of reducing harvest to meet escapement objectives; and

WHEREAS, The management tools used for pre-season forecasting and in-season run assessment along with the conservation actions taken in 2013 proved inadequate to manage the fishery and achieve the established escapement objectives; and

WHEREAS, The majority of subsistence users in the mid and upper Kuskokwim River were unable to meet their Chinook harvest needs despite exercising due diligence;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Village of Lower Kalskag request that Fisheries Managers on the Kuskokwim River enact significant restriction and or complete closures on the Chinook salmon subsistence fishery as a pre-season action until such a time that it is highly probable that established escapement objectives will be met, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Should no action be taken by Fisheries Managers with regards to this request that a special action request will be submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Office of Subsistence Management requesting 1) the subsistence fishery be limited to only Federally Qualified Users of the Kuskokwim region, and 2) the pre-season actions requesting herein be immediately implemented.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The Village of Lower Kalskag also request closing the two Kuskokwim River choke points downriver for the whole 2014 season, which are located at:

- Oscarville/Napaskiak
- Joe Pete's

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was passed and approved by a poll vote of the Village of Lower Kalskag Tribal Council, in which the vote 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 absent, and 0 abstaining; this 19th day of August, 2013.

Nastasia Levi - President

Anita Williams - Secretary



Native Village of Chuathbaluk

Chuathbaluk Traditional Council
#1 Teen Center Trail
Chuathbaluk, Alaska 99557-8999

Resolution # 2013-24

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF CHUATHBALUK,
CHUATHBALUK TRADITIONAL COUNCIL, TO EMBRACE THE
TRADITIONAL VALUES OF OUR ELDERS BY RESPECTING OUR
RESOURCES AND ENACTING CONSERVATION PRACTICES THAT
ENSURES EQUITABLE MANAGEMENT OF SAID RESOURCES**

WHEREAS, The Chuathbaluk Traditional Council is an Alaska Native Village recognized as an Indian tribe pursuant to the previous Public Law 93-638; Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act (88 Stat, 2203, 25 U.S.C. 450 et seq), also pursuant to Public Law 95-608, Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 CFR 23.26; and

WHEREAS, the Chuathbaluk Traditional Council is the duly authorized governing body for the Native Village of Chuathbaluk; and

WHEREAS, the Chuathbaluk Traditional Council is the federally- recognized Tribal Government of the Native Village of Chuathbaluk; and

WHEREAS, the Chuathbaluk Traditional Council identifies that the low abundance and non-achievement of escapement goals for the Kuskokwim River Chinook Fisheries creates a long term sustainability crises; and

WHEREAS, the Chuathbaluk Traditional Council recognizes that the voluntary conservation efforts by various Middle and Upriver Kuskokwim Tribes as well as some Lower River Fishers, has not in and of itself been a successful tool towards meeting escapement objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Chuathbaluk Traditional recognizes that the management tools used for pre-season forecasting and in-season Chinook Salmon run assessment along with the regulations implemented during the 2012 and 2013 season, were inadequate to manage the fishery and failed to achieve the established escapement objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Chuathbaluk Traditional Council strongly believes in the teaching of our elders which specifically addresses the respect for the initial Chinook push as those fish who swim the farthest, the fastest, are the largest, and the strongest breeding stock and as such should be allowed to pass through unmolested; and

WHEREAS, the Federally Recognized Tribe, Native Village of Chuathbaluk were unable to meet their Chinook subsistence needs over the last few years; and



WHEREAS, the Federally Recognized Tribe, Native Village of Chuathbaluk has jurisdiction over its resources be them transient or residential; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Nation of the Native Village of Chuathbaluk requests that the State of Alaska and the Nation of the United States of America, US Federal Government, enact the significant restrictions including a of complete pre-season closure on the 2014 Chinook Salmon of the Kuskokwim River Basin, as an action until such time as it is highly probable that the established escapement goal is met; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Nation of the Native Village of Chuathbaluk emphatically states if no action is taken by the State of Alaska or the US Federal Government regarding this subsistence crisis by January 2014, a Special Action will be submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Office of Subsistence Management requesting: 1.) The subsistence fishery be limited to only Federally Qualified users of the Kuskokwim Region; 2.) When opened, that the net length at the choke points of Oscarville/Napaskiak and Joe Petes be limited significantly; 3.) A pre-season closure in effect until escapement is met; 4.) That if and when other regulations i.e., quotas, are placed on the Chinook Fisheries, an equitable distribution as it relates to Village SES factors and family average food security numbers are used as significant factors in the quota determination; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Nation of the Native Village of Chuathbaluk requests on-going Government to Government meetings with the US Fish and Wildlife need to continue until this crisis is resolved.

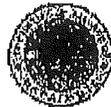
PASSED AND APPROVED BY A QUORUM OF THE CHUATHBALUK TRADITIONAL COUNCIL THIS DAY OF August 22, 2013 with:

- 5 members voting yes,
- 0 members voting no,
- 0 members abstaining, and
- 0 members absent.

ATTEST:

Robert Golley, Chuathbaluk Traditional Council Chairman

Robert Hatroll



P.O. Box 1501
Bethel, AK, 99801
Ph (907) 547-2887 (Ext.) / (907) 222-7023 or 222-4011 (Nap.)
(907) 545-2577 (Cell)
Email: nnapaimute@napaimute.org
Website: www.napaimute.org

Resolution 13-06

A RESOLUTION FROM THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF NAIMUTE IN SUPPORT OF KUSKOKWIM NATIVE ASSOCIATION (KNA) RESOLUTION 001-2013 REQUESTING THAT THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME COMMERCIAL FISHERIES DIVISION AND THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE IN SEASON MANAGERS TAKE SIGNIFICANT CONSERVATION MEASURES PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE 2014 KING (CHINOOK) SALMON FISHING SEASON TO ENSURE THE LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF KING (CHINOOK) SALMON STOCKS ON THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER AND TO PROVIDE FOR A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE AMOUNT NEEDED FOR SUBSISTENCE IN THE MIDDLE AND UPPER KUSKOKWIM

WHEREAS: The trend of low abundance and non-achievement of escapement objectives on the Kuskokwim River for King salmon brings into question the long term sustainability and health of the population; and

WHEREAS: The voluntary conservation efforts by subsistence fishers have not been successful to the point of reducing harvest to meet escapement objectives; and

WHEREAS: The management tools used for pre-season forecasting and in-season run assessment along with conservation actions taken in 2013 proved inadequate to manage the fishery and achieve the established escapement objectives; and

WHEREAS: The majority of subsistence fishers in the Middle and Upper Kuskokwim River were unable to meet their King salmon harvest needs despite exercising due diligence;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Native Village of Napaimute supports KNA's request that fisheries managers, both State and Federal, on the Kuskokwim River enact significant conservation measures such as complete/partial closures, gear restrictions, etc. as a pre-season action in 2014 until such a time that it becomes highly probable that established escapement goals will be met; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That should no action be taken by the fisheries managers with regards to this request a special action request will be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office of Subsistence Management requesting: 1) the subsistence fishery be limited to only Federally Qualified Users of the Kuskokwim Region and 2) the pre-season actions aforementioned be immediately implemented.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was passed at a duly convened meeting of the Napaimute Traditional Council on August 16, 2013 by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining.

Sharon Helling 9/8/2013 BARA 8/29/2013
President Date Secretary Date



**Kuskokwim Native Association
Resolution NO. 001-2013**

A JOINT RESOLUTION FROM THE KUSKOKWIM NATIVE ASSOCIATION AND THE UNDERSIGNED ORGANIZATIONS, TO ENSURE THE LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF CHINOOK SALMON STOCKS AND PROVIDE FOR A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET OUR MEMBERS SUBSISTANCE NEEDS WE REQUEST THAT THE ADF&G COMMERCIAL FISHERIES DIVISION AND THE USEWS INSEASON FEDERAL MANAGERS FOR FISHERIES ON THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER TAKE SIGNIFICANT CONSERVATION MEASURES PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE 2014 CHINOOK SALMON FISHING SEASON.

WHEREAS: The trend of low abundance and non-achievement of escapement objectives on the Kuskokwim River for Chinook salmon brings to question the long term sustainability and health of the population; and

WHEREAS: The voluntary conservation efforts by subsistence fishermen have not been successful to the point of reducing harvest to meet escapement objectives; and

WHEREAS: The management tools used for pre-season forecasting and in-season run assessment along with the conservation actions taken in 2013 proved inadequate to manage the fishery and achieve the established escapement objectives; and

WHEREAS: The majority of subsistence users in the mid and upper Kuskokwim River were unable to meet their Chinook harvest needs despite exercising due diligence;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED: That the Kuskokwim Native Association along with the Villages and organizations referred to in this resolution request that Fisheries Managers on the Kuskokwim River enact significant restriction and or complete closures on the Chinook salmon subsistence fishery as a pre-season action until such a time that it is highly probable that established escapement objectives will be met; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That should no action be taken by Fisheries Managers with regards to this request that a special action request will be submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Office of Subsistence Management requesting 1) the subsistence fishery be limited to only Federally Qualified Users of the Kuskokwim region, and 2) the pre-season actions requesting herein be immediately implemented.

This will certify the foregoing resolution was approved by the undersigned organizations on the following dates:

Kuskokwim Native Assoc.	Organization	<i>Benjamin</i>	Chairman	<i>Marie</i>	Secretary	9/16/13	Date
_____	Organization	[Chairman	_____	Secretary	_____	Date
_____	Organization	_____	Chairman	_____	Secretary	_____	Date

Notes taken by Casie Stockdale ONC Bethel Community Meeting

Nov. 12, 2013

39 people signed in on sign in sheet.

Recommendations

Bev Hoffman – Have been doing and should be on here: delaying commercial fishery to reduce impact on kings. No sale of kings caught in commercial openings but retain for consumption and subsistence purposes. Other thing that was done was close down sport fishing on all tributaries and on the river.

Thad Tikiun – ONC subsistence committee – shorter periods like commercial fishing periods

Thad Tikiun. I'm with the ONC Subsistence Board. The other day when we were meeting at the ONC offices and we were talking about the fish and what we can do about it, there was one suggestion I made was to have shorter fishing period time like a commercial fishing period because right now, out of the week maybe we fish three days. Instead of having three days of fishing, maybe have short periods like couple hours like commercial fisherman do like starting from noon till six o'clock in the evening. You know just on certain days. That way some of the fish can escape up river. That was one of the suggestions that I made. And I don't know how you feel about it. That was a possible solution.

Henry Hunter Sr. - Moratorium like geese and moose. Bring escapement up better in the long run. Can't be just us only has to be all fisheries. Close fisheries for year and a half for the whole river.

BEV HOFFMAN: one of the suggestions that I like coming out of ONC Subsistence Committee was extending that boundary line out into the bay to protect any fish in the bay that are directed our way I thought was a good one.

Mike Shantz – closure needed for more than one year, going to have to be closed for a long time for those fish to come back. I think right now, if we don't stop it right now, there's going to be nothing left and it might be too late already. You know it might not ever come back.

Glen Watson – ONC subsistence. Agree with Henry and Mike but option feels strongest and make most sense; Tier II – limit who fishes what's taken. Nobody knows how much kings are being sent out. And that's not being regulated. A tier II permit would do just that I think.

Grant Fairbanks – recommendation users test fishery in Aniak; petition for 2014 season moratorium make king salmon possession illegal – will put pressure on bycatch to reduce numbers

Bev – elder told her in years when one species is in low abundance shift effort to more abundant species

Thad Tikiun – reducing length of net to 25 fathom

7 people wanted completely closed. Couldn't count but more wanted window of opportunity.

Robert – gear restrictions, shorter nets, that’s what I grew up with; 6” catches mostly males

Mary Sattler – Federalize the fishery so that the river can be managed for conservation first and rural residents can have the first crack at it; ban 8” gear; the windows don’t seem to be working because we do have windows of openings, there is this feeling of hording, of going out and trying to hammer them so hard and get as many as you before they pass you. And that is not helping the situation.

Travis Elison – apology for 2013 season; look at results of escapement failed miserably in my job in 2013. Seeing vast majority of the people in the room looking for window up unrestricted opportunity, cautioned about fishing power of fleet.. Think about on a poor year if you go out around June 15th how many kings can you catch in two hours? 2,500 boats. Looked at old commercial fishing data. Late 08’s 600 permits fish for 6 hours with 6” mesh single harvest of 19,000.

Bill Kristovich: reported what the ONC Subsistence committee agreed to: number 1 and number 2 [1. Starting the season closed and then opening when the data tells us that the abundance is adequate to meet escapement 2. Starting the season on a fishing schedule]; mesh restrictions, 6” mesh; mesh length – 25 fathoms; number 5 voluntary reductions, no commercial fishing (until after the first week in July); elders fishery

Bev Hoffman added that the ONC subsistence committee also said there needed to be limits to the elder fishery and they brought up extending the line beyond the mouth.

Mark Leary – thought about tier II but there seems to be with moose you see some people with permits that never hunter there before and then some people that don’t get permits that really need them. 25 fathom nets would seem small in Tunt.

Glen Watson: I brought up tier II I was thinking about also including customary and traditional uses and that’s kind of what I wanted to add.

Casie Stockdale: on export of salmon AVCP and KNA have worked with a contractor put together a grant to try to estimate how much fish is leaving the area from Bethel and Aniak airports thought the Office of Subsistence Management. Approved not for full funding but we for a one year pilot study. RAC meeting tomorrow and if you think that we should have been approved for the full funding, tell them that tomorrow because they have some input. If there is no fishing on king salmon next year it will be difficult but we can work on the methods on other species and we won’t get an estimate out of that one year but there are people working on it.

Greg Roczicka explained the tier II process and some problems with it.

Bev Hoffman asked how many people in the room were interested in looking at t tier II for Bethel. Two raised hands.

Steve: No genetically modified salmon.

THAD TIKIUN: Want to get village input before voting.

MARK LEARY: I think it would carry a lot of weight if we could say Bethel supports whichever one Bethel supports. As the biggest user of the resource, Bethel says we support number one. But this isn't Bethel. There are not enough of us here.

BEV HOFFMAN: Well we definitely are trying to give people a lot of opportunity for input by radio shows or articles in the newspaper or meetings like this or sending letters to all of the villages. It's going to be very important to continue this dialogue.

Bruce Lindsay – bad idea to close to subsistence in first part of June everyone dying for fresh fish and only small males coming up then; should close in middle of June and July.

SPEAKER: We're getting more and more barges that's going up and down the river and that's keeping a lot of fish from going up river too there.

GRANT FAIRBANKS: suggestion is would set some guidelines as to if we get to this number we have to have some kind of opening. But have a drop dead number. If we get to this number we have a moratorium. Because we have to have goals and a few people's goals like voluntary restrictions if they don't make those restrictions they know they will have a moratorium so set some... I just hate seeing us come back next year and the next year. Finally when we have none they'll say oh gosh, we could have done something.

MIKE SHANTZ: Yeah we should have closed it.

BEV HOFFMAN: Yeah there are trigger dates that they look at the test fish and there are those mechanisms in place but even with those mechanisms in place we still faced what happened. When I was up in Unalakleet and listening to them talk about no king salmon on that river and it was another heavily commercialized, commercial industry up there and to hear what they're trying... They're frustrated. So yes, there's a lot to do and it's our responsibility as a people because like Mike said if we don't do something our children and our grand children are going to say "Why didn't you? Why didn't you do something?" And to that's why we're having these meetings. And that's why your input is so important. So please stay involved and keep the dialogue going. Go back to your homes and your families talk about voluntary reductions. Talk about the numbers that you saw tonight. Look again. Share, share the information that you got tonight. It's really going to be important to keep talking about this not just this year, every year. Every year. We're going to be talking about this for years to come. So Quyana caknek.

CLOSE OF MEETING

ONC community meeting: November 2013
King Salmon Management strategies

Bill Kristovich Chair

Doug Molyneau: presentation

Bev Hoffman led discussion

Recommendations:

Henry Hunter: Moratorium, it worked for the moose and geese. Closing in the beginning bad idea. Asked how many come from outside the area to fish

Mike Shantz: Close it down for a long time, it might be too late

Glen Watson: Look at permit system

Grant Fairbanks: test fisheries above Aniak, moratorium for 2014, possession illegal

Participant: shorter periods on certain days

Thad Tikiun: reduce length of nets and mesh

Robert Lekander: gear restrictions length and mesh to 6 inch

Majority wants some window of opportunity

Mary Sattler: moratorium would be difficult, wants to see the management federalized, rural residents first crack, ban 8 inch mesh

Travis Ellison: apologized for 2013, failed miserably in forecast, 2500 fishing households makes it difficult

Bill Kristovich: need to address mesh/length.

Bev Hoffman : presented numbers 84,000 average subsistence take
On a good year 250,000 average King return. In 2012 and 2013 escapement lowest on record. 4,775 escaped in tributaries being monitored. Goal was 65 to 120,000. Asked for the above comments

Mark Leary: 2 hours of fishing has huge impact. Don't understand tier system.

General comments: Majority feel it's important to do something and are willing to have restrictions of some sort

Chuathbaluk Traditional Council

#1 Teen Center Trail
Chuathbaluk, Alaska 99557-8999
(907) 467-4313

November 10, 2013

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
John Linderman
Arctic, Yukon Kuskokwim Region, Regional Supervisor
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599

Dear John,

The Native Village of Chuathbaluk would like the State of Alaska to enact conservation measures for the 2014 Chinook Season by March 1, 2014. It is only respectful to the Kuskokwim Tribes, which live subsistent lives, to enact these restrictions and closures at the earliest possible date so that we may adjust our fishing schedule and subsistence gear appropriately.

I do not need to site escapement numbers versus predictions over the 2012 and 2013 seasons, because those of us who live here have observed the disaster first hand. We also do not feel the need to site various acts, laws or regulations which require the State to conserve and protect the natural resources in our world; because, we are requesting the State to implement common sense regulations not because they are required to but because it is the right thing to do.

It is obvious that the State model for predicting the Chinook run numbers is deeply flawed, yet the State has failed to abandon the model. It is obvious that the regulations from the previous two fishing seasons, were complete failures, yet the State has refused to address these regulations out of cycle. And finally it is obvious that if drastic conservation measures are not enacted immediately to preserve our Chinook parent stock, the Chinook will be only something we talk about in our historical stories and instead of an integral part of the future legacy for our grandchildren.

The Tribe, the Native Village of Chuathbaluk, requests that immediately the State of Alaska begin Tribal consultation with the various Kuskokwim Tribes and together with the all pertinent parties, i.e., USFish, OSM, AC, Working Groups, etc, develop and enact pre-season Chinook Fishery regulations using the most conservative measure necessary to ensure escapement. When discussing subsistence food security, there is a difference between need and want. We need fish and we want Chinook. Chuathbaluk is more than willing to forgo Chinook fishing for a few years in order to live in harmony with our world and to protect our resources.

Please respond to our request by December 15, 2013 and explain to us the Strategy that the State of Alaska is going to pursue in order to protect the Chinook Fisheries. Please supply us with your future Tribal Consultation Schedule and any supporting documentation or numbers necessary to support potential proposed restrictions.

Sincerely,


Lisa Carmel Feyereisen
Tribal Administrator
Native Village of Chuathbaluk

Sincerely,


Tracy Simeon
Tribal Chairman
Native Village of Chuathbaluk



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of
Fish and Game**

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
AYK Region Office

333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99518-1565
Main: 907.267.2105
Fax: 907.267.2442

December 11, 2013

Native Village of Chuathbaluk
Ms. Lisa Feyereisen, Tribal Administrator
#1 Teen Center Trail
Chuathbaluk, AK 99557-8999

Dear Ms. Feyereisen:

Thank you for your November 10 letter describing your concerns. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) shares your concern for low Chinook salmon numbers in the Kuskokwim River. As stated in the 2013 Kuskokwim Area Season Summary news release published on October 9, the department will work with the public to implement a conservative management strategy for Chinook salmon in 2014.

The department has used a forecasting method since 2011 that runs several models for each returning age class and selects the statistically best fit model for each age class to forecast the next year's return. This method over-estimated total run abundance in 2012 and 2013. As a result, the department is in the process of developing a more conservative forecast methodology that puts more weight on recent year run performance. This is being done in an effort to achieve better accuracy in annual run forecasts. In 2012 the total run of Chinook salmon was estimated to be approximately 99,000. The 2013 total run estimate will not be available until post-season subsistence harvest estimates are completed this winter, but we expect the total run was similar to 2012.

The anticipation of a low Chinook salmon run in 2014 necessitates implementation of conservation measures early in the run. When Chinook salmon are the only salmon species present, closing salmon fishing is the only way to effectively reduce harvest to conserve Chinook salmon. Once chum and sockeye salmon greatly outnumber Chinook salmon, restricting gillnet mesh size to 6-inch or less in the subsistence fishery is effective for conserving Chinook salmon. Therefore, the department anticipates using a combination of subsistence salmon fishing closures and subsistence salmon gear restrictions for gillnets and fish wheels to conserve Chinook salmon in 2014. The department is in the process of working with subsistence fishermen to get input on the best way to implement restrictions and determine if additional or alternative conservation measures are appropriate.

In addition to the broadly distributed 2013 season summary news release dated October 9, to date the department has met with Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group (Working Group) members, the Bering Sea Coast and Lower Kuskokwim River Advisory Committees, Western Interior

and Yukon Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Councils, and the ONC Subsistence Committee to notify subsistence fishermen of fishing restrictions in 2014 and to receive feedback. The department will be attending many more meetings this winter to discuss subsistence salmon fishing in 2014 including the Central Kuskokwim Advisory Council meeting on December 12-13 and Working Group meetings on December 17 and January 8-9. Furthermore, the department will accompany USFWS to village meetings, and we anticipate additional meetings with the Working Group and local Advisory Councils through the winter and spring leading up the 2014 season. We would be happy to meet with Chuathbaluk Traditional Council as well. Please feel free to contact myself or Travis Elison, Kuskokwim Area Management Biologist, at (907) 267-2397 or travis.elison@alaska.gov if you have any additional questions or comments and to coordinate scheduling if a meeting is desired in Chuathbaluk.

Sincerely,



John C Linderman
AYK Regional Supervisor

Letter from the Akiak Native community:

-----Original Message-----

From: Sheila Williams [mailto:akiarmiu@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2013 2:14 PM
To: Sheldon, Christopher A (DFG)
Subject: FW: Letter to Kuskokwim fisheries Management Advisory Group

----Forwarded message----

From: akiarmiu@yahoo.com
To: akiarmiu@yahoo.com
Sent: Mon, Dec 16, 2013 2:12 PM AKST
Subject: Letter to Kuskokwim fisheries Management Advisory Group

To: KFMG
From: Sheila Carl, Tribal Council Akiak Native Community
Subject: Kuskokwim Fisheries policies

The Akiak Native Community Akiak IRA Council is very concerned about who sets policy to open and close the fisheries. There are three Governments that have interest in our fish on the Kuskokwim River, Tribal, State and Federal Governments namely Alaska State Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife Service. It has created advisory groups whose charge is to recommend management Decisions. But since the Chinook concerns surfaced, these advisory groups seem to be getting in on to set the policies which affect the way of life in our villages. The 56 Tribal Governments are the only ones that have to set these policies along with the State and Federal officials. Our People have been managing our rivers for over 10,000 years. Our People need to have the first crack at the fish for our family. The Akiak native community tribal members will continue to conduct traditional fishing. We will also fish on our customary and traditional fishing grounds in our Kisaralik.

Georgetown Tribal Council: Comments collected on KRSMWG Recommendations for the Conservation of King Salmon

Recommendation	Pro	Con	Discussion
1. Starting the season closed and then open when the data tells us that the abundance is adequate to meet escapement	<p>guarantee that a lot of females would be able to get to their spawning areas</p> <p>best way to meet our #1 priority: conservation</p>	not being able to catch enough king salmon	<p>Recommendation #1 would be the best way to go. Closing the start of the season to everybody along the River would guarantee that a lot of females would be able to get to their spawning area. But what are the unintended consequences? Of course not being able to catch enough king salmon would be the obvious one, but in all reality it seems like there hasn't been enough king salmon to go around to begin with the last few years. Conservation should take top priority at this point. The same way it did when the moose population was dwindling and there was a five-year hiatus on hunting.</p>
2. Starting the season on a fishing schedule	has the potential to work if done right	not good for those who can't get out fishing on days when open may turn into combat fishing along some parts of the river	<p>Recommendation #2 has some potential positive impact on helping with the issue. For instance having fishing open so many days in a row and then so many days in a row would be closed. That may work, except for those that are not able to get out on days that fishing is allowed or it may turn into combat fishing along some parts of the River. Maybe more brainstorming on some scheduling ideas could produce some somewhat adequate solutions.</p>
3. Gear Restrictions	help meet escapement goals	excludes those without the right kind of gear	<p>Recommendation #3, gear restrictions. Using smaller size nets is always something discussed. Going to a six-inch net size with a certain amount of length and depth would definitely help to meet escapement goals, but not everybody has certain size nets to meet those requirements. Those who do not would be excluded from harvesting and therefore missing out on the importance of gathering such a resource. Not sure this is the best option due to the fact that not everybody would have the gear necessary to fish.</p>
5. Voluntary Restrictions			<p>Recommendation #5, voluntary restrictions. People on the River are very understanding of this problem of not having enough king salmon harvest every year and I would imagine that people would refrain from seeking king salmon in order to preserve numbers for the future. That being said, I would have a hard time asking people to not fish if there aren't any other restrictions in place. When people are allowed to fish, they will fish</p>

Georgetown Tribal Council: Comments collected on KRSMWG Recommendations for the Conservation of King Salmon

Recommendation	Pro	Con	Discussion
8. Addressing Choke Points	could help with escapement		Recommendation #8, addressing chokepoints. I think this is an idea that could help with escapement. Growing up out in Bethel I've seen firsthand how many people fish around Oscarville and then again right above Bethel where all of the fish have no choice but to pass through. That alone takes a lot of the numbers out of the water and doesn't allow much to pass by when fishing is taking place. More discussion on this recommendation would be worthwhile.

Additional Comments:

Not in favor of any of the permit system stuff or opening it up to those holding a fishing permit or whatnot. Do not think stopping commercial fishing is the answer either. They already restrict where and when people can commercial fish and although they do catch some fish they don't catch as much as they used to or need to in order to keep a living.

The recommendation numbers listed above are what were identified as most important.