

# Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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

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

August 14, 2019

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday August 14, 2019 and adjourned at 11:55 a.m. Meeting time was approximately 2 hours. Ten full voting members were present and a quorum was established. Alissa N. Rogers chaired the meeting.

## AGENDA ITEMS:

**USFWS/KRITFC Update:**

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Management Actions under Consideration:**

**People to be Heard:**

**Continuing Business:**

**Old Business Discussion Topics:**

**New Business Discussion Topics:**

## WORKING GROUP ACTION ITEMS:

### WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

1. Approve the agenda. *Passed (Unanimous)*
2. To support ADF&G management recommendations regarding allowing registered catcher/sellers opportunities to fish commercially *Passed (Unanimous)*
3. To schedule the next Working Group meeting for Wednesday August 28, at 10:00 a.m. *Passed (Unanimous)*
4. Adjourn at 11:55 p.m. *Passed (Unanimous)*

5. **KRITFC/ USFWS UPDATE:** Gary Decossas (USFWS) had no updates at this time.

6. **ADF&G MANAGEMENT ACTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION:** Ben Gray (ADF&G) reported at this time no action will be taken on subsistence fishing and the regulations in place will remain. Mr. Gray commented on one registered catcher and seller in the area who ADF&G intend to speak with to decide a time to allow them to fish.

7. **PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:**

- **SUBSISTENCE REPORTS:**

- **Lower River:** Alissa Rogers (Lower River Subsistence) commented that CPUE was satisfactory. Ms. Rogers reported after approximately three hours of fishing she caught thirty Coho, ten chums, and four spawned out sockeye.

- **Middle River:** Lisa Feyereisen (Middle River Subsistence alternate) reported that people are still fishing very successfully.

- **Upriver:** Barbara Carlson (Member at Large alternate) reported that Coho salmon are starting to arrive.

- **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

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1. **Overview of Kuskokwim River Salmon Run Assessment Projects:** Nick Smith (ADF&G) provided an overview of the ADF&G assessment projects. *(For more information on the 2019 in season assessment projects, please see the August 14 Informational Packet).*
  - **Bethel Test Fish:** Primarily Coho (and some chum salmon) are being caught at BTF. Over the past few days, subsistence fishers have been setting nets near where BTF operations occur, which could have caused CPUE to be lower during those times. As of August 14<sup>th</sup>, Coho numbers appear to be building at BTF. Operations will cease August 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Chinook Aerial Survey:** Surveys were conducted between July 24<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup>. All Chinook escapement goals were met. Three escapement goals were exceeded.
  - **Sonar:** Overall, sonar had a successful season. Operations ceased July 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Weirs:** Chinook salmon escapement goals were met at the Kwethluk River weir and exceeded at the George and Kogrukluk River weirs. Both chum and sockeye salmon escapement goals were also exceeded at the Kogrukluk River weir. It is still too early to report on Coho salmon escapement at Kogrukluk, however, numbers appear to be tracking similarly to previous years.
  - **Subsistence Division project update:** No projects in the water.
2. **Sport Fishing:** Lamont Albertson (Sport Fishing) reported that fishing guides are doing well.
3. **Discussion of ADF&G Management considerations and discussion of possible alternatives:**

## OLD BUSINESS:

## NEW BUSINESS:

## WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

1. **Approve the agenda. Passed (Unanimous)**
2. **To schedule the next Working Group meeting for Wednesday August 14 at 10:00 a.m. Passed (Unanimous)**
3. **Adjourn at 12:38 p.m. Passed (Unanimous)**

**COMMENTS FROM THE WORKING GROUP:** *No additional comments were provided from the Working Group members.*

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## WORKING GROUP ATTENDANCE:

<b>MEMBER SEAT:</b>	<b>NAME:</b>
DOWNRIVER ELDER	James Charles
UPRIVER ELDER	Absent
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Mike Williams Sr.
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Lisa Feyereisen
UPRIVER SUBSISTENCE	Barbara Carlson
HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE	Absent
MEMBER AT LARGE	Albert Kawagley
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	Absent
YK DELTA RAC	Absent
COMMERCIAL FISHING	Greg Hoffman Jr.
SPORT FISHING	LaMont Albertson
PROCESSOR	<i>Vacant</i>
KRITFC	Absent
ADF&G	Ben Gray
CHAIR	Alissa N. Rogers

<b>Other Participants:</b>	
<u>ADF&amp;G Comm. Fish:</u> Nick Smith, Lily Reichard, Chuck Brazil, Bobette Dickerson, Chris McDevitt <u>Sport Fish:</u> John Chythlook <u>Subsistence Division:</u> Dave Runfola	
<u>USFWS:</u> Aaron Webber, Gary Decossas <u>OSM:</u>	
Bill Bechtol (KRITFC) Kevin Whitworth (KRITFC) Jennifer Hooper (AVCP)	<u>Media:</u>  <u>WG Alternates:</u>

## GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (**ADF&G, department, State**), Orutsaranmiut Traditional Native Council (**OTNC**), Association of Village Council Presidents (**AVCP**), Georgetown Traditional Council (**GTC**), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (**USFWS**), Bethel Test Fishery project (**BTF**), Catch Per Unit Effort (**CPUE**), Coastal Village Seafoods (**CVS**), ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Division (**CF**), ADF&G Sport Fisheries Division (**SF**), Regional Advisory Council (**RAC**), Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group (**KRSMWG, Working Group, or WG**), Sustainable Escapement Goal (**SEG**), Biological Escapement Goal (**BEG**), Management Objective (**MO**), Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence (**ANS**), Emergency Order (**EO**), Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (**BSFA**), Law Enforcement (**LE**), Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (**KRITFC**), Native Village of Napaimute (**NVN**), Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation (**YKHC**), Alaska State Troopers (**AST**), University of Alaska Fairbanks (**UAF**)

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