

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working group

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

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

July 13, 2020

Six full voting members were present, and a quorum was not established. A work session was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday July 13, 2020 and adjourned at 7:13 p.m. The work session time was approximately 1 hour and 13 minutes. LaMont Albertson chaired the work session.

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: *A quorum was not established; this was a work session and there were no motions.*

KRITFC/ USFWS UPDATE: Ray Born (USFWS) reported no actions pending.

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ADF&G MANAGEMENT ACTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION: Nick Smith (ADF&G, Area Management Biologist) reported plans to rescind mesh requirements, gill net length requirements, and the Aniak box come August 1. Mr. Smith reported plans to open commercial fishing periods in late July and August in the Kuskokwim mainstem for the single register catcher and seller.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

SUBSISTENCE REPORTS:

- **ONC Subsistence Report:** Avery Hoffman (ONC) provided an overview of the ONC inseason harvest monitoring project. *(For more information on the ONC subsistence survey report, please see the July 13, 2020 Informational Packet.)*
- **Lower River:** James Charles (Downriver Elder) reported that since the restrictions were lifted people have been happy with fishing. Mary Peltola (Lower River Subsistence Alternate) reported that she did one drift and caught 1 Chinook, 24 sockeye, 4 chum and 2 whitefish. Ms. Peltola commented that there is good fishing now. Mike Williams (Lower River Subsistence) reported that he is focusing on catching sockeye and chum now that the Chinook have passed.
- **Middle River:** *There were no Middle River representatives present at this meeting.*

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- **Upriver:** Barbara Carlson (Upriver Subsistence) reported people have been doing a lot of fishing and the sockeye have begun to arrive. Ms. Carlson commented that the Aniak fish wheel is catching between 15 to 20 sockeye a day. Ms. Carlson commented that chum salmon catches are shockingly low for this time in the season.
- **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**
 1. **Overview of Kuskokwim River Salmon Run Assessment Projects:** Sean Larson (ADF&G) provided an overview of the ADF&G assessment projects. *(For more information on the 2020 inseason assessment projects, please see the July 13 Informational Packet).*
 - Bethel Test Fish: Mr. Larson reported that as of July 12, the cumulative CPUE at the BTF was 445.
 - Aniak Test Fish: Mr. Larson reported that as of July 12, the cumulative CPUE at the ATF was 1,796.
 - Sonar: Mr. Larson reported that as of July 11, an estimated 94,000 Chinook salmon have passed through the sonar site. 42,400 chum salmon have passed through the sonar site. 391,600 sockeye salmon have passed through the sonar site.
 - Weirs: Mr. Larson reported that as of July 13, an estimated 1,020 Chinook salmon have passed through the George River weir. As of July 12, 420 Chinook salmon have passed through the Kogruklu River weir. As of July 12, 125 Chinook salmon have passed through the Salmon River (Pitka Fork) weir.
 - Subsistence Division project update: No projects in the water.
 2. **Sport Fishing:** *No comments on sport fishing were made at this work session.*
 3. **Discussion of ADF&G Management considerations and discussion of possible alternatives:**

OLD BUSINESS:

- Meeting attendance and vacant seats
 - Deep discussion into this topic was tabled until the August meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Meeting summaries are prepared and distributed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). The department is responsible for summary content. Summaries are not comprehensive or considered meeting minutes and are designed to provide context on meeting proceedings for the convenience of interested parties/participants. Audio recordings of meetings can be found at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.kswg#2019>

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WORKING GROUP MOTIONS: *A quorum was not established; this was a work session and there were no motions.*

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

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WORKING GROUP ATTENDANCE:

MEMBER SEAT:	NAME:
DOWNRIVER ELDER	James Charles
UPRIVER ELDER	Absent
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Mike Williams Sr.
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Absent
UPRIVER SUBSISTENCE	Barbara Carlson
HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE	Absent
MEMBER AT LARGE	Fritz Charles
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	<i>Vacant</i>
YK DELTA RAC	Absent
COMMERCIAL FISHING	Absent
SPORT FISHING	LaMont Albertson
PROCESSOR	<i>Vacant</i>
KRITFC	Absent
ADF&G	Nick Smith
CHAIR	LaMont Albertson

Other Participants:	
<u>ADF&G Comm. Fish:</u> Ben Gray, Lily Reichard, Keegan Birchfield, Andrew Kastning, Bobette Dickerson <u>Sport Fish:</u> <u>Subsistence Division:</u> Dave Runfola	
<u>USFWS:</u> Ray Born, Aaron Moses, Gary Desossas <u>OSM:</u>	
Jennifer Hooper (AVCP) Janessa Esquible (ONC) Avery Hoffinan (ONC)	<u>Media:</u> <u>WG Alternates:</u> Mary Peltola (Lower River Sub. Alt.)

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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