

LOWER KUSKOKWIM F&G ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

DC 8

Long House Conference Room, Bethel, Alaska

November 11-12, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Board of Game Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim & Statewide Proposals

November 11th, 2013 (Day 1) 8:30AM

- I. **CALL TO ORDER & WELCOMING:** Chairman James Charles
- II. **OPENING CEREMONY:** BRHS JROTC Team (Posting of Colors)
- III. **MOMENT OF SILENCE/ INVOCATION:** Jackson Williams, Akiak
- IV. **ROLL CALL: 15 members present/ QUORUM ESTABLISHED: YES**

AC MEMBERS:

REPRESENTING:

Phillip K.	Peter, Sr.	Akiachak
Willie E.	Phillip	Tuluksak
Mike	Riley	Bethel
Frank	Bezerkin	Oscarville
John	Wassillie	Napakiak
Jackson	Williams, Sr	Akiak
James A.	Charles	Tuntutuliak
John	Nicholas	Kasigluk
Sandra	Nicorai	Kwethluk
John W.	Andrew	Kwethluk
William F.	Charlie Brown	Eek
Henry A.	Tikiun	Atmautluak
Zechariah C.	Chaliak	Nunapitchak
Earl	Samuelsen, Sr.	Napaskiak
Richard	Larson, Sr.	Napaskiak

V. **APPROVAL OF:**

A. Agenda/ Agenda Change Requests

Motion to accept- Phillip Peter 2nd- William Brown

- B. September 17th, 2013 Meeting Minutes: *Secretary*
Motion to accept- John Nicholson 2nd- Earl Samuelson
- C. Privileged Motions
Unanimous Consent to accept Privileged Motions

VI. INTRODUCTIONS:

- A. LOWER KUSKOKWIM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
All 15 Members introduced themselves
- B. ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME:
Alissa Joseph, ADFG Boards Support
Phillip Perry, ADFG Wildlife
Patrick Jones, ADFG Wildlife
Jeff Park, ADFG Subsistence
Travis Elison, ADFG Comm. Fish
- C. UNITED STATES FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
Steve Miller, USFWS Fisheries Biologist
- D. GUESTS:
Roberta Chavez, Orutsararmiut Native Council
Greg Roczicka, Orutsararmiut Native Council
Cassie Stockdale, Association of Village Council Presidents
Tim Andrew, Association of Village Council Presidents.
Xenia Nichols, Kasigluk Tribal Member
Daniel, KYUK Radio & Tundra Drums
Allen Joseph, Bethel
Beverly Hoffman, Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group

VII. LOWER KUSKOKWIM BOARDS SUPPORT AC BUSINESS:

- A. ALASKA STATE BOARD OF FISHERIES
 - i. Proposals Due: April 2015
- B. ALASKA STATE BOARD OF GAME
 - i. **Arctic/ Western Region**
January 10th-13th, 2013 **(Comments Due: DEC 27, 2013)**
Kotzebue National Guard Armory, Kotzebue, AK
 - i. **Interior Region**
February 13th-24th, 2014 **(Comments Due: FEB 28, 2014)**
Alpine Lodge, Fairbanks, AK
 - ii. **Statewide**
March 14th-18th, 2014 **(Comments Due: FEB 28, 2014)**
Egan Center, Anchorage, AK
- C. ALASKA STATE JOINT BOARD OF FISH & GAME
 - i. Review on Summary of Actions
- D. AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS (Moved to 11/12/2013)

· VIII. · **PEOPLE TO BE HEARD: OPEN FOR ALL PUBLIC TESTIMONY (11:24A)**

Beverly Hoffman, Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group- They were expecting F&G to do their best to conserve the management of the Chinook salmon. Subsistence take is 84 thousand Chinook. That was lowered from 65-120 thousand, on average 200- 40 thousand come up the Kuskokwim to spawn. We take 84 thousand on a good year for subsistence food security harvesting. Last year the lower river did ok, the working group was asking people to be conservative to get Chinook to the spawning grounds. We need at least 60 thousand Chinook to make it to the spawning grounds. For an example: At the Kwethluk River weir in 2004 over 20 thousand Chinook made it. This year in 2013 Chinook count was the lowest on record and ever recorded, only 692 Chinook made it passed the weir. We sent out this letter (reference to hand out) to all the tribal entities. We want all of our communities to have an input on the management recommendations. KRSMWG is demanding that the subsistence fishers have a stronger opinion in the management of the salmon. In the year 1955, I was a little girl and we just became a state. There were just over a thousand people that lived in Bethel. Between the mouth of the river all the way up to the head waters. The Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group had sent out a letter of recommendations to all the tribal leaders. We are asking folks this winter to go back and look at the recommendations. There are 20 recommendations that came from different organizations and people from across the watershed. I can live with some of the recommendations, but I can't live with all of them. We have to save the Chinook for our children, 40 years from now we won't be here. I don't want to hear them say 40 years for now: "Why didn't they do something about the declining Chinook." I'm here asking all of us for solutions.

Jackson Williams, Aniak- I opposes, because the lower river sometimes has absolutely nothing to catch, only when the fish start running. 1960's I was 12 or 15 years old at the time, my dad and I always went fishing. We went fishing one day and we couldn't get any fish in our fishing spots. Looking at these issues, our creator is the one that gave us food.

Beverly Hoffman, KRSMWG- When one species was short, they would concentrate on other species. 1960's Japanese and Russians were fishing big time in the Bering Sea.

James Charles, Tuntutuliak- 110 barges per season, 158 thousand for fuel; I was worried about the salmon on the river. They are going to disturb all the fish going up river, the river gets narrow. When the barge gets stuck on the river, it will push water and mud down river and the fish will not want to go upriver. When we catch our first salmon of the year, it's given to the people to share and not just one family or person for themselves. I'm not against making money, but if Calista is hurting my fishing season, I'm not going to be ok with it.

Beverly Hoffman, KRSMWG- I'm not against small scale mining, but I'm against open pit. We can already see the effects of mining and barge traffic.

John Wassilie, Napaskiak- Talking about by-catch, I've heard and read that they send out Alaskan by-catch caught salmon down states for processing and distribution. If we have a base in Anchorage to process our own by-catch of salmon, we can send it to our Alaskan villages or who really needs.

Bev Hoffman, KRSMWG- When by-catch is an issue and 60% of that stock is caught and thrown overboard or shipped down river.

Earl Samuelson, Napaskiak- Thank you for all that information. I accept but to add window of opportunity for consumption. Has there been a study on that? Kuskokwim people do not have a voice on Area-M fishery or attend the meetings for the false pass area. We need to get everyone that deals with salmon on one table and talk this over.

Richard Larson, Napaskiak- I don't want for this choke point recommendation to go further, that choke point is for everybody. I think we can make some kind of proposal and those who set net around that area. Even they are 10 feet from each other we still let them fish. We share what we have.

Bev Hoffman, KRSMWG- Resolutions that we got to address the choke point, came from report by the Alaska Wildlife Troopers and showed us pictures of rotting Chinook in unchecked nets. From what I'm hearing the

choke points are not the issue and personally I don't think that choke points are the issue. I think that drainage wide reduction of Chinook is needed to be looked at. The management decisions for closures and windows, will work and we have to say it. I didn't like protest fishing, but I also didn't like ADFG not giving a window of opportunity to harvest Chinook. I believe this meeting in December will be to push for a window of opportunity.

IX. VILLAGE REPORTS:

Tuntutuliak- James Charles- This past summer the fish and hunting went well this summer/ Fall.

Atmautluak- Henry Tikiun- Not many people caught King Salmon (Chinook) this summer although we caught lots of the other fish.

Kasigluk- John Nicolas- I'm glad there were no negative reports on fishing/ hunting this summer. I thank God for his help. There is a need to have younger people run and represent the Lower Kuskokwim AC or other committees like this one. In the older days, we were trained to be a representative for later days. Also, ADFG Subsistence Division's subsistence harvest counting was not welcomed into the village of Kasigluk for counting white fish.

Kwethluk- John Andrew- Concerned about the fishing weir above Kwethluk. There were very low returns of Chinook this summer, usually there is 2 or 3 thousand. This summer there were just about 300 in the escapement count. Those that are unable to fish depend on other to do their subsistence fishing for them. We have had bear problems destroying fish camps and the end of the fishing season.

Napaskiak- Earl Samuelson- The season went well, it wasn't like last summer 2012. A lot of people caught what they needed, but we are worried about the choke hold (Oscarville-Napaskiak section) in the river. However, moose hunting this year was harder than last year. Many people had to go a far distance, go far upriver or elsewhere. Moose season, a lot of people who didn't catch that normally catch. A lot of people had to go way up river; a lot of moose were still far back into the meadows and away from the main stem of the Kuskokwim. We had a death in our village this summer and ADFG allowed us to take one moose. We are very thankful for ADFG to allow us that opportunity to feed the people. For the Joint Board- A lot of people had caught the attention of the joint board's proposal to create Bethel as a non-subsistence area. We were glade that the proposal wasn't passed or amended to change Bethel. Those board members think about the whole state of Alaska, not just one area. That's just the way it is and we will have to live with it.

Nunapitchuk – Chuck Chaliak- Some were unable to fish, because of high gas prices. Moose hunters did well this year, some coming back soon than expected. He brought a proposal from Nunapitchuk City Council to present to the AC Committee. There is room to improve our fishing closures, do not close completely and leave room for us to catch some fish. Recommendation was from the village:

1. Close commercial fishing from Eek Island to Bogus Creek.
2. Close trawling fishing in the Bering Sea.
3. No sports fishing on tributaries.
4. Use windows for subsistence fishing.

(15min. Break)

Akiachak- Phillip Peter- This was a good summer for subsistence fishing. For Musk-ox there was reported sighting of 22 musk-ox this summer in our area. We had a meeting with the younger generation to wait until the numbers increase enough so we can hunt in the future. He converse with moose hunter if he happens upon them at Gweek and instructs them about traditional hunting ways.

Oscarville- Frank Berezkin- We are concerned about the set netters who do not check their nets often enough. Have it mandatory to have nets with marked names and contact information. That way we as fisherman and village enforcement can take action to get these nets out of the river and manage our fisherman to take care of their set nets. This isn't right for people to be wasting good fish. I also don't like to see people cutting fish and discarding fish parts near the shore line ((Reference to sports fisherman that were seen outside of Bethel, during a transfer off a plane. Had disposed their salmon's unwanted parts (some of these parts were good for eating "considered waste") on the beach at the planes drop off/ pick up sites.)) People need to take their catches home or to their fish camps and process them there.

Akiak- Jackson Williams- Meetings were held in the village, despite the fishing closures. We went fishing during our traditional times, which is June. The Chinook were pretty fat this year, like Yukon Chinook. I'm thankful, today, for this year that the Akiak elders voted not to have a fishing weir put into their river at the Kisaralik. In regards to the moose population for this area is good. They have caught moose that were really close by the village. We didn't have to go far this year as some years. I would support traditional use for moose for funerals, which has been done traditionally.

Eek- William Charlie Brown- I'm thankful to be here. I will be glade when my term expires, but I will probably serve another term again. I agree with Chuck Chaliak, because he does the fish camps in eek. Due to price of gas, people have to travel far for fishing. Since, my fish camp is near the mouth of the Eek River. I don't have to travel very far from my home now. ADFG salmon management extension of closures was not accepted by the people at all. The first closure was good for all including the salmon, but when it was extended many people didn't accept the management decision. When the extensions were implemented the main fish surge had already passed by. The Japanese earthquake is sure to affect us and Alaskan waters in the near future. Radiation exposure is exposed to the sea and land life of all living things.

10:25AM Zechariah Chaliak had arrived delay due to weather.

Bethel- Mike Riley- This year's fishing season started off slow at first and there were not very many people opposing the decisions of the fishery closures. Referring back to William Charlie Brown of Eek, I agree with him. We need to keep a look out for is the radiation from Japan, effects such as malformed fish or animals. Moose hunting season was good; especially some that were caught close by. When the Joint Board proposals for creating Bethel as a non-subsistence area. There were many people that were very pleased to hear that the proposal had failed. Everyone was happy that the proposal did not pass.

Tuluksak-Willie Phillip- Fisheries issues: Due to the high costs of fuel prices, a lot of fisherman started the season off late and slow. Before the barges arrived towards the middle of June our gas prices were almost \$10.00 per gallon. The only thing that the people of Tuluksak are concerned about is upcoming in 2014 summer season was the management is expecting more low returns. Wildlife issues: There were a lot of moose around Tuluksak this year and many Tuluksak residents were happy. This moose hunting season many people came back to Tuluksak, because of drunken reckless hunters above and below Kalskag. People were afraid of getting shot or something bad happening. There was a rumor that there was going to be a moose hunting extension this season and a lot of people were happy. The moose have been migrating towards the ocean and the elders are saying they are heading down to the coast. When there is going to be a shortage or starvation all the animals will head toward the ocean. Tuluksak residents brought up this issue almost each

year before moose hunting. That people shouldn't go hunting and drink. They don't mix and drinking causes trouble for other hunters, including their selves. There were people that went out hunting for Caribou up by NYAC and spotted a herd. While they were hunting, the herd got spooked by a plane that was flying too low.

Napaskiak- John Wassillie-Last year's gas prices had really slowed down fishing in the beginning of the season. Fishing for Chinook wasn't easy. People who caught little over 20 kings were happy and done with Chinook. Moose season was ok too. A lot of hunters did well and some even were caught near his house.

(12:30PM- 1:30PM Lunch Break, Chairman Charles Called to Order 1:40PM)

X. RESOURCES REPORTS:

A. State Of Alaska Department Of Fish & Game (543-2433)

i. Wildlife Division: Phillip Perry/ Patrick Jones- Confirmed

Phillip Perry, ADFG Wildlife- We will talk more about Wildlife when we go through the proposals, but a quick summary. 118 moose harvested, 6 day season. 114 tickets not returned yet. About 1,400 were returned. Ceremonial moose hunts are available upon approval.

ii. Subsistence Division: Jeff Parks- Confirmed

Mike Riley, Bethel- When will you be publishing?

Jeff Parks, ADFG Subsistence- There are reports that have already been published, data was collected from 2012.

James Charles, Tuntutuliak- I was up at Aniak and one of my questions. There are different ways of going to the gold mine; they have a lot of money to go other routes than utilizing barges as main transportation. They are planning on over 100 barges going up the river and back down that would be too many and it will effect our subsistence way of life. The barges will come into effect and discourage salmon from coming up the river, due to the barges disturbing the habitat. I would greatly appreciate that ADFG Subsistence backs us up. We want to keep our subsistence way of life for village way of life.

Earl Samuelson, Sr., Napaskiak- I have a question. Since, Donlin Gold have there been a decline or incline in the subsistence way of life?

Jeff Parks, ADFG Subsistence- We only survey a village or town once in a decade.

Earl Samuelson, Sr., Napaskiak- Thank you for coming down to Napaskiak, we greatly appreciated it.

iii. Sports Fisheries Division: John Chythlook- Invited

iv. Commercial Fisheries Division: Travis Ellison- Confirmed

Travis Elison, ADFG Area Manger Biologist: We have had low chinook returns over the years and coming into 2014 we are planning on being more conservative. Kings and Reds started out strong, but dwindled fast as the Chums did ok. Our goal that we will be shooting for is 65-100 thousand. We did have 12 days of restrictions this season, because the run started looking like we would meet our goals. Based on BTF, subsistence reports... then about June 24-25, BTF and Subsistence reports were slowing way down. We took action to restrict mesh size to provide opportunity for subsistence while conserving for Chinook salmon. By that time the Chinook salmon had already reached the peak and passed. _Travis_ (See Report). 2014- Chinook are projected to be poor; we will be going into next season with a more conservative management. Starting out with a 6" mesh size, closing the beginning and opening sometime near June 15-16? We will be going into 2014 extremely cautious and our main goal is reaching the escapement goal as our priority. Subsistence in Kuskokwim River has a lot of

harvest power. 54 thousand-125 thousand which doesn't leave much for harvesting... In a short amount of time harvesting goes in the thousands in one day, even with restrictions in place to reduce Chinook salmon catch. We are going to work hard to implement restrictions and organized matter for less confusion. I'm working with the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group to discuss management options for this upcoming summer 2014.

Chairman James Charles, Tuntutuliak- Yesterday, Beverly Hoffman, Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group Co-Chair was here with recommendations from the working group. First 3 items basically started the season with no fishing, using windows, and smaller mesh size. I told her that we, the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee, wanted them to see how the KRSMWG makes recommendations and help with the report of how we voted. There were some additions from this group that was recommended to the KRSMWG/ ONC Public Hearing for 12 Nov 2013, Cultural Center.

Travis Elison, ADFG - We will be looking at all... to relax the fishery than to close it. We do have the ability towards the later part of June, around June 18 where we will become more confident in our data.

William Charlie Brown, Eek- When I use to operate test fish in Eek, usually I catch fish on the last tide. Later, I ask questions how they were fishing in Bethel. After in the last fishery season, many of us weren't so pleased with how the fishery was managed. Because I use to operate the test fishery in Eek, people come to me with complaints and accusing me of the more consistency that we have with our test fish. We can only hope that the numbers of fish would change. We always fish 1 hour after high tide. (...)

Travis Elison, ADFG- In the past 2 years we have been mapping the bottom of the river to see how it's changing year after year. 15-20 year ago, Bethel Test fish has been a project that we have been using for a long time. We are improving our assessment and looking at sonar sights for a project here. It was attempted in the 90's that didn't work out. There is new technology out there that we are going to be looking into for here on the Kuskokwim.

John Wassillie, Napaskiak - I wanted to know what the difference is between the tides? (Reference Bristol Bay)- Salmon like to go up the beach there. What's the difference between Bristol Bay and Kuskokwim River?

Travis Elison, ADFG - We don't have a test fishery at the mouth of the Kuskokwim. Bristol Bay the fish move on the in-coming tide and their catches will be higher as fish move in closer. Kuskokwim it will be more energy efficient for the salmon. (Tidal change reference between Bethel and Coast). Catches may not be the highest possible, but were not looking to catch the most, we are trying to be consistent.

Sandra Nicorai, Kwethluk- Windows we went through a few years ago worked. I liked windows, because we were able to plan other activities around fishing. When everyone was out fishing at the same time, it seemed like people weren't able to catch. There were so many people fishing at the same time that they weren't catching any salmon.

Travis Elison, ADFG - If the river is closed for 3-4 days, people are not fishing, fish are able to move up the river. I wanted to ask from a fish cutter perspective. What point would you say that is not enough fish?

Sandra Nicorai, Kwethluk - It is up to my mom, she knows how much salmon we need to have enough food for the winter. When she dies I will take over and I will decide.

Travis Elison, ADFG - How many families do you fish for and does your keep fishing for them too.

Sandra Nicorai, Kwethluk –We fish for our family, includes extended.

William Brown, Eek- What ages of salmon are being expected to return or come back, regarding 4 year old salmon returning. What age are you expecting this coming 2013 season?

Travis Elison, ADFG - We collect thousands of scales during the summer, during the fall we have someone that looks at those scales and does the data. (Gives examples of scaling process). We haven't gotten that data finished/compiled just yet. We will have it by January 2014 and we hope to have an idea of the age group.

Mike Riley, Bethel- What projected date are you planning on starting the season closed.

Travis Elison, ADFG - For the Lower Kuskokwim River, June 1st would be the earliest we would start restrictions. Most years kings trickle through, so more like the June 7th. My hope is to put out definite dates before the season starts in May. We are hoping to put out notice in May, starting with rolling closures, chum and sockeye restriction 6". People can anticipate a period of fishing and see how that works out.

Mike Riley, Bethel- Would there be a mesh restrictions?

Travis Elison, ADFG - When we decide to close it for kings (...), (...) 4" mesh size "whitefish" if it does remain slow run, we will go to a 6" mesh.

Mike Riley, Bethel – What about 4" drifting?

Travis Elison, ADFG - In the regulation, 4" is not to target salmon. Troopers will probably site for that, because it is not defined.

John Wasillie, Napakiak- They are swimming way down at the bottom, salmon swim on the bottom we would use a 454 deep and sometimes we wouldn't catch nothing, when the wind comes up the fish come closer to the surface.

Travis Elison, ADFG- We see better catches with south west and westward winds

William Charlie Brown, Eek- (...) *Unable to understand translation.*

Travis Elison, ADFG- I looked into that last summer, from all the info it doesn't have an effect on fish, esp. Kwethluk

Chairman James Charles, Tuntutuliak- We as Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group on teleconference we help report our catches with village subsistence reports from Eek to lime village. To let the people know that you are using more than BTF data to manage the run.

Travis Ellison, ADFG- 2012 there were a lot of questions. We did get a little bit of info from the mouth of the river and I expect it to be similar to last year.

Henry Tikiun Sr., Atmautluak- If he is referring to your report on the Chinook Salmon that it looked good in the beginning and dropped off. He is looking for where did the fish go when then dropped off like that. A fisherman from Tuluksak went fishing upriver and had caught 30-40 Chinook. Then another person went fishing up there and only caught 1 Chinook. He is for Commercial fishing, but commercial fishing doesn't make money anymore like they use to back in the good ole days.

Zechariah Chuck Chaliak, Nuanpitchak- Reverting earlier down by Napakiak sonar, Bethel Test Fish should be doing something to check on the fish before they reach Bethel. Suggesting having a Test Fish prior to the fish reaching the Oscarville choke in the river or after reaching Bethel, to honestly see how much fish are not passing that area. We have been complaining about people fishing in Bethel,

which has a high population. We look at the Chinook run before they reach Bethel and we will have proof to what we are saying. To look at the numbers before they reach Bethel and how many pass Bethel, we can then solve the problem of how many fish you need and how much restriction needs to be put on areas with higher harvests per person or household.

Travis Elison, ADFG – No, we have talked about it a lot. Salmon that are entering into the river down by Eek. It's hard to access the abundance down river, but would be possible by Napakiak to put sonar system. It's just harder to get a number, one day you can catch 1 fish another you can catch a lot.

John Wasillie, Napakiak - I think it's a good idea, fish go anywhere. Looking into the map a best place to set a sonar system is where the river doesn't split.

Travis Elison, ADFG - I agree.

Zechariah Chuck Chaliak, Nuanpitchak- I have one more thing to say, some elder years ago, some year's fish runs are pretty fast they go up river fast and are gone. People who wait too long miss the runs and this is not new news. Those years when fish are running, don't wait too long to go fishing. They may not be there. He knows this year seems to be going by fast and gone.

Earl Samuelson, Sr., Napaskiak - I was trying to see the counts on the Kisaralik River to compare them to the Kwethluk River.

Travis Elison, ADFG - Kwethluk River page 11 is on that table, Chinook salmon weir escapements. There were questions on the escapement with the total estimate, (refer to the summary)

Earl Samuelson, Sr., Napaskiak – Does the decreasing number in Chinook salmon, have anything to do with the increase or decrease in traffic or barge traffic of certain traditional salmon migrating routes? A lot more people go up the Kwethluk no these days and I was wondering if that has any effect on the migrating salmon? If not that would really be something to look at.

Travis Elison, ADFG -We just don't have the info to look at the cause and effects. Apart of it is to assess the number of boats and number of salmon going up.

Earl Samuelson, Sr., Napaskiak- Kisaralik doesn't have a weir and it's hard to look at the numbers between the rivers.

Travis Elison, ADFG - We try to operate the weirs in a way that makes it easy for the salmon to go up to the natural spawning grounds. There has been times that fish do get held back and have to navigate through the weir. Although, it doesn't discourage or stop them from finding the weir's gate to get through. 1st time this year they operated a video system on the Kwethluk. They don't have to let people sit and count the salmon passing through and close the gates. We are now looking for other tributary weir systems to install a video system.

Earl Samuelson, Sr., Napaskiak - If the weir is or without a video system, how reliable is that data?

Travis Elison, ADFG - Its more controlled by how productive and successfully produced that is influenced by the habitat for the fish. We generally consider the compactly in Kwethluk and Kisaralik. It's hard to compare Kwethluk and Kisaralik rivers. Ariel surveys are tricky with high water levels and muddy water conditions. We are not able to see very well compared to clear water. Weirs don't have an influence of how many salmon spawn in that stream.

Jackson Williams, Akiak- Last year we had a working group, a lady from Crooked Creek that was talking about how surprised they were to be catching Kings in May. That tells me that some years Chinook passes under the Ice. Now, I believe that now by your report and how it doesn't account for salmon

that passed under the ice. Last year Willie mentioned that the elders use to estimate the amount of salmon by the swallows. I believe that, if there is no ice or ice they are still swimming when the swallows arrive.

John Nicholas, Kasigluk- Salmon are running up river fast as they can to spawn and I had experienced this before long ago growing up on the Kuskokwim. It has happened to me too. I agree with what the elders had to say about the salmon and how they fluctuate depending on seasons, year, winds, and any other "So called, traditional knowledge." That was how they timed the fish coming for many years, just because there is no proof. Doesn't mean that they never knew the difference between time and run timing. When there is a lot of wind that pushes the salmon up the river, it increases the pulse timing and abundance. I don't know how the run is going to be next year, because our traditions are dying, having to rely on your restrictions and telling us when we can or can't fish. Our children aren't free to learn these traditions, because we can't show them how anymore.

Mike Riley, Bethel- Mr. Jackson had a question about salmon running under the ice.

Travis Elison, ADFG - That happened this summer, 2 days before 1st of June? Bethel Test Fish started fishing around the 1st June and didn't catch till later that June. They actually had some big escapement numbers with chinook. That looked like; based on the timing they went under the ice before we started fishing.

Earl Samuelson, Sr., Napaskiak - So, it is true that salmon run under the ice. Is it possible for the escapement numbers would be more, if you had recorded at least an average abundance of salmon that actually went under the ice? After acknowledging that Chinook swim under the ice, is the Bethel Test Fish and Weirs counts going to start earlier? Isn't that what we are trying to accomplish is achieving escapement numbers?

Travis Elison, ADFG - June 15th. 1 week operation till we see the first chinook. I don't think we missed any of the counts. If we did, we do know that we missed fish that swam under the ice. We acknowledge that fish that are not counted for when they swim under the ice past Bethel, but there is a time frame that it take for them to reach the spawning grounds. We usually have our weirs in place, before they reach that point.

Mike Riley, Bethel - Where do you project the Chinook goes to spawn, when you don't even know when they arrive or pass the Bethel Test Fish site. Mostly when you do not have any one out fishing, due to the ice?

Travis Elison, ADFG - By using the general trend. It's not like the head waters, the salmon are all mixed and in general. Sooner stocks are upriver, later arriving stocks spawn down river.

John Andrew, Kwethluk- This is how I estimate the chinook run, but this year I didn't. I was going to try, but not lately with the Kisaralik, Kwethluk and Tuluksak closures. Based on the previous question about estimates, I use that old fishing memory. More than 10 years and 15 years ago... I didn't fish the early part of June. Being born in that river, I wasn't worried. As I was setting the net the Chinook were already hitting my net, I caught 8 Chinook in about 5 minutes. 10 years to 15 years ago at same fishing spot, same technique, even with high water close to the mouth of that river. 2 days of setting my set net, I caught 60 chinooks.

Charlie Brown, Eek- The fisherman's reports during the season helps the management's decisions.

LOWER KUSKOKWIM F&G ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

Long House Conference Room, Bethel, Alaska

NOVEMBER 12th, 2012 (Day 2)

- XI. **WELCOMING & CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman James Charles
- XII. **OPENING CEREMONY:** Ayaprun Dancers (Tentative arrival)
- XIII. **INVOCATION:** Jackson Williams, Sr.
- XIV. **ROLL CALL/ ESTABLISH QUORUM:** Secretary Sandra Nicolai

AC MEMBERS: 15 members present Quorum Established: Yes

Phillip	K.	Peter, Sr.	Akiachak
Willie	E.	Phillip	Tuluksak
Frank		Bezerkin	Oscarville
Mike		Riley	Bethel
Willie		Kernak	Napakiak
Jackson		Williams, Sr	Akiak
James	A.	Charles	Tuntutuliak
John		Nicholas	Kasigluk
Sandra		Nicolai	Kwethluk
John	W.	Andrew	Kwethluk
William	F.Charlie	Brown	Eek
Henry	A.	Tikiun	Atmautluak
Zechariah	C.	Chaliak	Nunapitchak
Earl		Samuelsen, Sr.	Napaskiak
Richard		Larson, Sr.	Napaskiak

XV. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. United States Fish & Wildlife:
- i. 2014-2015 Fish & Wildlife Proposals
- B. Public Hearing Nov 12th, 2013 Cultural Center:
- i. 2014 King Salmon Management Issue
- C. Public Hearing Nov 13th, 2013 Cultural Center:
- i. Federal Subsistence Board Rural Determination

XVI. BOARD OF GAME PROPOSALS (DARK NAVY BLUE 2013-2014 BOOK) - REVIEW & APPROVAL

- A. Arctic/ Western Region Proposals; Pages 1-17
- B. Statewide Regulation Cycle A Proposals; starting at Page 197

XVII. COMMENTS:

Alissa Joseph, Coordinator: Awards and Certifications

John Nicholas- Kasigluk

Frank Berezkin- Oscarville

Zachariah Chaliak, Nunapitchak

James Charles, Tuntutuliak

Jackson Williams gave speech of gratitude to all four gentlemen. Thanking them for being willing to put their thoughts and ideas to help the local people.

James Charles noted that the governor appointed the first group of LKAC, now the villages appoint the committee members now.

Motion to choose James Charles as representative for LKAC to BOG KOTZ- Jackson Williams 2nd- John Wassillie, Unanimously passed.

XVIII. NEXT MEETING

- A. LOCATION: On Call of Coordinator Date: 5/24-25/2014

XIX. 11:47PM ADJOURNMENT/ CLOSING BENEDICTION Z. Chaliak
Motion- William C. Brown 2nd- Earl Samuelson

LOWER KUSKOKWIM FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE
State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game Board of Game Proposals
Discussion and Voting Meeting Records

November 11th, 2013

NO.	Vote	Comment or Suggestions:
1	Supported / Adopted	<p>Modify the Lower Yukon Area for moose hunting in Unit 18. Phillip Perry & Patrick Jones ADFG Wildlife introduced the proposal Discussion: <u>Earl Samuelson, Sr. Napaskiak</u>- Have you guys talked with the people of the Lower Yukon? <u>Mike Riley, Bethel</u>- At the lower end, there are a lot of people that use that area are from Pitkas point, St.mary's, Russian mission and few from elsewhere. On the Yukon river only on high water, there are few that go hunting. Most of the people that I know will enjoy that to get wood, moose and support that change. They will have that time to discuss that with the Lower Yukon and that we should show them that we are in support of it. Question called by John Nicholas</p> <p>Motion to Support- Mike Riley, Bethel 2nd- Jackson Williams, Akiak, Unanimous</p>
2	Supported / Adopted	<p>Modify the Lower Yukon Area for moose hunting in Unit 18, extend the resident season, and liberalize the bag limit. Phillip Perry & Patrick Jones ADFG Wildlife introduced the proposal Discussion: <u>Phillip Peter, Akiachak</u>-What is the difference between the resident and non-resident? Clarification of proposal by AC members to understand the impact of this proposal. Question:</p> <p>Motion to Support- John Andrew, Kwethluk 2nd- Mike Riley, Bethel, Unanimous</p>
3	Support w/ Amend: Change date to end of February.	<p>Modify the season and bag limit for moose in Unit 18 Remainder and Lower Yukon Area. Phillip Perry & Patrick Jones ADFG Wildlife introduced the proposal Discussion/Question: AC questioned what Central Bering Sea AC did and was answered that CBSAC amended the Closing date. <u>Earl Samuelson, Sr. Napaskiak</u>-Amend to end of Feb, the season is too long. 2nd- by Phillip Peter, Akiachak</p> <p>Motion to Support Amend-Phillip Peter, Akiachak 2nd-Mike Riley, Bethel, Unanimous</p>
4	Support	<p>Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 18. Phillip Perry & Patrick Jones ADFG Wildlife introduced the proposal Discussion/Question: (<i>No discussion was brought forward.</i>)</p> <p>Motion to Support- Phillip Peter, Akiachak 2nd- William Brown, Eek, Unanimous</p>

5	Oppose/ Failed	<p>Open a subsistence musk ox hunt in Unit 18 and 19. Phillip Perry & Patrick Jones ADFG Wildlife introduced the proposal Discussion: <u>John Andrew, Kwethluk</u>- I'm not in favor for opening unit 18 and unit 19. Musk ox's productivity is too low and the survival instincts are very aggressive. <u>Earl Samuelsen, Sr. Napaskiak</u>- they are moving, but they go back where they are born. <u>Patrick Jones, ADFG</u>- we believe that it would be premature to hunt moose in the area.</p> <p>Question- Earl Samuelsen, Napaskiak Motion to Support-Jackson Williams, Akiak 2nd- John Wassillie, Napaskiak, Unanimous</p>
6	Support w/Amend: Higher quota	<p>Remove the upper limit of Nelson Island musk ox registration permit issued for the winter season. Retain the requirement that permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. Phillip Perry & Patrick Jones ADFG Wildlife introduced the proposal Discussion: <u>John Wassillie, Napaskiak</u>- Can we amend to a higher quota, before opening a hunting season?</p> <p>Motion to Support-Sandra Nicori, Kwethluk 2nd- Earl Samuleson, Napaskiak, Unanimous</p>
7	Oppose/ Fail	<p>Hunting season and bag limits for wolverine. Discussion/ Questions: <i>(No discussion was brought forward.)</i></p> <p>Motion to Oppose- Earl Samuelson, Napaskaik 2nd- John Andrew, Kwethluk</p>
8	Oppose/ Fail	<p>Hunting season and bag limits for fur animals. Discussion/ Questions: <i>(No discussion was brought forward.)</i> <u>John Andrew, Kwethluk</u>- He and his Dad trapped Feb through March to sell fur. Earlier than Feb. the fur is still too short. Questions called by Earl Samuelson, Napaskiak</p> <p>Motion to Support- William Brown, Eek 2nd- Earl Samuelson, Napaskiak</p>
9	Support	<p>Hunting season and bag limits for fur animals. Discussion/ Question: <i>(No discussion was brought forward.)</i></p> <p>Motion to Support- Earl Samuelson, Napaskiak 2nd- Phillip Peter, Akiachak, Unanimous</p>
10	Support w/ Amend:	<p>Description of game management units. Discussion/ Questions: Jackson Williams <u>AC member</u>-Even down river people go there and they like that area. Most people that go hunting at bogus or Umarvik. I kind of like this boundary, if you change it. People from down river will need to know the current boundary and I feel that people will not like this new boundary. <u>Phillip Perry, ADFG</u>- Central Kuskokwim and Lower Kuskokwim haven't agreed and I don't think there will come to a consensus. The change here the black line and it's a big change. I feel that the testimonies would be against that this recommendation. <u>James Charles, Tuntutuliak</u>- Who drew that black line? <u>Phillip Perry, ADFG</u>- The black line encompasses all the drainages that drain below Kalskag. According to the language that is what is interpreted. It would affect all that area of unit 19 into unit 18, those changes would be implemented. <u>James Charles, Tuntutuliak</u>- Is that the boundary for now? Sounds like these people would like to keep unit 18 areas. Bob wants a land mark to change the boundary instead of</p>

		<p>straight line; he said that people don't hunt on paper. They don't go far off the river. In winter time it is hard to tell the boundary line.</p> <p>(See last page for amended boundary line made by Lower Kuskokwim AC.)</p>
11	Opposed	<p>Unlawful methods of taking big game; expectations. Discussion/ Questions: (No discussion or question was brought forward.)</p> <p>Motion to Oppose- Earl Samuelson- Napaskaik 2nd- Mike Riley, Bethel, Unanimous</p>
12	<p>Support w/ Amend:</p> <p>All major edible portions (Brest, legs, most of the wing, and neck) must be salvaged.</p>	<p>Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides Discussion/ Questions: <u>Earl Samuelson, Napaskiak</u>- I would like to amend according to the elders. We eat all of what we catch (otherwise animal (bird) will be less plenty in the future.) We save even the feathers too! A state law states it is lawful to take just the bird breast meat.</p> <p>Sandra Nicori read amendment 2nd- John Wassillie, Napakiak, Unanimous</p> <p>Motion to Support- Earl Samuelson, Napaskiak 2nd- John Andrew, Kwethluk</p>