

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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

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

April 3 and 4, 2014

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am on April 3, recessed after 5:00pm, reconvened at 9:00 on April 4, and adjourned close to 5:00pm on April 4. Total meeting time was just under 12.5 hours, with periodic breaks and breaks for lunch. A quorum was maintained throughout the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Emergency Petitions: status update

The Endangered Species Act: what it is, and what it isn't. *presentation by Dave Cannon*

Possibility of a Federal Tier II designation for Kuskokwim kings (804 determination)

2014 MANAGEMENT TOOLS: how will they be applied-*led by Travis Elison*

- New Regulation?
- Schedule
 - Early Season
 - Late Season
 - Main Schedule (from previous discussion)
- Bethel Test Fish
 - Bill Bechtol, AVCP presentation on Bethel Test Fish tool.

2014 MANAGEMENT: Communicating the Working Group message.

LOOKING AHEAD: Possible Regulatory Proposals from the KRSMWG.

Working Group Business meeting:

- Membership
 - Election of officers (co-chairs)
 - Seat and alternate elections
 - Meeting participation
 - Adding additional representative seats to the Working Group

WORKING GROUP ACTION ITEMS: *these items were not called "action items" at the time of meeting; however work was assigned or volunteered.*

1. Prepare and distribute talking points. *Assigned/volunteered: Dave Cannon-distributed on 4/9/2014*
2. Prepare an Emergency Petition to the Board of Fish to allow managers to designate 4-inch mesh gillnets as setnet only in the Kuskokwim River during times of salmon conservation if appropriate. *Assigned/volunteered: Dave Cannon- distributed on 4/11/2014*
3. Draft letters to NOAA and tribal agencies suggesting that disaster funds be allocated to the purchase of gear for Kuskokwim subsistence users and to further salmon research in the Kuskokwim drainage. *Assigned/volunteered: Chris Shelden- draft provided to co-chairs 4/09/2014*
4. Distribute letters releasing Working Group members who have not been able to participate in 2013. *Assigned/volunteered: Chris Shelden- mailed 4/07/2014*
5. Continue discussion of by-laws and representation at a future meeting. *Working Group will call for this item when ready.*

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WORKING GROUP MOTIONS: For full verbiage and description of motions, see the section on Motions, starting on page 4.

1. To approve the agenda as amended. (No opposition).
2. To approve Henry Mitchel to represent CVS to act in the interests of the Processor seat for the next couple of days. (No opposition)
3. The lower section of the Kuskokwim River will close to subsistence salmon fishing on the 15th of May in 2014. Motion Passed (9 yea, 1 no)—*See Motions 6 and 7*
4. To recess the meeting until 9:00am April 4. Motion passed (unanimous).
5. The department will issue a news release explaining that based on run assessment; the department will open the lower section of the Kuskokwim River to the use of dipnets in mid-June (subsequently rolling upriver by section). The news release would also indicate that the first opening for drift gillnet (restricted to 6-inch) is anticipated to occur in the last week of June. Motion passed (unanimous).
6. The Working Group will reconsider motion 3. Motion passed (unanimous).
7. Schedule salmon closure in [conservation] section 1 and 2 on May 20 and apply closures to [subsequent] upriver sections every three days. Motion passed (9 yea, 1 no).
8. The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group will submit an emergency petition to the Board of Fish to allow the department to limit the use of 4” mesh gillnets to setnets only, subject to time and area, in the mainstem Kuskokwim River between May 20 and June 30. Motion passed (9 yea, 1 no).
9. The KRSMWG will support the statement presented in the meeting regarding talking points to be distributed in the name of the Working Group. Motion passed (unanimous).
10. This group requests state and federal managers that, to the extent possible and through some special action, provide special use permits to tribal councils, upon request, for the harvest and distribution of up to 30 king salmon per community earlier in the run. Motion passed (unanimous).
11. Draft letters to NOAA, AVCP, and BSFA requesting that a portion of Salmon Fisheries Disaster funding be provided for the purchase of gear for Kuskokwim River subsistence fishers and for further research for the purpose of rebuilding king salmon stocks. Motion passed (unanimous).
12. Retain the current co-chairs. Motion passed (unanimous).
13. Elect Peter Snow to become Upriver Elder and Peter Tony to become the alternate to the Headwaters Subsistence seats. Motion passed (unanimous).
14. Elect Nick Kameroff and Lisa Feyereisen as alternates to the Middle River Subsistence seat. Motion passed (unanimous).
15. Remove those members that did not participate in 2013, with the exception of Carl Morgan who was assigned to serve by the Western Interior RAC. Motion passed (unanimous).
16. To move Fritz Charles to the position of Member at Large, and make Henry Lupie alternate to that seat. Motion passed (unanimous).
17. Accept Greg Roczicka as an alternate of to the YK Delta RAC seat pending approval of that group. Motion passed (9 yea, 1 abstention).
18. Elect Henry Mitchel to serve as an alternate to the Processor seat. Motion passed (unanimous).

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD: April 3, 2014:

- 1) Dan Gillikin of KNA, presented a proposal to create a community based permit system which would allow for a very limited harvest of Chinook salmon (for a “taste of fish”) as had been discussed in previous meetings. Dan presented graphics depicting harvest trends affecting Chinook salmon, compared with fish passage. He discussed the power of communities to harvest, and the effect that

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would have on the prosecution of fisheries later in the season. Dan pointed out that if all the identified harvestable kings were allocated in a permit system early in the fishery, there would be a delay in opening the fishery for chum and sockeye salmon later; based on an increased risk of exceeding the harvestable level of kings. Dan proposed a very limited, community based harvest quota be identified, in which a small number of users could harvest a very small number of Chinook salmon to be distributed in their communities early in the season. By limiting the early harvest, managers would ensure there was some surplus left that could be taken incidentally and without harm during mesh size restricted chum and sockeye salmon openings in late May; which would allow users to make use of these species and not adversely impact the Chinook salmon run.

- 2) Mark Leary spoke in protest, saying that managers are not invested in the communities or the subsistence way of life that they serve. He strongly stated that he didn't understand how the Working Group could get people to buy into a system over which they had no control and in which those that did have control had no long term stake. He pointed out that some individuals that represented important communities were not present and said that he did not feel comfortable voting on management and conservation strategies until the whole team was there. He said that he would participate in discussion but would not vote and would defer to his alternate until those members could participate. Several other individuals spoke in support of Mark's point of view while also encouraging people to continue to participate in spite of frustrations that they feel. They told Mark that they respected his feelings and participation and commented about the difficulty of trying to work in the best interests of people.
- 3) Gene Peltola of the Federal Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) requested time to speak. Gene began by making an appeal to the Working Group with respect to how they treat state and federal resource managers. He spoke about verbal abuse to his children and late night drunken phone calls and asked people to remember that managers are doing the best they can in the interests of the resources and the people, and to remain respectful even when frustrated. *Further comments from Gene were captured below in the section regarding Federal tier II or 804 designations.*

AGENDA ITEMS:

EMERGENCY PETITIONS: status update: *to read the emergency petitions, see the March 11 Informational Packet.*

Travis Elison provided detail on two emergency petitions submitted to the Board of Fish by the Working Group. One petition would allow the use of gillnets for subsistence harvest of chum and sockeye salmon and exclusion of Chinook salmon in 2014, at a time of Chinook salmon conservation concern. The other petition would allow the department to limit net length in subsistence fisheries, also to help conserve Chinook salmon. Travis informed the Working Group that the Board of Fish had adopted both emergency petitions, giving the department the ability to implement both gear restrictions for the purpose of conserving kings while allowing opportunity on other species. Travis went on to state that the authority had been passed on to the commissioner of Fish and Game to adopt those as permanent regulations.

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: what it is and what it isn't-

Dave Cannon recalled that on a couple of occasions, individuals had suggested that someone seek an endangered species designation for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon as means of providing protection. Dave took some time to describe the process and possible outcomes of such a designation. He defined an endangered species as one very close to being lost completely; and the population in question would represent a group that is reproductively and genetically isolated from other populations. The loss of that

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population would represent a major loss in genetic diversity. Discussion indicated that upper Kuskokwim Chinook salmon, though a little different from other local populations of Chinook salmon, are not distinct enough to represent a separate species. Dave went on to point out, that although the endangered species designation is a great tool for protecting species in peril, it would have drastic management implications that could severely impact all sorts of human activities, especially subsistence, and not just with respect to Chinook salmon. Any activity that had even a small potential to affect Chinook salmon could be limited or prohibited. Dave suggested that such a designation would be one of only very last resort.

POSSIBILITY OF A FEDERAL TIER II DESIGNATION FOR KUSKOKWIM KINGS (804 determinations):

Gene Peltola of OSM spoke about the process of consideration that would determine whether an 804 designation were made with respect to Kuskokwim Chinook salmon. He stated that a request had been made in this regard and that documentation and preparations had been made to determine, in the event of restrictions, how resources would be allocated. He stated that decisions had not been made, as of April 3rd, and that upcoming meetings would determine the future course of events. *This part of the conversation took place between the emergency petition and endangered species discussions.*

Greg Roczicka discussed a document that ONC had submitted to the federal government concerning how a tribal permit system might be justified, organized, and administered. He noted that, if permits were provided to all active fish camps, that accidental overharvest could have a detrimental effect on 2014 Chinook salmon numbers. However, the possibility of a permit system in the future that would govern all harvest should be discussed. He presented a plan in which permits would be limited to groups or individuals that possess traditional means for harvesting, and persevering salmon.

Discussion also included an individual or fishcamp permit system for future consideration; the possibility of defining localized ANS (amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence); and permits systems based on longevity or possession of a smokehouse; as well as discussion of who that might be left out by such permit systems.

2014 MANAGEMENT Tools:

New Regulation: *See Motion 8, below.*

Schedule: Staff presented run timing and harvest timing data to inform discussions on fishing schedules. Bethel Test Fish and fish wheel data were also examined to show why managers believe they know when fish begin arriving in numbers. Others cited early season catches of Chinook salmon in the upper river as evidence that there might be an early run of fish that was not well documented. It was suggested that numbers bound for those tributaries were small enough that they might be hidden among the larger numbers of fish bound for lower tributaries, but still a vital component of the run in need of conservation. This conversation influenced the Working Group's development of Motion 3 (*below*).

On the second day, discussion regarding the closure date resurfaced. Motion 6 reopened the question. Motion 7 attempted to address both manager's concerns for providing opportunity on non-salmon species, and the desire to protect the early part of the run bound for upper river tributaries. Working Group members attempted to ensure that there would be protection for early arriving Chinook salmon by suggesting that both the lower sections of the river close on May 20th, with subsequent rolling closures in sections upriver.

Other scheduling discussion revolved around whether opportunity to catch Chinook salmon should be provided inseason. In a preliminary schedule discussed in previous meetings (*April 3 and 4*

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Informational packet, final page), some small opportunity was suggested in each of the conservation sections. Short openings were tentatively scheduled in such a way as to not allow users in each section to fish on the same group of fish. The department couldn't guarantee that any harvestable surplus would be available, and Working Group members leaned in the direction of not scheduling openings that might later be canceled. They favored the idea of waiting for inseason run assessments and scheduling openings if and when indices indicated that Chinook salmon numbers could sustain some limited harvest. Permit systems were discussed and it was clarified that the department didn't have the ability to limit qualified users from harvesting in any part of the River.

The discussion moved on to the subject of when to relax restriction to provide some opportunity for gillnet fishing for chum and sockeye salmon. Bethel Test Fish data were examined to determine an appropriate date in which small mesh nets (6-inch or less) would be saturated by chum and sockeye, limiting the catch of Chinook salmon. It was clarified that opportunity for chum and sockeye salmon would be limited by any harvest of Chinook, and that any allocation of Chinook salmon early in the season should take that into account. It was suggested that if conservation were successful early in the season, and if a relatively small portion of the projected Chinook salmon surplus had been harvested, it would be fairly safe to open to limited mesh size gillnetting sometime around the first week of July to provide opportunity for chum and sockeye harvest.

Bethel Test Fish: Bill Bechtol of AVCP presented an analysis of the Bethel Test Fish Tool that had been used in 2013. Discussion included a synopsis of the tool, a brief assessment of its utility, and caveats inherent in the tool. Bill suggested that the tool always be used very conservatively, considering the degree of uncertainty associated with its predictions.

Time and Area: At the request of the Working Group, staff discussed the pros and cons of moving the lower end of the first conservation section further into Kuskokwim Bay. Pros included a higher degree of certainty that Kuskokwim Chinook salmon would be protected from local subsistence fishers. Cons included the difficulty in marking that area to make it clear for users whether or not they were within the restricted zone when fishing in Kuskokwim Bay. Discussion on this topic occurred on both the first and second days of meetings. The department agreed to use its emergency order authority to extend the conservation zone by ten miles and to define it for the public using GPS coordinates, recognizing that some might not have this equipment and find themselves in violation of closed areas.

Dipnets: Managers discussed the run timing of chum and sockeye salmon and suggested that there would be potential for a dipnet fishery opportunity around June 18th. Working Group members suggested starting dipnet opportunity earlier. This opportunity would not replace gillnet opportunity because it could be provided in times when that gillnets could not be allowed. It was agreed that dipnets provide a good option for harvesting subsistence chum and sockeye salmon without adversely affecting Chinook salmon escapements.

2014 MANAGEMENT: communicating the Working Group message.

The working group discussed various means for transmitting the conservation message to community members. These included radio reporting, radio call-in shows, internet (including Facebook), and newspapers. The Working Group also agreed upon a set of talking points to help structure conversations and better enable them to take messages out to the communities. The talking points appear below:

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Since 2010 the Kuskokwim River has experienced the two lowest returns of king salmon on record- 2013 being the lowest ever. Neither 2010 nor 2013 surpassed the lower bound of the desired drainagewide escapement goal of 65,000. The 2014 return is expected to be similar to last year.

*Because of the drastic decline of the king salmon, the **Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group** realizes that king salmon conservation measures are necessary to provide king salmon for future generations.*

In an attempt to get adequate kings to the spawning grounds in 2014, the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group supports the following measures:

- *No targeted king salmon fishing in 2014.*
- *Commercial and sport fishing for king salmon will be closed.*
- *Starting May 20 - subsistence salmon fishing in the lower river will be closed.*
- ***4" mesh gillnets no longer than 60 feet** in length will be allowed for the harvest of whitefish and other non-salmon species. Whitefish nets should be **secured on one end to the bank** as is typical for whitefish harvest (incidentally harvested king salmon in these nets can be kept).*
- *Dip nets to be allowed starting around mid-June to harvest chum and red salmon and other non-salmon species – all king salmon captured in a dip net **cannot be removed from the water and must be released immediately.***
- *In-season information will be assessed daily to determine at what point additional opportunities may be employed to harvest chum and red salmon (for example, the allowance of 6" or less drift and set gillnets during late June).*

The king salmon escapement goal, or the amount of kings returning to spawn, was not met in 2010 or 2013. The minimum of 65,000 kings for the entire Kuskokwim River was barely met in 2011 and 2012.

This is why the Working Group members all agree that conservation measures are necessary to bring back the king salmon to normal levels...but it will take sacrifices by all.

LOOKING AHEAD: Possible Regulatory Proposals from the KRSMWG

The Working Group discussed drafting an emergency petition that would allow managers to designate the use of 4-inch mesh gillnets as "setnet only" during times of salmon conservation. This was in an attempt to address a limitation placed on state managers with respect to allocation of fish resources between people that primarily setnet vs. driftnet. This suggestion was made in recognition of the fact that 4-inch mesh gillnet is most commonly used to capture whitefish and other small species, and is typically used as a setnet. In 2012, subsistence users found ways to capture salmon, including Chinook salmon, by drifting with 4-inch mesh gillnets that were allowed for the use of non-salmon species during closures. This petition would close this gap and provide managers a means to prevent subsistence users from harvesting from stocks of concern.

Working Group Business Meeting:

Election of Officers: See Motion 12 below.

Seat and Alternate Elections: See Motions 13,14,16,17, and 18 below.

Meeting Participation: See Motion 15 below.

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Adding new representative seats to the Working Group: Mark Leary explained that he had suggested this topic because interest from the Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee to have representation on the Working Group. This would provide more voices from upriver. He further explained that he had since learned that if a seat were created for that Advisory Committee, there were at least four others that would require representation, several of which would be held by lower river residents. Bev Hoffman suggested reexamining the by-laws to discuss this possibility further with respect to either ACs or other representative groups.

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

Motion 1: to approve the agenda as amended. (no opposition):

The agenda was discussed and some minor changes were suggested. Notable departures included allowing Mark Leary to comment at the beginning of the meeting rather than the end; and adding a presentation by Bill Bechtol to the section related to management tools.

Motion 2: to approve Henry Mitchell to represent CVS to act in the interests of the Processor seat for the next couple of days. (no opposition):

Henry Mitchell attended the meeting as a representative of Coastal Villages Seafoods (CVS). The Working Group voted to allow him to participate in the capacity of the Commercial Processor's seat on behalf of CVS for the length of the meeting.

Motion 3: the lower section of the Kuskokwim River will close to subsistence salmon fishing on the 15th of May in 2014. Motion passed (9 yea, 1 no):

The Working Group discussed the most effective date to close Chinook salmon fishing in the Kuskokwim River. Much discussion centered on early season conservation of Chinook salmon bound for the headwaters. Department staff suggested that if the season were closed too early it would adversely impact whitefish and sheefish harvest in some portions of the river and it was not justified based on historical harvest and fish passage data. The department suggested that a closure starting the 20th of May would be a good compromise to protect early run fish and not hurt other harvest. Working Group members expressed a great deal of concern about the early run fish and advocated for the earlier closure date.

Motion 4: to recess the meeting until 9:00am April 4. Motion passed (unanimous): *Self-explanatory*

Motion 5: the department will issue a news release explaining that, based on run assessment; the department will open the lower section of the Kuskokwim River to the use of Dipnets in mid-June (subsequently rolling upriver by section). The news release would also indicate that the first opening for drift gillnet (restricted to 6-inch) is anticipated to occur in the last week of June. Motion passed (unanimous):

This motion grew from a concern related to providing Kuskokwim River community members with enough notice and information to proceed in the short term. The Working Group was also concerned about creating an expectation of openings, though they couldn't be guaranteed.

Motion 6: the Working Group will reconsider Motion 3. Motion Passed (unanimous):

Ray Collins, the maker of motion 3, suggested that the question could be reopened, taking into account the need for lower river villages to harvest non-salmon species early in the season.

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Motion 7: Schedule salmon closure in section 1 and 2 on May 20 and apply closures to upriver sections every three days. Motions passed (9 yea, 1 no):

In deference to the needs of lower river villages to harvest non-salmon species, and in recognition of manager's assertions that closures before May 20 would not be necessary, the Working Group reconsidered its earlier suggested closure date. The Working Group suggested a compromise with the department on the closure date: closures could start in both salmon conservation sections 1 and 2 on the 20th, and progress upriver normally from there, allowing for users to proceed with normal activity; but likely still preserving the early season Chinook salmon from harvest.

Motion 8: The KRSMWG will submit an emergency petition to the Board of Fish to allow the department to limit the use of 4-inch mesh gillnets to setnets only, subject to time and area in the mainstem Kuskokwim River between May 20 and June 30. Motion passed (9 yea, 1 no).

During discussions surrounding opportunity being provided on non-salmon species, ADF&G managers discussed the difficulty that can arise when allowing the use of small mesh gear in the river. In 2012, some subsistence users were able to use small mesh gear to drift and catch salmon. This was against the intent of the restriction but was a legal loophole, in that managers had the right to restrict mesh size but not how a net was deployed. The Working group decided to submit an emergency petition requesting that the BOF give the department power to restrict the use of 4-inch mesh nets, allowed for the harvest of whitefish and other non-salmon species, to setnet only, to better limit the harvest of salmon with this gear type.

Motion 9: The KRSMWG will support the statement presented in the meeting regarding talking points to be distributed in the name of the Working Group. Motion passed (unanimous).

On the second day of meetings, the Working Group convened a committee to come up with talking points. These points would, by mutual agreement, convey the Working Group message in 2014. The committee met during the lunch break and produced these talking points. *See above under: 2014 MANAGEMENT: communicating the Working Group message.*

Motion 10: This group requests that state and federal managers, to the extent possible and through some special action, provide special use permits to tribal councils, upon request, for the harvest and distribution of up to 30 king salmon per community earlier in the run. Motion passed (unanimous).

The topic of special use permits came up several times with respect to allocating the very small projected harvestable surplus of Chinook salmon in 2014. Discussion revolved around providing a "taste" of Chinook salmon to communities. The intent was to recognize a spiritual connection to the resource, and make some provision for it, while conserving as much of the resource as possible for the future. Allocations for each permit would be very small, both for overall conservation, and to help facilitate the relaxation of restrictions later in the season; and to provide opportunity on chum and sockeye salmon while these resources remain available. Too many Chinook salmon taken early in the season would interfere with allowing for opportunity later, as some Chinook salmon would be taken incidentally with chum and sockeye salmon.

The provision of these permits was discussed, considering the possibility of either state or federal control. Supporters of the idea argued that the state could recognize a precedent set by the potlatch moose regulation (5 AAC 92.034), which allows for moose to be taken under special circumstances for spiritual reasons. If the federal government were to take control of the fishery through special action, it would

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more easily have the power to develop and implement a permit system using its existing regulation. Logistically, the implementation of a permit system would be difficult for either agency.

Motion 11: Draft letters to NOAA, AVCP, and BSFA requesting that a portion of Salmon Fisheries disaster funding be provided for the purchase of gear for Kuskokwim River subsistence fishers and for further research for the purpose of rebuilding king salmon stocks. Motion Passed (unanimous).

John Linderman, ADF&G regional supervisor for AYK, informed the Working Group of funding available through a commercial fisheries disaster declaration from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries (NMFS) office. Linderman discussed the possibility of funding the purchase of dipnets for Kuskokwim fishers using this funding and suggested that the Working Group could write a letter asking that NMFS consider that possibility.

Motion 12: Retain the current co-chairs. Motion Passed (unanimous).

Co-chairs Bev Hoffman, LaMont Albertson, Casie Stockdale, Fritz Charles, and Mark Leary were reelected for 2014.

Motion 13: Elect Peter Snow to become Upriver Elder and Peter Tony to become alternate to the Headwaters Subsistence seats. Motion Passed (unanimous).

Dan Esai nominated Peter Snow for election to the seat of Upriver Elder, and Peter Tony to act as alternate to the Headwater Subsistence seat on the Working Group. Both men had indicated prior to the meeting that they would accept these positions if the Working Group voted to elect them.

Motion 14: Elect Nick Kameroff and Lisa Feyereisen as alternates to the Middle River Subsistence seat. Motion passed (unanimous).

Lisa Feyereisen and Nick Kameroff were nominated to act as alternates to the Middle River Subsistence seat on the Working Group. Both had prior indicated a willingness to serve.

Motion 15: Remove those members that did not participate in 2013, with the exception of Carl Morgan who was assigned to serve by the Western Interior RAC. Motion passed (unanimous).

Over the past year, several Working Group alternates had not participated in meetings. The Working Group, citing Article 3, section 6 of its by-laws, opted to release them from service.

Motion 16: to move Fritz Charles to the position of Member at Large , and make Henry Lupie alternate to that seat. Motion passed (unanimous).

This action was agreed upon by both Fritz Charles and Henry Lupie prior to the April meetings.

Motion 17: Accept Greg Roczicka as an alternate of the YK Delta RAC seat pending approval of that group. Motion passed (9 yea, 1 abstention).

Citing the fact that there is currently no alternate to the YK Delta RAC seat, the Working Group voted to accept Greg Roczicka be made alternate, pending the approval of the RAC.

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Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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

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Motion 18: Elect Henry Mitchel to serve as an alternate to the Processor seat. Motion passed (unanimous).

Henry Mitchell was formally accepted as the new primary seat holder for the Processor seat on the Working Group. His affiliation with CVS was considered sufficient to meet by-law requirements for his election to the group.

COMMENTS FROM THE WORKING GROUP:

Bev Hoffman thanked agency staff from both the state and federal government for facilitating and helping to keep things on track. She stated that she would like to see an opportunity for lower river people to see the spawning grounds. Bev, recognizing that Travis Elison was leaving his position, presented him with some gifts from the Kuskokwim community to thank him for his service and remind him of his time in the area.

Travis Elison said that he would miss working with the group and said he was very impressed by the Working Group and the Kuskokwim people. He said that the group was facing the most difficult issues it ever had, and that the ability of the group to work together and work with staff was phenomenal. He said he was very impressed that the group had been able to come away with consensus from this meeting.

Dave Cannon said that the key to success was fishermen sticking together, and that this meeting represented that very thing. He hoped that the group would continue to work together through the coming summer.

Mark Leary said that the best outcome of the meeting had been the resolution over the permit system for the villages. He respectfully urged the department to make it happen. Travis Elison, and later, Jennifer Yuhas of the Federal Liaison's office, stated that the upper levels of the department were working very hard to find a way to accommodate the permit system, and there had already been good progress. Yuhas attributed this effort directly to the urgings of the Working Group and thanked them for their commitment and participation.

Ray Collins expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Working Group and the agencies to protect the headwaters fish as evidenced by motions above. He said that he hoped that he hadn't made a mistake by suggesting a later closure.

Dan Esai recognized Ray Collins for his many years of commitment and for listening to the headwaters elders and looking out for them. He also stated that showing proper respect for salmon resources was necessary for those resources to continue to be available.

Greg Hoffman, a recently added member, said that it was difficult to make sense of everything. Other members shared that sentiment saying it had taken them time to reach their current understanding.

John Andrew expressed appreciation for Travis' service over the years, and accepting him in an honorary roll as a community member, told Travis to come back and fish for him in the future.

Greg Roczicka expressed understanding with members who had voiced frustration with the process. He said that "when people trust you, it's a very, very scary place to be..." He encouraged people to stick with the process. He said that there is a big difference in perception between the users and managers, and though it has improved over the years, differences still exist. He encouraged users to continue their long tradition of being masters of adaptation, and make the most of the tools now available under the changing conditions they now find themselves in.

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Bob Aloysius said that he was glad that young people were interested in participating in the Working Group. He complained about not being able to hear much of the proceedings in the meeting. He also appealed to members to seek recognition from the chair before they speak. He asked participants to please not interrupt speakers.

LaMont Albertson recalled the migratory bird co-management efforts and suggested some of those strategies might be applied to Kuskokwim salmon resources. He suggested that we were looking at the beginning of some long term adjustments to the local way of life. He said he would talk to federal managers to see if funds for such an effort might be available. He also said that he hoped the villages would request a means to institutionalize the permit system each year through state management. LaMont finished by thanking staff for their efforts to work with the Working Group.

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (**ADF&G**), Orutsararmiut Native Council (**ONC**), Kuskokwim Native Association (**KNA**), 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**)

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WORKING GROUP ATTENDANCE:

MEMBER SEAT:	NAME:
DOWNRIVER ELDER	John Andrew
UPRIVER ELDER	<i>Vacant</i>
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Greg Roczicka
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Dave Cannon
UPRIVER SUBSISTENCE	Mark Leary
HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE	Dan Esai
MEMBER AT LARGE	<i>Absent</i>
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	Ray Collins
YK DELTA RAC	Bob Aloysius
COMMERCIAL FISHING	Charlie Brown
SPORT FISHING	Bev Hoffman
PROCESSOR	Henry Mitchel (<i>interim</i>)
ADF&G	Travis Elison
CHAIR	LaMont Albertson

Other Participants:

ADF&G Comm. Fish: Aaron Tiernan, Aaron Poetter, Brittany Blain, Maureen Horne-Brine, Chris Shelden, Zac Liller, Kevin Schaberg, Dan Bergstrom, John Linderman, Glen Lyndsey, Colton Lipka, Davin Taylor, Josh Clark, Tracy Hansen, Amy Brodersen, Rob Stewart; Jordan Head

Sport Fish: John Chythlook, Tom Taube

Subsistence Division: Lisa Olson, Hiroko Ikuta, Dave Runfola

ADF&G Liaison Team: Jennifer Yuhas

USFWS: Brian McCaffery, Robert Sundown, Spencer Rearden, Ken Harper, Steve Miller, Vince Matthews, Aaron Moses,

OSM: Don Rivard, Pippa Kenner, George Pappas, Gene Peltola,

Dan Gillikin (KNA)	Barbara Carlson (Upper River Subsistence alternate)
Rebecca Frye (KNA)	Casie Stockdale (Lower River Subsistence alternate)
Roberta Chavez (ONC)	Shawna Thoma (Senator Begich's office)
Carl Berger (LKEDC)	Kate Schaberg (Georgetown Traditional Council)
Bill Bechtle (AVCP)	Lisa Feyereisen (Native Village of Chuathbaluk)
Jennifer Peeks	Deborah Vo (Senator Murkowski's office; Rural Outreach Coordinator)
Matt Catalano (Auburn Univ)	Ben Matheson (KYUK Radio)
Ben Staton (Auburn Univ)	Charles Enoch (KYUK Radio)
	Doug Molyneaux (Unaffiliated)

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