

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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

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

June 11, 2025

On Wednesday, June 11, 2025, the KRSMWG meeting was called to order at 10:14 a.m. and adjourned at 12:18 p.m. Meeting time was approximately 2 hours and 4 minutes. A quorum was established with 8 voting members. Barb Carlson chaired the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS AND SUMMARY INFORMATION:

A. USFWS MANAGEMENT UPDATE: *Audio for this update begins at 16:45 – Meeting Audio – 6/11/2025*

- Announced openings, upcoming meetings,
- Kwethluk River Outgoing smolt project update, Nate Akers, *Meeting Audio 23:45 – 6/11/25*

B. ADF&G MANAGEMENT UPDATE: *Audio for this update begins at 33:33 – Meeting Audio – 6/11/25*

- a. Sections 4 and 5: Current announcement, proposed opener June 12
- b. State waters of the Aniak River: Proposed to remain closed to gillnets, selective gears allowed but king salmon must be released alive
- c. Aniak Box: Proposed remain closed to retention of king salmon, selective gears open for all species except for king salmon.

C. People to be heard *Audio for this update begins at 42:55 – Meeting Audio – 6/11/25*

- a. Teresa Simeon: supports Subsistence sections 4 and 5 to open for fishing on June 12th
- b. Allen Simeon: concerned about trawlers in Kuskokwim Bay, supports June 12th opener in Subsistence Sections 4 and 5
- c. Dan Esai: supports opening Subsistence Sections 4 and 5
- d. Ivan Ivan: wants Agenda faxed to him
- e. Danny: “no reason to shut us down, there isn’t enough of us to warrant shutting us down at all”
- f. Kevin Whitworth: before the closure people were catching sheefish and whitefish, someone above McGrath caught a king but it got away, wants motions email, justification for proposed opener.

D. Subsistence Reports: *Audio for this update begins at 1:01:00 – Meeting Audio – 6/11/25.*

a. Lowest River:

- Avery: everyone is catching more than in last years, excited and happy.
- Tad: good May fishing, lots of people have fish hanging, Johnson River- not a lot of fish
- James: some people were doing good, others not. Salmon are bigger than last year.
- Alissa: fishers are doing better on morning tide, average 14 males to 1 female morning tide, afternoon tide is 4 male to 1 female, smelts almost done, ciscos are in Bethel, blackfish are over.

b. ONC Inseason Subsistence Harvest Report

- Jacob Wade: Fish camps are getting ready, not fishing yet, people are bringing their catch back to town. Harbor surveys: catches are location dependent, people want openers grouped closer together so easier to teach grandkids how to fish. People are excited about a lot of fish.

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c. KRITFC Inseason Harvest Report

- Justin Leon: see packet page 5-19, summary of interviews, harvest estimates and concerns by opener, more openers requested, fishing got better with time, setnetting spots are difficult. Non salmon harvest break down as well

d. Lower River

- Mike Williams, Sr: Broad whitefish and sheefish coming in May, Chinook were caught in the first setnet opener, looking better and bigger than last year, better catches may be coming from the lower water levels, has been sharing Working Group information with Akiak, Kwethluk, Akiachak and Tuluksak.

e. Middle River

- Walter Morgan: fishing is slow, caught some kings, only 4 eddies in the Kalskag area

f. Upper River

- Allen Simeon: reports hearing about 1 fisher catching mostly sheefish in setnets. Another fisher: driftnets caught some kings all males, warm weather expected, concerned about water levels.

g. Headwaters

- Barb Carlson: nothing in the fishwheel, surprisingly cold and clear water, broad whitefish and sheefish in the setnet over many days, size and quality of whitefish was remarkable, algae growth, some kings reported in Crooked Creek.
- Kevin Whitworth: everyone is holding off fishing.

E. 2025 Assessment projects:

- *Audio for this update begins at 1:28:00 – Meeting Audio – 6/11/25.*
- Sean Larson, ADFG, assessment updates-speaks to the king and sockeye salmon runs, about sonar passage, Aniak Test Fishery (NVN), meeting packet pages 20-24
- Dan Gillikan, NVN, speaks about updates on the Aniak Test Fish, Salmon River weir
- Justin Leon, KRITFC, updates on Takotna River weir, Salmon River camera monitoring, Kwethluk screw trap, water temp loggers.

F. ADF&G Management, Subsistence Sections 4, 5 Discussion on Specific Management Actions:

- *Audio for this update begins at 1:49:03 – Meeting Audio – 6/11/25.*
- Sam Decker presents ADFG recommendations for fishery management actions in the state waters of the Kuskokwim River.
- **Date to open Subsistence Sections 4 and 5**
 - Proposed June 12th, 12:01 a.m.
 - Motion to support (*Passed, Unanimous*)
 - **Aniak Box**
 - Proposed to remain closed to retention of king salmon, selective gear allowed, all other salmon species may be kept

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G. WORKING GROUP BUSINESS:

- Update on teleconference platform switch: *Audio for this presentation begins at 1:55:15 – Meeting Audio – 6/11/25*
- Motion to move to Zoom, discussion, amended to change July 2 or asap. (*Passed Unanimous*)

H. COMMENTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS: *Audio begins at 2:04:30 – Meeting Audio – 6/11/25*

- a. Avery, updating membership list, encourages folks to watch Attenborough Oceans documentary.
- b. Tad, question about federal regulation, discussion.
- c. Mike, had many phone calls about illegal fishing.

I. Next meeting: Wednesday, 6/18/25 at 10:00am

Meeting adjourned 12:18 pm

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. WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

Motion 1: adopt agenda *Passed (Unanimous)*

- *Audio begins at 0:16: – Meeting Audio –6/11/25.*

Motion 2: Extend meeting by 30 minutes. *Passed (Unanimous)*

- *Audio begins at 1:48:30 – Meeting Audio – 6/11/25.*

Motion 3: Support the ADF&G recommendation of June 12th opener in Subsistence Sections 4 and 5.

Passed (Unanimous)

- *Audio begins at 1:50:00 – Meeting Audio – 6/11/25.*

Motion 4: Proposed to move the teleconference to Zoom. *Passed (Unanimous)*

- *Audio begins at 5:27:00 – Meeting Audio – 6/11/25.*

Motion 5: move to adjourn. *Passed (Unanimous)*

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WORKING GROUP ATTENDANCE:

MEMBER SEAT:	NAME:
DOWNRIVER ELDER	<i>Absent</i>
UPRIVER ELDER	<i>Excused</i>
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Mike Williams Sr.
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE	<i>Absent</i>
UPRIVER SUBSISTENCE	Barbara Carlson
HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE	Kevin Whitworth
MEMBER AT LARGE SEAT 1	Fritz Charles
MEMBER AT LARGE SEAT 2	Avery Hoffman
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	<i>Vacant</i>
YK DELTA RAC	Alissa Rogers
COMMERCIAL FISHING	Tad Lindley
SPORT FISHING	Lamont Albertson
KRITFC	James Nicori
ADF&G	Sam Decker
CHAIR	Barb Carlson

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<u>ADF&G Comm. Fish:</u> Sam Decker, Sean Larson, Madison Hardwig, Aaron Tiernan, Bailey Korkoske, John Linderman, Zach Liller, Bobette Dickerson <u>Sport Fish Division:</u> John Chythlook <u>Subsistence Division:</u> Jane Jacobs <u>Commissioner's Office:</u>	
<u>USFWS:</u> Spencer Rearden, Aaron Moses, Frank Harris, Brian Daniels, Nate Akers, Christopher Toolik, Emmitt Nicori, Jill Klein, Deja Jackson, Kennedy Johnson <u>OSM:</u> Kevin Foley, Nissa Pilcher, Brooke McDavid <u>NVN:</u> Dan Gillikin <u>ONC:</u> Jacob Wade, Hayden Anning, Lea Valdez, Emily Madsen, Ester Deen, Mary Herrera Matthias <u>AVCP:</u> Amy Hendricks, Jennifer Hooper, Charlie Korthics, Ashley Johnson <u>KRITFC:</u> Kevin Whitworth, Terese Vincente, Justin Leon, Bill Bechtol, Joe Spader, Andrew Mabel <u>UAF:</u> <u>WIRAC:</u> <u>YK Delta RAC:</u> Alissa Rogers	
<u>WG Alternates: (not already listed above)</u>	<u>Media:</u>

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (**ADF&G**), Orutsarmiut Native Council (**ONC**), 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**), ADF&G Subsistence Division (**SD**), 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**),

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