

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

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

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

June 18, 2025

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m. on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 and adjourned at 12:16 p.m. Meeting time was approximately 2 hours and 11 minutes. 10 full voting members were present and a quorum was established. Fritz Charles chaired the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS:

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

A. SUBSISTENCE REPORTS:

B. 2025 ASSESSMENT

C. INTERCEPT FISHERY

D. MANAGEMENT DISCUSSIONS:

Subsistence sections 1-3 updates: USFWS/KRITFC

Sections 4-5: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)

E. MOTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

WORKING GROUP BUSINESS: teleconference platform discussion, WIRAC representative, KRITFC representative

WORKING GROUP ACTION ITEMS:

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

1. Approve the agenda. *Passed (unanimous)*
2. To add membership discussion. *Passed (unanimous)*
3. To extend the meeting to 12:30. *Passed (unanimous)*

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD: *Audio for this update begins at 14:15 – Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*

KRITFC/USFWS UPDATE:

ADF&G MANAGEMENT ACTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION:

SUBSISTENCE REPORTS:

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CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. ***Subsistence Reports*** *Audio for this update begins at 14:46 – Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*
 - a. Lowest River: Fritz Charles reported that the Sockeye salmon are prominent. *Audio for this update begins at 15:13 – Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*
 - b. ONC Inseason Subsistence Report: Jacob Wade (ONC) provided an overview of the ONC inseason harvest monitoring project. *(For more information on the ONC subsistence survey report, please see the June 18, 2025 Informational Packet)* *Audio for this update begins at 16:51– Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*
 - c. KRITFC Inseason Harvest Report: Justin Leon provided an overview of the KRITFC inseason harvest monitoring report. *(For more information on the ONC subsistence survey report, please see the June 18, 2025 Informational Packet)* *Audio for this update begins at 20:42 – Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*
 - d. Lower River: Tad Lindley reported people are satisfied with the salmon run and the harvest opportunities. Mr. Lindley reported that some users were confused about opener timing. Mike Williams, Sr reported high numbers of Sockeye and chum salmon. Mr. Williams, Sr commented that Chinook salmon appeared earlier than past years, but on time for average timing. Avery Hoffman reported harvest was better upper river than down river; however, most users have harvested most of their need. *Audio for this update begins at 38:56 – Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*
 - e. Middle River: Walter Morgan reported that fishers were participating in harvest opportunities. *Audio for this update begins at 47:16 – Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*
 - f. Upper River: John Andrew reported that a large proportion of Chinook harvest were jacks and there were low numbers of Sockeye and chum salmon. Barbara Carlson reported that the communities of Red Devil and Sleetmute have caught low numbers of Sockeye and Chinook salmon. *Audio for this update begins at 48:55– Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*
 - g. Headwaters: Kevin Whitworth (KRITFC) reported that there are low to no counts of salmon at the headwaters. Mr. Whitworth commented on low water and high volume of lightning and fire. Allen Simeon reported that gillnetting was successful in harvest. *Audio for this update begins at 51:07– Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*
2. ***Overview of Kuskokwim River Salmon run assessment Projects:***
 - a. ADF&G – Sean Larson: Sean Larson (ADF&G) provided an overview of the ADF&G assessment projects. *(For more information on the 2025 Inseason assessment projects, please see the June 18, 2025 Informational Packet)* *Audio for this update begins at 54:57– Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*

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- b. Aniak Test Fish – NVN/Dan Gillikin: Dan Gillikin and Sean Larson (ADF&G) provided an overview of the NVN assessment project. *(For more information on the 2025 Inseason assessment project, please see the June 18, 2025 Informational Packet) Audio for this update begins at 56:45 – Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*
- c. Smolt Project – USFWS/Nate Akers: Mr. Akers reported that as of June 16th, there was a 1.7% trapping efficiency for smolt chinook. All reported data is raw. Mr. Akers reported that the last day of survey is June 20th. *(There is no additional information on the USFWS smolt project in the Informational Packet due to late submission) Audio for this update begins at 59:01 – Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*
- d. ONC – Jacob Wade: Mr. Wade provided an overview of the ONC Inseason Subsistence Harvest Report. *(For more information on the 2025 ONC Inseason Subsistence Harvest Report, please see the June 18, 2025 Informational Packet) Audio for this update begins at 1:03:30 – Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*
- e. KRITFC: Mr. Leon provided an overview of KRITFC assessment projects. Mr. Leon reported that the Tekatna weir is installed and will start operations the week of June 22nd. *Audio for this update begins at 1:04:50 – Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*
3. ***Intercept Fishery Report***: Tad Lindley provided bycatch data from Area M. Mr. Lindley reported that 39,477 chums were from Western Alaska Stock but commented that genetic information wasn't collected to confirm. Mr. Lindley commented that Port Moler genetics reported 1.1% of the catch were Kuskokwim stock. *Audio for this update begins at 1:05:57 – Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*
4. ***YDNWR Management Update***: Spencer Rearden provided no update on anticipated subsistence openers. *Audio for this update begins at 1:10:47 – Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*
5. ***Discussion of ADF&G Management considerations and discussion of possible alternatives***: Sam Decker provided no current management considerations. *Audio for this update begins at 1:14:26 – Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ***Update on teleconference platform switch***: Sam Decker provided an update on the platform switch. Mrs. Decker commented that Zoom is in the process of being set up; however, there is no number to advertise yet. *Audio for this update begins at 1:20:07 – Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*

NEW BUSINESS:

1. ***Membership***: Sam Decker called upon Nissa Pilcher on the filling of the WIRAC seat. Currently, there is no one holding the seat. *Audio for this update begins at 1:21:58 – Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*

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WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

- 1. Approve the agenda. Passed (Unanimous)**
- 2. To add membership discussion. Passed (Unanimous)**
- 3. Extend the meeting to 12:30 p.m. Passed (Unanimous)**
- 4. Adjourn 12:16 p.m. Passed (Unanimous)**

COMMENTS FROM THE WORKING GROUP: *Audio for this begins at 1:26:12 – Meeting Audio – 6/18/25*

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WORKING GROUP ATTENDANCE:

MEMBER SEAT:	NAME:
DOWNRIVER ELDER	John Andrew
UPRIVER ELDER	Allen Simeon
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Mike Williams, Sr
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Walter Morgan
UPRIVER SUBSISTENCE	Absent
HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE	Kevin Whitworth
MEMBER AT LARGE	Fritz Charles
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	<i>Vacant</i>
YK DELTA RAC	Alissa Rogers
COMMERCIAL FISHING	Tad Lindley
SPORT FISHING	Lamont Albertson
PROCESSOR	<i>Vacant</i>
KRITFC	Absent
ADF&G	Sam Decker
CHAIR	Fritz Charles

Other Participants:		
<u>ADF&G Comm Fish:</u> Sean Larson, Madison Hardwig, Aaron Tiernan <u>Sport Fish:</u> John Chythlook <u>Subsistence:</u> Jane Jacob		
<u>USFWS:</u> Nate Akers, Spencer Rearden, Aaron Moses, Brian Daniels, Chris Tulik, Emmet Nicori <u>OSM:</u> Nissa Pilcher		
Jacob Wade (ONC) Essie Bean (ONC) Aisha Jackson (ANSEP) Amy Hendricks (AVCP)	Ashley Johnson (AVCP) Dan Gillikin (NVN) Terese Vicente (KRITFC)	<u>Media:</u> <u>WG Alternates:</u>

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (**ADF&G, department, State**), Orutsararmiut 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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