

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

1 (888) 788-0099 OR Zoom. Us 816 6267 8969 Code: 849016

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

June 10, 2026

Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m. on **DAY, MONTH DATE, YEAR** and adjourned at **XXX** p.m. Meeting time was approximately **X** hours and **X** minutes. **XXX** full voting members were present and a quorum was established. **XXX** chaired the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS:

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

A. SUBSISTENCE REPORTS

B. OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS

- a. ADF&G**
- b. USFWS**
- c. NVN**
- d. ONC**
- e. KRITFC**

C. MARINE FISHERY REPORT

D. YUKON DELTA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FISHERY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

E. ADF&G MANAGEMENT ACTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION

OLD BUSINESS:

F. ELECTIONS

G. LETTER OF SUPPORT

H. DISCUSSION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL DECISION ON AREA M REGULATIONS

WORKING GROUP ACTION ITEMS:

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

- 1. Approve the agenda. There was no quorum to approve the agenda or bring forth other motions.*

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD: *There were no people to be heard during this meeting.*

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

A. *Subsistence Reports*

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1. Lowest River: Avery Hoffman provided a subsistence report for ONC. Mr. Hoffman reported that fishers are catching some kings and some chums during the first fishing opportunities. Tad Lindley also reported on the tide conditions and how that is affecting the catches. *Audio for this update begins 8:26 – Meeting Audio – 6/10/26.*
 2. Lower River: James Nicori provided a subsistence report for his section of the river and reported that some fishers were catching chum. Fritz Charles reported that people were fishing near the mouth and on the coast.
 3. Middle River:
 4. Upper River:
 5. Headwaters: Kevin Whitworth reported that no salmon had been caught near McGrath yet but fishers were catching pike and whitefish. Mr. Whitworth also reported that the river is rising and becoming more turbid.
- B. Overview of Kuskokwim River Salmon run assessment Projects:**
1. ADF&G: Sean Larson provided an update on ADF&G assessment projects: weirs, sonar, and telemetry. Mr. Larson addressed reasons for late reported sonar numbers. *Audio for this update begins at 13:17 - Meeting Audio – 6/10/26*
 2. USFWS: Spencer Rearden provided an update on their openers and fishers' success, as well as future openers. *Audio for this update begins 18:40 - Meeting Audio – 6/10/26*
 3. NVN: Dan Gillikin provided an update for weir project timelines and catch rates within the George river. Mr. Gillikin reported that ATF has not catch anything yet. Bryanna Sherer provided a project overview for the turbine smolt impact study. *Audio for this update begins 22:23 – Meeting Audion – 6/10/26*
 4. ONC: Avery Hoffmon provided an update for ONC and their harbor surveys. Mr. Hoffman also reported on upcoming fish camp surveys. *Audio for this update begins 26:24 – Meeting Audio – 6/10/26*
 5. KRITFC: Justion Leon provided an update for KRITFC and their harvest estimates. *Audio for this update begins at 27:27 – Meeting Audio – 6/10/26*
- C. Marine Fishery Report:** Justin Leon provided an update on the marine fishery and updated the Working Group on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. Mr. Leon reported bycatch numbers and the transition to the new fishing season. *Audio for this update begins 42:09 – Meeting Update – 6/10/26*
- D. YDNWR Management Update:** Spencer Rearden referenced his previous announcement and update. *Audio for this update begins at 57:56 – Meeting Audio – 6/10/26*
- E. Discussion of ADF&G Management considerations and discussion of possible alternatives:** Sam Decker provided an update on the front-end closure in Sections 4 and

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5, and the related announcements. *Audio for this update begins at 1:00:24 – Meeting Audio -6/10/26*

OLD BUSINESS: *There was no quorum so no actions were taken on the below old business items.*

F. Elections – Charles Guest

G. Letter of Support: George River Weir

H. Discussion of Attorney General decision on Area M regulations

NEW BUSINESS: *No new business was addressed at this meeting.*

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

1. Approve the agenda

2. Adjourn

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

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WORKING GROUP ATTENDANCE:

MEMBER SEAT:	NAME:
DOWNRIVER ELDER	Absent
UPRIVER ELDER	Absent
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Excused
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Absent
UPRIVER SUBSISTENCE	Absent
HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE	Kevin Whitworth
MEMBER AT LARGE	Fritz Charles
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	<i>Vacant</i>
YK DELTA RAC	Absent
COMMERCIAL FISHING	Tad Lindley
SPORT FISHING	<i>Vacant</i>
PROCESSOR	<i>Vacant</i>
KRITFC	James Nicori
ADF&G	Sam Decker
CHAIR	Avery Hoffman

Other Participants:		
<u>ADF&G Comm Fish:</u> Sean Larson, Madison Hardwig, Aaron Tiernan		
<u>Sport Fish:</u> John Chythlook		
<u>Subsistence:</u> Tim Bembenic		
<u>USFWS:</u> Spencer Rearden, Aaron Moses, Nate Akers, Kennedy Johnson, Shania Fundings		
<u>OSM:</u>		
NVN: Dan Gillikin, Bryanna Sherer KRITFC: Justin Leon, Erald Moraty	ONC: Lia Valdez, Amber Chase AVCP: Emma Daniel	<u>Media:</u>
		<u>WG Alternates:</u>

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS:

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