

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 17, 2026

Meeting called to order at 10:01 a.m. on Wednesday, June 17, 2026 and adjourned at 11:12 a.m. Meeting time was approximately 1 hour and 11 minutes. Six 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. 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: Tad Lindley provided a subsistence report. Mr. Lindley reported that fishers had better success than the last opportunity though the fish were smaller. Mr. Lindley also reported that there were a lot of chums being caught. *Audio for this update begins 6:04 – Meeting Audio – 6/17/26.*
2. Lower River: Dr. Mike Williams, Sr reports that fishers had fewer catches than last opportunity, and catches were predominantly whitefish and sheefish.
3. Middle River:
4. Upper River:
5. Headwaters:

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 commented on run timing *Audio for this update begins at 13:18 - Meeting Audio – 6/17/26*
2. USFWS: Spencer Rearden provided an update on their openers and fishers' success, as well as future openers. Mr. Rearden also commented on continued delays with the Kwethluk weir installation due to high water. *Audio for this update begins 20:02 - Meeting Audio – 6/17/26*
3. NVN: Dan Gillikin was not present to provide an update.
4. ONC: Jacob Wade provided an update for ONC and their harbor surveys. Mr. Wade also reported that ONC's fish distribution program starts today. *Audio for this update begins 24:14 – Meeting Audio – 6/17/26*
5. KRITFC: Justion Leon provided an update for KRITFC and their harvest estimates from the last federal fishing opportunity. *Audio for this update begins at 30:58 – Meeting Audio – 6/17/26*

C. **Marine Fishery Report:** Terese Vicente provided an update on the marine fishery, including transition to a new fishing season and bycatch numbers. *Audio for this update begins 39:44 – Meeting Update – 6/17/26*

D. **YDNWR Management Update:** Spencer Rearden provided no additional update. *Audio for this update begins at 57:14 – Meeting Audio – 6/17/26*

E. **Discussion of ADF&G Management considerations and discussion of possible alternatives:** Sam Decker provided no additional. *Audio for this update begins at 57:27 – Meeting Audio -6/17/26*

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

F. Elections – Charles Guest

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

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Meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

1. **Approve the agenda**
2. **Adjourn**

COMMENTS FROM THE WORKING GROUP: *Kevin Whitworth requested the topic of the Attorney General decision be placed back on the agenda for next meeting.*

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>

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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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