

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 24, 2026

Meeting called to order at 10:07 a.m. on Wednesday, June 24, 2026 and adjourned at 11:16 a.m. Meeting time was approximately **1 hour and 11 minutes**. Five full voting members were present and a quorum was established. Barbara Carlson 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. 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 in the morning, and that there were more chums than last year. Mr. Lindley also reported that the kings were large. John Andrew reported most people caught 20-40 kings and that morning fishing was more successful than the afternoon. *Audio for this update begins 11:49 – Meeting Audio – 6/24/26.*
2. Lower River: Dr. Mike Williams, Sr reports that fishers were happy with their catches though the low water caused time lost due to snags. Dr. Williams also reported that setnets primarily caught reds and that the flies were coming in. *Audio for this update begins 16:24 – Meeting Audio – 6/24/26.*
3. Middle River:
4. Upper River: Barbara Carlson reported that fish caught were primarily sheefish with some chinooks caught in Crooked Creek. Mrs. Carlson states the fish are moving up. *Audio for this update begins 19:01 – Meeting Audio – 6/24/26*
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, the comparison of this run to other years, and that fish are picking up. *Audio for this update begins at 20:37 - Meeting Audio – 6/24/26*
2. USFWS: Nate Akers reported that they are still monitoring the water levels at Kwethluk in hopes to install the weir. Mr. Akers also reported that given the weir installation timing, they will be fishing for trace elements research within the next week in Kwethluk and Kasigluk rivers. *Audio for this update begins 24:59 - Meeting Audio – 6/24/26*
3. NVN: Bryanna Sherer provided a report on Aniak Test Fishery as well as the incoming outgoing smolt data analysis. *Audio for this update begins 27:08 – Meeting Audio – 6/24/26*
4. ONC: Jacob Wade provided an update for ONC and their harbor surveys. Mr. Wade also reported that they will not be doing fish distribution on days there are openers. *Audio for this update begins 29:29 – Meeting Audio – 6/24/26*
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 33:52 – Meeting Audio – 6/24/26*

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 45:42 – Meeting Update – 6/24/26*

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- D. YDNWR Management Update:** Spencer Rearden reported that the USFWS will have their management meeting this afternoon and will provide updates afterwards. *Audio for this update begins at 1:00:20 – Meeting Audio – 6/24/26*
- E. Discussion of ADF&G Management considerations and discussion of possible alternatives:** Sam Decker provided no additional management considerations or discussions. *Audio for this update begins at 1:02:25 – Meeting Audio -6/24/26*

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

F. Elections – Charles Guest

G. AG Decision on Area M regulations

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

Meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

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

COMMENTS FROM THE WORKING GROUP:

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WORKING GROUP ATTENDANCE:

MEMBER SEAT:	NAME:
DOWNRIVER ELDER	John Andrew
UPRIVER ELDER	Absent
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Dr. Mike Williams, Sr
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Absent
UPRIVER SUBSISTENCE	Barbara Carlson
HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE	Absent
MEMBER AT LARGE	Excused
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	<i>Vacant</i>
YK DELTA RAC	John Andrew
COMMERCIAL FISHING	Tad Lindley
SPORT FISHING	<i>Vacant</i>
PROCESSOR	<i>Vacant</i>
KRITFC	Absent
ADF&G	Sam Decker
CHAIR	Barbara Carlson

Other Participants:		
<u>ADF&G Comm Fish:</u> Sean Larson, Madison Hardwig, Aaron Tiernan, Iris Fletcher		
<u>Sport Fish:</u> John Chythlook		
<u>Subsistence:</u>		
<u>USFWS:</u> Spencer Rearden, Aaron Moses, Nate Akers, Bryan Daniels, Chris Tulik, Christian Alexie, Jr, Emmett Nicori, Laurie Boeck		
<u>OSM:</u> Brooke McDavid		
NVN: Bryanna Sherer, Audrey Leary KRITFC: Justin Leon, Essie Bean, Terese Vicente, Charlee Korthuis	ONC: Jacob Wade AVCP: Emma Daniel Government: CJ McCormick	<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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