

# **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**

**July 8, 2026**

Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m. on Wednesday, July , 2026 and adjourned at 11:05 a.m. Meeting time was approximately 1 hour and 2 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 UPDATES**

### **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***

##### **1. Lowest River:**

*Meeting summaries are prepared and distributed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). The department is responsible for summary content. Summaries are not comprehensive or considered meeting minutes, and are designed to provide context on meeting proceedings for the convenience of interested parties/participants. Audio recordings of meetings can be found at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.kswg#2019>*

## 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

2. Lower River: Fritz Charles reported his family was done fishing except for coho salmon. Dr. Mike Williams, Sr reported that waters are rising more, sockeye salmon are continuing to pass, and Chinook salmon are becoming blush. Avery Hoffman reported that his family are continuing to fish and members of the community are dipnetting often. Alissa Rodgers reported that people haven't met their subsistence needs. *Audio for this update begins 13:12 – Meeting Audio – 7/08/26.*
3. Middle River: Allen Simeon reported lots of large chum. Mr. Simeon requested messaging to inform subsistence users that chums can be retained.
4. Upper River:
5. Headwaters: Kevin Whitworth reported that no one has nets in the water as the water is too high. Dan Essai reported on the poor quality of berries. *Audio for this update begins 26:28 – Meeting Audio – 7/08/26*

### 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 of sockeye and chum salmon, as well as the season projection. *Audio for this update begins at 34:44 - Meeting Audio – 7/08/26*
2. USFWS: Nate Akers reported that the Kwethluk weir will not be installed this year. *Audio for this update begins 41:47 - Meeting Audio – 7/08/26*
3. NVN: Bryanna Sherer provided a report on Aniak Test Fishery as well as the species demographics passing Aniak. *Audio for this update begins 43:55 – Meeting Audio – 7/08/26*
4. ONC: Avery Hoffman reported that harbor and boat surveys are continuing to be conducted. *Audio for this update begins 46:52 – Meeting Audio – 7/08/26*
5. KRITFC: Kevin Whitworth reported that the Takotna weir is fish tight and the camera monitoring on 4<sup>th</sup> of July creek has started though the water is too turbid. *Audio for this update begins at 47:46 – Meeting Audio – 7/08/26*

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 51:03 – Meeting Update – 7/08/26*

D. **YDNWR Management Update**: Aaron Moses mentioned the upcoming drift opportunity. *Audio for this update begins at 56:43 – Meeting Audio – 7/08/26*

E. **Discussion of ADF&G Management considerations and discussion of possible alternatives**: Sam Decker provided no additional management considerations or discussions. Madison Hardwig reported on the first commercial openers in the Kuskokwim Bay and that the next openers hadn't been announced yet. *Audio for this update begins at 57:37 – Meeting Audio -7/08/26*

*Meeting summaries are prepared and distributed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). The department is responsible for summary content. Summaries are not comprehensive or considered meeting minutes, and are designed to provide context on meeting proceedings for the convenience of interested parties/participants. Audio recordings of meetings can be found at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.kswg#2019>*

# **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**

**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 11:05 a.m.*

## **WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:**

**1. Approve the agenda**

**2. Adjourn**

## **COMMENTS FROM THE WORKING GROUP:**

*Meeting summaries are prepared and distributed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). The department is responsible for summary content. Summaries are not comprehensive or considered meeting minutes, and are designed to provide context on meeting proceedings for the convenience of interested parties\participants. Audio recordings of meetings can be found at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.kswg#2019>*

# 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

## WORKING GROUP ATTENDANCE:

| MEMBER SEAT:                    | NAME:                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| DOWNRIVER ELDER                 | Absent                |
| UPRIVER ELDER                   | Allen Simeon          |
| LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE         | Dr. Mike Williams, Sr |
| MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE        | Absent                |
| UPRIVER SUBSISTENCE             | Absent                |
| HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE          | Dan Essai             |
| MEMBER AT LARGE                 | Fritz Charles         |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> MEMBER AT LARGE | Avery Hoffman         |
| WESTERN INTERIOR RAC            | <i>Vacant</i>         |
| YK DELTA RAC                    | Alissa Rodgers        |
| COMMERCIAL FISHING              | Absent                |
| SPORT FISHING                   | <i>Vacant</i>         |
| PROCESSOR                       | <i>Vacant</i>         |
| KRITFC                          | Absent                |
| ADF&G                           | Sam Decker            |
| CHAIR                           | Fritz Charles         |

| Other Participants:                                                                                              |                                        |                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>ADF&amp;G Comm Fish:</u> Sean Larson, Madison Hardwig, Aaron Tiernan, Iris Fletcher, Kay Stewart, Zach Liller |                                        |                       |
| <u>Sport Fish:</u> John Chythlook                                                                                |                                        |                       |
| <u>Subsistence:</u>                                                                                              |                                        |                       |
| <u>USFWS:</u> Aaron Moses, Nate Akers, Bryan Daniels                                                             |                                        |                       |
| <u>OSM:</u>                                                                                                      |                                        |                       |
| NVN: Bryanna Sherer                                                                                              | ONC: Avery Hoffman                     | <u>Media:</u>         |
| KRITFC: Essie Bean, Terese Vicente,<br>Bill Bechtol                                                              | AVCP: Jennifer Hooper<br>Gabe Canfield |                       |
|                                                                                                                  | Government: CJ McCormick               | <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**)

*Meeting summaries are prepared and distributed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). The department is responsible for summary content. Summaries are not comprehensive or considered meeting minutes, and are designed to provide context on meeting proceedings for the convenience of interested parties/participants. Audio recordings of meetings can be found at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareakuskokwim.kswg#2019>*