

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 15, 2026

Meeting called to order at 10:06 a.m. on Wednesday, July 15, 2026 and adjourned at 11:03 a.m. Meeting time was approximately 57 minutes. Three full voting members were present and a quorum was established. Barb 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 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:

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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 – 7/15/26.*
3. Middle River:
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 17:45 - Meeting Audio – 7/15/26*
2. USFWS: Nate Akers reported that they are repairing Kwethluk rail structures and are prepping for telemetry tracking. *Audio for this update begins 23:50 - Meeting Audio – 7/15/26*
3. NVN: There wasn't anyone from NVN at today's meeting to provide a project update.
4. ONC: There wasn't anyone from ONC at today's meeting to provide a project update.
5. KRITEFC: Justin Leon provided a harvest report on the last USFWS openers and updated the working group on the Takotna weir.. *Audio for this update begins at 29:59 – Meeting Audio – 7/15/26*

C. Marine Fishery Report: Terese Vicente provided an update on the marine fishery and bycatch numbers. *Audio for this update begins 40:17 – Meeting Update – 7/15/26*

D. YDNWR Management Update: Nate Akers reported on the tributary closures in Section 1-3. *Audio for this update begins at 44:58– Meeting Audio – 7/15/26*

E. Discussion of ADF&G Management considerations and discussion of possible alternatives: Sam Decker reiterated the most recent river announcement and the inseason outlook of chum and sockeye salmon. Madison Hardwig reported the Sunday closure in District 4 ends July 15 unless superseded by an announcement. *Audio for this update begins at 46:13– Meeting Audio -7/15/26*

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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 11:03 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	Absent
UPRIVER ELDER	Barb Carlson
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Dr. Mike Williams, Sr
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Absent
UPRIVER SUBSISTENCE	Absent
HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE	Absent
MEMBER AT LARGE	Albert Kawagley
2 nd MEMBER AT LARGE	Absent
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	<i>Vacant</i>
YK DELTA RAC	Absent
COMMERCIAL FISHING	Absent
SPORT FISHING	<i>Vacant</i>
PROCESSOR	<i>Vacant</i>
KRITFC	Absent
ADF&G	Sam Decker
CHAIR	Barb Carlson

Other Participants:		
<u>ADF&G Comm Fish:</u> Sean Larson, Madison Hardwig, Aaron Tiernan, Iris Fletcher, Kay Stewart, Zach Liller, Bailey Korkoske		
<u>Sport Fish:</u> John Chythlook		
<u>Subsistence:</u> Tim Bembenic		
<u>USFWS:</u> Nate Akers		
<u>OSM:</u> Brooke McDavid		
NVN: KRITFC: Essie Bean, Terese Vicente, Bill Bechtol, Justin Leon	ONC: AVCP: Government: CJ McCormick	<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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