

*Submitted by ADF&G at the request of Board Member Kluberton*

**Alaska Board of Fisheries**  
**Kuskokwim Subsistence Salmon Panel**  
First Committee Meeting – January 15, 2015  
Bethel, Alaska

**Public Listening Session Draft Synopsis**

Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Introductions of panel members and staff followed (see “Meeting Attendance”, below)

Robert Aloysius gave the invocation.

Chair Kluberton gave an overview of the panel mission, and then the listening session started.

The listening session went until around 5:30, with a few breaks.

As a starting point for discussion, following is a listing of many of the issues and potential solutions that people shared with the panel.

- They are in no particular order or ranking: they are numbered only so it is easier to refer to them.
- Also, the list may not be a complete list: there may be other issues and solutions that panel members heard from the listening session, or that panel members may wish to bring forward from their own expertise.

**Issues:**

1. Fair restrictions, clear mandates for equitable distribution.
2. Weirs not good for salmon.
3. Dip nets not used/useful.
4. 4-inch mesh used improperly; good for setnet, not for drifting; bad for small king salmon/king salmon, injures king salmon and they die.
5. 6-inch mesh not good, injures king salmon and they die.
6. Harvest opportunity for lush (burbot), whitefish, chum, sockeye, coho.
7. Drainagewide ANS is not working.
8. Village residents come in to fish in Bethel.
9. Fishing for elders, people with no boats, no money.
10. Lack of confidence that state will conserve and manage fish properly.
11. Maximum sustained yield does not work for subsistence.
12. RFIDs on setnet buoys.
13. If kings are taken, we are stealing younger generation’s food.
14. Not good to sit for a month without cutting fish; early closures not good.
15. Timing of harvest and bad weather/flyes/maggots; June is drying month, July is fly/maggot month.

16. Regulations are too complex (federal, state) to understand and to maintain customary and traditional ways of life.
17. No jobs, gas money, money for boats, motors.
18. If village quotas, a few fisherman will get all the fish, for their gas money.
19. Oppose Tier II and permits.
20. People need to be engaged in development of plan.
21. Refuge has one information technician, used to be near 20.
22. Lack of understanding by managers of culture.
23. ADF&G managers not in touch with communities on a daily basis/.
24. ADF&G managers do not live in or visit all the area/drainage/communities.
25. Forecasts unreliable – how could Dept allow continual fishing in 2013?
26. Allowing many 4-inch nets to cork off river at choke points increased king mortality.

### **Possible Solutions**

1. Village residents to review materials before season.
2. Managers living in area/managers visiting villages to see what people want.
3. Rolling closures/window openings (2 weeks on/1 week off, 4 days, in June).
4. No weir in Tuluksak, Kwethluk.
5. Village quotas.
6. Tier II.
7. Permits.
8. Seamless management scheme.
9. Nested ANS.
10. State to work more closely with federal subsistence board, federal managers.
11. Limit sport and commercial fisheries; sport fishermen on gravel/spawning beds.
12. Put bycatch restrictions on the trawlers.
13. Elder Native biologists to work with ADF&G.
14. Use 8-inch or 7.5-inch mesh to catch allocation and stop fishing allocation is harvested.
15. Moratorium on fishing, or moratorium on 4-inch mesh.
16. Hold pre-season meetings in area.
17. Open first part of June, shut down in July, small males in June, protect larger females in July.
18. Outreach program with ADF&G.
19. Refuge Information Technicians.
20. Improve cultural awareness & communications.
21. Opportunity provided for other species.
22. Start closed, protect kings until run size is known.
23. Impose restrictions in bay as well as in-river.
24. Make it a clear mandate to get fish into upper river.
25. Create working relationship between BoF and federal subsistence managers.

### **Meeting Attendance**

#### **Panel Members**

Robert Aloysius, At Large

Barbara Carlson, Stony-Holitna AC  
James Charles, Lower Kuskokwim AC  
Ray Collins, McGrath AC and Western Interior RAC  
Grant Fairbanks, At Large  
Dan Gillikin, Kuskokwim Native Association  
Nick Kameroff, Central Kuskokwim AC  
Mark Leary, Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group  
Robert Lekander, Bethel AC  
Art Nelson, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association  
Greg Roczicka, ONC  
Mary Sattler, At Large, Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

Board of Fisheries

Tom Kluberton, Panel Chair, (Vice Chair Board of Fisheries)  
Orville Huntington, Board of Fisheries  
Fritz Johnson, Board of Fisheries

ADF&G Staff

Lisa Olson, Division of Subsistence  
Jim Simon, Division of Subsistence  
Hiroko Ikuta, Division of Subsistence  
Forrest Bowers, Division of Commercial Fisheries  
Dan Bergstrom, Division of Commercial Fisheries  
Aaron Tiernan, Division of Commercial Fisheries  
Jennifer Yuhas, Division of Commercial Fisheries  
Tom Taube, Division of Sport Fish  
John Chythlook, Division of Sport Fish  
Glenn Haight, Boards Support  
Holly Carroll, Boards Support