

Overview of the Development and Implementation of the Kuskokwim River Household Subsistence King Salmon Permit System, 2018

by

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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Weights and measures (metric)		General		Mathematics, statistics	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code	AAC	<i>all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations</i>	
deciliter	dL	all commonly-accepted		alternate hypothesis	H _a
gram	g	abbreviations	e.g.,	base of natural logarithm	e
hectare	ha		Mr., Mrs.,	catch per unit effort	CPUE
kilogram	kg		AM, PM, etc.	coefficient of variation	CV
kilometer	km	all commonly-accepted		common test statistics	(F, t, χ², etc.)
liter	L	professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D.,	confidence interval	CI
meter	m		R.N., etc.	correlation coefficient (multiple)	R
milliliter	mL	at	@	correlation coefficient (simple)	r
millimeter	mm	compass directions:		covariance	cov
		east	E	degree (angular)	°
		north	N	degrees of freedom	df
		south	S	expected value	E
		west	W	greater than	>
		copyright	©	greater than or equal to	≥
		corporate suffixes:		harvest per unit effort	HPUE
		Company	Co.	less than	<
		Corporation	Corp.	less than or equal to	≤
		Incorporated	Inc.	logarithm (natural)	ln
		Limited	Ltd.	logarithm (base 10)	log
		District of Columbia	D.C.	logarithm (specify base)	log₂, etc.
		et alii (and others)	et al.	minute (angular)	'
		et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	not significant	NS
		exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.	null hypothesis	H₀
		Federal Information Code	FIC	percent	%
		id est (that is)	i.e.	probability	P
		latitude or longitude	lat. or long.	probability of a type I error (rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α
		monetary symbols (U.S.)	\$, ¢	probability of a type II error (acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
		months (tables and figures) first three letters (Jan,...,Dec)		second (angular)	"
		registered trademark	®	standard deviation	SD
		trademark	™	standard error	SE
		United States (adjective)	U.S.	variance:	
		United States of America (noun)	USA	population	Var
		U.S.C.	United States Code	sample	var
		U.S. states	two-letter abbreviations (e.g., AK, WA)		
Time and temperature					
day	d				
degrees Celsius	°C				
degrees Fahrenheit	°F				
degrees kelvin	K				
hour	h				
minute	min				
second	s				
Physics and chemistry					
<i>all atomic symbols</i>					
alternating current	AC				
ampere	A				
calorie	cal				
direct current	DC				
hertz	Hz				
horsepower	hp				
hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH				
parts per million	ppm				
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰				
volts	V				
watts	W				
Measures (fisheries)					
		fork length	FL		
		mideye-to-fork	MEF		
		mideye-to-tail-fork	METF		
		standard length	SL		
		total length	TL		

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**OVERVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
KUSKOKWIM RIVER HOUSEHOLD SUBSISTENCE KING SALMON
PERMIT SYSTEM, 2018**

by

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ABSTRACT

This report provides the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) with information regarding the Kuskokwim River household subsistence king salmon fishing permit. This is the first household subsistence fishing permit implemented by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in the Kuskokwim River. Options for such a permit arose when the Kuskokwim River king salmon run had declined to an abundance that caused unprecedented restrictions to subsistence salmon fishing and severe declines in king salmon harvests. Widespread public commentary indicated subsistence fishers' desire for a more equitable system of subsistence king salmon fishing in the Kuskokwim River. Members of the public and several Kuskokwim River subsistence fishing stakeholder groups collaborated with ADF&G through the BOF process to establish an option for a subsistence king salmon fishing permit in regulation. Following deliberations over numerous proposals, the BOF unanimously carried a final permit proposal at its March 2017 meeting. This established a subsistence king salmon permit to be implemented in state waters of the Kuskokwim River from 2018–2021. This report provides a summary of Kuskokwim River subsistence salmon fishing regulations and the subsistence fishery, as well as an overview of the events that led to the development of the current permit. The report also provides a summary of permit implementation during 2018, the first season when permits were used in the Kuskokwim River.

Key words: Alaska Board of Fisheries, king salmon, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, Chinook salmon, Kuskokwim River, Kuskokwim Management Area, subsistence fishing permit.

INTRODUCTION

In 2017, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) unanimously adopted a proposal to allow for a household subsistence king (Chinook) salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* fishing permit, the first permit of its kind ever deployed in the Kuskokwim Management Area (Kuskokwim Area). The decision followed 5 years of severe declines in subsistence king salmon harvests in the Kuskokwim River and nearly 3 years of deliberations over numerous proposals to changes in regulation to allow for more equitable distribution of king salmon fishing opportunity there. During multiple public meetings from summer 2014 through spring 2017, subsistence fishers, community representatives, and other stakeholders provided the BOF with extensive comments and testimony regarding various permit options. Comments from these meetings provided input to the BOF to help them make a decision that was supported by the users and provided for king salmon conservation.

This report provides an overview of the Kuskokwim River subsistence salmon fishery with specific attention to the subsistence king salmon fishery as it relates to current regulations requiring implementation of household subsistence king salmon fishing permits in the region. As background the authors discuss the general regulatory context of the Kuskokwim Area subsistence salmon fishery; describe the recent history of the subsistence salmon fishery; summarize the events and discussions directly related to the BOF process that resulted in the current permit regulation; and summarize the permit implementation and preliminary results from the 2018 salmon fishing season.

The current regulation in Title 5 of the State of Alaska Administrative Code that allows for subsistence king salmon fishing permits in the Kuskokwim Area is as follows:

5 AAC 01.280. Subsistence Fishing Permits. Fish may be taken for subsistence purposes without a subsistence fishing permit, except as otherwise provided in this section.

- (1) Starting in the 2018 fishing season, during times when the commissioner determines it is necessary for the conservation of king salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, require that in the Kuskokwim River drainage, upstream of a line between ADF&G regulatory markers at the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Boundary near Aniak, king salmon may be taken only under the authority of a subsistence fishing permit with the following conditions:
 - a. annual limit of 10 king salmon;
 - b. fishing under the permit may not commence until the subsistence king salmon fishery opens after June 11 as described in 5 AAC 07.365;
 - c. the commissioner may, by emergency order, implement one or more of the gear limitations specified in 5 AAC 01.270(n)(1) for fishing under the permit;
 - d. permit holders must complete and return permits, including daily records of king salmon harvested, each year by October 31;
 - e. once the annual limit is reached, additional king salmon may not be taken except in compliance with all applicable regulations and emergency orders;
 - f. only one permit may be issued to a household each year;
 - g. the provisions of (1) of this section do not apply after December 31, 2021.

REGULATORY CONTEXT

This section includes detailed regulatory information on the Kuskokwim Area subsistence salmon fishery to contextualize the low king salmon abundance and its effects on the subsistence fishers in the Kuskokwim River. The regulation of hunting and fishing for subsistence practices has a unique history in Alaska. Both state and federal laws provide priorities for customary and traditional subsistence hunting and fishing over other consumptive uses, such as commercial fishing. The BOF and the Alaska Board of Game adopt subsistence regulations and make allocations of fish and game resources for use by Alaska residents on state-owned and private lands as determined under AS 16.05.258. Subsistence use and allocation of fish and game. Fishing and hunting regulations have been further refined by court rulings as well as by state statutes authorizing the BOF activities. The regulation of subsistence harvests of fish and wildlife in Alaska is administered by the State of Alaska under Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code. In State of Alaska regulation all Alaskans are eligible to participate in state subsistence programs. Customary and traditional use determinations for subsistence resources are administered by Alaska under AS 16.05.258 and 5 AAC 99.010, and by the federal government under 50 CFR §100.24.

Subsequent to the passage of Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) in 1980 and a 1989 Alaska Supreme Court decision¹, the federal government established the federal subsistence program, which provides subsistence opportunity for qualified rural residents on applicable federal public lands and waters. Individuals must be Kuskokwim Area residents to participate in the Kuskokwim River federal subsistence salmon fishery (50 CFR § 100.5). Federal subsistence schedules, openings, closings, and fishing methods are generally the same as those for state subsistence salmon fisheries, unless superseded by federal special action. Regulatory authority for Kuskokwim River salmon management is shared by the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) and the BOF. In the Kuskokwim River, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is responsible for implementing regulations in accordance with 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan (Management Plan) and has inseason discretionary management authority of salmon in all Alaska navigable waters. Waters of the lower Kuskokwim River are largely within or adjacent to federal public lands, namely the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. As such, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) shares in inseason subsistence fishing management responsibility with ADF&G. The USFWS holds final decision-making authority over management of salmon in these waters only in the event that the federal subsistence program determines that all nonfederally-qualified subsistence uses must be eliminated to meet the federal subsistence priority.

In addition to state and federal management agencies, two principal regional stakeholder groups also participate directly in the Kuskokwim River salmon fishery management process. The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group (Working Group) and the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission (Fisheries Commission) are composed of knowledgeable participants in the salmon fishery. Working Group and Fisheries Commission members represent their communities throughout the Kuskokwim River drainage and advise agency managers during preseason and inseason management meetings. The Working Group, established by the BOF in 1987², represents subsistence, sport, and commercial fishing interests and advises state and federal managers through a process of public meetings during which they discuss ADF&G management actions in the Kuskokwim Area (Smith and Linderman Jr. 2008). The Fisheries Commission, established in 2015 as a demonstration project through a memorandum of understanding between the USFWS and Kuskokwim Area tribes, is a group of Kuskokwim River tribal representatives who primarily consult with and advise USFWS management staff to make collaborative management decisions regarding subsistence salmon fishing in the Kuskokwim River drainage within the boundaries of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

1. *McDowell v. State of Alaska*. Alaska Supreme Court Files S-2732. 785 P.2d 1 (1989).

2. Alaska Board of Fisheries finding number 87-117-FB, April 20, 1988.

www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fisheriesboard/pdfs/findings/ff87117x.pdf

The highest priority in both state and federal management of Kuskokwim River salmon populations is biological sustainability of the resources based on principles of sustained yield. Consumptive uses of salmon may be restricted when the size of a returning salmon run is unlikely to be great enough to meet established escapement goals. Failure to meet escapement goals may jeopardize a salmon stock's ability to maintain a sustainable population size and future yields. When there is a harvestable surplus beyond these minimum escapement levels, consumptive uses of salmon are prioritized for different user groups. Alaska Statute 16.05.258. Subsistence use and allocation of fish and game, establishes the subsistence use priority (above commercial, sport, and personal use) when resources are not abundant enough to provide for all consumptive uses while remaining in accordance with principles of sustained yield. Subsistence uses protected by the subsistence priority are those practices identified as customary and traditional as determined by the BOF. In 1993, the BOF made positive findings for customary and traditional uses of all salmon species in the entire Kuskokwim Area. As part of these findings, the BOF then determined the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) in these respective areas as one means to gauge if regulations provide reasonable opportunities for subsistence uses. Based on historical harvest information, the BOF established an ANS of 192,000–242,000 for salmon of all species in the Kuskokwim Area (5 AAC 01.286). In 2001, the BOF amended these ANS ranges for the Kuskokwim River using subsistence harvest data from the years 1990 to 1999. After reviewing various options, the BOF made new customary and traditional use and ANS findings for the Kuskokwim Area by species.

Most recently, the BOF has instituted several regulatory changes affecting the management of the Kuskokwim River salmon fisheries. In January 2013, the BOF again modified ANS ranges by species for the Kuskokwim River drainage and other portions of the Kuskokwim Area. The current ANS ranges for salmon in the Kuskokwim Area are as follows (5 AAC 01.286(b)):

- 67,200–109,800 king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage;
- 41,200–116,400 chum salmon *O. keta* in the Kuskokwim River drainage;
- 32,200–58,700 sockeye salmon *O. nerka* in the Kuskokwim River drainage;
- 27,400–57,600 coho salmon *O. kisutch* in the Kuskokwim River drainage;
- 500–2,000 pink salmon *O. gorbuscha* in the Kuskokwim River drainage;
- 6,900–17,000 salmon in Districts 4 and 5³ combined; and
- 12,500–14,400 salmon in the remainder of the Kuskokwim Area.

In 2013, the BOF also updated and clarified the Management Plan (5 AAC 07.365). The new Management Plan provides guidelines for managing the Kuskokwim River salmon fisheries to meet escapement goals and the subsistence priority; goals for the Kuskokwim Area and other Arctic–Yukon–Kuskokwim (AYK) salmon stocks were reevaluated in 2015 (Conitz et al. 2015). The Management Plan allows that, during times when the amount of fish available for subsistence harvest is limited, the commissioner may open a fishing period during which king salmon can be taken only by persons 60 years of age or older. This regulation, which does not require a permit, has only been implemented by ADF&G in 2015 (Poetter and Tiernan 2017). In 2017, the BOF amended Kuskokwim River subsistence salmon fishing regulations to allow for Alaska resident fishing households to obtain a permit for the subsistence harvest of king salmon in times of king salmon conservation. Subsistence fishing for up to ten king salmon per household may be opened by emergency order after June 11 each year that the permits are valid. Permits may be used to target king salmon in State of Alaska waters of the Kuskokwim River drainage above the mouth of the Aniak River (Figure 1). The BOF determined that the provisions of this permit would apply beginning in June 2018 and ending on December 31, 2021 (5 AAC 01.280).

3. The Kanektok River and Goodnews River drainages, respectively.

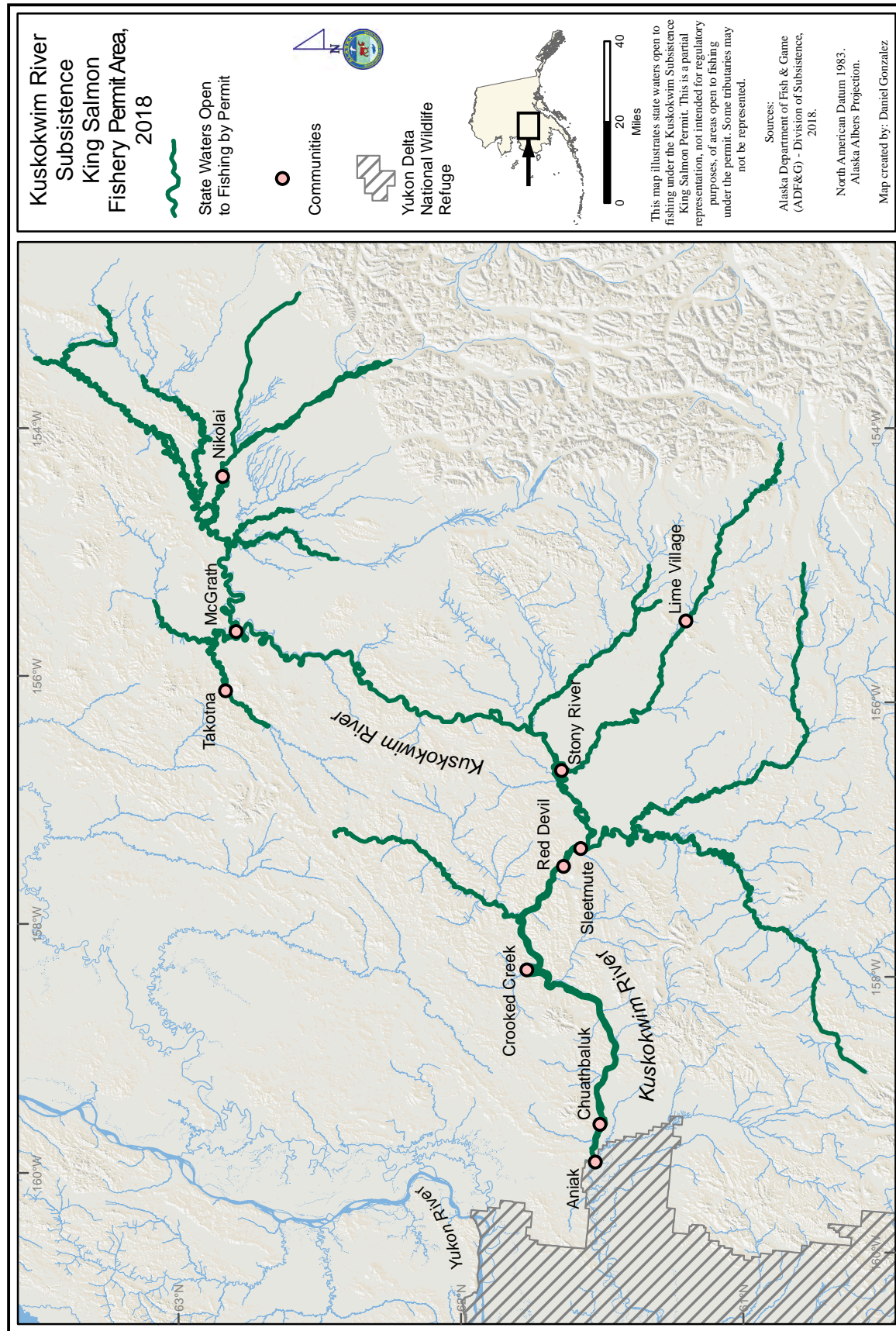


Figure 1.-Map of State of Alaska waters where Kuskokwim River household subsidence king salmon permit is valid for use by fishers when opened by an ADF&G emergency order after June 11 and closed by emergency order each season when conservation of king salmon is no longer warranted, 2018–2021, in times of king salmon conservation.

Subsistence harvest of salmon in the Kuskokwim River is otherwise allowed without a permit (5 AAC 01.280) and with no closed seasons (5 AAC 01.260), except as specified in the Management Plan or otherwise ordered for conservation purposes, as has been the case in recent years. Alaska regulations allow a variety of gear types to be used in the Kuskokwim River for subsistence salmon fishing and include specifications regarding the use of gillnets (5 AAC 01.270). There are no federal or state bag or possession limits for subsistence salmon harvests in the Kuskokwim River except from June 1 through August 31, when subsistence fishing with a hook and line attached to a rod or pole in that portion of the Aniak River drainage upstream of Doestock Creek, the bag and possession limit is two king salmon, and rainbow trout *O. mykiss* may not be retained (5 AAC 01.295). Federal regulations of all subsistence fish harvests in Alaska federal public lands and waterways are administered under 50 CFR §100.27, including seasons, gear types, and bag and possession limits on all salmon and nonsalmon species.

Until the recent declines in king salmon abundance within the Kuskokwim Area, the subsistence salmon fishing season was open unless a subsistence fishing schedule closure was implemented by emergency order prior to, during, and after commercial fishing periods, or closures to the fishery were implemented by emergency order for conservation purposes (see 5 AAC 01.260 and 5 AAC 07.365). In the Kuskokwim River, a subsistence fishing schedule with periodic fishing closures (openings between these closures were often referred to as “windows” or “openers”) was implemented from 2001–2006 and has since been discontinued. Beginning in 2016, the Management Plan required that when the projected escapement of king salmon is below the drainagewide escapement goal range, ADF&G must close subsistence king salmon fishing by emergency order. If a harvestable surplus of king salmon is available, the department must open by emergency order after June 11 at least one fishing period per week for a directed subsistence king salmon fishery.

SUBSISTENCE FISHERY, 2010–2017

The subsistence salmon fisheries in the Kuskokwim Area are some of the largest in the state of Alaska in terms of the number of residents who participate and the total number of fish harvested (Fall 2014). Since 1994, when ADF&G began acquiring reasonably complete statewide coverage of subsistence harvest survey data, over 50% of king salmon harvested under subsistence regulations have been taken in the Kuskokwim Area, mostly in the Kuskokwim River drainage. Between 2010 and 2014 (study years 2009–2013), the Division of Subsistence conducted comprehensive subsistence harvest and use surveys in 21 Kuskokwim Area communities. Results from these studies indicate that, on average, salmon contribute approximately 40% of the total wild resource harvest (in edible pounds) in lower Kuskokwim River communities, 60% in middle Kuskokwim River communities, and 41% in upper Kuskokwim River communities (Brown et al. 2012, 2013; Ikuta et al. 2014, 2016; Runfola et al. 2017).

Kuskokwim River residents harvest all 5 species of Pacific salmon for subsistence purposes: king salmon, chum salmon, coho salmon, pink salmon, and sockeye salmon. Drift gillnetting and set gillnetting are the primary methods that Kuskokwim Area fishers use to harvest salmon. Fishers also use fishwheels and hook and line gear. Beach seines are allowed for subsistence fishing, as are dip nets for harvests of salmon other than king salmon during times of king salmon conservation. Communities along the Kuskokwim River rely extensively on annual returns of salmon not only for basic nutrition, but also for maintenance of cultural identity and cultural values; and until as recently as 2016 many residents also relied upon commercial salmon fishing as a source of cash income and home pack (Andrews and Coffing 1986; Andrews 1989; Brown et al. 2012, 2013; Coffing 1991; Fienup-Riordan 1990, 1995; Himmelheber 1987; Ikuta et al. 2013, 2014; Oswald 1990; Pete 1993; Senecal-Albrecht 1998, 1990; Walker and Coffing 1993; Wolfe et al. 1984).

For the 20 years prior to 2010 (1990–2009), the Kuskokwim River supported annual average total king salmon run sizes of 260,431 fish (Liller et al. 2018), average subsistence harvests of approximately 86,091 fish per year⁴, and escapements that ranged from 60,908 to 287,004 king salmon. However, in 2007 king salmon runs began to decline from an estimated 244,625 fish to a 2012 low of 79,179 fish, the lowest run size ever recorded for the Kuskokwim River (Liller et al. 2018). Total king salmon run sizes remained low through 2014 and began to increase in subsequent years. These lower run sizes have resulted in severe restrictions to subsistence salmon fishing, which have caused the lowest subsistence king salmon harvests on record for Kuskokwim Area residents. Residents had never experienced such significant decreases in harvests, nor had they known long periods of time during which fishers remained idle awaiting the late start of an unrestricted salmon fishing season in the Kuskokwim River. Fishers throughout the river expressed widespread concern about being able to get the salmon their households needed for the year. During this period, the general public, stakeholder groups, ADF&G, and the BOF began consideration of numerous proposals for regulatory changes that would support conservation of king salmon while giving fishers sufficient opportunities to get the salmon they needed each season.

The following harvest estimates are based on data collected through the Kuskokwim River Post Season Salmon Survey project⁵ and from analysis with the Revised Kuskokwim River Chinook Salmon Run Reconstruction Model (Liller et al. 2018); both drainagewide and regional harvests are discussed. For the purpose of the regional harvest discussion, the river has been separated into three distinct sections: lower, middle, and upper Kuskokwim River communities.⁶ Due to the fishing effort of a large population and the number of king salmon stocks available for harvest, lower river residents typically accounted for 90% of the total harvest. Middle and upper river residents harvested approximately 10% of the total.⁷

In 2010, subsistence fishers harvested 67,286 king salmon (Table 1). The estimated escapement for king salmon was 43,541 fish that year. The lower river harvest included 60,502 king salmon, which accounted for 90% of the total drainagewide king salmon harvest and 54% of the total run. Middle and upper river fishers harvested the remaining 10%, with 5,339 and 1,445 fish, respectively. Combining the harvest and escapement totals, the estimated total king salmon run size was slightly over 112,000 fish. The total subsistence harvest fell within the current ANS range of 67,200–109,800 king salmon. In all years following 2010 subsistence harvests fell below the current ANS range for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River.

In 2011, subsistence fishers harvested 62,366 king salmon, with an estimated escapement of 49,718 fish. Lower river fishers harvested 54,350 king salmon or 87% of the total drainagewide king salmon catch and 47% of the total run for the year. Middle river fishers harvested 5,655 king salmon, and upper river fishers harvested 2,361. Together, middle and upper river harvests accounted for the remaining 13% of the total king salmon catch.

Kuskokwim River subsistence fishers caught an estimated 22,544 king salmon in 2012. The estimated king salmon escapement was 55,746 fish, and the total run size was 79,238 king salmon. Lower river catches accounted for 86% of the Kuskokwim River king salmon harvest in 2012. Middle and upper river fisher harvests accounted for the remaining 14% of the total drainagewide

4. Lipka, C.G., T. Hamazaki, D. Koster, M. Horne-Brine, and J. Esquible. *In prep.* Subsistence salmon harvests in the Kuskokwim Area, 2017. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Hereinafter Lipka et al *In prep.*

5. Lipka et al. *In prep.*

6. Lower Kuskokwim River communities discussed here include Kongiganak, Eek, Tuntutuliak, Kasigluk, Nunapitchuk, Atmautluak, Napakiak, Napaskiak, Oscarville, Bethel, Kwethluk, Akiachak, Akiak, and Tuluksak. Middle Kuskokwim River communities include Lower Kalskag, Upper Kalskag, Aniak, and Chuathbaluk. Upper Kuskokwim River communities include Crooked Creek, Red Devil, Sleetmute, Stony River, Lime Village, McGrath, Takotna, Nikolai, and Telida.

7. Lipka et al. *In prep.*

Table 1.—Historical king salmon run sizes, harvests, and escapements in the Kuskokwim River, 2010–2017.

Year	Subsistence harvest North Kuskokwim Bay and lower Kuskokwim River ^b		Subsistence harvest middle Kuskokwim River ^b		Subsistence harvest upper Kuskokwim River ^b		Total subsistence harvest ^b	ANS met? ^c	Sport and commercial harvest ^{a,d}	Escapement	Drainagewide escapement goal met? ^e
	Total Run Size ^a	Kuskokwim River ^b	Kuskokwim River ^b	Kuskokwim River ^b	Kuskokwim River ^b						
2010	112,975	60,502	5,339	1,445	67,286	Yes	3,086	43,541	No		
2011	113,749	54,350	5,655	2,361	62,366	No	1,326	49,718	No		
2012	79,238	19,422	2,117	1,005	22,544	No	627	55,746	No		
2013	84,311	42,667	3,656	790	47,113	No	174	36,283	No		
2014	84,326	9,619	975	640	11,234	No	35	72,560	Yes		
2015	125,058	14,136	1,317	671	16,124	No	8	108,454	Yes		
2016	128,855	26,340	2,912	1,441	30,693	No	0	97,640	Yes		
2017	133,267	14,493	1,268	620	16,381	No	0	116,597	Yes		

Note Table values are in total numbers of king (Chinook) salmon. Subsistence harvests are divided among North Kuskokwim Bay (Kongiganak) and lower Kuskokwim River (Eek, Tuntutuliak, Kasigluk, Nunapitchuk, Atmautluak, Napakiak, Napaskiak, Oscarville, Bethel, Kwethluk, Akiachak, Akiak, Tuluksak) combined; middle Kuskokwim River (Lower Kalskag, Upper Kalskag, Aniak, Chuathbaluk); and upper Kuskokwim River (Crooked Creek, Red Devil, Sleetmute, Stony River, Lime Village, McGrath, Takotna, Nikolai, Telida) Kuskokwim River communities.

^a Liller, Z. W., H. Hamazaki, G. Decossas, W. Bechtol, M. Catalano, and N. J. Smith. 2018. Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon run reconstruction model revision— executive summary. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 3A.18-04, Anchorage.

^b Lipka C. G., T. Hamazaki, D. Koster, M. Home-Brine, and J. Esquible. In prep. Subsistence salmon harvests in the Kuskokwim area, 2017. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

^c The amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses (ANS) is defined by the Alaska Board of Fisheries as 67,200–109,800 king salmon (5 AAC 01.286).

^d Since 2012 the Department has closed the king salmon sport fishery in the Kuskokwim River drainage each year by Emergency Order at the beginning of the salmon fishing season. Subsequently, annual sport harvests in the Kuskokwim River drainage have been zero king salmon. Commercial harvest amounts herein represent annual incidental harvests of king salmon in commercial fisheries for other species in the Kuskokwim River.

^e The Kuskokwim River drainagewide escapement goal for king salmon is 65,000–120,000 fish.

king salmon harvest. The 2012 king salmon harvest fell far below the current ANS range during the season of the lowest return of king salmon on record.

Subsistence king salmon harvests totaled 47,113 fish in 2013. The estimated escapement for king salmon was 36,283 fish. Lower Kuskokwim River fishers harvested 42,667 king salmon or 91% of the total Kuskokwim River subsistence king salmon harvest. Middle river fishers harvested 3,656 king salmon and upper river fishers harvested 790 king salmon. Together these figures accounted for 9% of the total king salmon harvest.

In 2014, the total king salmon subsistence harvest was 11,234 fish in the Kuskokwim River, and the estimated escapement was 72,560 king salmon. This represented a total run size of 84,326 king salmon. Lower river fisher harvests accounted for 86% of the total (9,619 king salmon), and middle and upper river harvests accounted for the remaining 14% of king salmon harvests.

The 2015 subsistence king salmon harvest totaled 16,124 fish. The estimated escapement was 108,454 king salmon. Combined, these figures represented a total run size of 125,058 fish. Approximately 88% of the total drainagewide harvest was taken by lower Kuskokwim River residents (14,136 fish). Middle and upper river harvests included 1,988 king salmon together.

Subsistence fishers harvested 30,693 king salmon in 2016, and the estimated escapement included 97,640 king salmon. These figures represented a total run size of 128,855 king salmon. Lower river fisher harvests accounted for 86% of the total drainagewide harvest for king salmon, and middle and upper river harvests made up the remaining 14% of the harvest, with 2,912 and 1,441 king salmon respectively.

The 2017 subsistence king salmon harvest included 16,381 fish, and the estimated escapement for king salmon was 116,597 fish, with a total run size of 132,267 king salmon. Lower river fisher harvests accounted for over 88% of the king salmon harvest.

Throughout the years 2010–2017, lower Kuskokwim River fishers caught on average 88.2% of the total king salmon harvest annually. This annual percentage ranged from 85.6% in 2014 to 90.6% of the total harvest in 2013. Middle and upper river fishers caught an average of 11.8% of the total king salmon harvest each year from 2010–2017. Their harvests ranged from 9.4% of the total harvest in 2013 to 14.4% in 2014.

KUSKOKWIM RIVER KING SALMON PERMITS

DEVELOPMENT OF KUSKOKWIM RIVER SUBSISTENCE KING SALMON HOUSEHOLD PERMIT SYSTEM

Beginning in 2011, Kuskokwim River subsistence king salmon harvests have fallen each year below the current lower bound of the ANS range (67,200 fish). Each year since then, residents have expressed widespread concern over increasingly restricted fishing opportunities and diminishing harvests. One concern has been the perceived lack of equal harvest opportunity between lower Kuskokwim River households and fishers living in communities from the middle Kuskokwim River to the headwaters. During discussions at Working Group meetings, middle and upper Kuskokwim River residents have frequently expressed the concern that gillnet salmon fishing in their regions is significantly less efficient than it is in the lower Kuskokwim River. Lower river fishers are often able to deploy 300 ft drift gillnets in locations where king salmon and other migrating salmon are found in higher abundance early in the season as they enter the river from the sea. Middle Kuskokwim River fishers can typically only deploy drift gillnets 150 ft or less in length in a few stretches of river between Lower Kalskag and Crooked Creek. Most other salmon fishing in the region occurs with the use of set gillnets 150 ft or less in length, as well as some fishwheels and rod and reel gear, all of which are substantially less efficient at catching salmon than drift gillnets.

In May 2014, as a response to several years of declines in Kuskokwim River king salmon abundance and the resulting diminished subsistence harvests of the species, a Kuskokwim Area resident and subsistence fisher submitted an emergency petition to the BOF (Alaska Board of Fisheries 2014:PC 01). The petition, received as a letter addressed to the BOF was forwarded to the BOF as an agenda change request in October 2014 (ACR 8) (Alaska Board of Fisheries 2014a), presented 2 specific requests for the BOF's consideration: 1) To subdivide the Kuskokwim River king salmon ANS into separate ranges for different sections of the river; and 2) to consider establishing a Tier II king salmon subsistence permit system for the Kuskokwim Area. In his letter, the proponent cited that the Federal Subsistence Board's adoption of a community harvest permit system in Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge waters in 2014 had provided subsistence salmon fishing opportunities to lower river fishers that were not reasonably available to fishers outside of the refuge boundaries. The proponent noted that the 2014 season exemplified the history of significantly less fishing opportunity common in upper portions of the watershed during periods of restrictions. He felt that subdividing—or “nesting”—the ANS would ensure that all Kuskokwim River fishers may have a fair and equitable opportunity to harvest salmon. The proponent indicated that a Tier II permit system was warranted under AS 16.05.258 because insufficient harvestable surpluses of king salmon and the restrictions to subsistence fishing opportunities during recent prior years had prevented fishers from obtaining enough king salmon to meet the minimum ANS for king salmon.

At its October 2014 Work Session, the BOF voted unanimously to carry ACR 8 and scheduled it as a proposal on the agenda of its Statewide Shellfish meeting in March 2015. Following public comments, BOF deliberations, and other discussions during the October 2014 Work Session meeting, the BOF considered a recommendation that it form a work group to address a full range of management options that had been identified or raised by ACR 8 and that could also be discussed at the March 2015 Statewide Shellfish meeting (Orutsararmiut Native Council 2014). Also in its October meeting, the BOF formed the Kuskokwim Subsistence Salmon Panel (KSSP)⁸ and named Thomas Kluberton, the Panel chair, and BOF members Orville Huntington and Fritz Johnson as the BOF's additional representative panel members. The KSSP also included representatives from

8. Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Juneau, n.d. “Kuskokwim Subsistence Salmon Panel.” Accessed November 1, 2018. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=kssp.main>

each of the 5 Kuskokwim River fish and game advisory committees (AC)⁹, the Working Group, and one tribal member from each of the 3 sections of the Kuskokwim River (i.e., lower, middle, and upper). The KSSP was created to assist the BOF and ADF&G with outreach and information-gathering among Kuskokwim Area residents prior to the March 2015 Statewide Shellfish meeting (Alaska Board of Fisheries 2014b). The BOF scheduled its deliberations on ACR 8 and other ACRs related to subsistence salmon fishing during this March 2015 meeting, and the BOF anticipated that public meetings of the KSSP would facilitate those deliberations.

The first meeting of the KSSP convened in Bethel in January 2015 (Alaska Board of Fisheries 2015a) during which the KSSP considered comments from ACs, local organizations, and members of the public. Testimony demonstrated widespread agreement that a more equitable management system was needed in the Kuskokwim Area and included various recommendations for specific management options. The KSSP discussed numerous potential management options to resolve concerns over reduced subsistence harvests and perceived inequity in harvest opportunities throughout the drainage. These included a variety of proposed regulatory changes such as amendments to current gear restrictions (Alaska Board of Fisheries 2015b; Alaska Department of Fish and Game 2015), the establishment of dates in the early season salmon fishing closure, dividing the current king salmon ANS determination for 3 sections of river (downriver from Bethel, Bethel, and upriver from Bethel), and implementation of an inriver king salmon run size goal to assist with providing additional opportunity through a finer scale of allocation.

During its March 2015 Statewide Shellfish meeting, the BOF accepted ACR 8 on potential regulatory actions that could be implemented during the 2015 fishing season to address changes to subsistence gear specifications to provide for conservation of Kuskokwim River king salmon, which were declining in abundance. This draft regulatory language was intended to provide the department with additional management flexibility to implement a suite of gear specification options to reduce king salmon harvest during various portions of the run. The proposed regulatory changes provided the department with emergency order authority to restrict gillnet gear length and allowable gillnet mesh size, and to allow a combination of shorter gillnets, fishwheels, and dipnets, or restrict use to only one gear type. The BOF felt that in combination with the department's discretionary time and area authority, the additional flexibility provided by these regulatory changes would enhance the department's ability to conserve king salmon while providing subsistence harvest opportunity more equitably throughout the drainage (Alaska Board of Fisheries 2015c:3–5, d).

At the August 2015 KSSP meeting in Bethel, the panel heard testimony from panel members in support of a limited permit system that would allow for the harvest of king salmon during times of shortage. The panel meeting included discussions of several proposals that had been submitted to the BOF and were to be deliberated during the BOF's next AYK Finfish meeting in January 2016. These proposals included recommendations for the BOF to provide regulations that would require the department to manage the subsistence king salmon fishery using an inriver run goal to be determined by the Bethel Test Fishery daily assessments (Alaska Board of Fisheries 2016a:77–80), to institute a Tier II subsistence salmon fishing permit (Alaska Board of Fisheries 2016a:80–81), and to divide the Kuskokwim River ANS for king salmon by three separate geographical areas (Alaska Board of Fisheries 2016a:81–82). The panel also reviewed a proposal by the Stony-Holitna Fish and Game Advisory Committee that recommended a Tier I household permit for subsistence king salmon fishing to be effective throughout the Kuskokwim River (Alaska Board of Fisheries 2016a:82–83). Based on the language of Proposal 97, panel discussions, and public testimony, the panel developed a BOF-generated proposal establishing a Tier I household subsistence king salmon fishing permit during times of low king salmon runs (Kuskokwim Subsistence Salmon Panel 2015a–c). At its October 2015 Work Session, the BOF adopted the BOF-generated Proposal

9. The 5 Kuskokwim Area fish and game advisory committees are Lower Kuskokwim AC, Bethel AC, Central Kuskokwim AC, Stony-Holitna AC, and McGrath AC.

222 and scheduled it for deliberation at the AYK Finfish meeting in January 2016 (Alaska Board of Fisheries 2015e).

In Fairbanks in January 2016 at the AYK Finfish Meeting, the BOF heard additional public comment that resulted in the BOF taking no action on several Kuskokwim Area subsistence salmon proposals. These proposals (Alaska Board of Fisheries 2016a) included recommended changes that members of the public and Kuskokwim Area advisory committees determined to be less advisable as changes to regulation than would be a Tier I permit system such as that found in Proposal 222. The BOF voted to table Proposal 95 and Proposal 222 at the request of Kuskokwim Area representatives present at the meeting to allow for additional time for public comment. The BOF requested that the Division of Subsistence lead a public outreach effort soliciting additional public testimony and advisory committee comments that supported a final recommendation for language that would appear in regulation. Final deliberation of these proposals was scheduled for a date no later than April 2017 (Alaska Board of Fisheries 2016b).

In fall and winter 2016–2017, Kuskokwim Area advisory committees discussed the two permit proposals which had been renamed from Proposal 95 and Proposal 222 to Proposal 275 and Proposal 276, respectively. The proposals were scheduled for deliberation during the BOF’s Statewide King and Tanner Crab and Supplemental Issues Meeting in March 2017. All Kuskokwim Area advisory committees opposed adoption of Proposal 275 to establish a Tier II subsistence king salmon fishery, except the Central Kuskokwim AC, which took no action. The Bethel, Central Kuskokwim, and Stony-Holitna advisory committees each voted unanimously to support Proposal 276 for a household permit system. The Central Bering Sea, Lower Kuskokwim, and McGrath advisory committees voted to oppose Proposal 276 (Alaska Board of Fisheries 2017). During its Statewide meeting in March 2017, the BOF failed to adopt Proposal 275 and carried Proposal 276 as amended to include in regulation a Kuskokwim River household subsistence king salmon permit open to all Alaska residents and valid within State of Alaska waters upriver from the Aniak River mouth (Alaska Department of Fish and Game 2017). The BOF requested the Division of Subsistence manage permit implementation and reporting and provide outreach and information about the new permit for residents of the Kuskokwim River.

2018 SUBSISTENCE FISHING PERMIT IMPLEMENTATION

Division of Subsistence staff began planning community outreach efforts in September of 2017 by developing an informational flier that was subsequently sent to other department personnel for their review. In October 2017, Division of Commercial Fisheries and Division of Subsistence staff reviewed and discussed the new permit regulations, developed the permit document from subsistence salmon permits deployed in fisheries elsewhere in the state, composed informational literature, and planned implementation and outreach logistics. The informational materials included a list of “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs) and a poster, both of which were to be distributed to fishing communities (Appendix). Staff scheduled deployment of a public information campaign to begin in February 2018, with the goal of distributing permit packets to participating vendors in Kuskokwim River communities by March 2018. To improve and refine informational materials, Division of Subsistence staff consulted with subsistence fishers living in middle and upper river communities. Recommendations from Kuskokwim River subsistence fishers provided essential guidance in the development of the final draft FAQs and informational poster.

Division of Subsistence staff recruited vendors in ten Kuskokwim River communities (Table 2). Final drafts of the informational poster and FAQ document were included in a packet of materials distributed to participating vendors in communities throughout the middle and upper portions of the drainage in March of 2018 (Appendix). The informational poster and FAQs included details about the permit program, along with instructions to post notifications in high traffic areas within vendors’ communities. Vendor packets also included a permit log in which vendors were instructed to record for each permit issued the permit number, and permittee name, mailing address, and

phone number. Finally, the packet included contractual documents for vendors to complete to obtain a small stipend as compensation for their time. Vendor packets and several permits were also retained in the ADF&G Anchorage and Bethel field offices. Interested permittees could receive a permit from a vendor in any of the ten participating communities, or in the Anchorage or Bethel ADF&G offices.

In May of 2018, a Division of Subsistence representative accompanied by one staff member each from the Native Village of Napaimute and from the Kuskokwim Corporation traveled by boat to all middle and upper Kuskokwim River communities and met with vendors, community representatives, and members of the public.¹⁰ During this time, Division of Subsistence staff was able to address questions and concerns about the newly developed permit system. In addition, staff distributed outreach literature to other interested parties within these communities and met with vendors to provide further assistance with the permitting system.

On June 12, 2018, subsistence king salmon household permit fishing was opened by a department emergency order (Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries 2018a) for state waters of the Kuskokwim River drainage above the boundary of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Fishing with the household permit was closed by emergency order effective June 26, 2018 (Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries 2018b). In July of 2018, while conducting inseason qualitative harvest assessment surveys and participating in additional outreach efforts, Division of Subsistence staff travelled to 11 communities in the middle and upper sections of the river, where they continued to address local concerns regarding the newly implemented permit system.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Approximately 332 permits were distributed to vendors in Upper Kalskag, Aniak, Chuathbaluk, Napaimute, Crooked Creek, Red Devil, Sleetmute, Stony River, McGrath, and Nikolai (Table 2).¹¹ The communities of Georgetown, Lime Village, and Takotna declined to participate in the permit program. As of October 25, 2018, vendors had returned five permit logs to ADF&G. The vendor in Aniak issued 83 permits, and Aniak fishers returned 24 permits to ADF&G. Aniak fishers harvested 68 king salmon with the household harvest permits with an average harvest of three king salmon per permit. The Red Devil community vendor issued nine of the 15 permits originally received in the vendor packet, four of which have been returned to the department as of October 2018. The total king salmon harvest under these permits was 21 with an average harvest of five king salmon per permit. The Sleetmute vendor issued 22 of the 26 permits originally included within the vendor packet. Fishers have returned seven permits from Sleetmute. The returned permits indicate a total harvest of 17 king salmon with an average harvest of two king salmon per permit. The community of Stony River issued two of the 16 permits originally included within the vendor packet. One of these permits had been returned to ADF&G as of publication; this permit indicates a harvest of no king salmon. The designated vendor for Upper Kalskag issued a total of 11 permits, but no permits have been returned by fishers as of October 2018. Although the department distributed permit packets to vendors in Chuathbaluk, Napaimute, Crooked Creek, McGrath, and Nikolai, the department has received no information regarding issued permits in these communities as of publication.

In addition to these communities, a total of 90 permits were held for issue at the Bethel ADF&G office, and 30 permits were held at the Anchorage ADF&G office. No permits were issued from the Anchorage or Bethel ADF&G offices.

10. Outreach communities visited in May 2018 included Lower Kalskag, Upper Kalskag, Aniak, Chuathbaluk, Napaimute, Crooked Creek, Red Devil, Sleetmute, Stony River, McGrath, and Nikolai.

11. All permits were required to be returned to the Department regardless of whether a permitted household had fished with the permit. Data reported in Table 2 are current as of December 21, 2018.

Table 2.–Kuskokwim Area communities with household subsistence king salmon harvest permit vendors, number of permits issued and returned, and king salmon harvest information from permits as of October 25, 2018.

Community ^a	All						
	Communities	Anchorage ^b	Bethel ^b	Kalskag ^c	Aniak	Chuathbaluk	Napaimute Crooked Creek
Number permits distributed to vendor	452	30	90	25	100	30	20 30
Number permits issued by vendor	135	0	unknown	11	83	24	2 28
Number of permits returned to ADF&G	51	N/A	-	0	29	6	1 6
Total number of king salmon reported harvested in returned permits	154	N/A	-	0	97	7	9 30
Average household harvest per permit returned	3.02	N/A	-	0	3.34	1.17	9 5
Permit log returned to ADF&G by vendor as of October 25, 2018? (Y/N)	N/A	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N N

-continued-

Community ^a	Georgetown	Red Devil	Sleetmute	Stony River	Lime		McGrath	Taktotna	Nikolai	Unknown Community
					Village	No vendor				
Number permits distributed to vendor	No vendor	15	26	16	No vendor	50	No vendor	20	N/A	
Number permits issued by vendor	-	9	22	2	-	2	-	0	8	
Number of permits returned to ADF&G	-	5	8	1	-	1	-	N/A	8	
Total number of king salmon reported harvested in returned permits	-	21	17	0	-	0	-	N/A	19	
Average household harvest per permit returned	-	4.2	2.13	0	-	-	-	-	2.38	
Permit log returned to ADF&G by vendor as of October, 25, 2018? (Y/N)	-	Y	Y	Y	-	N	-	N	N/A	

Source ADF&G Division of Subsistence, 2018.

^a Some community vendors may have received additional permits if they had requested them. These preliminary data were recorded as of October 25, 2018, prior to permit return deadline of October 31, 2018. Following return of all permits and validation by ADF&G, final values may be significantly different from those included in the table.

^b ADF&G office.

^c Includes the communities of Lower Kalskag and Upper Kalskag.

CONCLUSION

Since at least 2010, Kuskokwim River fishers have experienced severe declines in king salmon run sizes and subsistence king salmon harvests. Decreasing king salmon abundance has resulted in several years of the most restrictive management actions in the history of the Kuskokwim River salmon fishery. Fishery management advisory groups such as the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group and the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission as well as members of the public have consistently expressed concern regarding the need for additional opportunities to harvest some king salmon. In response to king salmon population declines, severe fishing restrictions, and widespread public concern, Kuskokwim River fishers collaborated with the ADF&G through the BOF regulatory process to develop options for increased king salmon fishing opportunity in times of conservation.

After a long and iterative process from 2014–2017, the BOF established a household subsistence salmon fishing permit at its March 2017 meeting. Public support of a permit system for subsistence king salmon fishing was mixed: many individuals and advisory committees expressed opposition; however, the BOF recognized the potential benefit to middle and upper Kuskokwim River fishers who testified to a need for greater fishing opportunity and a more equitable distribution of the subsistence king salmon harvest.

Subsistence salmon fishing permits were implemented in the Kuskokwim Area for the first time in June 2018 with regulation to end the permit system after the 2021 salmon fishing season. The BOF had requested the Division of Subsistence manage the permit system. The division developed a permit document and informational materials that it distributed to communities from Lower Kalskag to Nikolai. In the 2018 season, the first season of the new permit, a small number of issued permits had been returned to the department, demonstrating a limited participation in the permit system and a minimal harvest of king salmon. Division of Subsistence will continue to administer the Kuskokwim River household subsistence king salmon permits through the end of the program in December 2021, after which the division will provide a complete review of permit use and effectiveness.

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APPENDIX – INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS: VENDOR PACKET

Vendor greeting letter, April 20, 2018.



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE
Headquarters Office

333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99518-1565
Main: 907.267.2353
Fax: 907.267.2450

April 20, 2018

Dear Vendor,

Thank you for agreeing to be a vendor for distributing the voluntary Kuskokwim subsistence king salmon permit. It is important work for your community and we appreciate your efforts to issue these permits and remind members of your community to return their voluntary subsistence king salmon permit catch numbers to our office.

I am the contact in Anchorage for answering questions about subsistence salmon permits, and also the one who receives all of the paperwork, including the voluntary subsistence salmon permit returns, at the end of the fishing season.

Enclosed you will find blank permits, a permit issue log, announcement signs, and instructions for issuing permits. Please sign and return the Community Liaison form (agreement) and Substitute W-9 form in the self-addressed, stamped envelope and make sure that your information is correct. The sooner you return your agreement the sooner you will get paid. Your payment as a permit vendor will be \$200. There is a prepaid envelope to return the log and filled-out permits when you are done issuing permits for the season. Also, please remind people that these permits need to be returned to the Anchorage ADF&G office by October 31, 2018.

We are striving for 100% return of permits in all communities. Please be sure to ask people to give you a current address and phone number and/or alternate address and phone number for where they can be reached in the winter when we send out reminder letters. If they are not sure where they will be, ask for a local contact number or address.

Thank you again for all your help. We look forward to working with you. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (907) 267-2353, or e-mail at: dfg.sub.permits.alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

Lehua Otto

Kuskokwim River king salmon permit vendor log sheet.

Year 2018

Kuskokwim 2018 Permit Log
Village: Georgetown

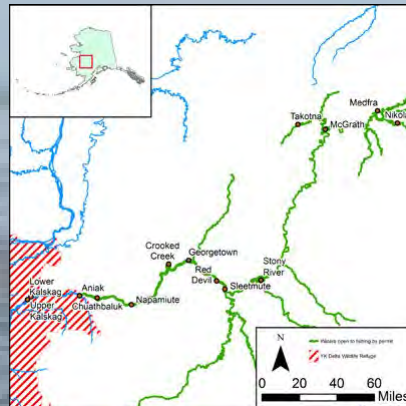
PERMIT #	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	SITE
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Interested in Fishing for Kings During Fishing Closures?

Here's how you can obtain and use a king salmon permit in 2018:

- ✓ Permits are voluntary. Opportunities to use the permits will be announced by EMERGENCY ORDER after June 11, 2018.
- ✓ The permit can be used for subsistence fishing for king salmon in state waters of the Kuskokwim River drainage from **above the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge boundary at ANIAK and upriver to the headwaters.**
- ✓ You can use any subsistence salmon fishing gear that is legal in the Kuskokwim. This includes set and drift gillnets, fish wheels, rod and reel, dipnets, and beach seines. Fishing with this permit may be subject to gear restrictions by EMERGENCY ORDER.
- ✓ **Each household** will be allowed **ONE (1) permit** with a limit of up to **TEN (10) king salmon** per household. After you have reached your limit of 10 kings, the permit has been fulfilled and cannot be used to catch additional kings.
- ✓ If you plan on catching kings make sure to have the permit on your person or in your boat. If you're fishing for other households, a permit-holding member of those households must be present with you while fishing. *

*** Proxy fishing rules may apply. Proxy forms are available from your community permit vendor or ADFG.**



THE PERMIT WILL ONLY BE REQUIRED IF YOU WANT TO CATCH KINGS DURING A CLOSURE. IF KING FISHING IS NOT CLOSED, THEN A PERMIT TO FISH FOR KING SALMON WILL NOT BE REQUIRED.

ADF&G WILL PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH UPDATED INFORMATION IN REGULAR NEWS RELEASES.

For answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs), ask your community vendor for a FAQs sheet or call ADFG for more details, phone numbers below.

PERMITS ARE TOTALLY FREE AND COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY AND WILL BE

AVAILABLE AT: _____

STARTING: _____



For more information please contact:

BETHEL
(907) 543-2433

ANCHORAGE
(907) 267-2218

ADF&G complies with OEO requirements as posted at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=home.oestatement>.

Kuskokwim River king salmon permit frequently asked questions.



Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Kuskokwim River Subsistence King Permit 2018

“What is the permit for?”

- The permit gives households an opportunity to harvest a total of 10 king salmon when fishing is closed in state waters. The permit is free and completely voluntary. Households are not required to get a permit. Anyone interested in fishing for kings during a closure must have a permit. You do not need to have a permit when fishing is open, and you do not need a permit to fish for any other species of fish. You must have the permit on your person, in your personal gear, or in your boat if you plan to fish for kings during a closure.

“Who is eligible for the permit?”

- All Alaska residents.

“When and where can I get a permit?”

- Permits will be available by May 1, 2018 at various vendors in Kuskokwim River communities. Check your tribal council office or at a local store to ask if you can register for one.

“When can I use the permit?”

- You can use the permit after June 11, 2018. Alaska Department of Fish and Game will announce permit fishing openings in an Emergency Order.

“Where on the river can I use the permit?”

- In the Kuskokwim River drainage from the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge boundary near the mouth of the Aniak River upriver to the Kuskokwim headwaters of the Kuskokwim.

“Can I use the permit to fish on the refuge below the mouth of the Aniak River or in the Aniak River drainage?”

- No.

“What kind of gear can I use?”

- The permit is subject to gear restrictions, but unless otherwise stated by emergency order, the following gear is allowed to be used under this permit: drift gillnets, set gillnets, dip nets, rod and reel, fish wheel, and beach seine.

“Do I need a permit to fish all summer?”

- No. The permit is intended to be used only when king salmon fishing is closed in State waters, above the refuge boundary at the mouth of the Aniak River and upriver to the Kuskokwim’s headwaters. If king salmon fishing is open, you do not need to have a permit. If fishing is closed and you want to fish with the permit you must wait for an opening to be announced by Emergency Order.

“I caught my 10 kings with the permit. Can I reuse it?”



Now
Available

Kuskokwim Subsistence King Salmon Permits

From: _____

At: _____

Phone: _____

Please call Between the times
of:

_____ to _____

All permits are valid from time of issue until
October 31 of current year

Instructions for vendors issuing Kuskokwim River king salmon permits.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ISSUING KUSKOKWIM SUBSISTENCE PERMITS

1. Ensure the individual requesting a permit is an Alaska resident.
2. Obtain next permit number from log and write the 3-letter community code and the next permit number on permit (Example: for McGrath Community issuing their 10th permit: MCG – 10). Also see attached sample on filling out the permit.
3. Have person fill out permit.
4. Fill out permit log.
5. Keep top portion of permit with your Subsistence folder.
6. Return top portion of permits, unissued permits and the entire packet in the enclosed large self-addressed stamped envelope.


How-to letter for Kuskokwim River king salmon permit vendors.

HOW TO Be a Kuskokwim king salmon vendor in 10 EASY steps!

1. Review your packet and instructions.
2. Fill out your Community Liaison Agreement form and Substitute W-9, sign and mail them back to me in the pre-paid envelope. The sooner you return the form and W-9 the sooner you will get paid.
3. Hang supplied signs in convenient spot so residents know where to get their permit.
4. When issuing a permit, use the sample permit to be sure everything is correctly filled out on both the front and back pages of the permit. Make sure whoever you issue the permit to signs and dates the permit. Only one permit per household.
5. After everything is filled out correctly, sign your name on the Authorizing Officer line and date it.
6. Keep the top portion of the permit and put in Subsistence folder. Give the two lower portions of the permit to the permit holder. Permit holder is required to carry permit while fishing. Please point out to permit holder that the card with the fish count is to be put in the mail by October 31, the postage is already paid.
7. On the opposite side of your folder be sure to keep track on the **Permit Log** of every permit you give out. **Be sure to number them by permit number.**
8. When you are sure everyone in the community who needs a permit has been issued one, review your permit log with all permits and make sure everything and everyone is accounted for.
9. Put the entire folder (including unused permits) in the supplied pre-paid envelope and mail it into the Anchorage office.
10. If you have any questions, comments or concerns call: Fish & Game, Division of Subsistence at **907-267-2353** or email dfg.sub.permits@alaska.gov.

Thank You!

ADF&G Division of Subsistence community liaison contact form.

	<p>STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE STANDARD VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT AND INVOICE COMMUNITY LIAISON OR TRANSLATOR SERVICES</p>
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AGREEMENT

This agreement is entered into between the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, Division of

Subsistence and _____
Name

Mailing Address:

Telephone Contact:

The volunteer desires to participate as a worker in cooperation with, but not displacing, state employees
to furnish Community Liaison or Translator Services to the Division of Subsistence, in the following
community: _____ for the following project: **Kuskokwim Subsistence King Salmon Permit.**

The performance of services under this agreement begins _____ and ends _____.
Date Date

The State desires to allow the volunteer to participate in said program.

The parties agree as follows:

The Volunteer agrees to participate in the Program under the direct supervision of state employee

State Representative (SR)

- For the duration of the Volunteer's participation in the program, the State agrees to provide to the volunteer medical coverage and disability compensation, in amounts comparable to that afforded employees under the Alaska Workers' Compensation Act (AWCA), if the volunteer suffers injury, illness or death that arises out of, and occurs while acting within the course and scope of performance of his/her volunteer duties. It is agreed that weekly compensation for disability or death will be based on the minimum rate of compensation under AS 23.30.175. It is agreed that compensation or medical coverage will not be provided when the volunteer may be eligible for coverage by any other health or disability policy, insurance, payment or benefit, (inc. Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, or pension) or workers' compensation coverage by another employer. Disputes regarding payment of compensation and medical benefits under this agreement are agreed to be decided by the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board without stipulating to the Board's jurisdiction. The State is not subject to AWCA penalty, interest, Second Injury Fund (SIF), or other payment in regard to the volunteer.
- The State agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Volunteer in the same manner and to the same extent the State protects its employees from any claim, demand, suit for property damages or personal injury including death allegedly caused by the Volunteer's activities if the Volunteer: a) at the time of the occurrence was acting in good faith within the course and scope of his/her volunteer duties in accordance with the directions of the State Representative; b) the volunteer provides immediate notice to the State of any claim; and c) the volunteer cooperates in the defense and does not stipulate to any judgment or settlement without the State's approval.
- The volunteer understands the State does not insure loss or physical damage to its employee's personal vehicle, equipment, or other personal property used while performing state work; nor will the State provide property insurance coverage for loss or physical damage to any volunteer's personal vehicle, equipment, or other personal property used while performing his/her volunteer duties.
- In consideration of the benefits received from participation in the program and the protection offered by this agreement, the volunteer: 1) accepts the remedy provided by the State, and dispute resolution by the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board, as his/her sole legal remedy from the State if the volunteer suffers injury, illness or death arising out of, and occurring while acting within the course and scope of, his/her volunteer duties; 2) transfers his/her right to recover from others who may be

(ADF&G 1/15)