

Special Publication No. BOF 2018-06

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

by

David M. Runfola

Christopher R. McDevitt

and

Caroline L. Brown

Due to corrected data, please replace the following pages (13 & 14) with the
pages 15 & 16 in your document

December 2018

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Subsistence



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 traveled 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). The communities of Georgetown, Lime Village, and Takotna declined to participate in the permit program. As of December 21, 2018, all 10 vendors had returned permit logs to ADF&G. There was a total of 200 king salmon harvested by fishers using the household permit. The Kalskag vendor issued 11 permits of which none were returned to ADF&G. The vendor in Aniak issued 83 permits, and Aniak fishers returned 29 permits to ADF&G. Aniak fishers harvested 97 king salmon with the household harvest permits with an average harvest of three king salmon per permit. The vendor in Chuathbaluk issued 24 permits of which 6 were returned. Chuathbaluk fishers reported a total harvest of 7 king salmon, or an average of 1 fish per permit returned. Napaimute's vendor issued 2 permits, one of which was returned. That permit reported a king salmon harvest of 9 fish. Crooked Creek's vendor issued 28 permits, and 6 of those were returned to ADF&G as of December 21, 2018. Crooked Creek fishers reported 30 king salmon harvested, which was an average of 5 fish per permit. The Red Devil community vendor issued nine of the 15 permits originally received in the vendor packet, 5 of which had been returned to the department. The total king salmon harvest under these permits was 21 with an average harvest of 4 king salmon per permit. The Sleetmute vendor issued 22 permits. Fishers returned 8 permits from Sleetmute. The returned permits recorded a total harvest of 17 king salmon with an average harvest of two king salmon per permit. The community of Stony River issued 2 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 indicated a harvest of no king salmon. A vendor in McGrath issued 2 permits of which 1 was returned to the department. This permit recorded a harvest of no king salmon. As of December 21, 2018, the department had not received information regarding any permits issued in Nikolai. The department also received 8 permits for which the community of issue was unknown. These permits reported a total harvest of 19 king salmon, or an average of 2 fish per permit.

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.

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 December 21, 2018.

Community ^a	All							Crooked Creek
	Communities	Anchorage ^b	Bethel ^b	Kalskag ^c	Aniak	Chuathbaluk	Napaimute	
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	200	N/A	-	0	97	7	9	30
Average household harvest per permit returned	3.92	N/A	-	0	3.34	1.17	9	5
Permit log returned to ADF&G by vendor as of December 21, 2018? (Y/N)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

-continued-

Table 2.—Continued.

Community ^a	Georgetown	Red Devil	Sleetmute	Stony River	Lime			Nikolai	Unknown Community
					Village	McGrath	Takotna		
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 December 21, 2018? (Y/N)	-	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	-	Y	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 December 21, 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.