

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

August 19, 2026

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m. on Wednesday, August 19, 2026 and adjourned at 11:43 a.m. Meeting time was approximately 1 hour and 38 minutes. Six full voting members were present and a quorum wasn't established. Avery Hoffman chaired the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS:

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

A. SUBSISTENCE REPORTS

B. OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS

a. ADF&G

b. USFWS

C. MARINE FISHERY REPORT

D. ADF&G DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE PROJECT UPDATE

E. YUKON DELTA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FISHERY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

F. ADF&G MANAGEMENT UPDATES

OLD BUSINESS:

G. DISCUSSION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL DECISION ON AREA M REGULATIONS

WORKING GROUP ACTION ITEMS:

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

1. Approve the agenda.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

A. *Subsistence Reports*

1. Lowest River: Fritz Charles reported no harvest report. *Audio for this update begins 21:22 – Meeting Audio – 8/19/26*
2. Lower River: Tad Lindley reported few coho salmon caught, and fishers are primarily catching whitefish. Avery Hoffman did not report a fishery report.
3. Middle River: James Nicori did not have a report for 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

4. Upper River: Barbara Carlson reported operating her set net and finding success catching coho salmon.
5. Headwaters: Kevin Whitworth provided reports from the KRITFC teleconference, reporting that fishers asked for more openers. Mr. Whitworth reported operating his fish wheel and catching whitefish.

B. Overview of Kuskokwim River Salmon run assessment Projects:

1. ADF&G: Sean Larson provided an update on ADF&G assessment projects and the progression of the coho salmon run. *Audio for this update begins at 31:29 - Meeting Audio – 8/19/26*
2. USFWS: Nate Akers provided an update on their chum salmon sampling as well as tracking flights. *Audio for this update begins 35:49 - Meeting Audio – 8/19/26*

C. Marine Fishery Report: Terese Vicente provided an update on the marine fishery and bycatch numbers. *Audio for this update begins 1:33:10 - Meeting Update – 8/19/26*

D. ADF&G Division of Subsistence Project Update: Alida Trainor with Division of Subsistence provided an update on the subsistence survey project and the likelihood it will not operate this fall. This update was moved below People to be Heard in the meeting. *Audio for this update begins at 10:11 – Meeting Audio – 8/19/26*

E. YDNWR Management Update: Spencer Rearden had no additional update for USWFS management. *Audio for this update begins at 47:20 - Meeting Audio – 8/19/26*

F. Discussion of ADF&G Management considerations and discussion of possible alternatives: Sam Decker discussed recent state management actions and asked the Working Group for comments on proposed management actions. *Audio for this update begins at 48:32 - Meeting Audio -8/19/26*

OLD BUSINESS:

G. AG Decision on Area M regulations *Audio for this update begins at 1:32:21 – Meeting Audio – 8/19/26*

Meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

WORKING GROUP MOTIONS:

1. **Approve the agenda. Passed (Unanimous)**
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	Absent
LOWER RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Excused
MIDDLE RIVER SUBSISTENCE	Absent
UPRIVER SUBSISTENCE	Barbara Carlson
HEADWATERS SUBSISTENCE	Kevin Whitworth
MEMBER AT LARGE	Absent
2 nd MEMBER AT LARGE	Avery Hoffman
WESTERN INTERIOR RAC	<i>Vacant</i>
YK DELTA RAC	Absent
COMMERCIAL FISHING	Tad Lindley
SPORT FISHING	<i>Vacant</i>
PROCESSOR	<i>Vacant</i>
KRITFC	James Nicori
ADF&G	Sam Decker
CHAIR	Avery Hoffman

Other Participants:		
<u>ADF&G Comm Fish:</u> Sean Larson, Madison Hardwig, Aaron Tiernan, Kay Stewart, Zach Liller, Kara Domnick, John Linderman		
<u>Sport Fish:</u> John Chythlook		
<u>Subsistence:</u> Tim Bembenic, Jane Litvin, Alida Trainor		
<u>USFWS:</u> Spencer Rearden, Aaron Moses, Nate Akers		
<u>OSM:</u>		
NVN: Bryanna Sherer KRITFC: Terese Vicente, Justin Leon, Bill Bechtol, Andrew Magel, Erald Murati, Kevin Whitworth	ONC: Avery Hoffman AVCP: Gabe Canfield Government: Maridon Boario (rep for Senator Hoffman)	<u>Media:</u> <u>WG Alternates:</u>

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (**ADF&G, department, State**), Orutsaramiut 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>