

2016

Central Kuskokwim

Fish & Game Advisory Committee

MEETING PACKET

Wednesday December 28, 2016

Aniak, 5:00pm

Teleconference: 1-800-504-8071 code: 5432709



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CENTRAL KUSKOKWIM ADVISORY COMMITTEE Roster

Chairman: Lisa Feyereisen
Vice Chair: Nick Kameroff
Secretary:

Updated: 11/2016

AC MEMBER NAME	COMMUNITY	TERM EXPIRES	INTERESTS*
<i>Vacant</i> Tribe	Crooked Creek	6/16	
Tim Zaukar City		6/16	
Nick Kameroff Tribe	Aniak	6/18	
Ricky Ciletti City		6/18	
Lucy Simeon Tribe	Chuathbaluk	6/18	
Sophie Sakar City		6/18	
Walter Morgan Tribe	Lower Kalskag	6/17	
Darlene Heckman City		6/17	
<i>Vacant</i> Tribe	Upper Kalskag	6/17	
William “Billy” Alexie City		6/17	
Mark Leary	At Large Seat	6/16	
Lisa Feyereisen		6/16	

*Interests: 1. Trapping; 2. Sport Fishing; 3. Subsistence; 4. Hunting; 5. Commercial Fishing; 6. Photography; 7. Guiding; 8. Processing; 9. Personal Use; 10. Outdoorsperson; 11. Assoc./Corp.; 12. Conservationist

Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee seats: 10 total (2 Crooked Creek, 2 Aniak, 2 Chuathbaluk, 2 Lower Kalskag, 2 Upper Kalskag)

IMPORTANT DATES: Board of Game & Board of Fisheries

Board of Game (BOG)

Dec. 22, 2016: Public Comment Deadline for the BOG Arctic & Western Region meeting

Jan. 6-9, 2017: Arctic & Western Region (*Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A*), Bethel, AK

Feb.3, 2017: Public Comment Deadline for the BOG Interior Region meeting

Feb. 17-25, 2017: Interior & Northeast Arctic Region (*Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B and 26C*), Fairbanks, AK

Board of Fisheries (BOF)

Feb. 9, 2017: Public Comment Deadline for the BOF Upper Cook Inlet meeting

Feb. 23-March 8, 2017: Upper Cook Inlet Finfish, Anchorage, AK

Feb. 27, 2017: Public Comment Deadline for the BOF Statewide Crab and Supplemental Issues meeting

March 20-24, 2017: Statewide King and Tanner Crab and Supplemental Issues, Anchorage, AK

MEETING MINUTES: Dec. 2, 2016

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ADF&G Office, Bethel December 2, 2016

I. Call to Order: Lisa Feyereisen

II. Roll Call: Members Present: Ricky Cilette [Aniak via teleconference], Nick Kameroff [Aniak], Billy Alexie *joined at 9:56am* [Upper Kalskag], Darlene Heckman [Lower Kalskag], Walter Morgan [Lower Kalskag], Mark Leary *joined at 10:04am* [At Large; from Napaimute], Lisa Feyereisen, Chair [At Large; from Crow Village]

Members absent: Sophie Sakar [Upper Kalskag], Tim Zaukar [Crooked Creek], Lucie Simeon [Chuathbaluk]

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: A quorum established **1 hr 10 minutes after start of meeting**

III. Approval of Agenda: Nick Kameroff made the motion – Walter Morgan 2nd

IV. Agenda approved with two additions and the plan to move items around to fit guests schedule. Additional items; Kuskokwim Intertribal Fish Commission update by Nick Kameroff & Develop 'Areas of Concern' that the Central Kuskokwim AC members have

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Last meeting was a teleconference on December 19, 2014. It is unknown at this time where the minutes are for this meeting or who was taking them.

VI. AK Fish and Game Staff Present: Aaron Tiernan *in person*, Patrick Jones *in person*, Josh Pierce *in person*, Marc Cloward *in person*, and Jen Peeks *in person*, Lisa Olson *via telephone*; USFWS Present: Yukon Delta Refuge, Kent Stahlnecker *in person*, David Phillips *in person*, and Chris Tulick *in person*.

VII. Guests Present: Andrea Gusty *via telephone* (The Kuskokwim Corporation), Henry Cole (Lower River AC), Grant Fairbanks (Bethel Resident), Dave Cannon (KRWC).

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A quorum was established at around 10:00 am, but before that the following topics were discussed.

Forgetting the lessons our elders taught us: Information and education and community outreach on having an elder promoting “Take only what you need” – Sophie Sakar was used as an example. Lisa will talk to Sophie Sakar about being an elder rep.

Need for reduction of motor size on the Aniak River: Nick Kameroff stated there was a need for reduction of motor size on the Aniak River and other rivers – maybe propeller only and that boundaries should be established for where boats can go during spawning season.

Josh noted that the regulation on the Holitna to limit boats to 40 HP was not intended to protect fish, but reducing user conflicts with residents from outside the region with big boats. That’s been in place since 1992.

It was noted that whatever regulation be implemented be fair, but should target guides since they go places where they shouldn’t be going.

Ricky said that Dan Gillikin stated that there was no direct evidence that jet boats harmed fish more than props. Need evidence. Possibly the Kipchuk and Salmon as well as Buckstock

The AC decided to keep this topic on the list for further discussion.

Whitefish Lake and overharvest of species and littering – lack of accountability of users.

Andrea Gusty with TKC said that they will support the AC in sign posting efforts and will work with the AC. TKC put land around Whitefish Lake into conservation easement – this should add more teeth to enforcement. Refuge has agreed to put specific signs; in the past, Lisa has worked with Spencer Rearden. During Kalskag’s Spirit Camp in spring would be a good opportunity to post some signs, making sure that they aren’t place on any allotment. The signs, however, should be respectful and not come across negatively. It was recommended to wait for a few years to see how successful the signs are before having Kalskag do any enforcement.

Kalskag residents are seeing lots of non-local people overharvesting whitefish in the fall when fish are firm. Sometimes nets are bank to bank but there has been no enforcement. Walter noted that if it were a king salmon issue, then enforcement would be all over it. He noted how whitefish are treated differently.

The state said that the remoteness of Whitefish Lake doesn’t allow for easy enforcement.

.....
The discussion of 4” mesh nets and incidental harvest of whitefish came up but was postponed until later when a quorum was established and proposals dealing with this issue would come up..

The need to increase predator control for bear and wolf was brought up by people from Kalskag and Crooked Creek; some folks from those villges wondered why aerial control around Aniak and above wasn’t happening.

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Lisa said geographically speaking – there was too much forested area to effectively shoot the wolves.

Josh noted that all of 19A was a predator control unit and at one time had an active aerial program all the way down to Kalskag but it wasn't very successful. Access was denied on FWS lands as well as TKC lands, and generally the snow conditions are too poor to see the wolves easily.

He noted that working upriver with MTNT and Doyon is working well and that they do have land use agreements.

TKC did give permission for two years for bear control for ADF&G officials only. For now, ADF&G says that this option is totally off table unless TCK gives permission. Lisa was hoping to get copies of liability clauses from Doyon and MTNT and will work with TKC.

Josh noted that they can harvest 40% of wolves but not put a dent in the population.

Josh also stated that it would take a new regulation, but the AC should put in proposal to allow hunting wolves (May 31) over bait. Josh said that if a person has a trapping license and since wolf (and bear season is open), then a person can shoot a wolf over a bear bait.

Andrea Gusty noted that the TKC board barred any kind of baiting on TKC lands.

Lisa would like to see some kind of presentation to the TKC board with the hope of convincing them that effective predator control is important.

.....

Proposal #7 Ricky stated his concern for a lack of ethical hunting and whether it could be addressed with hunter education classes, etc. He noted that there is a new generation of hunters, some of which are not aligned with what elders teach; he saw four killed cow killed in the vicinity of Aniak and left to rot). He'd like to see something done geared to the youth that is not required, but teaches them about safety and ethics..

David Phillips noted that the Fish Wildlife Service offered an outreach program with archery and air rifles that promoted safety in several villages that was very successful, and that villages have been receptive to it.

Ricky will try one to get something going in Aniak and see how it goes.

No proposal was made, but it will stay on the to do list.

.....

Proposal # 8 was discussed after quorum was established. This discussion from earlier was re-initiated. It was noted that overcrowding on Aniak River was a problem and that zoning off of sections might be a solution (e.g., Buckstock on down o.k.)

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It was noted that even fishing guides are feeling overcrowded, and if something is done, there should still be some economic opportunity allowed.

Walter Morgan said that between Sept 1 – 10 it's like a highway. He says you can't call for moose because of the activity; the moose don't come out with so much traffic. He's concerned for expense on gas because people can't hardly afford to go up there and not see anything with all the traffic.

Walter also said that rainbows aren't near as common as they used to be.

Lisa doesn't want to stop people who regularly fish there and have for years.

Aaron stated that the overcrowding issue will take time to hash out – everyone has equal opportunity to access unless it's private land.

Lisa asked whether or not traditional use areas could be designated?

Will hold off on this topic for another year and consider possibly liming motor.

.....
First official vote once the quorum was established.

Don't want to speak for people outside of area –

Motion to adopt minutes from previous meeting – approved

Motion to approve agenda as amended to include the two proposals not listed on it – approved

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STATEWIDE (EXCEPT SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT) KING AND TANNER CRAB AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES MARCH 20–24, 2017 ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES			
Mandatory- Please Summarize Your Proposal Comments in this Form			
BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Supports or Opposes?	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal
BOF	275	Create a Tier II subsistence king salmon fishery in the Kuskokwim River.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action			Tabled to a later discussion. See comments below.
BOF	276	Establish a permit system for regulating the king salmon subsistence fishery during times of low king salmon runs.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action			Tabled to a later discussion. See comments below.

BOF proposals

275 - Lisa Olson discussed Proposal # 275 to Create a Tier II Fishery. Lisa stated that if adopted it would take several years to flesh everything out with many stakeholder meetings.

One year ago the AC was in favor of some type of permit system, not necessarily a Tier II, but something that would allow for some harvest because during times of conservation. It was noted that when a Special Action request was approved by the Fish & Wildlife Service, that allowed for some form of community or household harvest to be distributed throughout a village as long as the fish were harvested in federal waters (basically from the Kuskokwim’s mouth upstream to Aniak). However, half of the AC’s villages are not located near federal waters, with some needing to travel 100-miles or more down to Aniak and below.

The only opportunity that is allowed by the state during a special action request is an elder’s fishery which is not adequate.

Motion to open up Proposal’s # 275 & 276 for discussion purposes.

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The decision by the BOF to keep king salmon fishing closed until the 12th of June helped middle river villages like Chuathbalk, Napaimute and above out by allowing good numbers of king salmon to get through the lower river. It was noted, however, that the Kalskag villages did suffer because of their location 33-miles below Aniak which had only a limited ability to fish following June 12 with intermittent opening by set by the Fish & Wildlife Service (they're located above the heavy fishing pressure from the lower river villages).

Eventually Kalskag was allowed to fish unimpeded towards the tail end of the king salmon run.

The state recognized that the villages upriver of Aniak had so few people, that there was minimal harvest were so few that the state restricted any restrictions.

Grant Fairbanks spoke on behalf of the Tier II Proposal (which he submitted) and noted that he proposed it several years ago. He felt that there should be a system in place in case the numbers get so low that something must immediately be implemented rather than have the state take several years to meet with stakeholders and sort the particulars out. Grant felt that Tier II worked for Nome and a similar, but adjusted for our area, should be on the books ready to go.

The concern was expressed that some people who should have received Tier II moose permits didn't get them.

Grant said that if something equitable established up and down the river, a lawsuit could be filed and they would likely win.

It was discussed that how people answered the questions should be verified – so that those that really need them get a permit and those who don't don't.

Also Grant noted that the questions on a Tier II application can – and should - be tailored to our region.

Any Alaska resident no matter where they live could get it.

Friendly amendment to separate Proposals 275 & 276. Passed

Feb 27 Statewide mtg deadline

Proposal # 275 was tabled to get more information – would plan to get together in mid January

The AC felt that both proposals (275 & 276) were so important that they should meet in person rather than a teleconference – they'd like a work session in Aniak with public participation.

Motion was made to also table Proposal # 276 and it passed.

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<p align="center">UPPER COOK INLET FINFISH FEBRUARY 23–MARCH 8, 2017 ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES</p>			
<p>Mandatory- Please Summarize Your Proposal Comments in this Form</p>			
BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Supports or Opposes?	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal
BOF			Board generated proposal to consider amending regulations for when 4-inch mesh set gillnets may be used during the early season king salmon subsistence fishery closure
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	2	1	<p>Aaron Tiernan says that they have been inappropriately used to target kings, have to be within 100’ of high water mark</p> <p>One suggestion was when the river opens up to fishing, the openings should start in the upper river first and then progress downstream – contrary to the way it’s been done in the past.</p> <p>The 100’ component doesn’t work in the upper river – you would have to set the net in the sand; in other words it wouldn’t be in the water during low water.</p> <p>Friendly amendment strikes 100 foot language and allows more than 100 feet during high water and leave it to the board’s discretion.</p> <p>AC voted, however 4 members abstained and there were not enough votes to support or oppose. At the end of the meeting, two members who opposed wanted to re-discuss the proposal. Chair agreed to table discussion until a later meeting and re-vote.</p> <p>4 Abstained.</p>

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Alaska Board of Game Arctic/Western Meeting			
January 6-9, 2017, Bethel			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
5	Change “general season” to “subsistence” for Arctic/Western Region black bear hunts having positive customary and traditional use findings		
6	Clarify the resident general and subsistence hunting seasons and the nonresident general hunting seasons for caribou in Interior/Northeast Arctic and the Arctic/Western Regions		
8	Prohibit nonresident hunting of any prey species under intensive management in the Arctic/Western Region until harvest and population objectives are met		
Support	7	0	The AC did act on this and voted unanimously in support of it. The justification was that when you have predator control non-resident hunting will not be allowed.
11	Remove the exception to harvest tickets and reports for sheep		
Support	7	0	The AC did act on this and voted unanimously in support of it.
17	Change the definition of “edible meat” for game birds		
Support	7	0	The AC did act on this and voted unanimously in support of it.
18	Reauthorize resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A		
support	7	0	The AC did act on this and voted unanimously in support of it.
19	Remove the bag limit restriction for resident relatives accompanying nonresident second degree of kindred		
Support	6	0	The AC did act on this and voted unanimously in support of it. One member had stepped out and did not vote
21	Open a winter hunting season for moose in Unit 18		
Support	7	0	The AC did act on this and voted unanimously in support of it.
22	Open a winter nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 18 remainder		
Support	7	0	The AC did act on this and voted unanimously in support of it.

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Alaska Board of Game Arctic/Western Meeting January 6-9, 2017, Bethel			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
23	Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18		
Support	7	0	The AC did act on this and voted unanimously in support of it.
24	Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 18		
Support	6	0	The AC did act on this and voted unanimously in support of it. One member was absent during the vote.
25	Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 and 19		
Opposed	0	7	The AC did act on this and voted unanimously to NOT support it. Proposal # XX (Same as 83) - The AC did act on this and voted unanimously to NOT support it.
ACR 12/ Prop. 160	Kuskokwim Moose Hunt		
Support	6	0	One member commented that they would support, not sure if need to complicate with zones. 1 Absent from the vote

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Alaska Board of Game Interior Region Meeting Feb. 17-25, 2017, Fairbanks			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
46	Reauthorize resident brown bear tag fee exemptions in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region		
Support	6	0	One member absent
47	Change the definition of “edible meat” for game birds		
Support	6	0	One member absent
50	Remove the bag limit restriction for resident relatives accompanying nonresident second degree of kindred for the Interior Region		
Support	6	0	One member absent
51	Prohibit nonresident hunting of any prey species under intensive management in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region until harvest and population objectives are met		
Support	7	0	
54	Change “general season” to “subsistence hunt” for Interior/Northeast Arctic Region black bear hunts having positive customary and traditional use findings		
			No discussion
55	Clarify the resident general and subsistence hunting seasons and the nonresident general hunting seasons for moose in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, and 24		
			No discussion
67	Lengthen the season for bear baiting in the Interior/Northeast Region		
			No discussion
70	Open a resident disabled veteran hunting season for moose in the Interior/Northeast Arctic region		
Support as Amended	7	0	Amendment: To require that veterans have a permit to conduct their hunt
72	Allow the harvest of wolf and coyote by land and shoot with a trapping license in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region		
			No discussion
74	Change the antler restrictions for resident moose hunting in Unit 19B		
Support	7	0	*AC wanted to clarify that it is only for the Aniak River drainage of 19B.
75	Reauthorize the predation control program in Unit 21E		
Support	7	0	

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Alaska Board of Game Interior Region Meeting Feb. 17-25, 2017, Fairbanks			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
76	Lengthen the hunting season for moose in Unit 21E		
Support	7	0	
77	Increase the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 21E		
Support	4	0	A member was unsure about being able to sell the hide/ skull, but could imagine how some people might want to for money. 3 Abstained
79	Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 19A		
Support	7	0	Ricky created proposal out of concern that if he got charged by a bear and shot a brown bear while baiting that he would get ticketed.
80	Remove the restriction on boat horsepower in the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area in Unit 19A		
opposed	0	7	They felt that communities in that area did not want larger hp and wanted to respect that region.
82	Change the nonresident sheep season in Unit 19C to a drawing permit hunt with up to 80 permits		
support	7	0	Support the reasoning for the proposal submission
83	Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 and 19		
Opposed	0	7	The AC did act on this and voted unanimously to NOT support it.
98	Eliminate the requirement for a nonresident wolf tag in Unit 21		
Support	6	0	A member commented that some of these things go against our values, I would not hunt wolves in the fall time but it was proposed by the AC that lives there. 1 abstain
101	Create a regulation allowing the harvest of moose under a permit for “celebration of life” events		
	3	1	Member commented that they support the concept but they may need more definition to define celebration. Everyone in different regions celebrate differently. A member commented that they respect the self-determination Support the concept but felt it needed more definition. 3 abstain
117	Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20D		
			No discussion
156	(Additional proposal) Reauthorize the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Intensive Management Plan		
Support	7	0	

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VIII. New Business:

IX. Other/ Miscellaneous Business:

- **State/ Federal MOU:** AC decided to review material and provide comments to Lisa by Dec. 18
- **Rep for upcoming meeting:** Lisa Feyereisen will attend BOG meeting in Bethel and BOG in Fairbanks, Walter Morgan Alternate; Nick Kameroff to attend BOF meeting

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn, 5:18pm. Passed (Unanimous)

Minutes Recorded By: _____

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: _____

2017 BOF Proposals

Proposal 275 was tabled at the 2016 Arctic / Yukon/ Kuskokwim Finfish meeting as Proposal 95.

PROPOSAL 275 – 5 AAC 01.286. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amounts necessary for subsistence uses; and 5 AAC 01.2xx. Tier II subsistence salmon fishing permits for the Kuskokwim River fishery. Create a Tier II subsistence king salmon fishery in the Kuskokwim River, as follows:

5 AAC 01.286(b) and 5 AAC 01.2xx NEW

Because available surpluses of Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon remain very low, and for a sustained period of time have not been sufficient to provide a reasonable opportunity to meet subsistence needs, the Board should designate Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon stocks as a Tier II fishery, as specified in AS 16.05.258(b)(4) or implement an alternate system which will effectively ensure an equitable distribution of any harvestable surpluses throughout the drainage in periods when amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) cannot be met (i.e. community permits or quotas). AS 16.05.258 states that “if the harvestable portion of the stock or population is not sufficient to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses, the appropriate board shall” [emphasis added] establish a system that distinguishes among subsistence users. Such a system, referred to as “Tier II,” gives priority to users based on a set of clear criteria including: 1) customary dependence, 2) proximity to the stock or population and 3) availability of alternative resources (AS 16.05.258(b)(4)(B)). Tier II has been applied in the past by the BOF to the Nome Subdistrict chum salmon subsistence fishery and in a number of cases by the Board of Game.

Given the clear language in statute requiring action on the part of the Board, if the Board elects not to take action they may be failing to fairly distribute limited harvestable surpluses of Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon in years when ANS is not being met and may be in violation of AS 16.05.258(b)(4).

The core of this proposal was the subject of a 2014 BOF ACR which was accepted by the BOF by a 7-0 vote and considered at their October 2014 work session, but did not result in any of the requested actions. [See **ACR #8**: “Subdivide Kuskokwim River king salmon ANS by geographic area and allocate Kuskokwim River king salmon subsistence harvest under a Tier II system (5 AAC 01.286(b) and 5 AAC 01.2xx NEW)”].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon stocks are currently in an extended period of very depressed runs. With severely depressed runs and all Alaska residents qualifying as subsistence users, it has not been possible for fishery managers to provide fishing opportunity for all users without impacting escapement needs essential to rebuilding the stocks. The minimum ANS (5 AAC 01.286) for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon (67,200 to 109,800) has not been achieved for the past five consecutive years. The 2014 total harvest as estimated by ADFG was 11,762—more than 55,000 salmon below the bottom of the established ANS range. Subsistence users in 26 communities spread out along the length of the River customarily harvest Chinook salmon for subsistence. In recent years, when there has been limited harvest opportunity – but well below the ANS range, middle river and upriver users in many communities assert that the distribution of harvest, and reasonable opportunity, has not been equitably shared throughout the drainage with disproportionate harvest opportunities provided to lower river harvesters.

PROPOSED BY: Grant Fairbanks (HQ-F15-097)

Prop. 275 ADF&G Staff Comments

PROPOSAL 95 – 5 AAC 01.286. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amounts necessary for subsistence uses; and 5 AAC 01.2xx. Tier II subsistence salmon fishing permits for the Kuskokwim River fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Grant Fairbanks.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This would eliminate nonsubsistence uses of Kuskokwim River king salmon and distinguish among subsistence users by establishing a Tier II subsistence king salmon fishery. Alternatively, this seeks an effective system to equitably distribute limited harvestable surpluses of king salmon throughout the drainage when ANS cannot be met.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? See below for current C&T and ANS findings. Fish may be taken for subsistence purposes without a subsistence fishing permit (5 AAC 01.280). Salmon may be taken at any time from the Kuskokwim River, except that the commissioner may, by EO, close subsistence fishing periods and restrict fishing gear to conserve king salmon (5 AAC 01.270). There are no harvest limits or annual possession limits for subsistence king salmon fishing, except in that portion of the Aniak River drainage upstream of Doestock Creek, from June 1 through August 31, when subsistence fishing with a hook and line attached to a rod or pole, the bag and possession limit for king salmon is two fish (5 AAC 01.295).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? All

Alaska residents wanting to subsistence fish for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage would need to apply for a Tier II subsistence fishing permit. Individuals, or individual households, would have to answer a series of questions, developed by the board pursuant to AS 16.05.258(b)(4), to distinguish among Alaskans based on 1) their customary and traditional direct dependence upon Kuskokwim River king salmon by the subsistence user for human consumption as a mainstay of livelihood; and 2) the ability to obtain food if subsistence use is restricted or eliminated).¹ Applications would be scored by the department, and then ranked, and the highest ranking applicants would receive a subsistence king salmon fishing permit to participate in any subsistence king salmon fishing opportunity provided. The amount of king salmon available for subsistence harvest would depend upon the annual forecasted harvestable surplus of Kuskokwim River king salmon.

BACKGROUND: Since 2010, the Kuskokwim River has experienced poor king salmon returns. Total run estimates for Kuskokwim River king salmon in 2010, 2012, and 2013 are the three lowest on record. From 2010 through 2013 the majority of tributary escapement goals were not achieved and the recently established Kuskokwim River drainagewide escapement goal was not achieved in 2013. In 2012, 2014, and 2015, the department closed the subsistence salmon fishery for approximately 32 days each year.

¹The second criteria in AS 16.05.258(b)(4)(B)(ii), proximity of the domicile of the subsistence user to the stock or population, has been ruled invalid by the Alaska Supreme Court; thus, no Tier II opportunity may consider proximity of a resource to a person's domicile.

The 2014 and 2015 Kuskokwim River king salmon runs were expected to be similar or slightly better than the 2013 run. In anticipation of low runs, management actions were taken to close the subsistence and sport king salmon fisheries with the intent of reducing king salmon harvest to a level that would allow for achievement of escapement goals. Commercial fishing remained closed until the majority of the king salmon run had passed upriver to minimize potential incidental king salmon harvest. Due to these restrictive actions, the drainagewide escapement goal was met in 2014 and 2015 and the majority of tributary escapement goals were achieved in these recent years. Additionally, USFWS enacted Special Actions (SAs) in 2014 and 2015 to limit the harvest of king salmon to federally qualified individuals within the boundaries of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and implement a community permit system to provide a limited allocation of king salmon for harvest by federally qualified subsistence users.

In AS 16.05.258(b)(4), the board is instructed that if the harvestable portion of a stock or population is not sufficient to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses, the board shall adopt regulations eliminating consumptive uses, other than subsistence uses, and then distinguish among subsistence users (i.e., adopt Tier II). While Kuskokwim River king salmon subsistence harvest has fallen below the lower end of the ANS range since 2011 (Figure 95-1), ANS is one way for the board to measure if reasonable opportunity is being provided. “Reasonable opportunity” is defined in state law (AS 16.05.258(f)) and “means an opportunity, as determined by the appropriate board, that allows a subsistence user to participate in a subsistence hunt or fishery that provides a normally diligent participant with a reasonable expectation of success of taking of fish or game.” The board may base its determination of reasonable opportunity on information regarding past subsistence harvest levels of fish in the specific area, and the bag limits, seasons, access provisions, and means and methods necessary to achieve those harvests, or on comparable information from similar areas.

The Kuskokwim Subsistence Salmon Panel was established at the board work session in October 2014 to seek public input on how to ensure an equitable distribution of subsistence salmon resources throughout the Kuskokwim River drainage and potential tools for equitable distribution in times of low abundance. The panel met in Bethel in January and August 2015 to discuss and develop options for consideration by the board. The panel was unanimously opposed to the Tier II aspect of this proposal.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. As an alternative to Tier II management, the proposal suggests the board could implement community permits or quotas to equitably distribute limited subsistence king salmon harvestable surpluses throughout the Kuskokwim River drainage.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a nonsubsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes, the board made a positive customary and traditional use finding for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage (5 AAC 01.286(a)(3)).
3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.
4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board revised the amount reasonably necessary finding for Kuskokwim River king salmon in January 2013 to be 67,200–109,800 king salmon (5 AAC 01.286(b)(1)).
5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.
6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

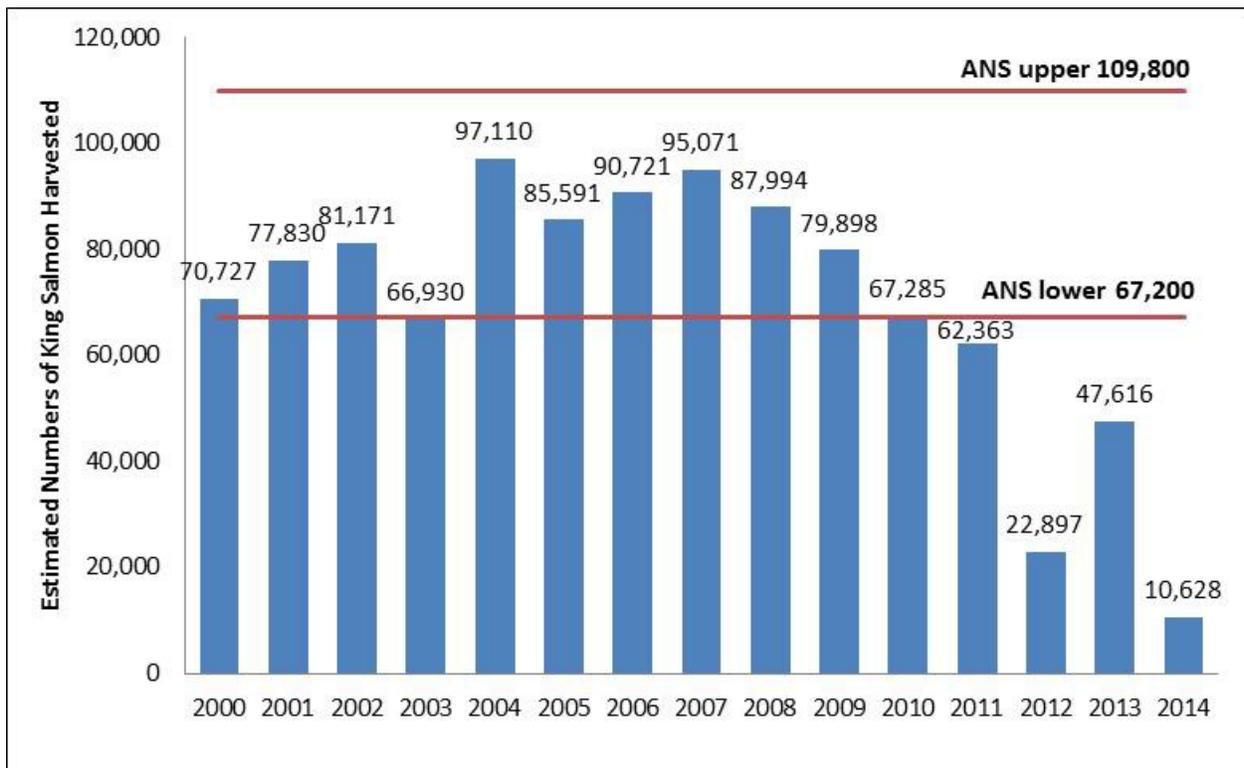


Figure 95-1.–Kuskokwim river king salmon subsistence harvest, 2000–2014.

Proposal 276 was tabled at the 2016 Arctic / Yukon/ Kuskokwim Finfish meeting as Proposal 222.

Proposal 276 – 5 AAC 01.280. Subsistence fishing permit. Establish a permit system for regulating the king salmon subsistence fishery during times of low king salmon runs, as follows:

5 AAC 01.280 is amended to read:

5 AAC 01.280 Subsistence fishing permits.

[FISH MAY BE TAKEN FOR SUBSISTENCE PURPOSES WITHOUT A SUBSISTENCE FISHING PERMIT]

(a) Except as provided in this section, fish may be taken for subsistence purposes without a subsistence fishing permit.

(b) In times of king salmon conservation, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the subsistence fishery and immediately reopen the fishery with the following provisions. In the Kuskokwim River drainage, king salmon may only be taken by a subsistence fishing permit.

(1) A king salmon community subsistence fishing permit may be issued to communities or groups of [NUMBER] or more individuals who demonstrate a communal subsistence pattern of use of king salmon as described in the applicable board finding:

(i) Season dates for community permits are [MONTH AND DAY] through [MONTH AND DAY].

(ii) Annual permit limits will be determined based on a percentage of annual forecasted surplus king salmon, the number of permit applications received, and the number of individuals attached to the permit.

(2) A king salmon household subsistence fishing permit may be issued:

(i) Season dates for household permits are [MONTH AND DAY] through [MONTH AND DAY].

(ii) Annual permit limits will be determined based on a percentage of annual forecasted surplus king salmon, the number of permit applications received, and the number of individuals per household. .

(3) The application period for community and household permits is [MONTH AND DAY] through [MONTH AND DAY] annually;

(4) Only one subsistence fishing permit will be issued to each household per year. Individual households are only eligible to be listed on either a community subsistence fishing permit or a household subsistence fishing permit;

(5) All species caught while fishing for king salmon must be retained;

(6) Permit must be in possession while fishing or transporting fish;

(7) All fish harvested must be recorded on the permit, in ink, before concealing the fish from plain view or transporting the fish from the fishing site; for the purposes of this paragraph, “fishing site” means the location where the fish is removed from the water and becomes part of the permit holder’s bag limit;

(8) Permits must be returned or harvest reported when fishing is completed or by the date specified on the permit;; Permits must be returned to the department no later than [Month and Day], or a permit for the following year may be denied as provided in 5 AAC 01.015 (c);

(9) This regulation expires [DATE].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Since 2012, king salmon returns to the Kuskokwim River have been below historical averages and some of the lowest runs on record. These low returns have prompted restrictions to the Kuskokwim River subsistence salmon fishery. At the August 2015 Kuskokwim Subsistence Salmon Panel meeting (panel) 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.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries

(Board Generated Proposal)

Prop. 276 ADF&G Staff Comments

PROPOSAL 222 – 5 AAC 01.280. Subsistence fishing permits.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Create a limited subsistence permit program that would apply only during times of king salmon conservation for the Kuskokwim River drainage and would provide for either community harvests of king salmon as described in a board finding, or household harvests of king salmon; the permit program would also sunset after an undetermined date. Annual permit limits, season dates, and recording and reporting requirements for each permit fishery would also be adopted.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Fish may be taken for subsistence uses without a subsistence fishing permit (5 AAC 01.280). There are no harvest limits or annual possession limits for subsistence king salmon fishing, except in that portion of the Aniak River drainage upstream of Doestock Creek: from June 1 through August 31, when subsistence fishing with a hook and line attached to a rod or pole, the bag and possession limit for king salmon is two fish (5 AAC 01.295).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?

During times of king salmon conservation, either a community or a household permit would be required to subsistence fish for king salmon within the Kuskokwim River drainage. Permits may provide estimates of the number of king salmon taken for subsistence uses by place of residency. Harvest limits would provide the department more management flexibility to maximize subsistence opportunity while ensuring escapement goals are achieved.

BACKGROUND: Subsistence fishing permits have not been required in the Kuskokwim Area. Since 1989 the department, in partnership with local Tribal organizations, has conducted postseason surveys to estimate Kuskokwim Area subsistence salmon harvest. Postseason surveys document subsistence harvest by household using a stratified sampling design that results in an estimate of total subsistence harvest by community. Kuskokwim River subsistence users annually harvest approximately 80,000 king salmon on average, which is the largest king salmon harvest in the state. The community of Bethel harvests a larger number of king salmon than other Kuskokwim River communities, which is likely attributable to Bethel's larger population (Figure 222-1).

Since 2010, the Kuskokwim River has experienced poor king salmon runs. Total run estimates for Kuskokwim River king salmon in 2010, 2012, and 2013 are the three lowest on record. From 2010 through 2013 the majority of tributary escapement goals were not achieved and the recently established Kuskokwim River drainagewide escapement goal was not achieved in 2013. In 2012, 2014, and 2015, the department closed the subsistence salmon fishery for approximately 32 days.

The 2014 and 2015 Kuskokwim River king salmon runs were expected to be similar or slightly better than the 2013 run. In anticipation of low runs, management actions were

taken to close the subsistence and sport king salmon fisheries with the intent of reducing king salmon harvest to a level that would allow for achievement of escapement goals. Due to these restrictive actions, the drainagewide escapement goal was met in 2014 and 2015 and the majority of tributary escapement goals were achieved. Additionally, USFWS enacted special actions to limit the harvest of king salmon to federally qualified individuals within the boundaries of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and implement a community permit program to provide a limited allocation of king salmon for harvest by federally qualified subsistence users. King salmon subsistence harvest from the Kuskokwim River has fallen below the lower end of the ANS range since 2011.

The Kuskokwim Subsistence Salmon Panel (panel) was established at the board's October 2014 work session to seek public input on how to ensure an equitable distribution of subsistence salmon resources throughout the Kuskokwim River drainage, and potential tools for equitable distribution in times of low abundance. Membership was comprised of four board members, representatives of several Kuskokwim River drainage organizations and entities, and several at-large members of the public.

The panel held two-day meetings in Bethel in January 2015 and August 2015. In June 2015, board members also held a public meeting in Aniak, and met with stakeholder groups in Bethel. During the panel meetings, testimony was given regarding the growing population trend in Bethel and its impact on fishing opportunities for smaller villages, particularly those upriver. The panel also heard testimony from panel members in support of a limited permit program that would allow for the harvest of king salmon during times of conservation. The Bethel Fish and Game AC presented the panel with several recommendations, including a permit program that incorporated customary and traditional use criteria conditions and potential harvest limits, among other suggestions. The panel was also presented with an example of discretionary permit conditions for a community subsistence hunt. And finally, the panel was presented with a draft concept proposal for incorporating the customary and traditional use pattern involved with air drying and smoking of king salmon including, but not limited to the following:

1. Long-term drying racks with a smokehouse established for processing quantities of fish and significant time/effort required for participation in this pattern of use;
2. Salvage/preservation of the majority of the king salmon carcass (excluding viscera) for human consumption;
3. Extended sharing of activities involving harvest, processing, and preservation in processing activities, and extended sharing of harvest within the community;
4. A pattern of use dependent on earlier season harvest for preservation due to more favorable weather conditions that reduce waste and spoilage concerns; and recognizes conflict with later seasonal subsistence activities that are also dependent on, and/or limited to, short periods for effective harvest due to weather factors, etc., inherent to the seasonal round aspect of subsistence activities;

Panel input into this proposal suggested other permit aspects could include preseason registration; a range of harvest limits as determined by preseason run forecasts and observed surplus inseason; start date of the approximate first quartile of the run (June 10–

16); and requiring an affidavit and/or physical location of drying racks and smokehouses associated with the permit.

The panel tied the community permit to traditional king salmon patterns of use, including sharing, use of a drying rack, and use of a smokehouse to cold smoke fish. The panel tied the household permit to a pattern of use by individual households, including freezing, canning, and more contemporary uses.

In 2009–2014, the department conducted studies on subsistence salmon use patterns in Kuskokwim River drainage communities, including Bethel. Household surveys were completed in 1,349 Kuskokwim households, department staff visited more than 18 fish camps, and conducted ethnographic interviews with 194 Kuskokwim residents.

One reason for the importance of king salmon to subsistence economies along the Kuskokwim River drainage is their early arrival, which helps fill gaps in winter and spring food supplies and provides fresh food for immediate consumption. Families in the lower Kuskokwim River normally begin harvesting and processing king salmon in early June. The early arrival of king salmon is significant because traditional and preferred methods of preservation—making “cold smoke” strips—work best at this time of year, when the fish can be more easily dried and preserved for winter use. King salmon are sliced into lengthwise strips, which are then brined, hung to dry in covered, outdoor fish racks for a few days to a week, then hung in a smokehouse to dry more completely. This process is referred to as a cold-smoke process because drying occurs at temperatures sufficiently low to prevent cooking of the fish. Cold-smoking of strips is one of the preferred processing methods for king salmon in many parts of the Kuskokwim River because king salmon tend to be very large, and if processed into fillets, the fillets will not dry thoroughly and will spoil.

King salmon harvested at the end of the run, or other species of salmon that arrive after king salmon, are more difficult to process and preserve using traditional methods because the weather later in the summer is wetter, and there are more insects, which make it difficult to preserve fish properly to keep them from spoiling.

Kuskokwim River drainage residents prepare and preserve salmon in many different ways, often using every part of the fish, including heads, hearts, and eggs. Preservation methods include freezing, salting, drying, smoking, and fermenting. Many preservation methods of the past continue to strongly influence how people along the river process and prepare their salmon today. Subsistence fishing, processing, and preparing of king salmon continue to be key elements of Kuskokwim River Yup'ik and Athabascan cultures and identity, and key to passing knowledge and experience from one generation to the next, especially at fish camp.

The 2009–2014 studies also found that going to fish camp is an important part of subsistence activities for some families, while other families prefer to fish in Bethel. Increasing obligations to employment have restricted many survey respondents' ability to travel away from permanent communities for the time typically required to fish from a

seasonal camp. With the recent rise in gasoline costs, fuel conservation strategies have included staying longer at fish camps (particularly for retired or unemployed individuals), eliminating short trips between permanent residences and fish camps, and fishing as close to permanent communities as possible, purchasing more fuel-efficient boat motors, and finding ways to cooperate with other families and share the cost of fishing. Some people said that they preferred to fish at fish camp because they could be away from daily life in town and enjoy quality time as a family. They said it is easier to make a good quality smoke fish in fish camp, and that fishing at fish camp is an important part of cultural and family traditions.

Other people said they preferred to fish in Bethel because it is more convenient. People who are employed and elders who cannot easily travel can participate in fishing and processing. They said when fish are not abundant and there are more restrictive regulations, fishing in Bethel is more efficient than going to fish camp.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on allocative aspects of this proposal. The department **SUPPORTS** the intent of this proposal. Permits, or harvest records, could be an effective way of more precisely determining subsistence harvest and provide an effective means of managing the harvest of king salmon through permit limits, when run strength only allows for a limited harvest. However, an inseason harvest reporting requirement (permit) for all salmon species, independent of the need for conservation from year to year is better suited to the department's management and administrative capabilities. Implementation of a permit program for king salmon only and only during times of king salmon conservation would still require annual postseason surveys to estimate harvest of remaining species. This would result in a duplication of effort, increased costs to the department, and possibly affect comparability of harvest estimates between species and among years based on differing harvest assessment methodologies. The department would incur additional costs to oversee and administer a permit program from issuing, collecting, and entering harvest information from the permits and from increased public education and outreach efforts to facilitate permit program implementation. Reporting of all subsistence salmon harvests through a permit program may also increase the accuracy of harvest estimation, which would improve run-reconstruction estimates and forecasting abilities.

However, if permits are only required during years of king salmon conservation, the department would **SUPPORT** a community or group permit program over a household permit system. The administrative requirements needed to implement a community or group permit program are better aligned with the department's existing capacity.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a nonsubsistence area? No.

2. Is this stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The board found that king, chum, sockeye, coho, and pink salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence (5 AAC 01.286(a)(3)).
3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.
4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses? The board established a range of 67,200–109,800 Kuskokwim River king salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence ((5 AAC 01.286(b)(1)).
5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.
6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses? This is a board determination.

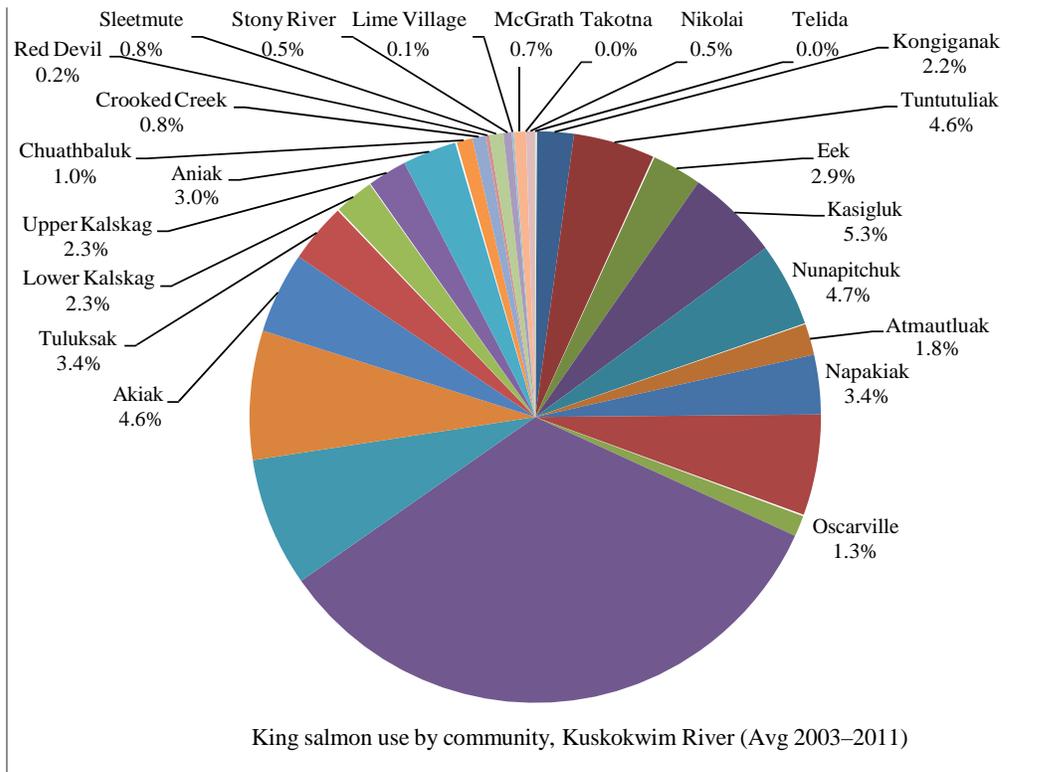


Figure 222-1 –Average percentage of Kuskokwim River king salmon use by community, 2003–2011.

PROPOSAL 279 – 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.

Clarify when 4-inch mesh set gillnets may be used during the early season king salmon subsistence fishery closure, as follows:

5 AAC 07.365 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan.

...

(c) In the king salmon fishery,

(1) when the projected escapement of king salmon is below the drainagewide escapement goal range, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and subsistence king salmon fisheries;

(2) when the projected escapement of king salmon is within the drainagewide escapement goal range, the commissioner shall open and close fishing periods, by emergency order, as follows:

(A) the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and subsistence king salmon fisheries, and after June 11, to the extent practicable, the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least one fishing period per week for a directed subsistence king salmon fishery to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement needs;

(B) after June 11, fishing may be opened for commercial and sport fisheries to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement and subsistence needs;

(C) notwithstanding (c)(2)(A) of this section, before June 12 the commissioner shall, by emergency order, open at least one fishing period per week with four inch or smaller mesh gillnets; the gillnet may only be operated as a set gillnet and no part of the set gillnet may be more than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark;

(3) when the projected escapement of king salmon exceeds the drainagewide escapement goal range,

(A) the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the commercial, sport, and subsistence king salmon fisheries, and after June 11, the directed subsistence king salmon fishery will be open seven days per week; and

(B) after June 11, the commercial and sport fisheries will be managed to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement and subsistence needs;

(C) notwithstanding (c)(3)(A) of this section, before June 12 the commissioner shall, by emergency order, open fishing with four inch or smaller mesh gillnets seven days a week; the gillnet may only be operated as a set gillnet and no part of the set gillnet may be more than 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark;

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current subsistence regulations provide for the use of 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets to harvest non-salmon species during times of king salmon conservation. In recent years of depressed king salmon runs on the Kuskokwim River when subsistence king salmon fishing was closed, some subsistence users were targeting king salmon with 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets traditionally used to harvest non-salmon

species only. During the January 2016 Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Board of Fisheries meeting a regulation was passed that closes the Kuskokwim River king salmon subsistence fishery through June 11 annually. In 2016 the department did not allow the use of 4-inch or less mesh gillnets during the pre-June 11 king salmon subsistence fishing closure given expectations of directed king salmon harvest from this gear type. This proposal seeks clarification on the use of 4-inch or less mesh gillnets during the early season king salmon subsistence fishery closure.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Fisheries

**Boards Support Section
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For Immediate Release: October 10, 2016

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Request for Advisory Committee Input on Revisions to the Federal / State Subsistence MOU

In 2014, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Federal Subsistence Board, its five participating federal agencies, the Boards of Game and Fisheries, and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), expired after five years. The MOU served to guide boards and agencies in coordinating interagency fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on federal public lands that is consistent with state and federal authorities. Staff within the various federal and state agencies have renewed an effort to re-establish the MOU and prepared an initial draft for review and comment by the federal Regional Advisory Councils and the State's Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

Accompanying this request is a draft MOU dated August 11, 2016, and a briefing document which describes the MOU. ADF&G is coordinating advisory committee input to this current version and seeking that input by November 18. Agencies will meet in December to offer further revisions that will be available for board, advisory committee, and RAC review at later meetings. Input received by advisory committees after November 18 will be forwarded to the agencies for further revisions.

Jill Klein, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, is coordinating the effort on behalf of ADF&G. Advisory committee input may be sent directly to Ms. Klein at jill.klein@alaska.gov, or to Boards Support staff who will transmit the information.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in improving the regulatory and management system for Alaska.

An Overview of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Coordinated Interagency Fish and Wildlife Management for Subsistence Uses on Federal Public Lands in Alaska

Between the

Federal Subsistence Board (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Secretarial Appointees)

and

State of Alaska

(Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Board of Game (State Boards))

The MOU is for the purpose of coordinating interagency fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on Federal public lands that is consistent with State and Federal authorities.

We are renewing the MOU because it had an expiration date if there were no formally documented meetings regarding the MOU on an annual basis.

The MOU expired in November 2014. Prior to this, a renewal process took place in 2013, but was not completed. The Commissioner's office of the ADF&G through their work liaising with the Federal Subsistence Board reengaged the State Boards on the renewal of the MOU.

Both state and federal boards have supported this process and both State and Federal agencies created teams to work together on possible revisions to the MOU prior to signing.

The State and Federal agency teams are seeking State Advisory Committee (AC) and Regional Advisory Council (RAC) input on the draft MOU (*version date August 11, 2016*). There are most likely additional revisions that will take place, but we want to get input during this round of AC meetings.

Areas of input:

While all AC and RAC input is welcome and valued, in particular the working group is seeking input in the following areas.

-What areas (geographic, permitting, regulations, management, other) could there be better coordination among State and Federal agencies on the fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on Federal public lands in Alaska?

-What areas (geographic, permitting, regulation, management, other) are the agencies coordinating well and this should continue?

Outline of the MOU:

Section I. Preamble: This section covers State and Federal authorities over management of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands in Alaska. The language is from the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and laws and regulations of the State of Alaska.

Section II. Purpose: This section provides the foundation and direction for coordinated interagency fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on Federal public lands.

Section III: Guiding Principles: This section guides coordination and covers topics such as:

- 1) Ensure conservation, provide continued uses, priority for subsistence, promote regulatory coordination, exchange information among many entities (listed in 1);
- 2) Confirm wildlife management activities remain within the authority of individual land management agencies;
- 3) Use best available information (western science and Traditional ecological knowledge or local knowledge);
- 4) Avoid duplication;
- 5) Involve users in planning;
- 6) Promote stability, minimize disruption; and
- 7) Promote clear, enforceable fishing, hunting and trapping regulations.

Section IV: The Federal Subsistence Board and State of Alaska mutually agree to:

- 1) Cooperate and coordinate research, monitoring, regulatory decisions and management actions towards conservation;
- 2) Share important data and information (both western science and TEK/LK);
- 3) Recognize the Federal priority for rural residents for subsistence and to allow for other uses when harvestable surpluses are sufficient;
- 4) Cooperative funding agreement may be necessary and important;
- 5) Seek resolution when there are differences interpreting data;
- 6) Develop information to clarify regulations for the public;
- 7) Establish protocols when necessary such as the Yukon River Drainage Subsistence Salmon Fishery Management Protocol for coordinated salmon management, preseason planning, inseason salmon management, postseason evaluation and roles;
- 8) Have state and federal staff review data analyses associated with regulatory proposals, harvest assessment, monitoring studies, and subsistence resource management cooperatively with RACs, Subsistence Resource Commissions (SRC), Tribes and others;
- 9) Designate liaisons at the State and Federal agencies for coordination and communication;
- 10) Provide adequate opportunity to review analyses associated with special actions and emergency orders and provide advance notice when possible before issuing special actions or emergency orders; don't delay if of immediate concern;

- 11) Cooperatively review and develop as needed, Federal and State management plans;
- 12) Use the State's harvest reporting system, unless separate Federal subsistence permits and harvest reports are needed;
- 13) Ensure meaningful involvement for all in regulatory processes that affect subsistence on Federal public lands.

Section V. General Provisions: This section is general language associated with MOUs and has been reviewed by the State Department of Law Natural Resources Section.

Of note is number 7 where an annual meeting will take place to review coordinated programs established under this MOU. There is no expiration date to the MOU now.

Appendix: Scope for Protocols

How protocols will be developed and who needs to sign them.