

Meeting Agenda

Date: **January 8 and 9, 2014** Time: **10:00 am** Place: **Bethel**

The meeting will break for lunch on both days and then continue until recessed or adjourned.

Time Called to Order	Chair	Time Adjourned
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ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM: **QUORUM MET? Yes / No**

Upriver Elder:

Downriver Elder:

Commercial Fisher:

Lower River Subsistence:

Middle River Subsistence:

Upper River Subsistence:

Headwaters Subsistence:

Processor:

Member at Large:

Sport Fisher:

Western Interior RAC:

Y-K Delta RAC:

ADF&G:

INTRODUCTIONS:

INVOCATION:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *the agenda may be amended at this time.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

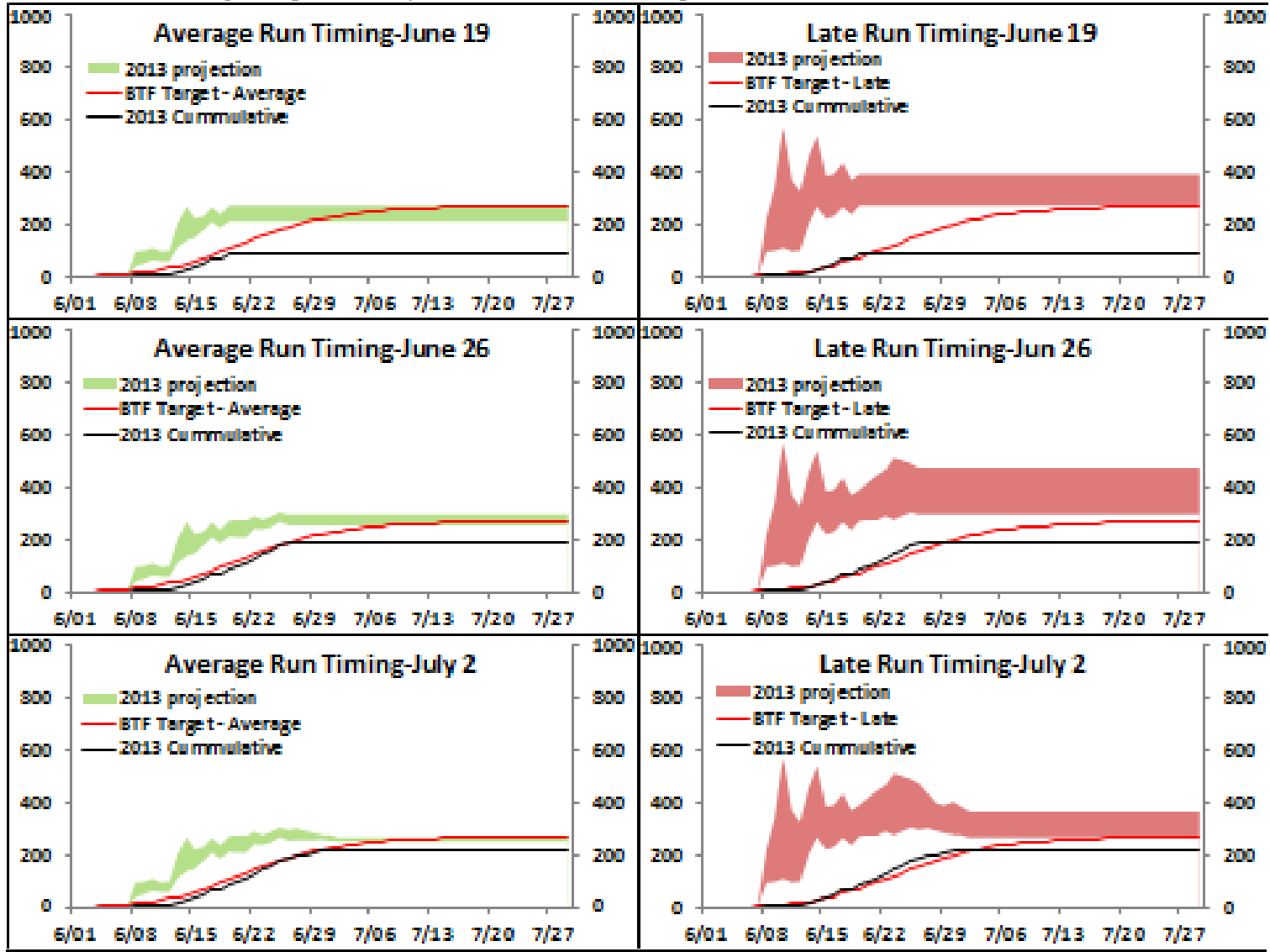
- I. **Kuskokwim River Chinook Salmon Forecasting (Kevin Schaberg). In response to a data request from Dave Cannon.**
- II. **What happened in 2013: Working Group discussion to develop a collective memory of how we got to where we are, and a response from ADFG (with presentation from Travis Elision).**
- III. **Preparing for 2014:**
 - A. **BTF**
 - B. **Forecasting Methods evaluation (hind casting).**
 - C. **2014 forecast description.**
- IV. **Management recommendations by the Working Group and Public input.**
 - A. **KNA Letter**
 - B. **Lower Kuskokwim AC letter**
 - C. **Summary of recent Tribal Council and Community Meetings.**
 - D. **Emergency Petition Options**
- V. **2014 Preliminary Management Recommendations (Presentation from Travis Elision).**
- VI. **Update on the Chinook Initiative.**

COMMENTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

NEXT MEETING DATE: _____ **Time:** _____ **Place:** _____

Information Packet

Page requested by Dave Cannon after presentations were distributed.



Zechariah C. Chaliak
Lower Kuskokwim AC Napakiak Representative
P.O. Box 169
Nunapitchak, AK 99641
December 4, 2013

Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group
Chinook Salmon Management Recommendations
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 1467
Bethel, AK 99559

To whom it may concern:

This is a quick letter of recommendation from Nunapitchak City Council and I. The same report that I gave at the Lower Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee meeting that was held in Bethel, November 11th, 2013.

Last year's gas prices had really slowed down fishing in the beginning of the season and fishing for King Salmon wasn't easy. Even people who caught little over 20 kings were happy and done fishing for King Salmon, by focusing on catching other species.

Recommendation was from the village:

1. Close commercial fishing from Eek Island to Bogus Creek.
2. Close trawling fishing in the Bering Sea.
3. No sports fishing on tributaries.
4. Use windows for subsistence fishing.

Sincerely,

Zechariah C. "Chuck" Chaliak
Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee Nunapitchak Representative

Chairman Karl Johnstone
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK
99811-5526

Dear Chairman Johnstone:

The purpose of this letter is to request the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) consider an emergency petition to add dipnets as legal gear for the taking of salmon other than king salmon in the Kuskokwim Area during times of king salmon conservation. Under the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan, 5AAC 07.365. (2) (a) in addition to the gear specifications and operations provisions of 5 AAC [01.270\(n\)](#), when the commissioner determines that it is necessary to conserve king salmon to achieve escapement goals, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open salmon fishing to dipnets only; however, all king salmon caught with a dipnet must be released dead or alive to the water.

We believe that an emergency action by the Board of Fisheries is warranted in accordance with AS AAC 96.625, which states:

In this section, an emergency is an unforeseen, unexpected event that either threatens a fish or game resource, or an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a **biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome to the petitioners because the resource would be unavailable in the future.**

We believe an emergency situation exists for the following reasons:

1. Last year all seven of the Kuskokwim's enumeration projects experienced the lowest king salmon escapements on record, resulting in the drainage-wide escapement goal not being met (Figure 1). We have now seen two of the last four years where the Kuskokwim's drainage-wide escapement goal has not been attained
2. To show how poor the return in 2013 was, Travis Elison, ADF&G Area Management Biologist, had this to say, "As far as escapement you can look at the weirs and compare to 2010. They were all lower so I'd imagine that the drainagewide escapement is going to be lower than 2010 which was 49,000."
3. Although the preseason forecast for 2013 was for 160,000-240,000 king salmon, we now have new and unforeseen information finalizing the total return of 2013...and the escapement was worse than 2010. The lower bound of the drainage-wide escapement goal is 65,000, and the entire river was lucky to get half that.
4. We also have new and unforeseen information regarding the forecasting methods for the 2014 season. ADF&G Area Research Biologist, Kevin Schaberg, has concluded that "Management for the upcoming year could be better informed based on the outcome from the prior year" and that the "Similar to last year" approach will be utilized (Working Group Presentation January 8, 2014).

5. Because of the poor showing of kings in 2013, and the possibility that 2014 will be similar, it's very likely that subsistence fishers will not even be allowed one opening per week as spelled out in the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 07.365). The Department's 2014 Preliminary Fishing Schedule has only two 4-hour openings from 4 June to 2 July in the lower section of river planned. Similar restrictions are scheduled for the other sections of river (Figure 2).
6. Limiting salmon fishing for a total of 8 hours during that twenty-nine day period would certainly curtail the opportunity to harvest chum or sockeye salmon which would be needed to fill the void created by the depressed king run.
7. Although the actual subsistence harvest numbers are not finalized for 2013, the vast majority of lower river fishers did quite well and met their needs; however, the middle and upriver folks paid the price.
8. In 2014 the Department anticipates a harvestable surplus of roughly 20,000 king salmon or less - when the average annual subsistence harvest is 80,000. As mentioned, the numbers for 2013 are not finalized, but only 22,000 kings were harvested in 2012 only after severe restrictions were enacted. That year, unrestricted fishing was allowed for 144 hours, while 216 hours were restricted to 6" mesh or less. Again, only two 4-hour periods are tentatively scheduled for several sections of the lower river to increase escapement; consequently, no fishers will likely get the kings they are accustomed to.
9. Since those two 4-hour periods leave little time to harvest other salmon species, this petition would allow for additional harvest of chum and sockeye salmon, while conserving the dwindling king salmon. Without the ample opportunity to harvest other salmon species, immense hardships for the vast majority of households (roughly 2,500) would ensue considering how expensive store bought items cost.

Figure 1. Kuskokwim Weir Project King Counts 2003 - 2013

Year	Chinook Salmon Escapement						
	Kwethluk	Tuluksak	George	Kogrukuk	Tatlawiksuk	Takotna	Salmon
2003	14,474	1,064	4,693	11,771	1,683	378	^a
2004	28,605	1,475	5,207	19,651	2,833	461	^a
2005	^a	2,653	3,845	22,000	2,918	499	^a
2006	17,619	1,043	4,357	19,414	1,700	539	^a
2007	13,267	374	4,883	13,029	2,061	418	6,220
2008	5,312	701	2,698	9,730	1,071	413	2,376
2009	5,710	362	3,663	9,702	1,071	311	^a
2010	1,693	201	1,500	5,690	567	178	^a
2011	4,079	288	1,571	6,891	1,012	134	^a
2012	^a	560	2,302	^a	1,116	228	^a
2013 ^b	^a	193	1,158	1,713	495	94	598
SEG	4,100-7,500		1,800-3,300		4,800-8,800		
Average							
2003-2012	11,345	872	3,472	13,098	1,603	356	4,298

^a Weir did not operate or counts were incomplete.
^b Preliminary numbers subject to change.

Figure 2. ADF&G Preliminary Subsistence Fishing Schedule

January 8, 2014

Preliminary 2014 Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Rolling Closure/Open Section	June																				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Section 1: Lower Section of 1-B																					
Section 2: Lower Section 1-B to Tuluksak																					
Section 3: Tuluksak to Chuathbaluk																					
Section 4: Chuathbaluk to Holitna River mouth																					
Section 5: Holitna River mouth to Headwaters																					

Rolling Closure/Open Section	June										July										
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Section 1: Lower Section of 1-B	4 hrs										4 hrs										
Section 2: Lower Section 1-B to Tuluksak	4 hrs										4 hrs										
Section 3: Tuluksak to Chuathbaluk	6 hrs										6 hrs										
Section 4: Chuathbaluk to Holitna River mouth	12 hrs										12 hrs										
Section 5: Holitna River mouth to Headwaters	24 hrs										24 hrs										

Rolling Closure/Open Section	July																			August	
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Section 1: Lower Section of 1-B																					
Section 2: Lower Section 1-B to Tuluksak																					
Section 3: Tuluksak to Chuathbaluk																					
Section 4: Chuathbaluk to Holitna River mouth																					
Section 5: Holitna River mouth to Headwaters																					

Key

- No restrictions
- Closed to salmon fishing
- Gillnets restricted 6-inch or less mesh size and livebox is required on fishwheels

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group
 1 (800) 315-6338 (MEET) Code: 58756# (KUSKO)
 ADF&G Bethel toll free: 1 (855) 933-2433

Information Packet

December 17, 2013

CHINOOK SALMON SPAWNING WEIR ESCAPEMENT, KUSKOKWIM RIVER

Year	Chinook Salmon Escapement						Takotna Salmon
	Kwethluk	Tuluksak	George	Kogrukluk	Tatlawiksuk	Takotna	
2003	14,474	1,064	4,693	11,771	1,683	378	^a
2004	28,605	1,475	5,207	19,651	2,833	461	^a
2005	^a	2,653	3,845	22,000	2,918	499	^a
2006	17,619	1,043	4,357	19,414	1,700	539	^a
2007	13,267	374	4,883	13,029	2,061	418	6,220
2008	5,312	701	2,698	9,730	1,071	413	2,376
2009	5,710	362	3,663	9,702	1,071	311	^a
2010	1,693	201	1,500	5,690	567	178	^a
2011	4,079	288	1,571	6,891	1,012	134	^a
2012	^a	560	2,302	^a	1,116	228	^a
2013 ^b	^a	193	1,158	1,713	495	94	598
SEG	4,100-7,500		1,800-3,300	4,800-8,800			
Average							
2003–2012	11,345	872	3,472	13,098	1,603	356	4,298

^a Weir did not operate or counts were incomplete.

^b Preliminary numbers subject to change.

CHINOOK SALMON SPAWNING AERIAL SURVEY INDEX ESTIMATES, KUSKOKWIM RIVER DRAINAGE, 2003-2013

Year	Lower Kuskokwim River ^a				Middle Kuskokwim River ^a						Upper Kuskokwim River ^a		
	Kwethluk				Aniak	Kipchuk	Salmon	Holokuk	Oskawalik	Holitna	Gagarayah	Cheeneetuk	Salmon (Pitka)
2003	1,236	2,628	654	94	3,514	1,493	1,242	528	844	^b	1,095	810	1,241
2004	4,653	6,801	5,157	1,196	5,362	1,868	2,177	306	293	4,051	670	918	1,138
2005	^b	5,059	2,206	672	^b	1,679	4,097	268	582	1,760	788	1,155	1,801
2006	^b	^b	4,734	^b	5,639	1,618	^b	365	386	1,866	531	1,015	862
2007	^b	^b	692	173	3,984	2,147	1,458	146	^b	^b	1,035	^b	943
2008	^b	487	1,074	^b	3,222	1,061	589	190	213	^b	177	290	1,305
2009	^b	^b	^b	^b	^b	^b	^b	390	379	^b	303	323	632
2010	^b	^b	235	^b	^b	^b	^b	108	^b	587	62	^b	135
2011	263	^b	534	^b	^b	116	79	20	26	^b	96	249	767
2012	^b	^b	610	^b	^b	193	49	9	51	^b	178	229	670
2013	240	1,165	597	83	754	261	154	29	38	670	74	138	475
Escapement Goal Range:			400- 1,200		1,200- 2,300		330- 1,200			970- 2,100	300- 830	340- 1,300	470- 1,600
Average 2003-2012	2,051	3,744	1,766	534	4,344	1,272	1,384	233	347	2,066	494	624	949

^a Estimates are from aerial surveys conducted during peak spawning periods under 'good' or 'fair' survey conditions.

^b Survey was either not flown or did not meet acceptable criteria.

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group
1 (800) 315-6338 (MEET) Code: 58756# (KUSKO)
ADF&G Bethel toll free: 1 (855) 933-2433
KUSKOKWIM RIVER COMMERCIAL CATCH STATISTICS 1985-2011,
RESTRICTED TO 6-INCH OR LESS MESH SIZE

June 16 - 23 Historical Commercial Catches

Date	Subdistrict	Permits	Hours	Chinook		Sockeye		Chum	
				Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE
6/16/1988	1-B	602	6	12,640	3.50	7,408	2.05	72,219	19.99
6/17/1996	1-B	245	2	2,045	4.17	1,850	3.78	11,560	23.59
6/18/1987	1-B	527	9	19,126	4.03	9,118	1.92	13,478	2.84
6/18/1992	1-B	567	8	9,756	2.15	8,508	1.88	32,695	7.21
6/19/1989	1-B	374	8	9,204	3.08	5,504	1.84	41,789	13.97
6/20/1985	W1 & W2	431	6	6,611	2.56	5,361	7.89	20,409	7.89
6/20/1988	1-B	612	6	11,708	3.19	14,502	3.95	113,628	30.94
6/20/1990	1-B	630	6	16,690	4.42	10,318	2.73	30,306	8.02
6/20/1991	1-B	601	6	13,813	3.83	19,732	5.47	13,266	3.68
6/20/1996	W1 & W2	283	2	2,046	3.61	6,423	11.35	27,442	48.48
6/20/2008	1-B	171	6	6,415	6.25	8,653	8.43	12,910	12.58
6/22/1992	W1	619	8	14,554	2.94	6,423	1.30	74,296	15.00
6/22/1995	1-B	569	4	6,895	3.03	4,420	1.94	49,157	21.60
6/23/1989	1-B	277	8	6,011	2.71	7,002	3.16	65,650	29.63
6/23/2009	1-B	167	4	3,003	4.50	8,112	12.14	9,149	13.70
Avg		445	6	9,368	3.6	8,222	4.7	39,197	17.3
Min		167	2	2,045	2.2	1,850	1.3	9,149	2.8
Max		630	9	19,126	6.3	19,732	12.1	113,628	48.5

June 24 - 27 Historical Commercial Catches

Date	Subdistrict	Permits	Hours	Chinook		Sockeye		Chum	
				Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE
6/24/1985	W1 & W2	499	6	10,676	3.57	25,876	8.64	45,189	15.09
6/24/1987	W1	607	9	12,867	2.36	24,355	4.46	54,454	9.97
6/24/1988	W1 & W2	657	6	10,379	2.63	20,930	5.31	124,040	31.47
6/24/1991	W1	616	6	12,612	3.41	19,262	5.21	30,632	8.29
6/24/1994	1-B	576	8	14,221	3.09	38,958	8.45	87,214	18.93
6/24/1998	1-B	338	6	6,413	3.16	9,043	4.46	32,467	16.01
6/24/2005	1-B	188	4	2,276	3.03	7,938	10.56	13,553	18.02
6/24/2008	1-B	126	3	1,372	3.63	2,906	7.69	6,576	17.40
6/25/1990	W1	611	6	16,031	4.37	27,024	7.37	58,944	16.08
6/25/1992	W1 & W2	643	8	10,005	1.94	22,852	4.44	59,030	11.48
6/25/1993	1-B	622	8	8,184	1.64	26,363	5.30	34,123	6.86
6/25/2010	1-A	115	4	543	1.18	734	1.60	9,808	21.32
6/26/1986	W1 & W2	517	6	7,972	2.57	41,084	13.24	69,386	22.37
6/26/1989	W1	126	8	1,862	1.85	3,746	3.72	32,373	32.12
6/26/1995	W1 & W2	583	4	11,108	4.76	18,402	7.89	91,719	39.33
6/26/2006	1-A	74	6	1,647	3.71	5,218	11.75	19,694	44.36
6/26/2009	1-B	189	4	2,552	3.38	6,870	9.09	14,466	19.13
6/27/1985	W1 & W2	504	6	9,339	3.09	26,894	8.89	49,706	16.44
6/27/2008	1-B	135	3	990	2.44	3,842	9.49	7,867	19.42
Avg		407	6	7,424	2.9	17,489	7.2	44,276	20.2
Min		74	3	543	1.2	734	1.6	6,576	6.9
Max		657	9	16,031	4.8	41,084	13.2	124,040	44.4

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group
1 (800) 315-6338 (MEET) Code: 58756# (KUSKO)
ADF&G Bethel toll free: 1 (855) 933-2433

June 28 - July 4 Historical Commercial Catches

Date	Subdistrict	Permits	Hours	Chinook		Sockeye		Chum	
				Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE
6/28/1998	W1 & W2	626	6	6,096	1.62	18,267	4.86	160,114	42.63
6/28/2005	1-A	51	3	405	2.65	2,879	18.82	3,178	20.77
6/28/2006	1-B	99	6	846	1.42	6,456	10.87	16,312	27.46
6/28/2010	1-B	216	4	1,181	1.37	3,536	4.09	22,038	25.51
6/29/1990	W1 & W2	659	6	10,069	2.55	19,509	4.93	78,749	19.92
6/29/1992	W1 & W2	617	6	8,138	2.20	26,607	7.19	82,652	22.33
6/29/1995	W1 & W2	579	4	5,679	2.45	20,390	8.80	92,218	39.82
6/29/1998	W1	426	6	6,358	2.49	22,506	8.81	66,789	26.13
6/30/1986	W1 & W2	589	6	4,586	1.30	23,804	6.74	62,399	17.66
6/30/1987	W1	564	9	6,193	1.22	39,112	7.71	112,963	22.25
6/30/1989	W1 & W2	657	8	9,842	1.87	10,801	2.05	138,982	26.44
6/30/1999	1-B	409	6	4,668	1.90	16,772	6.83	22,700	9.25
6/30/2004	1-A	52	2	522	5.02	1,781	17.13	2,798	26.90
6/30/2005	1-A	71	4	850	2.99	6,290	22.15	7,317	25.76
7/1/1985	W1 & W2	528	6	6,947	2.19	32,182	10.16	50,325	15.89
7/1/1991	W1 & W2	646	6	6,449	1.66	25,628	6.61	53,164	13.72
7/1/2005	1-B	151	4	874	1.45	6,962	11.53	27,901	46.19
7/1/2009	1-B	173	3	762	1.47	7,798	15.03	18,833	36.29
7/2/1988	W1 & W2	599	6	3,999	1.11	15,681	4.36	196,071	54.56
7/2/1996	W1	224	2	545	1.22	3,962	8.84	20,915	46.69
7/2/2004	1-A	44	3	488	3.70	1,900	14.39	2,426	18.38
7/3/1986	W1 & W2	564	6	3,392	1.00	16,031	4.74	67,088	19.83
7/3/1987	W1 & W2	595	6	7,295	2.04	44,541	12.48	69,983	19.60
7/3/1989	W1 & W2	647	6	4,971	1.28	6,046	1.56	96,446	24.84
7/3/1995	W1 & W2	484	4	3,131	1.62	17,535	9.06	91,627	47.33
7/3/1998	W1	445	4	2,277	1.28	15,985	8.98	51,471	28.92
7/4/1985	W1	461	6	3,777	1.37	16,126	5.83	28,630	10.35
Avg		414	5	4,087	1.9	15,892	9.1	60,892	27.2
Min		44	2	405	1.0	1,781	1.6	2,426	9.3
Max		659	9	10,069	5.0	44,541	22.1	196,071	54.6

July 5 - 8 Historical Commercial Catches

Date	Subdistrict	Permits	Hours	Chinook		Sockeye		Chum	
				Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE
7/5/1988	W1	579	6	2,340	0.67	7,284	2.10	163,971	47.20
7/5/1989	W1 & W2	567	6	3,575	1.05	3,093	0.91	89,269	26.24
7/5/1990	W1 & W2	606	6	4,538	1.25	11,320	3.11	91,232	25.09
7/5/1996	W1 & W2	194	2	316	0.81	3,481	8.97	16,853	43.44
7/5/2000	1-B	224	4	357	0.40	3,658	4.08	11,026	12.31
7/5/2011	1-B	112	4	237	0.53	2,520	5.63	13,884	30.99
7/6/1991	W1 & W2	605	6	2,443	0.67	24,832	6.84	42,441	11.69
7/6/1992	W1 & W2	596	8	3,560	0.75	8,448	1.77	87,036	18.25
7/6/1995	W1 & W2	489	4	1,595	0.82	15,096	7.72	83,618	42.75
7/6/2004	1-A	38	3	238	2.09	1,853	16.25	1,946	17.07
7/6/2010	1-A	87	6	290	0.56	3,554	6.81	17,467	33.46
7/7/1986	W1 & W2	588	6	1,922	0.54	8,373	2.37	56,370	15.98
7/7/1987	W1 & W2	599	6	4,571	1.27	10,655	2.96	107,211	29.83
7/7/2004	1-B	50	4	384	1.92	1,780	8.90	5,086	25.43
7/7/2011	1-A	62	3	106	0.57	2,348	12.62	8,132	43.72
7/8/1988	W1	605	6	1,895	0.52	3,628	1.00	138,858	38.25
7/8/1989	W1	621	6	3,136	0.84	3,177	0.85	119,066	31.96
7/8/1996	W1 & W2	211	2	178	0.42	6,795	16.10	18,801	44.55
Avg		380	5	1,760	0.9	6,772	6.1	59,570	29.9
Min		38	2	106	0.4	1,780	0.9	1,946	11.7
Max		621	8	4,571	2.1	24,832	16.3	163,971	47.2

Chairman Karl Johnstone
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK
99811-5526

Dear Chairman Johnstone:

The purpose of this letter is to request the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) to consider an emergency petition to add the additional gear limitation of 25-fathom net length during times when the commissioner determines it to be necessary for the conservation of king salmon. This request would added as a legal gear option for Emergency Order gear restrictions 5AAC 01.270 (n) the following option:

(4) a gillnet may not exceed 25 fathom in length.

We be believe that an emergency action by the Board of Fish is warrant in accordance with AS AAC 96.625 which states:

In this section, an emergency is an unforeseen, unexpected event that either threatens a fish or game resource, or an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a **biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome to the petitioners because the resource would be unavailable in the future.**

We believe an emergency situation exists for the following reasons:

1. Last year all seven of the Kuskokwim's enumeration projects experienced the lowest king salmon escapements on record, resulting in the drainage-wide escapement goal not being met (attachment 1). We have now seen two of the last four years where the Kuskokwim's drainage-wide escapement goal has not been attained
2. To show how poor the return in 2013 was, Travis Elison, ADF&G Area Management Biologist, had this to say, "As far as escapement you can look at the weirs and compare to 2010. They were all lower so I'd imagine that the drainagewide escapement is going to be lower than 2010 which was 49,000."
3. Although the preseason forecast for 2013 was for 160,000-240,000 king salmon, we now have new and unforeseen information finalizing the total return of 2013...and the escapement was worse than 2010. The lower bound of the drainage-wide escapement goal is 65,000, and the entire river was lucky to get half that.
4. We also have new and unforeseen information regarding the forecasting methods for the 2014 season. ADF&G Area Research Biologist, Kevin Schaberg, has concluded that "Management for the upcoming year could be better informed based on the outcome from the prior year" and that the "Similar to last year" approach will be utilized (Working Group Presentation January 8, 2014).

5. Because of the poor showing of kings in 2013, and the possibility that 2014 will be similar, it's very likely that subsistence fishers will not even be allowed one opening per week as spelled out in the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 07.365). The Department's 2014 Preliminary Fishing Schedule has only two 4-hour openings from 4 June to 2 July in the lower section of river planned. Similar restrictions are scheduled for the other sections of river (attachment 2).
6. Limiting salmon fishing for a total of 8 hours during that twenty-nine day period would certainly curtail the opportunity to harvest chum or sockeye salmon which would be needed to fill the void created by the depressed king run.
7. Although the actual subsistence harvest numbers are not finalized for 2013, the vast majority of lower river fishers did quite well and met their needs; however, the middle and upriver folks paid the price.
8. In 2014 the Department anticipates a harvestable surplus of roughly 20,000 king salmon or less - when the average annual subsistence harvest is 80,000. As mentioned, the numbers for 2013 are not finalized, but only 22,000 kings were harvested in 2012 only after severe restrictions were enacted. That year, unrestricted fishing was allowed for 144 hours, while 216 hours were restricted to 6" mesh or less. Again, only two 4-hour periods are tentatively scheduled for several sections of the lower river to increase escapement; consequently, no fishers will likely get the kings they are accustomed to.
9. Since those two 4-hour periods leave little time to harvest other salmon species, this petition would allow for additional harvest of chum and sockeye salmon, while conserving the dwindling king salmon. Without the ample opportunity to harvest other salmon species, immense hardships for the vast majority of households (roughly 2,500) would ensue considering how expensive store bought items cost.
10. By enacting this regulation, a significant reduction in fishing efficiency would occur for a large number of fishers who currently use 50-fathom nets. The use of the larger nets was considered in assessing the fishing power of the subsistence fishery over the years, which is considered "enormous" by Travis Elison, the Area manager, and was a factor in establishing the two tentative 4-hour periods in 2014.
11. Reducing the subsistence fleet's fishing power would derive two benefits. It would not only improve the chances of king salmon escaping the fishery and reaching the spawning grounds, it could allow for additional openings which would give the subsistence fishers more time to harvest other salmon species to fill the void of the weak king abundance; otherwise without the ample opportunity to harvest other salmon species, immense hardships for the vast majority of households (roughly 2,500) would ensue considering how expensive store bought items cost.
12. This Emergency petition was solicited by Travis Elison, the ADFG Kuskokwim Area Management Biologist who stated the following at the December 17, 2013 meeting: "One thing that did come up was a reduction in net length, say to 25 fathoms. Currently that's not in regulation; we don't have the authority to do that. However, it might be possible if people are interested in perusing that it could come from an individual, it can come from the Working Group, or any other organization, could submit a petition to the Board of Fisheries to try to get that in for the 2014 season and I would suggest something along the lines."

13. Based on a conversation with Sergeant Ken Actin with the Wildlife Troopers in Bethel, there are ways to reduce net length without cutting nets that would make it acceptable for enforcement.

Figure 1. Kuskokwim Weir Project King Counts 2003 - 2013

Year	Chinook Salmon Escapement						Takotna Salmon
	Kwethluk	Tuluksak	George	Kogrukluk	Tatlawiksuk	Takotna	
2003	14,474	1,064	4,693	11,771	1,683	378	^a
2004	28,605	1,475	5,207	19,651	2,833	461	^a
2005	^a	2,653	3,845	22,000	2,918	499	^a
2006	17,619	1,043	4,357	19,414	1,700	539	^a
2007	13,267	374	4,883	13,029	2,061	418	6,220
2008	5,312	701	2,698	9,730	1,071	413	2,376
2009	5,710	362	3,663	9,702	1,071	311	^a
2010	1,693	201	1,500	5,690	567	178	^a
2011	4,079	288	1,571	6,891	1,012	134	^a
2012	^a	560	2,302	^a	1,116	228	^a
2013 ^b	^a	193	1,158	1,713	495	94	598
SEG	4,100-7,500		1,800-3,300	4,800-8,800			
Average							
2003-2012	11,345	872	3,472	13,098	1,603	356	4,298

^a Weir did not operate or counts were incomplete.

^b Preliminary numbers subject to change.

Figure 2. ADF&G Preliminary Subsistence Fishing Schedule

January 8, 2014

Preliminary 2014 Subsistence Fishing Schedule

	June																				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Rolling Closure/Open Section	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Section 1: Lower Section of 1-B																					
Section 2: Lower Section 1-B to Tuluksak																					
Section 3: Tuluksak to Chuathbaluk																					
Section 4: Chuathbaluk to Holitna River mouth																					
Section 5: Holitna River mouth to Headwaters																					

	June										July											
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Rolling Closure/Open Section	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Section 1: Lower Section of 1-B																						
Section 2: Lower Section 1-B to Tuluksak																						
Section 3: Tuluksak to Chuathbaluk																						
Section 4: Chuathbaluk to Holitna River mouth																						
Section 5: Holitna River mouth to Headwaters																						

	July																				August	
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	
Rolling Closure/Open Section	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Section 1: Lower Section of 1-B																						
Section 2: Lower Section 1-B to Tuluksak																						
Section 3: Tuluksak to Chuathbaluk																						
Section 4: Chuathbaluk to Holitna River mouth																						
Section 5: Holitna River mouth to Headwaters																						

Key

	No restrictions
	Closed to salmon fishing
	Gillnets restricted 6-inch or less mesh size and livebox is required on fishwheels

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group
1 (800) 315-6338 (MEET) Code: 58756# (KUSKO)

ADF&G Bethel toll free: 1 (855) 933-2433

KUSKOKWIM RIVER COMMERCIAL CATCH STATISTICS 1985-2011,
RESTRICTED TO 6-INCH OR LESS MESH SIZE

June 16 - 23 Historical Commercial Catches

Date	Subdistrict	Permits	Hours	Chinook		Sockeye		Chum	
				Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE
6/16/1988	1-B	602	6	12,640	3.50	7,408	2.05	72,219	19.99
6/17/1996	1-B	245	2	2,045	4.17	1,850	3.78	11,560	23.59
6/18/1987	1-B	527	9	19,126	4.03	9,118	1.92	13,478	2.84
6/18/1992	1-B	567	8	9,756	2.15	8,508	1.88	32,695	7.21
6/19/1989	1-B	374	8	9,204	3.08	5,504	1.84	41,789	13.97
6/20/1985	W1 & W2	431	6	6,611	2.56	5,361	7.89	20,409	7.89
6/20/1988	1-B	612	6	11,708	3.19	14,502	3.95	113,628	30.94
6/20/1990	1-B	630	6	16,690	4.42	10,318	2.73	30,306	8.02
6/20/1991	1-B	601	6	13,813	3.83	19,732	5.47	13,266	3.68
6/20/1996	W1 & W2	283	2	2,046	3.61	6,423	11.35	27,442	48.48
6/20/2008	1-B	171	6	6,415	6.25	8,653	8.43	12,910	12.58
6/22/1992	W1	619	8	14,554	2.94	6,423	1.30	74,296	15.00
6/22/1995	1-B	569	4	6,895	3.03	4,420	1.94	49,157	21.60
6/23/1989	1-B	277	8	6,011	2.71	7,002	3.16	65,650	29.63
6/23/2009	1-B	167	4	3,003	4.50	8,112	12.14	9,149	13.70
Avg		445	6	9,368	3.6	8,222	4.7	39,197	17.3
Min		167	2	2,045	2.2	1,850	1.3	9,149	2.8
Max		630	9	19,126	6.3	19,732	12.1	113,628	48.5

June 24 - 27 Historical Commercial Catches

Date	Subdistrict	Permits	Hours	Chinook		Sockeye		Chum	
				Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE
6/24/1985	W1 & W2	499	6	10,676	3.57	25,876	8.64	45,189	15.09
6/24/1987	W1	607	9	12,867	2.36	24,355	4.46	54,454	9.97
6/24/1988	W1 & W2	657	6	10,379	2.63	20,930	5.31	124,040	31.47
6/24/1991	W1	616	6	12,612	3.41	19,262	5.21	30,632	8.29
6/24/1994	1-B	576	8	14,221	3.09	38,958	8.45	87,214	18.93
6/24/1998	1-B	338	6	6,413	3.16	9,043	4.46	32,467	16.01
6/24/2005	1-B	188	4	2,276	3.03	7,938	10.56	13,553	18.02
6/24/2008	1-B	126	3	1,372	3.63	2,906	7.69	6,576	17.40
6/25/1990	W1	611	6	16,031	4.37	27,024	7.37	58,944	16.08
6/25/1992	W1 & W2	643	8	10,005	1.94	22,852	4.44	59,030	11.48
6/25/1993	1-B	622	8	8,184	1.64	26,363	5.30	34,123	6.86
6/25/2010	1-A	115	4	543	1.18	734	1.60	9,808	21.32
6/26/1986	W1 & W2	517	6	7,972	2.57	41,084	13.24	69,386	22.37
6/26/1989	W1	126	8	1,862	1.85	3,746	3.72	32,373	32.12
6/26/1995	W1 & W2	583	4	11,108	4.76	18,402	7.89	91,719	39.33
6/26/2006	1-A	74	6	1,647	3.71	5,218	11.75	19,694	44.36
6/26/2009	1-B	189	4	2,552	3.38	6,870	9.09	14,466	19.13
6/27/1985	W1 & W2	504	6	9,339	3.09	26,894	8.89	49,706	16.44
6/27/2008	1-B	135	3	990	2.44	3,842	9.49	7,867	19.42
Avg		407	6	7,424	2.9	17,489	7.2	44,276	20.2
Min		74	3	543	1.2	734	1.6	6,576	6.9
Max		657	9	16,031	4.8	41,084	13.2	124,040	44.4

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group
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June 28 - July 4 Historical Commercial Catches

Date	Subdistrict	Permits	Hours	Chinook		Sockeye		Chum	
				Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE
6/28/1998	W1 & W2	626	6	6,096	1.62	18,267	4.86	160,114	42.63
6/28/2005	1-A	51	3	405	2.65	2,879	18.82	3,178	20.77
6/28/2006	1-B	99	6	846	1.42	6,456	10.87	16,312	27.46
6/28/2010	1-B	216	4	1,181	1.37	3,536	4.09	22,038	25.51
6/29/1990	W1 & W2	659	6	10,069	2.55	19,509	4.93	78,749	19.92
6/29/1992	W1 & W2	617	6	8,138	2.20	26,607	7.19	82,652	22.33
6/29/1995	W1 & W2	579	4	5,679	2.45	20,390	8.80	92,218	39.82
6/29/1998	W1	426	6	6,358	2.49	22,506	8.81	66,789	26.13
6/30/1986	W1 & W2	589	6	4,586	1.30	23,804	6.74	62,399	17.66
6/30/1987	W1	564	9	6,193	1.22	39,112	7.71	112,963	22.25
6/30/1989	W1 & W2	657	8	9,842	1.87	10,801	2.05	138,982	26.44
6/30/1999	1-B	409	6	4,668	1.90	16,772	6.83	22,700	9.25
6/30/2004	1-A	52	2	522	5.02	1,781	17.13	2,798	26.90
6/30/2005	1-A	71	4	850	2.99	6,290	22.15	7,317	25.76
7/1/1985	W1 & W2	528	6	6,947	2.19	32,182	10.16	50,325	15.89
7/1/1991	W1 & W2	646	6	6,449	1.66	25,628	6.61	53,164	13.72
7/1/2005	1-B	151	4	874	1.45	6,962	11.53	27,901	46.19
7/1/2009	1-B	173	3	762	1.47	7,798	15.03	18,833	36.29
7/2/1988	W1 & W2	599	6	3,999	1.11	15,681	4.36	196,071	54.56
7/2/1996	W1	224	2	545	1.22	3,962	8.84	20,915	46.69
7/2/2004	1-A	44	3	488	3.70	1,900	14.39	2,426	18.38
7/3/1986	W1 & W2	564	6	3,392	1.00	16,031	4.74	67,088	19.83
7/3/1987	W1 & W2	595	6	7,295	2.04	44,541	12.48	69,983	19.60
7/3/1989	W1 & W2	647	6	4,971	1.28	6,046	1.56	96,446	24.84
7/3/1995	W1 & W2	484	4	3,131	1.62	17,535	9.06	91,627	47.33
7/3/1998	W1	445	4	2,277	1.28	15,985	8.98	51,471	28.92
7/4/1985	W1	461	6	3,777	1.37	16,126	5.83	28,630	10.35
Avg		414	5	4,087	1.9	15,892	9.1	60,892	27.2
Min		44	2	405	1.0	1,781	1.6	2,426	9.3
Max		659	9	10,069	5.0	44,541	22.1	196,071	54.6

July 5 - 8 Historical Commercial Catches

Date	Subdistrict	Permits	Hours	Chinook		Sockeye		Chum	
				Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE
7/5/1988	W1	579	6	2,340	0.67	7,284	2.10	163,971	47.20
7/5/1989	W1 & W2	567	6	3,575	1.05	3,093	0.91	89,269	26.24
7/5/1990	W1 & W2	606	6	4,538	1.25	11,320	3.11	91,232	25.09
7/5/1996	W1 & W2	194	2	316	0.81	3,481	8.97	16,853	43.44
7/5/2000	1-B	224	4	357	0.40	3,658	4.08	11,026	12.31
7/5/2011	1-B	112	4	237	0.53	2,520	5.63	13,884	30.99
7/6/1991	W1 & W2	605	6	2,443	0.67	24,832	6.84	42,441	11.69
7/6/1992	W1 & W2	596	8	3,560	0.75	8,448	1.77	87,036	18.25
7/6/1995	W1 & W2	489	4	1,595	0.82	15,096	7.72	83,618	42.75
7/6/2004	1-A	38	3	238	2.09	1,853	16.25	1,946	17.07
7/6/2010	1-A	87	6	290	0.56	3,554	6.81	17,467	33.46
7/7/1986	W1 & W2	588	6	1,922	0.54	8,373	2.37	56,370	15.98
7/7/1987	W1 & W2	599	6	4,571	1.27	10,655	2.96	107,211	29.83
7/7/2004	1-B	50	4	384	1.92	1,780	8.90	5,086	25.43
7/7/2011	1-A	62	3	106	0.57	2,348	12.62	8,132	43.72
7/8/1988	W1	605	6	1,895	0.52	3,628	1.00	138,858	38.25
7/8/1989	W1	621	6	3,136	0.84	3,177	0.85	119,066	31.96
7/8/1996	W1 & W2	211	2	178	0.42	6,795	16.10	18,801	44.55
Avg		380	5	1,760	0.9	6,772	6.1	59,570	29.9
Min		38	2	106	0.4	1,780	0.9	1,946	11.7
Max		621	8	4,571	2.1	24,832	16.3	163,971	47.2