

CENTRAL KUSKOKWIM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

JANUARY 11TH, 2012

18

TELECONFERENCE NUMBER: 1-800-504-8071 ACCESS NUMBER: 5432709#

AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order 3:03PM

Roll Call/ Quorum Established: YES

Crooked Creek: (Not available)

Aniak: Nick Kameroff & Laura Simeon

Chuathbaluk: Robert Golley

Kalskag: Nick Alexie & Robert Aloysius

Introductions/Guests:

Alissa Joseph, Coordinator

Travis Elison, Area Manager

Chris Sheldon, Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

Invocation: Nick Alexie

Approval of Agenda:

Motion- Lower Kalskag

2nd- Chuathbaluk

Discussion/ Question- Lower Kalskag, unanimous

People to be heard:

Crooked Creek: (None)

Aniak: Mesh size and communication on closures for upriver folks, too many closures and communication has to be clear instead of 2 different stories from fish and wildlife. People upriver got tickets and sited for fishing in closed season when the radio was saying it was open.

Travis- She is right we did have problems and KYUK did have (___) that wasn't correct on the closures and we improved the process to not let the situation happen again.

Nick Kameroff- both would be ok to use, but written form would be better.

Chuathbaluk: (None)

Kalskag: (None)

Chairman- Same in the Central Kuskokwim we had the same thing, if you have anything to say to the people. Do it by the computer and address to tribal councils to be distributed to the people in the village. There were too many people misinterpreting the information.

Nick Alexie- they should be no subsistence, we need to educate subsistence fisherman and we should have restrictions.

Chairman- you mean no kind of restriction on subsistence fishing. We will get into the restriction of mesh and net size later on.

Nick Alexie- Yes that is all I have.

Staff Reports:

Travis Elison, ADF&G Comm. Fisheries Area Biologist Manager

Mr. Chair, News release Oct. 3 of management actions of the subsistence fisher for 2012. It discusses for the commercial fishery, harvest numbers, escapement goals and species. Would you like me to go through the subsistence restrictions?

Robert- Most important thing is the subsistence report. We do not have commercial ability up there.

Nick Kameroff- There is commercial permit holders up here. D-1 had commercial fishing, but D-2 hasn't had any commercial fishing.

Travis ADF&G- Gave the report for 2012. Sorry, if this is broken... it was hard to make out some of the words he was mentioning.

For the Kuskokwim River the preseason fishing strategy. 2012 Kwethluk 4-5 didn't meet goals, George River 3-4 years didn't meet goals, and Aniak were among the

lowest on record. Chinook 190,000... ()... managed to be conservatively. Recommended ADFG/ USFW June 1- July 12. Subsistence fishing was closed to mesh size. Kwethluk/Kasigluk/Tuluksak/ Aniak/ George River. For in season fishery- ADF&G/USFWS agreed to 2012 management objective 27,000 to meet existing goals. Evaluated by BTF effort. June 8 working group, supported by working group 7 day rolling closure consistent with salmon run timing. We divided into 5 sections, (3-4 encompass CKAC) section 3: from Tuluksak to Chuathbaluk June 17th-23rd subsistence salmon fishing was closed and restricted to 4" r less. Section 4: Chuathbaluk to Holitna 4" less June 22- July 3
June 15: ADF&G / USFW extended closure to 5 days to conserve salmon. Effective June 4-June 28, transferred into the closure of rolling closures.
3 day subsistence opening 6" or smaller mesh after the rolling closure
June 23: announce subsistence 6" extended for 3 additional days
July 14: announce relax fishing restrictions, which was effective July 23 in sect 3 and July 23 in sec 4.

Post season survey is currently being in the data entry phase of subsistence phase, preliminary numbers for chinook subsistence harvest will be the lowest. D-1 commercial July 13- Aug: result, after peek of sockeye and chum salmon. Buyers agreed not to purchase Chinook salmon. Sockeye salmon 6lb was below the historical average of 7lb. Chinook was below by 80%.
Based on escapement: salmon abundance was below, chum was above
Chinook was below average. High waster 4-6 weirs were successful.
Aniak River didn't achieve escapement goals.

"A memo that was written from the escapement goal to the directors of comm. and sport fishery, this address the Chinook salmon goals for the Kuskokwim River. Provide AK BOF every 3 years escapement evaluated based on the policy. Kuskokwim drainage 25 establish, 14 for Chinook, 4- 3 coho 4 Sockeye, model base escapement 65thousand to ... 1976 these estimate were used as a data set. I would like to add that Tuluksak to continue to be monitored even there is no,

Chairman- Does that include the Fog River?

Travis ADF&G- No, that doesn't include the Fog River.

Chairman- Even I... go ahead Nick.

Nick Kameroff- 3 comments directed to ADF&G.

1) 4" mesh for all drainages, is it for all drainages or Kuskokwim River.

Travis ADF&G- 4" mesh was implied to tributaries, there was that 12 days of closure, which was a salmon fishing closure which was a 60 feet in length, was so that people can targeted non salmon species, like whitefish.

Nick Kameroff, Aniak- During the close periods, people can continue to use 4" on the Kuskokwim River. This isn't only going to be catching white fish

Travis ADF&G- It all depends on the way you fish your net. If you are targeting salmon, you are going to be ticketed.

Chairman- What is the mesh and net size?

Travis ADF&G- 45 mesh depth, 4" gear; I'd have to look... 8" 45 mesh, but anything under.

Nick Kameroff, Aniak - creates another question for CKAC as far as my opinion goes, 4" mesh was used for all species, most people targets salmon as fish resources for the winter food sources.

Travis ADF&G- There was confusion last summer over the 4" gear, because we didn't have enough chinooks to meet goals. That wasn't allowed, once that 4" ended we restricted to 6", to allow opportunity for sockeye and chum salmon. We knew Chinook would be caught, but you would catch fewer chinooks in a 6".

Nick Kameroff, Aniak -Chinook is primary, if we catch 6". Is that a ticket able offense?

Travis ADF&G- If you are targeting king salmon, it is a ticket able offense. For example there were people in the middle of the river drifting a 4" and when a chinook would get caught they would go and retrieve the chinook and that is an offense.

Nick- weirs and fish wheel, wouldn't this gear also stop the salmon from reaching their destination?

Travis ADF&G- We make sure they are not stacking up behind the fish; weirs are open all day and all night. We have been using these weirs since 1977; there has been no evidence of fish being stopped

Nick Kameroff, Aniak- personal opinion, "So, it does slow them down from reaching spawning grounds."

Travis ADF&G- We do acknowledge they do slow down, but they do not.

Nick Alexie, Lower Kalskag- Ya, on the escapement goals. I agree on the staggered years. They have been going out small and come back 5-6 years and

they give me no understanding from 2012 like 2012 will be closed we will see results on 2018. Every year it varies, how could we be accurate about it?

Travis ADF&G- That is an excellent question and that is really going into the fishery science of it. Like they said, Fish return every 4-7 year returns, to really assess a brood year; we need to watch the 4-7 years to know how much fish came back from that spawning year. ASL is taken from fishing and gets an estimate of age class and relates that back to the spawning escapement that creates a brood (spawning event) 30 years of data of run reconstruction. For instance of 150 thousand to the point of 150 thousand back. We have seen a higher and lower escapement that produced 7 to 1 spawner, to be set or a good number to set as an escapement and yield. 100thousand minimum subsistence harvest, aim with a new goal; attempt to reduce the attempt to restrict subsistence. We won't see results till 2018.

Nick Kameroff, Aniak- regarding all fisheries intercepted area m, high seas, are there any restrictions being enforced? The Kuskokwim river users of the salmon are being... There should be more restrictions enforced for incidental catch and wasted salmon.

Travis ADF&G- As far as high seas, Bering Sea Pollock fishery, and chinook limit 65thousand fish included law incentive for by-catch fishery. Happened 2007 lower by-catch number since then. We have been doing a lot of work that is run by NOAA and national marine fishery service. Understanding the fish run, two months that 2% of the chinook caught in the Bering Sea were caught in the by-catch fishery. Last year was 20thousand 2% is 1 thousand salmon that were headed for Kuskokwim. 1 thousand isn't enough to

Nick- You do have the power to restrict the people who are paying the front burden. .the other comment last and final. Does ADF&G anticipate Chinook salmon closures?

Travis ADF&G- I can't really answer that to the point with the BOF meeting coming up, the one major is escapement goal. Recommended 65 thousand to 100 thousand, if this is adopted we would lift the restriction, proposal AVCP to adopt and ... if they decided to set a goal that was higher o keep the goals, the likely hood will be increased. Major factor: Kuskokwim river management plan for the final written version could also influence the management. One of the things from the working group is the midpoint of the goal, which would have the same effect of the escapement goal. Since chinook is the major fishery for Kuskokwim.

Chairman- the announcement of the opening and closure of the midnight and the majority of the people forget about the midnight and everyone knows when 6am is.

Travis ADF&G- Good point, possible recommendation. It tries to stick with 1209, but when they started to go

Chairman- When the longest salmon, I'm going to push for the 6am and there is no confusion of the time. Anyone else for the question on the report? Hearing none, we are going to jump into new business.

New Business:

**Board of Fisheries Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim
State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game
January 15th-20th, 2012, Sheraton Hotel, Anchorage, AK**

ACTION ITEMS: S-Support Proposal O-Oppose Proposal N- No Action/Neutral

NO.	Vote	Comment or Suggestions:
92	Support	<p>Motion to support- Nick Alexie, Lower Kalskag 2nd- Nick Kameroff, Aniak Question/ Discussion- Chuathbaluk</p> <p>Chairman- This proposal is one of the things that a lot of the people use for fishing for pike is large hooks during winter. They want to allow large hooks in all waters for taking fish other than salmon. They want to lift that restriction so people wouldn't get sited.</p> <p>All in favor in support, unanimous</p>
93	Support	<p>Motion to support- Nick Kameroff, Aniak 2nd- lower Kalskag Question/ discussion- Chuathbaluk</p> <p>Chairman- Clarify that a single-hook article lure is an artificial lure with one single-hook or one fly</p> <p>All in favor in support, unanimous</p>
95	No Action	<p>Motion to take no action- Nick Kameroff, Aniak 2nd- Nick Alexie, Lower Kalskag Question/ discussion-</p> <p>Chairman- Prohibit putting fish parts in water where use of bait is prohibited. You can't throw your fish guts or heads in the water. We do that all the time on the Kuskokwim river,</p>

we have fish racks we fish on and heads and guts go into the water. He says he wants that to stop happening, personally I don't think that is going to go. Because we have done it all our lives and why restrict what we have done all our lives.

Travis ADF&G- I can clarify on this proposal. The intent of this proposal, this will not prevent heads and guts after fishing. This is for sport fishing regulations, to prohibit people from catching a female salmon to get trout to go to where they are actually fishing. This will not stop people from throwing head and guts into the river.

Chairman- I don't see that anywhere of that clarification.

Travis ADF&G- bait means and substance of attracting fish by scent.

Chairman- we do to attract white fish and people do hook for whitefish.

Nick Kameroff- clarification, I disagree. We are throwing heads and guts that we are using

Travis ADF&G- this will not affect subsistence fishing.

All in favor in support, unanimous

104

Support

Motion- Nick Kameroff, Aniak
2nd-Nick Alexie, Lower Kalskag
Question/ Discussion:

Chairman- Review amounts reasonably necessary (ANS) for subsistence in the Kuskokwim Drainage.

Travis ADF&G- 2001 by the BOF used the lowest and average to create that range. Reason ADFG 1990-2009 and reconstructed them on the new methods to estimate subsistence harvest. The new harvest to be on the same scale for ANS if that makes sense, update to reflect the

Robert Golley - will this lower the closure,

Chairman - This has nothing to do with opening or closing the river. They just want to put it in range of the low end to the high end based on historical data.

Travis ADF&G- to clarify: ANS- we use years with no restrictions, the way it is used post season to compare the ANS range to look at. Basically if it falls above

Nick Kameroff- I will just move to support, since we are stalling on this.

Chairman - I will go along to support.

All in favor of support, unanimous

<p>105</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Motion to support- Nick Kameroff, Aniak 2nd- Nick Alexie, lower Kalskag Question/ Discussion- Nick Kameroff, Aniak</p> <p>Chairman- Update and clarify Kuskokwim river Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan and strategies. Travis can you give us the highlight.</p> <p>Travis AD&G- I was involved in drafting the original proposal. In the original proposal plan for the subsistence schedule. We got rid of the schedule to 7 days a week unless there was a conservation concern. The management plan has evolved since it was submitted. USFW & ADFG to come up with amendments to this proposal. KSMWG submitted changes to the BOF to amend this proposal. ADFG submitted changes to the BOF to incorporate the people's comments and discussed at the BOF meeting.</p> <p>Chairman- one of the things that disturb people, another to apply to commercial fishing on the excess of salmon to reach the spawning ground that is above and beyond the escapement goals. People I've talked to there should have never had commercial fishing on the Kuskokwim river, that commercial fishing was restricted to one part of the river and people up here said forget it they are not going to support this proposal for commercial fishing to be conducted on the river. That is the way I stand right now. Anything that could change my mind Travis. To me personally: It allows commercial fishing on the excess to achieve escapement goals, anywhere from Tuluksak to the head waters. We have no opportunity for commercial fishing up there, this</p> <p>Travis ADF&G- from the department perspective to allow commercial/ sport fishery, under the regulation we have to provide opportunity on the surplus. Closing or opening commercial fishery that is up to the board of fishery.</p> <p>All in favor of support, (None) All in favor of Not supporting, unanimous</p>
<p>106</p>	<p>support</p>	<p>Motion to support: Nick Kameroff, Aniak 2nd- Nick Alexie, Lower Kalskag Question/ Discussion:</p> <p>Travis- the proposal doesn't really what information should be considered for optimum chinook goal, it just says that it should be considered. AVCP spoke to this proposal as a place holder, the chinook goals haven't been developed yet.</p> <p>Chair- this proposal was presented by AVCP, he reads from the proposal to the AC.</p> <p>Alissa for clarification: For my notes Mr. Chairman, does this proposal mean: "those likely to benefit are subsistence fisherman up river of Bethel, those who are below Bethel will be hit with restrictions to allow salmon to pass though bethel. This proposal is to allow fish to pass through bethel to provide opportunity for upriver."</p> <p>Travis- There isn't enough information right now.</p>

		<p>Nick Alexie- it's unfair for downriver to have restrictions, why not come up with something for harvesting king salmon. I would say 60 kings would provide and if we fail, there would be other restrictions.</p> <p>Chair- 60 kings of what?</p> <p>Nick Alexie- per household.</p> <p>Chairman- We are not going to be able to access that until after fishing is over.</p> <p>Nick Kameroff- This will support the people from upriver.</p> <p>All in favor to support, unanimous</p>
107	Oppose	<p>Motion to support - Nick Alexie, Lower Kalskag 2nd- Robert Golley, Chuathbaluk Question/ Discussion- Nick Kameroff, Aniak</p> <p>Chair- Kuskokwim Salmon possession limits, allow of taking 10 chinook salmon in June for cold/hot smoke. This is consistent for the application criteria with the board and subsistence laws and the subsistence way of life, this law shall provide for subsistence uses.</p> <p>Travis- this is just about the limit of drying or cold smoking salmon.</p> <p>Nick Kameroff- I oppose, because a lot of our people may not be living in the region. They may live in the city and love fish just like we do. I feel like other people who should be paying the burden, should be area-m, high seas trollers, because we are the people that are paying the burden. The more caught subsistence fisherman... that is in the next proposal</p> <p>Chairman clarifies: I just wanted to say that those points have nothing to do with the current proposal on the table...</p> <p>Nick Kameroff- If I bring 10 or more to my freezer, are you going to site me for bringing salmon to my freezer.</p> <p>Travis ADF&G- I don't know how that would be enforced.</p> <p>Chairman- 90% of the people in Bethel do not have smoke house and if they harvest over 10 king salmon, what are they doing with the rest. Like nick said, they are sending fish to their relatives in the city. Is there anyone else that wants discussion on this proposal?</p> <p>All in favor to support (none) All in favor to not support, unanimous</p>
108	Support	<p>Motion to support- Nick Kameroff, Aniak 2nd- Robert Golley, Chuathbaluk Question/ Discussion- Nick Alexie, Lower Kalskag</p>

		<p>Chairman- Require permit: require a subsistence caught permit for all salmon being shipped out of the Kuskokwim area. What they really want to do is restrict the number of salmon that is being shipped to the urban areas; god only knows where the shipped salmon goes.</p> <p>Nick Kameroff- The only negative impact: This is going to affect our family members who are living in the urban area that are going to get fish.</p> <p>All in favor of support, 1 support</p>
109	Oppose	<p>Motion to support- Nick Alexie, Lower Kalskag 2nd- Robert Golley, Chuathbaluk Question/ Discussion-</p> <p>Chairman- Allow for sale for subsistence- had taken fin fish in the Kuskokwim River Area. This doesn't say anything about salmon, so I take this as all fish that live in the Kuskokwim River.</p> <p>Nick Kameroff- This is targeting the subsistence users and I don't support this. They already track commercial fishery and this will be affecting subsistence users who are trying to make money, so I don't want to support proposal.</p> <p>Chairman- I can't support something like this, this is more and more paperwork for someone. If I have 10 whitefish and someone has 10lbs of moose ribs, I wouldn't have paperwork for trading my 5 whitefish. This is too in</p> <p>Travis- This proposal is confusing, the way trade is being used and the way it is being used in customary trade in regulation. This is for selling subsistence fishing for cash; this would make it legal to sell subsistence fishing.</p> <p>Chairman- Like I said in my opinion: Customary trade means trading of food back and forth; not</p> <p>Nick Kameroff- so Yukon can sell fish as well.</p> <p>Travis- federal is legal with in federal jurisdiction. Aniak to the Kuskokwim mouth, only areas that is legal is Norton sound and spawn on kelp in Sitka.</p> <p>Nick- if we take action on this, they are just going to overrun us anyway in my opinion.</p> <p>All in favor support, (none) All in favor in opposing, unanimous</p>

110	Support	<p>Motion to support- Robert Golley, Chuathbaluk 2nd- Nick Alexie, Lower Kalskag Question/ Discussion- Nick Kameroff, Aniak</p> <p>Chairman- It is specifically directed to the commercial fishery, is that right Travis? Travis- That is correct, this only address commercial fishery and not subsistence. Chairman- what is in the book, commercial fishers at the discretion of the commissioner to have mesh up to 8"? KRSMWG didn't want to have this in the book no more and this optional regulation to be removed, in order to conserve King Salmon. Personally, I think we should support this option. Because they shouldn't have the option to use 8" mesh.</p> <p>Nick Kameroff- to my understanding this is only going to affect the commercial fishery.</p> <p>All in favor to support, unanimous</p>
98	No Action	<p>Motion to take no action- Nick Alexie, Lower Kalskag 2nd- Nick Kameroff, Aniak Question/ Discussion-</p> <p>Chairman- This proposal is to place limitations on subsistence fishing hook and line gear for subsistence fisher. GASH was concerned about people camping for several days at a time and ice fish for pike with sled loads of fish. Currently there is no bag limit for this fishery and GASH is concerned about the pike stocks. They would like to see a limit on pike fishing for the population of the pike.</p> <p>I think we need to talk to the BOF next week and discuss our position. I'm glad that GASH had the nerve to bring this up. Pike Lake was wiped out by those 3 locations and they are moving down river. I don't want to see that area wiped out, like it has happened in pike lake area. Those same people that are impacting piarniut are the same people that are impacting whitefish lake; drainage may not exceed 15 fathoms by 45 meshes deep. We know for the same people with commercial gear are going into whitefish lake. We have presented this to the troopers and he can't enforce whitefish lake. We asked if the troopers can deputize the villagers. We the people of that area, we follow that; because we want to conserve the whitefish of that lake. People lower river go up there with commercial gear and get boat loads and go home that isn't right and we need to stop it; before they wipe out whitefish lake.</p> <p>All in favor of no action, unanimous</p>

Motion- Nick Kameroff, Aniak
2nd- Nick Alexie, Lower Kalskag
Motion pass unanimous

Adjourn: 5:45PM