

The language below is intended to express the understanding of the ADF&G, the USF&WS, representatives of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group and members of the public involved in drafting the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 07.365) as documented in RC 54.

In reference to line 7, inclusion of the term “recognized uncertainty”, the understanding is that uncertainty associated with assessment tools will be incorporated when projecting if escapements will fall within the escapement goal range.

The language “and to the extent practicable, provide at least one fishing period per week” in lines 21-22 incorporates the intent that before closing the Chinook subsistence fishery and not allowing at least one fishing period per week, there will be a high degree of certainty that the projected escapement of king salmon is below the drainage wide escapement goal range, and that without this high degree of certainty some Chinook subsistence fishing opportunity will be allowed, understanding that the subsistence opportunity provided will be to the extent practicable.

The reference to “consistent with harvest trends and variability in abundance of king salmon available for harvest as the run progresses upstream” in lines 44-45 is to clarify that the Chinook run will be managed throughout the Kuskokwim River to equitably distribute the Chinook subsistence harvest opportunity, and further, understanding the need to provide an abundance of Chinook salmon above the low end of ANS to subsistence users above Bethel when run size is sufficient to meet all subsistence needs.

The reference to “in consideration of harvest trends and abundance of king salmon available for the subsistence harvest” in lines 80-81 is intended to clarify that in years of abundance, when determining if there is a surplus available for a commercial harvest, a management objective is to provide subsistence users above Bethel with an abundance of Chinook salmon beyond what is needed for escapement and the low end of ANS recognizing that such abundance is an important factor in the ability to harvest what is needed for subsistence uses.

From Kuskokwim River
Stakeholders

