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## Copper River In-Season Salmon Teleconference

**Date:** June 26, 2025

### AITRC-

Jim Simon  
Deanna Kosbruk  
Kelsey Stanbro  
Dan Gorze  
Bailey Roberts  
Bella Ranck  
Mia Bobowski

### NPS-

Amber Cohen

### ADF&G-

Tracy Hansen-  
Glennallen Office  
Jeremy Botz-  
Cordova Office

### OSM-

Nissa Pilcher  
Kevin Foley

### PWSSC-

Peter Rand

## Meeting Purpose

The teleconference brings together fisheries biologists, resource managers, and subsistence users to share updates on current salmon run conditions, fishery operations, and community harvest observations across the Copper River drainage.

## Welcome and Introductions

- **Deanna Kosbruk** opened the meeting and welcomed participants.
- **Amber Cohen** (NPS, standing in for Barbara) introduced herself and reviewed meeting protocols: respect, muting when not speaking, and proper introductions before giving updates.
- Introductions were made by team members, including biologists and fisheries managers.

## Fisheries Updates

### ADF&G – Tracy Hansen

- Reported **518,000 sockeye salmon** counted, exceeding the expected count by **140,000**.
- **King salmon** run is weak. Resulting actions:
  - **Sport and personal use restrictions** in place.
  - Further restrictions may follow based on recapture data.
- Updates on operations:
  - **Gulkana Tower** is operational.

- **The Sockeye telemetry project** is ongoing.

#### **ADF&G Commercial – Jeremy Botz**

- Commercial fishing is **slow** but is anticipated to improve.
- Recent commercial harvest includes approximately:
  - **45,000 sockeye**
  - **260 king salmon**

#### **National Park Service Update – Amber Cohen**

- Issued:
  - **254 permits** (Glennallen Subdistrict)
  - **204 permits** (Chitina Subdistrict)
- Acknowledged team effort to manage permits and fisheries in the interim.

#### **4. Weir and Research Updates**

##### **Tonada Creek Weir – Dan Gorze**

- The weir is **operational**, despite minor issues (e.g., tree fall).
  - Resolved and no damages
- Technology upgrades in progress.

##### **Prince William Sound Science Center – Pete Rand**

- Discussed planned research proposals for Upper Copper River.
- Mentioned upcoming NOAA proposals for the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund.
- Emphasized the need for subsistence user input in shaping research direction.

#### **Subsistence and Personal Use Fishing Reports**

##### **NPS Sampling – Mia Bobowski & Bella Ranck (via Kelsey Stanbro)**

- Bella reported:
  - Good sockeye salmon health.
  - Some king salmon in catches.
  - Fishing is challenged by high water and debris.

- Dip netting from boats raised as a concern.

#### **Chief Gary Harrison (Chickaloon)**

- Expressed concerns about:
  - Low king salmon numbers.
  - Frequency of teleconferences and the need for broader engagement.

#### **Subsistence User Reports from Various Areas**

- Karen Linnell (Chistochina Area):
  - Noted slow fishing and difficult conditions due to water levels and debris.
  - Raised concern over **dip netting from boats** affecting access.
- Deanna (Gulkana):
  - Similar issues with high water and debris affecting access and harvests.

#### **Outreach and Communication Efforts**

- Amber Cohen asked about efforts to raise awareness of teleconferences.
- Deanna Kosbruk reported:
  - Radio ads will be airing twice a week.
  - Social media posts and flyer distribution at local stores.
- Bailey Roberts to create Fish Tech business cards with teleconference info.

#### **Closing**

- Deanna Kosbruk thanked all participants.
- Reminder issued for the **next scheduled teleconference-** July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025