



Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission
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Copper River In-Season Salmon Teleconference Summary

August 21, 2025, 11 AM

AITRC-

Deanna Kosbruk
Dan Gorze
Kelsey Stanbro
Jim Simon
Bailey Roberts
Alex Niepoth

NPS-

Amber Cohen

ADFG-

Tracy Hansen-
Glennallen

Others:

Carl Griffin-CRNA
M. Starr Knighten
Bryan Marquardt, BLM

Copper River In-Season Salmon Teleconference

Key Updates

- **Tracy Hansen, ADFG- Counting Tower :**
 - Gulkana River project wrapped up with ~5,200 king salmon counted.
 - No major high water events this season.
 - Dip netting in Chitina slowing; no reports yet of silver salmon.
- **Amber Cohen, NPS- Permits & Harvest:**
 - **Total permits issued:** 571 in the upper Copper River District.
 - **Registered fish wheels:** 45.
 - **Preliminary harvest reports:**
 - Chitina: 79 chinook, 1,695 sockeye
 - Glenallen: 10 chinook, 773 sockeye
 - Reminder: return permit data, even if no fishing was done.
- **Dan Gorze, AITRC- Tanada Weir:**
 - ~200 fish passing per day at the station.
- **Kelsey Stanbro, AITRC- Salmon Sampling Update**
- **Personal Use & Health Sampling:** Sampling wrapped up last week.

- **Sockeye Health Goal Met:** Target of 60 sockeye samples collected (20 from Chitina, 20 from Glenallen Subdistrict, 20 upriver at Gulkana/Chekona).
- **King Salmon Samples:** 17 king samples collected — higher than the past two years.
- **Lab Results:** Preliminary 2023 results already received from a new lab with faster plasma and serum processing.
- **Future Samples:** 25 samples are being prepared for shipment.
- **Personal Use Genetics Sampling:** 190 samples collected weekly in partnership with Andy Barclay at the Gene Conservation Lab.
- With this sample size, a weekly genetic composition of Copper River returns should be possible.
- **Technicians:** Two technicians contributed heavily this season.
- One will continue with parasitology research at UAF and may present findings from 2024–2025 samples next year.
- **Stream Restoration (Alex, AITRC):**
 - Seeking information on salmon blockages (culverts, beaver dams, etc.).
 - Reviewing streams for grant planning and restoration priorities.
 - Collaborating on temperature monitoring and water quality projects.
- **Subsistence User Reports:**
 - **Chitina Village Council:** Shut down wheel after catching ~300 fish (Aug. 8).
 - **CRNA fish wheel:** ~220 reds caught this season after moving location.

Reminders

- **Final In-Season Teleconference:**
 -  August 28, 2023
 -  Tazlina Community Hall
 -  Potluck lunch, limited T-shirts available
 -  Zoom link available for remote participation