



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

July 24, 2025, 11 AM

AITRC-

Jim Simon  
Deanna Kosbruk  
Dan Gorze  
David Miller  
Alex Niepoth  
Bella Ranck  
Mia Bobowski  
Bailey Roberts

NPS-

Barbara Cellarius  
Patrick Lewis

ADFG-

Tracy Hansen-  
Glennallen  
Jeremy Botz-  
Cordova

OSM-

Kevin Foley

NVE-

Matt Piche

Others-

Morgan Kosbruk

### Welcome and Introductions

- Deanna Kosbruk opened the meeting, introducing its purpose: to provide a forum for fisheries managers, biologists, and subsistence users to share updates and in-season observations.

### Ground Rules and Meeting Format

- Barbara Cellarius reviewed ground rules:
  - Mute when not speaking
  - Be respectful
  - Wait for turns to speak
- Noted that meeting summaries are posted on the AITRC website.

### Fisheries Updates

#### Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) – Jeremy Botz- Cordova

- Cumulative commercial harvest:
  - Sockeye: 800,000
  - Chinook: 5,465
- Noted overall strong salmon passage despite reduced participation.
- Limited subsistence fishing reported this season.

## **ADF&G – Tracy Hansen- Glennallen**

- Anticipated sustainable escapement goal for Sockeye: 620,000–670,000.
- Sonar data updates and catch rates discussed.
  - Numbers at the sonar are at the lower escapement goal.
- Gulkana River restrictions remain in place for King Salmon sport fishing.

## **Subsistence Reports**

### **Native Village of Eyak (NVE) – Matt Piché**

- Chinook migration showed delayed travel due to low water.
- Noted increased activity in lower river due to exposed gravel bars in the beginning of the season.

### **AITRC – Dan (Fisheries Biologist)**

- Tonada Creek weir operations are going well despite water level challenges.
- Successful fish counts were recorded.

### **AITRC Fish Technicians – Bella Ranck & Mia Bobowski**

- Observed increased catches at the Chitina wheels.
- Changing water levels contributed to variability in catches.

### **Wrangell-St. Elias NPS – Barbara Cellarius**

- Federal subsistence permits are being transitioned into the fall hunting season.
- Shared report of a subsistence user catching 60 fish in 12 hours in Chitina.
- Slana area users faced access and equipment challenges with fish wheels.

## **Community and Cultural Observations**

### **Jim Simon**

- Shared visit to Karen Linnell's traditional fish camp.
- Emphasized the importance of traditional knowledge in resource management.
- Expressed concern over regional impacts of low fish numbers.

## **Deanna Kosbruk**

- Stressed the importance of youth involvement in fisheries conservation.
  - Kelsey and her techs brought along two youth to get the experience, learn how to sample, and what they're sampling for.
- Announced final in-season teleconference scheduled for August 28 at Tazlina Community Hall.
  - Partners were encouraged to present any wrap-ups from their season if they'd like to let Deanna know.

## **Collaborative Projects**

- Jim Simon will reach out to Matt Piché regarding the salmon health assessment project expansion.
- Interest expressed in cross-region data collaboration on Chinook and Sockeye health.

## **Closing Remarks**

- Participants were thanked for their attendance and contributions.
- Reminder: Next teleconference scheduled for July 31 at 11:00 AM.