**Weekly Copper River Salmon In-Season Teleconferences**

**Thursday, August 15, 2024, 11 AM**

**Zoom meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87998112979?pwd=aulvIcrVOfaBiS4W24MQrwIZQhcAxM.1>

**Meeting ID**: 879 9811 2979 **Passcode**: 380518

**Call in at** 1-719-358-4580

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**About:**

These calls aim to share and learn from others’ observations about Copper River salmon harvests and returns during the fishing season, river conditions, and other factors that may affect harvests and returns.

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**Participants Identified (8 total):**

* *AITRC Staff*: Deanna Kosbruk, James Simon (AITRC’s Consultant), Robert Sequak (AITRC BOD)
* *WRST Staff*: Barbara Cellarius, Dave Sarafin, Ben Pister
* *ADFG In-Season Managers*: Jeremy Botz (Prince William Sound Area Office)
* *CRNA*:
* *CRWP*:
* *Public*: Laura Vachula

**Introduction and Ground rules:**

* Deanna Kosbruk welcomed everyone to the teleconference and thanked them for calling in and attending. She introduced herself and the staff that were in attendance.
* Deanna Kosbruk stated the purpose is to provide a venue for Copper River subsistence fishers to share and learn from others' observations about Copper River salmon harvests and returns during the fishing season, river conditions, and other factors that may affect harvests and returns.
* Barbara Cellarius WRST introduced himself and the staff in attendance and reviewed the “ground rules” for the conversation.
  + Be polite, respectful, and considerate of others
  + Wait for your turn to speak
  + Introduce yourself with your name and where you fish as you start speaking
  + Be patient and don’t interrupt even if you strongly disagree with what’s being said.
  + Put your phone or computer on mute when you are not speaking
  + Everyone who wishes to speak will be allowed to do so before someone speaks for a second time.

**Agency Updates:**

**Dave Sarafin, Fisheries Biologist- Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve:** reports a decent sockeye passage at the Tanada Creek salmon weir. Under 11,000 have been counted so far in Tanada Creek, and more have appeared in Copper Lake further upstream.

**Jeremy Botz, ADF&G Gillnet Area Management Biologist:** reports limited coho salmon catch and uncertainty about the trend and the size of the run.

**Jim Simon, consultant with AITRC:** asked about the chinook, whether they reached their spawning grounds, and whether there were any concerns about it reaching its escapement goal.

**Jeremy Botz, ADF&G Gillnet Area Management Biologist:** addressed Jim’s concerns and answered that there isn’t a way to tell just yet with no surveys done, but with observations, it looks like it's at the lower end of the escapement goal or a little less for the Chinook and that they reached their spawning grounds.

**Participant updates (subsistence users):**

*No Participants update*

**Closing remarks, follow-up, and concerns:**

The next meeting is on August 22nd, over Zoom or in the AITRC building.

Barbara Cellarius emphasized the importance of subsistence user engagement

Barbara Cellarius and James Simon discussed Chinook salmon escapement goals and the closure of the subsistence fishery. The Personal Use for Chinook was closed for the entire season, and the subsistence use was through July.

Closure for the personal use of chinook salmon in the subsistence fishery has expired, while the closure for commercial fishing has been extended.

**Thanks all around and the call hung up.**