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

**Thursday, August 8, 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 (10 total):**

* *AITRC Staff*: Deanna Kosbruk, Kelsey Stanbro, Bailey Roberts, Luke Duvall, Jim Simon
* *WRST Staff*: Barbara Cellarius, Dave Sarafin
* *ADFG In-Season Managers*: Jeremy Botz (Prince William Sound Area Office)
* *CRNA*: Sarah Sherwood
* *CRWP*:
* *Public*: Becky Schwanke

**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:**

**Jeremy Botz, ADF&G Gillnet Area Management Biologist:** The sockeye run has slowed down, and the coho run is now waiting. Although it slowed, expectations of a slow ramp increase in mid-August. Miles Lake sonar has ceased operation for the season. The last day of counting was the 28th of July. Recent Aerial surveys of the Copper River Delta show that escapement will be well within the escape and go range Miles Lake zone. Total counts indicate that Copper River sockeye salmon escapement should be closer to the upper end of the escape and goal range.

**Dave Sarafin, Fisheries Biologist- Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve:**  updated the group on the Tanada Creek project. They recorded a low water level preventing salmon from entering the Tanada Creek weir. Rain helped raise the water levels, and the salmon count increased. A private landowner shared with Dave that Copper Lake had more salmon. It was reported that about twenty radio trackers went to Copper Lake, and one showed up in Tanada Creek.

**Barbra Cellarius - Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve:** suggests an end-of-season meeting to discuss subsistence user outreach and funding for village visits. She also reported good fishing conditions in the last few days.

**Sarah Sherwood CRNA:** shared updates on environmental issues affecting the region, including work with regional tribes on environmental issues.

**Participant updates (subsistence users):**

**No area users attending:**

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

The next meeting is on August 15th, over Zoom or in the AITRC Conference Room.

Word-of-mouth reports are that:

Chitna and Gakona fishing reports are strong, but Slana sampling is difficult due to high water.

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