



Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission  
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## Weekly Copper River Salmon In-Season Teleconferences Thursday, August 29, 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 (5 total):

- *AITRC Staff:* Deanna Kosbruk, Karen Linnell
- *WRST Staff:* Barbara Cellarius, Dave Sarafin, Ben Pister
- *ADFG In-Season Managers:*
- *CRNA:* Sarah Sherwood
- *CRWP:*
- *Public:*

### 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:

No Agency Updates

**Participant updates (subsistence users):**

**Sarah Sherwood Kluti Kaah:** shared her limited fishing experience and observations, noting later fish runs and concerns about parasites and smaller fish sizes.

**Barbara Cellarius Kluti Kaah:** shared her subsistence update, mentioning receiving fish from a fish wheel and noting variability in fish size.

**Karen Linnell Cheeshn'a:** describes her fishing season, including catching fish in mid to late July and working with her niece on a fish wheel. She shares a heartwarming story about her granddaughter's excitement about the fishing process. Karen mentions receiving 75 fish from her husband's niece and using them for various purposes, such as smoking and drying. She notes the small size of some kings caught and participation in AITRC sample collections and radio telemetry.

**Benjamin Pister Cordova:** shared his fishing experience, mentioning he caught 47 fish by dip netting and the challenges of using his nets for Copper River fish. He recounts teaching his daughter to bonk fish and reflects on the importance of teaching hunting skills to the next generation. He mentions noticing worms in some fish but not finding them problematic. He expresses excitement for next year's fishing season and plans to smoke the fish he caught.

**Closing Remarks and Appreciations:**

This teleconference concludes for the in-season of the Copper River Salmon.

Barbara Cellarius mentions the upcoming subsistence resource commission meeting on October 4 and 5 at the Copper Center Visitor Center.

Sarah Sherwood inquired about information about the meeting, and Barbara confirmed that a news release would be sent after Labor Day.

**Deanna Kosbruk AITRC:** thank you everyone for participating Teleconference will be continuing next summer.

**Barbara Cellarius WRST:** thanked the participants for their contributions and expressed satisfaction with the first year of the teleconferences.

**Karen Linnell AITRC:** appreciates the updates from state and federal managers and the helpfulness of the calls.

Deanna and Barbara thank each other and AITRC for their partnership.

The meeting concludes with everyone expressing their thanks and well wishes for the fall.

This teleconference concludes for the in-season of the Copper River Salmon.

Tsin'aen,  
AITRC and NPS Staff.