



**Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission**  
P.O. Box 613  
Glennallen, AK 99588  
(907)822-4466

**Wrangell St. Elias National Park Service**  
P.O. Box 439  
Copper Center, AK 99573  
(907)822-7236



## **Copper River In-Season Salmon Teleconference – July 3, 2025, 11 AM**

### **Summary & Action Items**

**Hosted by:** AITRC and NPS

**AITRC-**

Karen Linnell  
Jim Simon  
Deanna Kosbruk  
Dan Gorze  
Alex Niepoth  
David Miller  
Ethan Vollema  
Trevor Alexander

**NPS-**

Amber Cohen

**ADF&G-**

Tracy Hansen-  
Glennallen Office

**Subsistence Users/Others -**

Barbara Cellarius  
Desiree Ramirez  
Google Pixel 9Pro- (unknown)

### **Meeting Overview**

The July 3rd in-season salmon teleconference provided key updates on salmon counts, fishery openings, permit data, and subsistence fishing conditions. The meeting included representatives from AITRC, ADFG, NPS, as well as community members and fishers.

### **Key Updates**

#### **1. Salmon Counts and Fishery Openings – ADFG Glennallen Office (Tracy Hansen)**

- **Cumulative sonar count at Miles Lake:** 600,000 salmon
- **July 3 count:** 4,000 fish
- **Personal Use Fishery:** Extended by 24 hours (now 132 total)
- **Subsistence Fishery:** Open through **September 30**
- **Sport Fishery Restrictions:**
  - One king salmon per year
  - Catch-and-release for kings begins **July 7**
  - No bait or treble hooks allowed

#### **2. Permit and Staffing Updates – Wrangell St. Elias (Amber Cohen)**

- **Permits Issued:**
  - 212 Chitina Subdistrict (above average)

- 271 Glennallen Subdistrict (near average)
- **Fish Wheels Registered:**
  - 41 at Copper Center Visitor Center
  - 8 at Slana
- **Staff Announcements:**
  - **Dave Sarafin** retired
  - **Patrick Lewis** becomes the new Wrangell St. Elias team lead

### 3. Subsistence User Reports

- **Chistochina Area:**
  - Saturday, caught 30 fish and two kings
  - Sunday slowed down
  - Water levels are high, affecting fishing
  - Report of seeing the Suslota fish go through
  - Batzulnetas fish should be showing up shortly
- **Chitina Area:**
  - Sporadic catches
  - Ongoing repairs to fish wheels

### Discussion Points

- **Voluntary King Salmon Conservation:**
  - Encouragement to **release kings safely** to support declining stocks
- **Trespassing on Alaska Native Corporation (ANC) Lands:**
  - Subsistence users reminded to avoid trespassing
  - Report violations to wildlife troopers and say something to the trespassers
- **Community Relations:**
  - Call for good neighborliness and cooperation among fishers

## Upcoming Events

- **Next Teleconference: July 10, 2025**
- **In-Person Event: July 17, 2025, in Gulkana Village**
  - Youth interns to participate
  - Planning in progress
- **In-Person Event: August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025- Last Teleconference**
  - Location: TBD
  - We will announce more details during next week's teleconference.

## Closing Comments

- **Deanna Kosbruk:** Acknowledged the value of shared updates and thanked staff, fisheries managers, and participants
- **Amber Cohen:** Appreciated everyone's contributions and encouraged participation in upcoming meetings
- Well wishes for a safe and enjoyable weekend.