

KRITFC RESOLUTION 2020- (01)

RESOLUTION OF THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER INTER TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION: SUPPORTING FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD SPECIAL ACTION REQUESTS 20-01, 20-02, 20-03

WHEREAS, the Kuskokwim River Inter Tribal Fish Commission (KRITFC) represents 33 Federally recognized Tribes along the Kuskokwim watershed. 26 Federally recognized tribes have submitted authorizing resolutions officially joining the KRITFC.

WHEREAS, KRITFC is committed to rebuild and conserve the declining Chinook salmon run and provide for traditional uses of Kuskokwim River salmon and the way of life and well-being of the Tribes and people that depend on healthy salmon fisheries; and

WHEREAS, Kuskokwim Chinook salmon populations have suffered a multi-year period of very low productivity and abundance, resulting in subsistence harvests of Chinook salmon have fallen well below the long-term average harvest level every year since 2011.

WHEREAS, The Federal Subsistence Management Program (FSMP) has co-managed the Kuskokwim Chinook salmon subsistence fishery with the KRITFC for the past five consecutive seasons, with the aim of rebuilding the stocks through conservative management approach while allowing a prudent level of subsistence harvest.

WHEREAS, there are a number of documented risk factors that continue to threaten the recovery of the Kuskokwim Chinook salmon population including: risks to stock diversity from high harvest rates, a significant decline in body size and caloric value of Chinook salmon; impact of climate driven heat stress on migrating salmon.

WHEREAS, due to its high degree of uncertainty, use of the 2019 total run estimate by the FSMP to justify 2020 pre-season or any in-season harvest management decisions poses unacceptably high risk to the viability of the Chinook stocks.

WHEREAS, the Akiak Native Community, the Organized Village of Kwethluk and LaMont Albertson have each submitted SARs asking the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) to uphold the conservation and priority consumptive uses provisions under Title III and VIII of ANILCA by closing Federal public waters of the Kuskokwim River drainage to the harvest of Chinook salmon, except by federally-qualified subsistence users at the beginning of the 2020 Kuskokwim Chinook salmon.

WHEREAS, Special Action Request 20-03 submitted by LaMont Albertson identifies new biological information about the cumulative effects of several risk factors which have not been previously reviewed by the FSB and are not accounted for in existing Chinook salmon management metrics and reference points used by the FSMP during the past six years.

WHEREAS, the burden of proof rests on the FSMP to provide reasonable evidence-based assurance to federally qualified users that any direct or delegated management actions taken by the FSMP are consistent with Title III and VIII of ANILCA.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Executive Board of KRITFC expresses its full support for the actions requested of the Federal Subsistence Board under 2020 Special Action Requests 20-01 (submitted by Akiak Native Community), 20-02 (submitted by the Organized Village of Kwethluk), 20-03 (submitted by LaMont Albertson).

Adopted this 13th day of March 2020 through a majority vote of the assembled KRITFC Executive Council Commissioners.

Charlene Erik, Chair Unit 7

Mike Williams, Sr., Vice Chair Unit 4

Jonathan Samuelson, Secretary Unit 2

Claude "Joe" Petruska, Unit 1

Gerald Kameroff, Unit 3

Robert Lekander, Unit 5 and In-Season Manager

Golga Fredericks, Unit 6

James Charles, Elder Advisor

James Nicori, In-Season Manager

Jackie Cleveland, In-Season Manager

Megan Leary, In-Season Manager