



**Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission  
Weekly River-Wide Teleconference  
Monday, July 5, 2021 | 10am AKDT**

**Join by computer:** <https://zoom.us/j/5694903415>

**Join toll-free by phone:** 833-548-0282

**Meeting ID:** 569 490 3415

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**About:**

Every Monday of king salmon season, the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (KRITFC) and Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (YDNWR) co-host a river-wide teleconference for fishermen along the Kuskokwim River to call in and discuss fishing regulations, closures and openers, fish camp updates, Traditional Knowledge, and management action. This call is held toll-free on Zoom and open to the public. In 2021, it will be held Mondays at 10am from May 17 to July 12.

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**Hosts on this call:**

Mary Peltola, Executive Director of KRITFC

Boyd Blihovde, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Manager

**People on this call:** 5

**Summary:**

- The Federal government at USFWS is still managing the river. There are drift and set net opportunities for subsistence fishermen on Friday July 9 and July 16 and set net opportunities on the weekends of July 10-11 and July 17-18.
- Red salmon are abundant on the Kuskokwim right now. Everyone is grateful.
- Fishermen at the mouth of the river are predicting more chum coming soon.

**Full Notes:**

- **Mary Peltola – KRITFC:** Good morning. Usually we're done with these calls by this time of year, because usually the State is managing.
- **Boyd Blihovde – USFWS/YDNWR:** Good morning. There's plenty of reds out there, so I don't feel as concerned about them. I went out fishing and caught some yesterday by dipnet for the first time ever. All reds, that's all we saw. They were jumping out of the water and everything.
- **Mary Peltola – KRITFC:** I totally agree, there are so many reds. That river is just full.

- **Jim Simon – KRITFC:** I just got back from Eagle, and it was a good trip, but very sad to be on the river with no salmon fishing happening. Thank goodness for Kuskokwim River sockeye. They don't have them on the Yukon.
- **Mary Peltola – KRITFC:** That's true. My mother-in-law is sending all kinds of stuff to people from Scammon Bay.
- **Adolph Lupie – Tuntutuliak:** Good morning. I was just dialing the Working Group number and it told me to wait, so I looked up the number again and I was calling the wrong one. Pretty wet down here, the wind's from the south, 19 mph, and humidity is 99%.
- **Mary Peltola – KRITFC:** Yeah, we've got four fans going in our smokehouse to dry the fish I caught on Friday. How do you keep yours from turning sour, Adolph? Is anyone still drying down there?
- **Adolph Lupie – Tuntutuliak:** Yes, the people went down on Friday to the Kuskokwim River, and they're drying right now. Well, not drying, but getting moist.
- **Mary Peltola – KRITFC:** I was going to say. The only thing that works for me is to use electric fans to make fake wind, but I don't think everyone does that.
- **Adolph Lupie – Tuntutuliak:** We didn't hang lots of fish because I knew it'll be hard drying. We need to space out drying the fish to dry in this kind of weather.
- **Mary Peltola – KRITFC:** Are most people done fishing and putting away dryfish down there?
- **Adolph Lupie – Tuntutuliak:** No, they'll wait for good drying weather again. They'll fish. The ones with the big families, they're still fishing. They'll hang red salmon, those are good for the winter, too.
- **Mary Peltola – KRITFC:** I was telling my husband the other day that the Yup'ik word for "cutting fish" is "seg," and it's an onomatopoeia. Every sound my uluaq makes when I cut my fish sounds like "seg, seg, seg." It's funny.
- **Adolph Lupie – Tuntutuliak:** Yeah, there's lots of words like that.
- **Mary Peltola – KRITFC:** So, Adolph, you know that there's drift fishing the next 2 Fridays, and then on the weekends, they're allowing set netting on the main stem.
- **Adolph Lupie – Tuntutuliak:** Yes, we're looking forward to drift netting on July 9. For us at the mouth of the Kuskokwim, set netting is pretty hard. I never bother to set net, unless I find a right good spot that doesn't have a strong current.
- **Mary Peltola – KRITFC:** Yeah, it's hard down there. I think from Napakiak on up they set net, right?
- **Adolph Lupie – Tuntutuliak:** Yeah, from Fowler Island or something up there.
- **Mary Peltola – KRITFC:** Okay. We don't have much to report. It's just really good red fishing around here. Boyd went dipnetting.
- **Boyd Blihovde – USFWS/YDNWR:** I went out with my family and was able to get 6 reds right away, just in front of Bethel. I told an experienced fisherman about it, and he said he'd be scared to put a drift net in right now, that it would be full of so many reds.
- **Adolph Lupie – Tuntutuliak:** Do the people up there have fish camps? Maybe that's where most people went this morning, to check on their fish racks.
- **Mary Peltola – KRITFC:** Yeah, my husband is checking on ours right now. I finally have a full smokehouse, I'm very happy.
- **Adolph Lupie – Tuntutuliak:** There's lots of reds going up and few chums going up right now. In the past they usually peak around July 3 and 4.
- **Mary Peltola – KRITFC:** Yeah. I've caught 2 chum all summer, that's all.

- **Adolph Lupie – Tuntutuliak:** We got 3 chums too. People around here, they say there's more coming in. I'm expecting them starting this week.
- **Mary Peltola – KRITFC:** And they dry fast! That's the good thing about chums. Well, we don't really have anything else.
- **Adolph Lupie – Tuntutuliak:** Let's call it a day, then!