

KUSKOKWIM RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A FIFTH MEMBER TO THE IN-SEASON CONSULTATION COMMITTEE AND CREATING A FIFTH IN-SEASON MANAGER POSITION.

RESOLUTION 22-01

WHEREAS, in 2016 the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (KRITFC) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to formalize the fishery management partnership between the United States Department of the Interior and KRITFC to provide for cooperative management of the Kuskokwim River;

WHEREAS, in the MOU, KRITFC agreed to designate an in-season consultation committee composed of the fewest number of Commissioners that can adequately represent the member Tribes;

WHEREAS, KRITFC subsequently designated three of its Commissioners to the in-season consultation committee, and referred to those committee members as “In-Season Managers”;

WHEREAS, after the 2015, 2016, and 2017 seasons, KRITFC designated the Commissioner from Bethel as a fourth In-Season Manager beginning in 2018 to better represent its member Tribes, as well as the large number of Tribal users belonging to the Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council (OTNC) and non-Tribal rural residents living in Bethel;

WHEREAS, after the subsequent 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 seasons, KRITFC believes that in order to better represent its middle and upper river member Tribes, it is necessary to designate a Commissioner from a second upriver Tribe as a fifth In-Season Manager;

WHEREAS, the current Upriver In-Season Manager position represents 15 Tribal communities (Telida, Nikolai, McGrath, Takotna, Lime Village, Stony River, Sleetmute, Red Devil, Georgetown, Crooked Creek, Napaimute, Chuathbaluk, Aniak, Kalskag, and Lower Kalskag), equating to 45% of Kuskokwim Tribes and 10% of the Kuskokwim population;

WHEREAS, each of these communities relies on different fishing methods, gear types, and locations across nearly 400 river miles;

WHEREAS, the inclusion of a fifth In-Season Manager will better account for the diverse fishing communities and traditions of the upper Kuskokwim as well as relieve pressure on a single In-Season Manager representing the interests of nearly half of KRITFC member Tribes;

WHEREAS, the inclusion of a fifth In-Season Manager will not be an additional travel cost, as in-season management consultation meetings happen in hybrid in-person/over teleconference manners after the Covid-19 pandemic;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, KRITFC hereby appoints the Commissioner from an upriver Tribe (namely, Telida, Nikolai, McGrath, Takotna, Lime Village, Sleetmute, Stony River, Red Devil, Georgetown, or Crooked Creek) as the Upriver/Headwaters In-Season Manager and member of the in-season consultation committee, to represent the aforementioned Tribes.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED, KRITFC designates the current Upriver In-Season Manager position as the Middle River In-Season Manager representing the Tribes of Napaimute, Chuathbaluk, Aniak, Kalskag, and Lower Kalskag.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED, KRITFC reaffirms the Tribes represented by the first Lower River In-Season Manager (Tuluksak, Akiak, Akiachak, and Kwethluk) and the second Lower River In-Season Manager (Bethel, Oscarville, Napaskiak, and Napakiak).

NOW BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED, KRITFC reaffirms the Tribes represented by the Coastal/Tundra In-Season Manager (Kasigluk, Nunapitchuk, Atmautluak, Tuntutuliak, Eek, Cheforak, Kipnuk, Kwigillingok, Kongiganak, and Quinhagak).

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the entire KRITFC body on the 6th day of April, 2022.

SIGNED:



Mike Williams Sr., Chair

ATTEST:



Jacqueline Cleveland, Secretary/Treasurer