

the georgetown connection

Connecting generations of Georgetown tribal members to the roots of their traditional community. June, 2014



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Greetings,

It's that time of year again, we are preparing for the Georgetown Annual Meeting to be hosted once again by our gracious council Chairman and President David "Buddy" Kutch at his home in Chugiak. The meeting will be held on July 19th and begin at 11am. You should be receiving your ballots for this year's election along with other meeting information. This year council seats B held by Vanessa Evans, and Seat C held by Traci Fredericks are up for election. Be sure and return your ballots via the provided pre-stamped envelope or bring it with you if you plan to attend the meeting in person. One of the important topics in the region is the Federalization of the Lower



Kuskokwim salmon fishery and limitations of subsistence harvesting of Chinook salmon. Kate Schaberg,

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Call Georgetown Tribal Council: 907-274-2195 or toll-free 1-888-274-2195



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**COUNCIL
Chair**

David "Buddy" Kutch
Seat D/ Term expires:2016

Vice Chair

Traci Fredericks
Seat C/ Term expires:2014

Secretary

Vanessa Evans
Seat B/ Term expires:2014

Member

Tamara Vanderpool
Seat A/ Term expires:2016

Member

Michael Murphy
Seat E/Term expires:2015

STAFF

Tribal Administrator

Will Hartman

**Environmental
Coordinator**

Kate Schaberg

Computer Specialist

Eric V. Dietrich

Council Update

our Environmental Coordinator, has been working tirelessly to keep up to date on closures and restrictions in order to keep us all informed. Kate is working with representatives for the Army Corp of Engineers to have a presentation regarding the Donlin Creek mine Environmental Impact Study. This study is to help any long term impacts a large scale mine would have and identify concerns of residents along the Kuskokwim River. As usual lunch will be provided following the meeting and door prizes will be given out to those in attendance. We hope to see you there.



Is OST holding money for you?

Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of the Special Trustee is seeking current addresses for Individual Indian Money (IIM) account holders. All Whereabouts Unknown (WAU) accounts have either interests in lands and/or funds to be disbursed to rightful owners. In Alaska the lands are Native allotments or restricted townsite lots.



If you find your name on a WAU list you can print and fill out the OST 01-004 form to submit your change of address: Mail your completed form to:

Office of the Special Trustee-Alaska
3601 C Street, Suite 216
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: (907) 271-1410
Fax: (907) 271-1647
<http://www.doi.gov/ost/index.cfm>

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In Loving Memory...

*The Georgetown Tribal Council would like to extend condolences
to the Family and Friends of Darlene Evans.*

*Life is but a stopping place,
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road,
To sweet eternity.*

*We all have different journeys,
Different paths along the way,
We all were meant to learn some things,
but never meant to stay...
Our destination is a place,
Far greater than we know.
For some the journey's quicker,
For some the journey's slow.
And when the journey finally ends,
We'll claim a great reward,
And find an everlasting peace,
Together with the lord*

Our Environment

Introducing the GTC Environmental Committee

The Georgetown Tribal Council is happy to announce the formation of the GTC Environmental Committee. Committee members for 2014 include (pictured below from left to right) Tribal Council president, David Buddy Kutch, and tribal members Renee Fredericks and Debby Hartman. Over the next year, Environmental Committee members will be meeting with the GTC Environmental Coordinator (EC), Kate Schaberg, to give guidance on new and revised goals for the environmental program; aid in updating the Environmental Management Plan, Environmental Inventory, & other administrative documents; provide different points of view, ideas, suggestions for dealing with environmental issues; and aid in planning for a potential environmental themed camp at Georgetown, in 2016. Some of the issues we will be discussing include mining, subsistence resources, water quality, environmental education and traditional ecological knowledge.

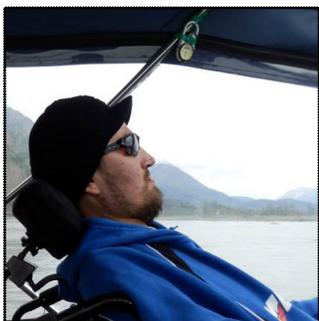
“Being environmentally friendly is something we should all practice in the workplace as well as at home. Our children will learn by example and will hopefully continue on minimizing the human footprint for future generations to come.” — David Kutch

The first meeting was held on May 17, 2014 at the GTC office in Anchorage. Committee members joined with Kate and Tribal Administrator, Will Hartman, to develop an environmental vision statement and mission statement for the Native Village of Georgetown. Other topics at the meeting included the Donlin Gold proposed mine and EIS process and subsistence fishing on the Kuskokwim in 2014.

The Vision Statement is *To have a community and environment where land, water, and subsistence resources are preserved and respected.*

The Mission Statement is: *To monitor and preserve the traditional tribal lands in and around the Native Village of Georgetown by being proactive in environmental issues, working together, and utilizing traditional and contemporary data and knowledge to accomplish goals set forth by the Tribe.*

At the annual meeting in July, the environmental committee will be distributing a survey asking tribal members for their input on what issues should be a priority for the environmental department. The survey will also be available online, to encourage participation from those who will be unable to attend the meeting in person. We look forward to your input and direction!

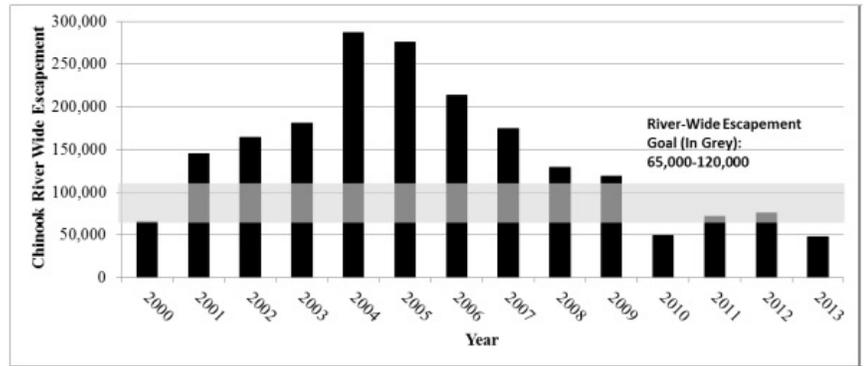


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Protecting the King Salmon: Subsistence Restrictions on the Kuskokwim River for 2014

By: Kate Schaberg

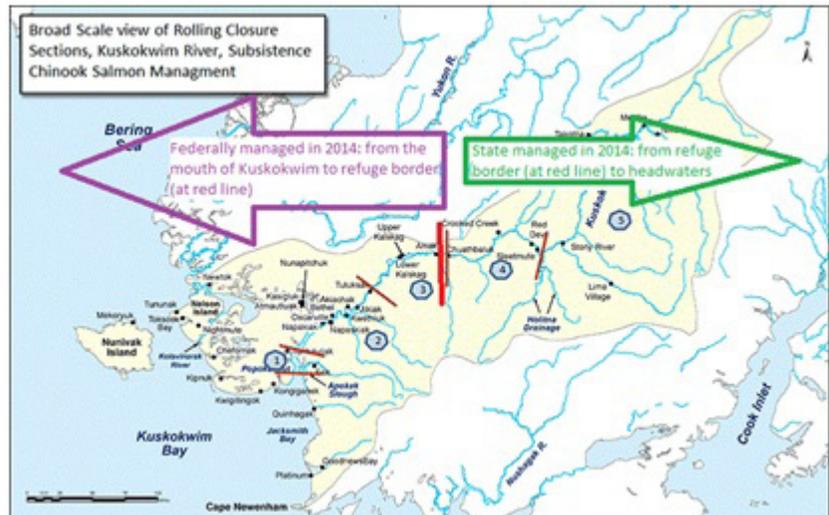
According to in-season managers of the Kuskokwim River fisheries, *The 2014 preseason forecast for the Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon return is 94,000, with a range of 71,000 to 117,000 fish. Since 2010, the total estimated Chinook salmon returns have been some of the lowest returns on record, with the estimated 2013 Chinook salmon return of 94,680 fish being the lowest run ever documented. Since 2010, the escape-ment objectives for Chinook salmon have not been met on the Kuskokwim River, warranting a cautious and conservative approach to management of the 2014 fisheries season.*



In order to ensure future generations will be able to appreciate the king salmon as we have in the past, we must provide them with protection now.

It is indeed, a year of conservative management approaches and unprecedented subsistence restrictions, but that's not all – it's also a year of dual management from the state and the feds, something we've never seen before. More information on the reason behind this action can be found in articles on our environmental blog at <http://gtcenvironmental.blogspot.com>.

Since the Native Village of Georgetown has members living up and down the whole river, we'd like to focus this article on where and what restrictions are in place, as well as what opportunities are or may become available for salmon fishing.



For the rest of the article, we will talk about subsistence restrictions based on this map, which shows the different sections of the river, identified by fisheries managers. Please note, these sections may be referenced differently in other news releases/publications. Sections 1, 2 and 3 are all being managed for Chinook by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, because the waters are within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge boundaries. Sections 4 and 5 are being managed by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, because they are in state waters. Based on this map, you will note that the Native Village of Georgetown can be found in section 4.

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Current Restrictions

Currently, as of June 9, 2014 – the following restrictions are in place (differences between state and federal regulations noted in bold text):

Salmon fishing is currently closed in all sections of the river. Harvest of whitefish is allowable based on the following restrictions:

In sections 1, 2 & 3, Gillnets are restricted to **set gillnets, 4-inch or less mesh size not exceeding 60-feet in length. Subsistence fishing with dipnets will be managed by the State of Alaska. Chinook salmon incidentally caught in gillnets may be retained. Chinook salmon incidentally caught using all other gear types must be immediately released. **Fish wheels are allowed at this time.** All fish wheels have to have a live box containing no less than 45 cu feet of water, must be checked every 6 hours, and all kings caught must be released.**

In sections 4 & 5, subsistence fishing for non-salmon species with gillnets is restricted to gillnets with 4-inch or less mesh size not exceeding 60-feet in length and 45 meshes in depth. Gillnets are NOT restricted to set gillnets in this area. Chinook salmon incidentally caught in gillnets may be retained. Fish wheels are not allowed at this time.

Options for Opportunities to Harvest Salmon Species:

Both the department and the feds intend to provide subsistence fishing periods to harvest chum and sockeye salmon with dip nets, fish wheels with live boxes, and gillnets restricted to 6-inch or less mesh size. These fishing periods will be based on king, chum, and sockeye salmon abundance. Period scheduling and duration for these gear types will be based on inseason run assessment and may be limited in time to reduce incidental harvest of king salmon. These fishing periods will be announced at a later date, potentially the last week in June or the first week of July.

Regarding Dip Nets:

Opportunity to harvest species of salmon other than kings is currently being provided in the lower river. As of June 17th, from the mouth of the Kuskokwim up to the Yukon Delta NWR boundary at Aniak, Subsistence fishing with dip nets will be allowed for 12 hours daily, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. until Monday, June 30, 2014. Any king salmon caught in a dip net must be returned immediately to the water unharmed. Opportunity with dipnets in the upper river will be allowed beginning on **Thursday, June 19th.**

Elders Fishery

An elders fishery *may be provided* by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game at some point this season, the details of which can be found in the state management plan, and read as follows:

- (A) to the extent practicable, at least one fishing period per week will be opened for a subsistence directed king salmon fishery to provide harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement needs, except that when surplus king salmon in excess of the drainagewide escapement goal is limited, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the subsistence fishery and immediately reopen a subsistence fishery during which,
 - (i) king salmon may be taken only by individuals 60 years of age or older; and
 - (ii) a person authorized to take king salmon under (i) of this paragraph may not authorize a proxy to take or attempt

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to take king salmon under AS 16.05.405 or 5 A A C 01.011, but the participant may be 30 assisted by family members within the second degree of kinship.

For more information on a potential elders fishery, contact the ADFG Area Management Biologist, Aaron Poetter, toll free at 855-933-2433.

Federal Permit for Cultural and Social Purposes:

For those with a Social and Cultural Permit, fishing will be allowed Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM beginning Wednesday, June 11 and ending Monday, June 30, 2014 within the Refuge boundaries (down-river from Aniak). This permit expires and is invalid once the community harvest quota is achieved or on July 1, 2014, whichever comes first.

Please note: although Georgetown has been allotted 12 fish under this permit, only people permanently residing in the community may harvest those fish. If you live in another community along the river, please be sure to take advantage of the fish harvested in that community. Tribal councils for each village are who you would want to contact for more information, even though you are members of the Georgetown Tribal Council. Kay LarsonBlair, of FWS, can also be contacted with questions related to the permit at 907-717-6129.

What's Cooking?

Rhubarb Bread

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar
- 2/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1 egg
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 1/2 cups chopped rhubarb
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted



DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). Lightly grease two 9x5 inch loaf pans. In a small bowl, stir together milk, lemon juice and vanilla; let stand for 10 minutes.
2. In a large bowl, mix together 1 1/2 cups brown sugar, oil and egg. Combine the flour, salt and baking soda, stir into sugar mixture alternately with the milk mixture just until combined. Fold in rhubarb and nuts. Pour batter into prepared loaf pans.
3. In a small bowl, combine 1/4 cup brown sugar, cinnamon and butter. Sprinkle this mixture over the unbaked loaves.
4. Bake in preheated oven for 40 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into center of a loaf comes out clean.

<http://allrecipes.com/recipe/rhubarb-bread-i/>



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Did You Know...



Check us out on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/Georgetowntribalcouncil

Summer Fun Facts

- Until the early 19th century there was no summer vacation. Depending on the location of schools, breaks came either quarterly (town schools) or to coincide with planting and harvest seasons (rural schools).
- People in the Southern Hemisphere have their longest day of summer in December.
- July is National Ice Cream Month. It was created by Ronald Reagan in 1984.
- It takes 12 lbs. of milk to make a gallon of ice cream. <http://www.nicra.org/funfacts.html>
- For TV commercials, Ice cream sundaes are often constructed of scoops of lard or mashed potato covered in motor oil. <http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/FakeFood>

