

Donlin SCAC Meeting

DRAFT SUBSISTENCE PLAN FEEDBACK – NOTES*

*Includes a summary of discussion items not captured in the accompanying “07-15-26 Donlin SCAC Draft Subsistence Plan Comment Tracker”. The comment tracker includes detailed information as shown below.

DONLIN SCAC - DRAFT SUBSISTENCE PLAN - SCAC-DATROC COMMENT TRACKER									
as of July 15, 2026									
SCAC					DATROC				
Submission Details			Feedback Details		DATROC Response and Status			Status	
Date Received	Submission Method	SCAC Member	Type	Comment, Question, Section	Comment Detail	Date Reviewed	Recommended Action	Detailed Response / Question	Status
	Meeting, Email, Redline, Phone, Oth		Direct Edit				Acknowledge, Accept, Respond, Disagree, Question		Under Review, Needs Response, Closed

Meeting Details

WHEN	Wednesday July 15, 2026 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
WHERE	Video and Audio Connect Information: - Meeting Link: https://agnewbeck.zoom.us/j/81221681226?pwd=L2Cq6CXuo4ElkO5aMARZTWEkgK0OHh.1 - Meeting ID: 812 2168 1226 - Passcode: 833302 Audio-only (call-in) Connect Information: - Dial: 1 877 853 5257 - Meeting ID: 812 2168 1226# - Passcode: 833302#
OBJECTIVES	- Provide feedback on the draft Subsistence Plan. - Approve recommendations to submit to DATROC. - Learn next steps in the drafting and updating process.
MEETING MATERIALS	- Agenda - Draft Subsistence Plan – emailed May 29th, June 8th, July 13th

Meeting Summary

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Participation and comments.** Nine SCAC Members participated in the conversation to review the draft Subsistence Plan and shared their feedback verbally and one provided written comments by email. In total, the SCAC offered more than 50 comments, questions, and direct edits to the draft Subsistence Plan.

- **Detailed review and robust input.** SCAC members spent the full three-hour meeting reviewing the draft Subsistence Plan, asking questions, offering recommendations, and sharing local knowledge that will strengthen and clarify the draft.
- **Members emphasized that the Subsistence Plan should remain a living document.** Participants expressed strong support for an ongoing review and update process, recognizing that continued input from SCAC, DATROC, Subsistence Coordinators, and communities will be essential as conditions change and harvest plans are developed over time.
- **The discussion reinforced the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with scientific and technical information throughout the planning process.** Several members noted that combining these knowledge systems will produce a stronger Subsistence Plan and more informed resource management decisions, particularly as future harvest plans are developed.

“I want to keep up the relationship – combining scientific knowledge with traditional knowledge – the combination is better than either standing alone.” – SCAC Member

- **SCAC members consistently focused on ensuring that the plan reflects how people actually use the land and resources.** Comments highlighted the need for clear expectations around access, communication, permitting, resource stewardship, and the inventory of subsistence resources, while also recognizing the value of the collaborative planning process established through the Surface Use Agreement.

COMMUNITY UPDATES FROM SCAC MEMBERS

- **Nick:** We are winding down fishing. The river has been open to fishing, which is a good thing.
- **William:** We’re winding down on fishing, freezer is almost full! We’re in the last stage of smoking fish, just need to go out and get reds for salt fish. Sorry to have missed the last meeting, I was fishing. Looking forward to berries.
- **Mark:** We’re just following the seasonal cycle, and right now we’re finishing one of the most enjoyable times of the year – fishing season. The runs weren’t very strong but they were enough. The Managers were pretty good with providing opportunity to fish, especially in the middle of the Kuskokwim where the runs are good, and we could fish the way we were meant to fish. It’s a good and important time of year. Every time a barge passed my fish camp, I thought about the impacts from barging at Donlin. Tonight, we’re putting the last of our fish away and this weekend we’ll be salmonberry hunting. For perspective, if we have a good subsistence season, we end the fall with four full freezers. That’s what we consider wealth, a true measurement of wealth. And then we get to work really hard to empty those freezers, eating and sharing. It’s a great time of year, I appreciate every day. Except weather has been crappy.
- **Denny:** Busy! ANTHC, AEC, Brice are all here! It feels like I need to steal time to do the things I want to do, or need about five of me! Maybe we all feel that way. We did get some fish hung up, dried pretty good but it gets hot. I would like to dipnet some of those reds, partly because dipnetting reds is a lot of fun. I’m proud of my boy and his buddies, they’re jumping in to cut fish and figuring it out. They still get a kick out of the fact that I can use an uluaq. We didn’t quite get enough because we didn’t have a lot of time. It’s also nice to see

the youngsters out carrying on traditions. It's been a cool summer, except for the weather. Putting fish away and trying to beat the mold. Catching silvers with rod and reel, rough but gotta do it. Hoping everyone gets a moose this year, if we can get 12 moose in Crooked, that's usually enough for everybody.

- **Julie:** Mark mentioned the barge traffic, and being at fish camp which is six miles downriver and not far from where the port will be, I paid attention to the places where barges will impact us the most. They know where our camp is and I noticed the barges slowing down when they approach our fish camp, I could hear the engines switching gears to slow down. It just made me think that if they know this now, then in the future they'll continue to slow down at important parts of the river. We had a set net below our camp, they slowed down there too so they wouldn't create such large waves. And in the air I was hearing the Donlin chopper – we have a saying “you know its spring when you hear the Donlin chopper.” In March and April, we start to hear it. This year, it was more common. The chopper follows the ridge line of Donlin mountains out to the main part of river and pass over our fish camp. The air traffic is increasing, more noise pollution these days, but not too bad. Seeing all of this going on, I hope to continue to work together – with the river traffic, air traffic – to ensure we can still harvest fish, moose, berries, and other animals on our lands.
- **Nathan E.:** I'm sorry to have missed a few meetings. Been pretty quiet, it's nice to hear about everybody putting away salmon on the Kuskokwim. Here on the Yukon we haven't really had that opportunity in some time. Recently we were able to do limited chum fishing, fish wheels, and dip netting, something we're not really used to, but we're learning and adapting. It was good to see people putting some fish away and see the happiness on their faces. Listening to everyone here saying they caught enough to put away for winter, that's good. Thinking about upcoming berry season and moose hunting. I'm not sure how Donlin would affect us on the Yukon, but glad to be part of this. I hope to bring support for neighboring tribes along the Kuskokwim, so I'm glad to hear what they have to say. I hope to be able to support them in any way that I can because I know how important subsistence is to survival. Construction projects coming up too.
- **Vicki:** I haven't been out to McGrath in recent months, but they're getting ready for their big music festival event coming up soon. A lot of people from the river travel to that. Lots of talk about no berries from McGrath, which is becoming the new norm. On the homefront, I spent 2 days with grandkids and great grandkids down on Kenai. I only brought home 13 reds, but I'm going to process those this afternoon. I've been gardening and everything has been a couple weeks late, but it's going well.
- **Sam:** It has been pretty busy down here since the storm last fall. We didn't get to go to fish camp this year because of the storm damage. Materials for repairs are expensive! The storm winds were so high that the roof of my freezer shop collapsed. But I was able to fix it. We did some fishing and did well, I was fortunate enough to fill up our freezers and we did some canning. My wife and her niece visiting from Bristol Bay did some cooking and finished the last batch two days ago. And good news for now on Kuskokwim River - the closures have been lifted due to king salmon, numbers are real low. And the number of Chums returning are abundant, not like the 70s and 80s but there are quite a bit. We're waiting on the silvers now, they'll start showing up any time now and we'll harvest some of those. It's one of my favorite fish that I eat. The berries – cloudberry, salmonberry – are abundant due to the good spring weather, and now there's quite a bit of rain so they're

turning out ok. So, upriver people, if you don't have berries to pick and you can afford gasoline, come on down here below Napakiak. You'll find them, they're out there! I was also involved in some documentary films for KYUK with the hosting that I do with them, so now I'm in film! We've had a couple of family losses recently and that has been hard. And I have two family members in cancer treatment. But other than that it has been a great summer and I hope it has been like that for everyone else!

- **Debby:** Summer has been very very WET. Spent an hour in the rain yesterday moving plants under a roof and getting them covered.

Recording Mark shared: Interview with Russian Mission Elder, Alexandra Quak-aq Kozevnikoff

<https://www.kyuk.org/arts-culture-community-features/2026-07-14/my-strength-coming-back-russian-mission-elder-shares-about-rare-yukon-river-chum-salmon-harvest>

DISCUSSION NOTES

The notes below are discussion items that came up that did not directly relate to an edit or question for the Draft Subsistence Plan.

Questions / Comments

Key: **Q = Question, R = Response, C = Comment**

- **SCAC Member Q:** Will the review process for the Subsistence Plan be in-house or will the SCAC be part of the process?
 - **Project Team R:** DATROC and SCAC will be responsible for reviewing and updating the plan.
 - **Project Team C:** Reminder that we have process flow guidelines in the Charter and that will help us move through those review processes.
- **DATROC Member C:** Reminder for the group – the Subsistence Plan was a negotiated piece of TKC's Surface Use Agreement. It's not stemming from Donlin, it's stemming from the Agreement.
 - **SCAC Member C:** That was good foresight on TKC's part. I was envisioning the pipeline project and in the first part of its life, it was highly restricted. Nobody could do anything near the pipeline and the haul road was restricted, there was no civilian traffic allowed north of the Yukon. I was envisioning that was going to happen with Donlin, but that is not what has happened. This is really good consideration being given here.

Select Section Introductions

During the discussion, Enric provided introductions to sections 5.0, 6.0, and 8.0 to better clarify the scope and / or intention of each section.

5.0 Subsistence Activities and Resources

This section is intended to lay out the scope of the report, not go into deep detail. Additional details about identifying how harvests happen and what would be available for whom would be in the resource plans in the back of the document.

6.0 Construction Phase and 7.0 Operations Phase

Previous sections of the plan cover the areas of the project, the resources that are harvestable, and the plans there will be for those resources. Sections 6.0 and 7.0 get into the different kinds of access that will be available over the life of the project. Changes in access could be for safety reasons or due to regulatory compliance obligations.

MSHA and OSHA

MSHA (Mine Safety and Health Administration) and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) were brought up and explained during the conversation. Both are safety and health guidelines, but they cover different activities on the project. MSHA is specific to mining activities, while OSHA will cover things like the road and port and construction activities. Links to learn more are available below:

Mine Safety and Health Administration

<https://www.msha.gov/>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

<https://www.osha.gov/>

8.0 Reclamation Phase and 9.0 Post-Closure Phase

We provided a reasonable level of detail for the construction and operations phases of the project, but these sections have less detail. This is because these phases are far in the future, making them harder to plan for at the same level of detail. During reclamation, the work on the site will be construction-type of work so it may not be as restrictive as other phases of the project when there are mining activities happening. Access will be open again after mining activities are complete. It will be more dependent on the landowner's desire for land use at the sites. The current plan is to refine the access and use guidelines when there is better understanding of what those phases are going to look like.

Appendix B. Identified Subsistence Resources and Approved Off-site Recreation Activities

This is an initial list, and we acknowledge that it is not complete. We are looking to the SCAC and the Subsistence Coordinators to complete, revise, and update this table. Ultimately, it will be the inventory of subsistence activities and resources that will then be developed into harvest plans.

Invited Participants

SCAC MEMBERS

* Indicates attendees.

^ Submitted written comments.

Seat	First	Last	Community
A/B: TKC Villages	Phyllis	Evan	Lower Kalskag
A/B: TKC Villages	Nicholas*	Kameroff	Aniak
A/B: TKC Villages	William*	Hunter	Chuathbaluk

A/B: TKC Villages	Mark*	Leary	Napaimute
A/B: TKC Villages	Joe^	Kameroff	Aniak
C: Crooked Creek	Denny*	Thomas	Crooked Creek
D: Crooked Creek	Julie*	Zaukar	Crooked Creek
E: Upper Kuskokwim	Debbie*	Hartman	McGrath
F: Lower Kuskokwim	Fritz	Charles	Bethel
G: Lower Kuskokwim	Samuel*	Berlin	Bethel
H: Coastal Communities	Ralph	Kiunya	Kongiganak
I: Coastal Communities	Nathan	Lake	Hooper Bay
J: Upper Yukon, Lower Yukon, and GASH	Wassily	Alexie	Russian Mission
K: Upper Yukon, Lower Yukon, and GASH	Nathan*	Elswick	Anvik
L: Elder	Nels	Alexie	Bethel
L: Elder	Vicki*	Otte	McGrath

DATROC MEMBERS

Name and Role	Organization
Rachel Klein* <i>Land Consultant</i>	The Kuskokwim Corporation
Tisha Kuhns* <i>VP of Land and Natural Resources</i>	Calista Corporation
Thom Leonard* <i>VP of Corporate Affairs</i>	Calista Corporation
Enric Fernandez* <i>Permitting and Environmental Manager</i>	Donlin Gold
Chris Eckert <i>Senior Environmental Coordinator</i>	Donlin Gold
Rebecca Wilmarth* <i>Community Relations Associate Manager</i>	Donlin Gold