



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
1007 W. 3rd Avenue, Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone 907-271-2809 | www.npfmc.org

D1 Salmon Reports

June 2022 Council Meeting

Action Memo

- Council Staff: Dr. Diana Stram
- Other Presenters: D1a: Dr. Katie Howard, Sabrina Garcia, Dr. Robert Foy, Dr. Ed Farley
D1b: Dr. Wes Larson, Chuck Guthrie, Dr. Pat Barry, Dr. Chris Kondzela, Dr. Jordan Watson
D1c: Dr. Jim Ianelli
D1d: John Gauvin, John Gruver, James Mize, Stephanie Madsen, Austin Estabrooks, Jim Harmon
- Action Required: 1. Receive range of reports on salmon bycatch and research
2. Action as necessary

Background

The Council will receive a range of scientific and industry reports related to salmon bycatch, genetics and management. In addition to the genetics and pollock industry salmon avoidance reports that are presented annually, the Council also requested specific reports on stock status and bycatch impact assessment that are included under this agenda item as well. The Council's [October 2021 motion](#) requesting these items is posted to the agenda as reference.

D1a: Salmon stock status and research updates

ADF&G will provide updated stock status information for both Western Alaskan Chinook and chum salmon stocks, as requested in the October 2021 motion. These stock status reports are posted to the agenda. Additionally, staff from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will provide reports of ongoing and future research on salmon.

D1b: BSAI and GOA salmon genetics reports

Genetics reports on stock of origin of Chinook and chum salmon that are intercepted as bycatch in the groundfish fisheries are available for the 2020 (Chinook) and 2020 and 2021 (chum) Bering Sea pollock fishery, and the 2020 (Chinook) GOA fisheries (GOA pollock fishery, GOA rockfish (and arrowtooth) CV trawl fishery and the GOA non-pollock CP trawl fisheries). These reports are posted and NOAA genetics staff will be available to present these results. An overview of program modifications and improvements to analyses will also be provided by staff.

D1c: Bering Sea Chinook Adult Equivalency and Impact rate report; staff recommendation for assessing chum impacts

Per Council request in the October 2021 motion, an updated bycatch impact (adult equivalency or AEQ) analysis has been completed (posted to the Council agenda). The paper includes current genetic stock identification information and an updated age/length composition for Chinook salmon, along with

estimates of how many Chinook salmon taken as bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery would have returned to Western Alaska Chinook salmon reporting groups. The analysis also includes a PSC harvest rate analysis and an estimate of the Chinook salmon bycatch impacts to each specific reporting group at the current cap level of 45,000 Chinook, and at actual bycatch levels in recent years (which are considerably lower than the current cap).

Additionally, a second paper is posted that summarizes staff recommendations regarding currently available data on assessing chum salmon bycatch impacts and potential analyses that could be conducted. Staff will provide an overview of both reports.

D1d: Industry Reports

Salmon excluder Exempted fishing permit final report

A final report from the exempted fishing permit for testing salmon excluder designs is available on the Council's agenda. Mr. John Gauvin will provide an overview of the results of the study.

Chinook salmon Incentive Plan Agreements annual reports

Under regulations to implement the Amendment 91 Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch management program, annual reports are required of each IPA entity and are provided to the Council at the April Council meeting. Regulations at 50 CFR 679.21(f)(13) stipulates that IPA entities report annually on the following:

- Incentive measures in effect in the previous year;
- How incentive measures affected individual vessels;
- How incentive measures affected salmon savings beyond current levels;
- IPA amendments approved by NMFS since the last annual report and the reasons for amendments;
- Sub-allocations to each participating vessel;
- Number of Chinook PSC and amount of pollock (mt) at the start of each fishing season;
- Number of Chinook PSC and amount of pollock (mt) caught at the end of each season;
- In-season transfers among entities of Chinook salmon PSC or pollock among AFA cooperatives;
- Transfers among IPA vessels; and amount of pollock (mt) transferred.

Regulations promulgated under Amendment 110 as it relates to IPAs also incorporated chum salmon bycatch into the IPAs in lieu of the exemption to the Chum Salmon Savings Area previously enacted under Amendment 84. Some description of how chum salmon is managed under the IPAs is included in reports from the IPAs. Reports from each of the three IPAs are posted and IPA representatives will be available to provide verbal reports.

SeaShare report

SeaShare provides an annual update on the Prohibited Species Donation Program (PSDP) efforts to provide donated salmon and halibut PSC as well as other non-PSC fish to food donations programs in the GOA and BSAI communities as well as communities across the lower 48 states. Mr. Jim Harmon will be available to provide an overview of program modifications as well as 2021 donations.