

Draft Council motion
E1 Staff Tasking – salmon bycatch
October 15, 2021

The Council requests:

- 1) An updated bycatch impact (AEQ) analysis which 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 stock groupings. The analysis should include a PSC harvest rate analysis and an estimate of the Chinook salmon bycatch impacts to each specific stock grouping at the current cap levels and at actual bycatch levels in recent years.

The Council also requests that the report include recommendations to evaluate impacts of chum salmon bycatch in the pollock fishery with currently available data.

- 2) A stock status update of Western Alaska Chinook and chum salmon stocks.

In addition, the Council requests staff write a letter to the Secretary of State to request help to identify levels and stock composition of bycatch of salmon in waters outside of the jurisdiction of the United States.

The Council requests staff write a letter in support of recent requests to the Secretary of Commerce for increased and dedicated funding for salmon research, observation, and monitoring, including on the lifecycle of salmon species in the freshwater, nearshore, and marine environments, and the effects that environmental changes are having on salmon throughout their lifecycle.