



C4 Bering Sea Chum Salmon Bycatch

October 2023

Action Memo for SSC

Council Staff: Dr. Kate Haapala and Dr. Diana Stram

Action Required: 1. Review Preliminary Review analysis
2. Provide input on relative scientific uncertainty of management options, as warranted

BACKGROUND

Under this agenda item, the Council is considering new management measures to minimize chum salmon bycatch, but particularly the bycatch of Western Alaska origin chum salmon, in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. The Council adopted a Purpose and Need statement as well as a preliminary set of alternatives in April 2023. At that time, the Council asked analytical staff to provide an analysis on the relative feasibility of these alternatives. **The action before the Council at this meeting is to finalize its alternatives for future analysis of potential impacts.** As such, the Preliminary Review analysis is not intended to provide an analysis of potential impacts but rather a description of how the preliminary alternatives could work as well as additional considerations for input in order for the Council to move those alternatives forward (should it so choose).

While it is beyond the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) purview to weigh in on policy considerations, and there are many highlighted in the Preliminary Review analysis for the Council at this meeting, the SSC may want to weigh in on the relative scientific uncertainty of some of the management options being considered. It is for this reason that the SSC is receiving a presentation from analytical staff at this time. Pending future action by the Council to move this action forward, the SSC would have an opportunity to review and provide its feedback on the Initial Review analysis of potential impacts at a future meeting.

