



C4 Bering Sea Chum Salmon Bycatch

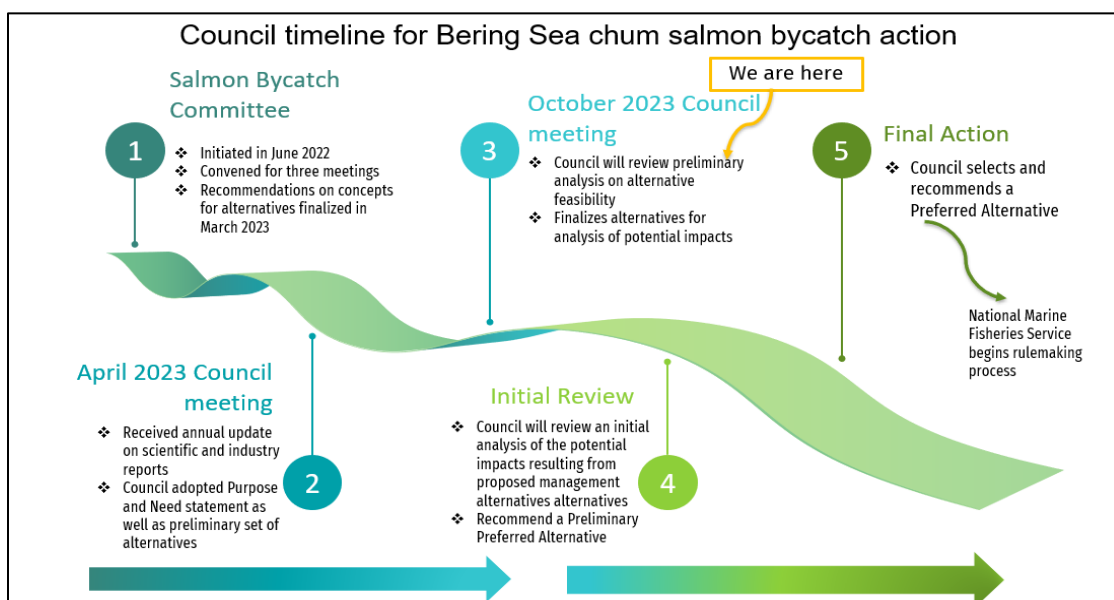
October 2023

Action Memo

- Council Staff: Dr. Kate Haapala and Dr. Diana Stram
- Other Presenters: Bridget Mansfield (NMFS)
- Action Required:
1. Review Preliminary Review analysis
 2. Finalize alternatives for analysis of potential impacts

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 directed analytical staff to provide an analysis of 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.** At this meeting, the Council could: a) modify or refine its Purpose and Need statement and/or alternatives; b) choose not to modify and refine its Purpose and Need statement as well as the alternatives; c) the Council can also provide direction on its preference for future work related to this action. There are several policy considerations before the Council at this meeting that require input from the Council in order for staff to be able to analyze the potential impacts of finalized alternatives in a future iteration of this analysis. **Analytical staff have highlighted Council decision points for the alternatives and options throughout the document** (see Table ES-6 for a condensed list).



SCOPING REPORT AND OUTREACH

In June 2023, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) determined this action will require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) based on uncertainty or disagreement regarding the relevant science. The NMFS Alaska Region published a [Notice of Intent](#) to prepare an EIS on July 11, 2023. Following the staff presentation on the Preliminary Review analysis, the Council will receive a scoping report summarizing public comments the agency received under the Notice of Intent. These comments were not summarized or incorporated into the Preliminary Review analysis, but rather the scoping report is meant to provide the Council with additional information and perspectives to consider as it finalizes alternatives. Related, staff made several efforts to increase public awareness and engagement on this action, most of which are captured in the Executive Director’s B1 report.

