

MEMORANDUM

TO: AP and Council Members  
FROM: Chris Oliver  
Executive Director  
DATE: April 6, 2010  
SUBJECT: Miscellaneous Issues

ESTIMATED TIME  
6 HOURS  
(All D-4 items)

ACTION REQUIRED

- (d) Review Rural Community Outreach Committee report and draft Bering Sea chum salmon bycatch outreach plan; action as necessary.

Background

The Rural Community Outreach Committee (committee) was appointed by the Council in June 2009. The three primary purposes of the committee, based on Council direction, are: 1) to advise the Council on how to provide opportunities for better understanding and participation from Alaska Native and rural communities; 2) to provide feedback on community impacts sections of specific analyses; and 3) to provide recommendations regarding which proposed Council actions need a specific outreach plan and prioritize multiple actions when necessary. The committee has convened three times since it was established.

The committee met on February 23, in Anchorage, in order to receive updates from staff on general outreach efforts; receive an update on NMFS' progress on improving the tribal consultation process; discuss the concept of a regional partnership approach for improving outreach and communication with rural communities; and finalize the draft Bering Sea chum salmon bycatch outreach plan. The committee also received presentations on rural outreach from two other entities with similar challenges, the North Pacific Research Board and the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council, USFWS. The committee report is attached as Item D-4(d)(1).

While the committee discussed each agenda item extensively, there were three formal recommendations, as provided in the committee report. For quick reference, the recommendations are summarized below:

- The committee recommended formalizing contact with NMFS, such that the Council would receive a report on tribal consultations, and that the consultation would occur early in the process in order to inform Council decisionmaking.
- The committee recommended that the Council support the educational workshop initiative proposed by the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program and World Wildlife Fund, by having Council staff coordinate with Sea Grant and WWF to review educational materials and participate in workshop development.

- The committee recommended that it convene for a half-day teleconference, either the first week of June, or August/September, in order to receive updates on several ongoing issues and discuss the outcome of the statewide teleconference for the chum salmon bycatch action.

In addition to the formal recommendations above, the committee reviewed and provided input on the latest version of the outreach plan for the Bering Sea chum salmon bycatch proposed action. Most of the discussion and suggestions centered on the statewide teleconference that is part of the current outreach plan, as recommended previously by the committee. The teleconference was proposed in order to provide a forum for the public to understand the alternatives under consideration, the schedule for action, and ways to participate in the Council process. Staff has scheduled the teleconference for May 4, 2010, and will be publicizing the teleconference in early April through a community-wide mailing and email notice. The draft outreach plan for Bering Sea chum salmon bycatch is provided as **Item D-4(d)(2)**. The mailing announcement for the teleconference is attached as **Item D-4(d)(3)**.

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to review the Rural Community Outreach Committee report from February 23, as well as the draft chum salmon bycatch outreach plan, which incorporates the committee's recommendations.

**Rural Community Outreach Committee Meeting Report**

February 23, 2010

9 am – 5 pm

Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Conference Room  
1016 West Sixth Avenue, Suite 304, Anchorage

**Committee:** Eric Olson (Chair), Paula Cullenberg, Duncan Fields, Jennifer Hooper, Ole Olsen, Tom Okleasik, Pete Probasco. **NPFMC staff:** Chris Oliver, Nicole Kimball.

**Other Participants:** Angelique Anderson (Coastal Villages Region Fund), Julie Raymond-Yakoubian (Kawerak, Inc.), Glenn Seaman, Bubba Cook (World Wildlife Fund), Jason Anderson (Best Use Cooperative), Charlie Lean (Norton Sound Economic Development Corp.), Fred Armstrong (USFWS), Dr. Carrie Eischens (NPRB), Joe Plesha (Trident).

**I. Introductions and review agenda**

Introductions were made, and the agenda was approved with one change: the agency presentations were moved earlier in the agenda, in order to inform the committee prior to the review of the chum salmon bycatch outreach plan. The committee also reviewed the Council's December 2009 motions on rural community outreach and the chum salmon bycatch outreach plan.

**II. Updates from staff**

- Re-design of Council website

Council staff updated the committee on the redesign of the Council website, including a 'rural outreach' node. The entire rebuild is expected to be completed by April. The committee noted that archived documents (discussion papers, analyses, committee reports) that have generally been posted by Council meeting need to be easier to find on an issue basis. The committee also questioned whether the re-design could incorporate a 'regional' sort, such that the public could search by area. The committee also noted that redundancy is positive in this case; several possible links to the same issue may be beneficial. The committee can review the new website when completed and provide feedback for fine-tuning the design.

- Development of regional meeting calendar

Staff developed a regional meeting calendar using Google calendar, as a test case for committee members. In the past several months, two committee members responded and signed up to review and edit the calendar. Staff reported that NMFS does not have the staff necessary to maintain such a calendar, and asked about the level of importance of such an effort in the context of other outreach activities. Committee members continued to endorse developing and maintaining a regional calendar, limited to bigger regional meetings (e.g., Board of Fish, Federal Subsistence RACs, Council, Native regional non-profits, annual conferences). The committee would like the meeting calendar posted on the new Council website, for use by the public, with the ability for committee members to add/edit meetings. One member suggested making the organizations responsible for updating their meeting details, although the Council could not ensure this would occur. Staff will resend the Google calendar website to the committee, and coordinate with the IT staff redesigning the website to evaluate possibilities.

One member also suggested allocating time at a future committee meeting to review various websites and other calendar options as a group. Familiarizing the committee with the available technological tools might boost participation and incentive to maintain a calendar.

- Development of rural community contact list

Staff updated the committee on progress in developing a rural community and Alaska Native entity contact list for Council outreach. Staff continues to refine this list, and the current list was sent to the committee prior to the meeting for review. The list has been coded by organization type (e.g., regional non-profit, ANCSA corporation, tribal government, local government, community non-profit). When additional staff resources are available, the list will also be coded by geographic ANCSA region. The committee suggested adding the Kotzebue Fishermen's Association, as well as the Community Quota Entities under GOA Am. 66. The committee also suggested adding email information to the list when available. The Council could send a letter to each entity asking them to contact the Council (by phone, mail, or website) if they would like to receive information by email. Challenges with email are staff turnover, non-functional email addresses, etc.

- Outreach budget update

Chris Oliver reported on the 2010 Council budget, which was approved with a slight increase from the previous year. About \$80k is allocated for outreach activities this year. Presuming the budget level is maintained in future years, the annual amount allocated to outreach could vary over the 5-year budget cycle, depending on project need (e.g., could use \$60k one year, \$100k the next year, etc.). The committee related interest in hiring a full-time outreach coordinator, contracting on an as-needed basis, or leveraging our current outreach funding by partnering with regional entities across the state. The committee noted that as stakeholders in rural Alaska become more familiar with the Council process, they have higher expectations in terms of communication and participation.

- Update on tribal consultation response from Dept of Commerce/NMFS

Staff reported that NMFS Alaska Region launched a tribal consultation web page on their website on February 19. NMFS posted the minutes/recommendations from the Nov 9-10 tribal consultation workgroup on this website. NMFS is currently developing a response to the recommendations provided at that meeting, which will also be posted on the website, likely at the end of March. In early February, NMFS was notified that the Department of Commerce submitted a plan to OMB "to develop a tribal consultation and coordination policy implementing E.O. 13175," as required by President Obama's November 5, 2009 memo to all Federal agencies. NMFS has requested clearance from DOC to post a copy of this plan on the web page. NMFS plans to send a letter to the community and tribal contacts mailing list (600+ entities) to make people aware of: the new web page, NMFS' responses to the recommendations, and the DOC plan.

Staff also reported that NMFS participated in a tribal consultation in Unalakleet on February 16 - 17, with nine tribes, as well as representatives of Kawerak, the regional non-profit for the Bering Straits region, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC), and the Bering Sea Elders Advisory Group. This consultation was initiated by the Village of Unalakleet with a letter to NMFS, and then other tribes were contacted and sought funding to attend. The regional CDQ group, NSEDC, funded travel for several tribal representatives. The participants developed recommendations, some of which overlap with the tribal consultation workgroup recommendations from November 9 - 10. A member of the public that attended the tribal consultation said it was a productive and positive meeting. The participants appreciated NMFS traveling to Unalakleet, and while there is no formalized tribal consultation process yet, it was emphasized that consultation needs to be early in the process, ongoing, and meaningful.

One committee member questioned whether tribal consultation input would be part of NMFS' regular input to the Council as part of its deliberative process. While the ultimate responsibility for consultation lies with NMFS, the timing of the tribal consultation is important in order to inform the Council early in the decisionmaking process, prior to making a recommendation to the Secretary of Commerce. It was thus

emphasized that coordination between the Council and NMFS must occur in order to gain meaningful tribal input. This issue led to further discussion about the possibility of the Council hiring an outreach position or NMFS AK Region hiring a tribal liaison.

**The committee recommended formalizing contact with NMFS, such that the Council would receive a report on tribal consultations, and that the consultation would occur early in the process in order to inform Council decisionmaking.** The committee suggested that NMFS consider both the timing and content of the consultations, on an issue by issue basis, as well as a way to foster ongoing communication with tribes. It was noted that Congressional legislation expanded the scope of tribal consultation to Native corporations (regional and village). One committee member related the need to attach funding to the executive order (E.O. 13175) mandating tribal consultations.

### **III. Review other agency outreach challenges & successes**

Fred Armstrong, Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council, USFWS, and Dr. Carrie Eischens, North Pacific Research Board, provided presentations on the lessons learned from rural outreach within their respective organizations. Each program outlined a different perspective and purpose to outreach. The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council's primary purpose is to conserve migratory birds through development of recommendations for the subsistence harvest in Alaska. The outreach effort presented by USFWS was initiated for a specific, targeted effort to control the take of spectacled eiders in rural Alaska. The presentation emphasized that while outreach was determined necessary on this issue, there was no funding specified. The presentation focused on several key elements to a successful rural outreach effort: understanding the audience; maintaining a clear message; using the media most appropriate in rural villages; coordinating with local residents; explaining the potential benefits of the action to stakeholders; and the need to create or attend several regional meetings and conferences in order to provide ongoing, consistent communication.

The NPRB has an annual strategic plan for communication with the public, which encompasses education and outreach; local and traditional knowledge; and community involvement. One of the primary purposes of the NPRB's community outreach effort is to educate the public on the various research projects that are being funded by the NPRB in and around communities. In addition to Alaska coastal communities, the target audience may be marine researchers, resource management agencies, commercial and subsistence users, teachers and students, and the general public. The presentation focused on the many publications, website design, media tools, exhibits, and 'hand-outs' that the NPRB creates to inform the public about its research projects, both prior to and after projects are funded. The NPRB has an outreach coordinator staff person, and a person dedicated to maintaining the website. The presentation noted that the NPRB has an advisory panel to help set research priorities in the annual RFP, provide advice on rural outreach and education, and assist in the programmatic review. The Bering Sea Project was also noted as a way to conduct rural outreach, as five western Alaska communities are involved. Some of the challenges discussed were: translation; establishing a clear identity (who is the agency and what is it responsible for); planning and preparation; developing relationships and trust; and follow up with the community (post-project presentations and written documentation).

### **IV. Review of draft chum salmon bycatch outreach plan**

- **Statewide teleconference**

The committee reviewed the latest version of the outreach plan for the proposed chum salmon bycatch action. Most of the discussion centered on the statewide teleconference that is part of the current outreach plan, as recommended previously by the committee. The teleconference was proposed in order to provide a forum for the public to understand the alternatives under consideration, the schedule for action, and

ways to participate in the Council process. Staff is scheduling the teleconference for the first week of May, due to the analyst's schedule and so that it is prior to the June 2010 Council meeting, in which the Council is scheduled to confirm its suite of alternatives for analysis. While the critical outreach components are scheduled after the preliminary analysis is available, committee members stressed the importance of allowing an opportunity for the public to understand the proposed action prior to June. It was noted that even though the Council is scheduled to 'finalize alternatives' in June, there is an extremely broad suite of alternatives proposed, and the Council can modify the alternatives at any time throughout the process if the issue is scheduled for review. The June action is primarily to allow the analysts a starting point from which to base the analysis.

Staff asked the committee to define the purpose of the teleconference: Is it to provide public input on proposed action? Is it a listening session? Is it a presentation so that the public understands the alternatives? Committee members discussed the benefits and drawbacks to differing purposes of the call, and generally agreed that the primary purpose should be an orientation for the public, such that people understand the basics of the alternatives proposed and ways to provide formal input to the Council (e.g., written and oral testimony). This purpose would be accomplished by providing a short presentation on the proposed action and Council process, and using most of the time for questions and concerns from the public. A secondary purpose of the call would be to document public input on the suite of alternatives, which would be provided to the Council in June. However, the primary purpose would be as an informational tool, as opposed to a public hearing.

Other committee suggestions pertaining to the statewide teleconference include:

- Limit the call to 2 - 3 hours.
- Clearly articulate the purpose of the call.
- Provide a 2 or 3 minute time limit for questions.
- Provide a mailing/flyer to the list of community and Native contacts that includes: the suite of alternatives; the schedule for action, including community outreach meetings; information on the teleconference; and notice that those who RSVP with the Council that they will attend the teleconference will have the first priority for asking questions.
- In addition to the RSVP list, attempt to take questions from a broad geographic range.
- Work with regional organizations to provide hub sites, where many community members could call in together. Examples provided: Kawerak in Nome, Northwest Arctic Borough in Kotzebue, AVCP in Bethel, Unalakleet.
- Provide a visual (powerpoint) presentation that those with web access could follow real-time.
- Make the powerpoint available on the Council website prior to the call.
- Research whether there is a limitation on the number of callers that can be on the same line.
- Close the call with a reminder of how to participate in the Council process, and the opportunity to provide formal input to the Council in late May/June.

#### Other aspects of the outreach plan

Pete Probasco (USFWS) requested that written background materials be made available for the fall 2010 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meetings, as they will focus on fisheries issues. That would provide the RACs an opportunity to discuss the issue and provide formal feedback to the Council if desired.

Julie Raymond-Yakoubian requested that the Council consider adding the Kawerak annual regional conference in March/April 2011 to the list of annual meetings and conferences targeted for outreach on the chum salmon bycatch issue. This meeting typically has several hundred participants from the Bering Straits region.

## **V. Discuss concept of regional partnerships**

- Review Council SOPPs core principles on stakeholder involvement

The committee reviewed the Council's core principles on stakeholder involvement in the SOPPs, used to guide communication strategies and activities. They determined that these are sufficient for the workings of the committee. One member noted that one principle is to "Include all stakeholder interests," and that the committee may include primary or targeted stakeholder interests, but not necessarily all interests.

- Identifying key contacts in each region

The committee discussed the need to identify key contacts in each region, which is related to the regional partnership approach. One concept of the regional partnership approach is to have people/organizations identified in each region that understand the Council process, that would be willing to help staff set up community meetings, teleconferences, etc., and be a key contact for people in the region to interface on Council management issues. While these contacts would not have any greater standing than any other individual, it would help to have several central contacts in each region to help the Council communicate with rural stakeholders and organize outreach efforts. Examples discussed were the regional nonprofit, borough, CDQ group, village corporations, regional corporations, and regional tribal entities.

- If necessary, decide how to define regions of Alaska

The committee discussed how the regions should be defined. Many members thought the twelve ANCSA regions were appropriate, as that is how many rural residents tend to associate. Members emphasized that using the geographic regions delineated by ANCSA does not mean that the key contacts must be the regional Native corporations formed under ANCSA. Members also noted that cross-region interests must be considered, and that the Council management areas are generally GOA, BS, and AI. Gulf issues may straddle several regional Native corporations, and are different from the Bering Sea.

- Development of educational workshop

The committee heard from Bubba Cook (World Wildlife Federation) and Paula Cullenberg (Sea Grant, Alaska Marine Advisory Program) on a collaborative effort to develop an educational workshop on the National Environmental Policy Act and Council processes, for use in rural villages throughout the state. The content would be agenda-neutral. The impetus for the workshop stems from the recognition that while many rural stakeholders are familiar with the Board of Fisheries and Federal Subsistence Board processes, the same level of understanding is lacking on the Magnuson-Stevens Act and Council process. The workshop scope and specific funding level are not yet finalized. WWF has secured funding from the Patrick Foundation, and Sea Grant submitted a grant to the National Sea Grant Law Center.

Bubba and Paula both noted that they would like the Council to endorse such a workshop or participate at some level. The Rural Community Outreach Committee previously discussed such a workshop, so it seemed like a logical opportunity to further the concept. The primary components envisioned are: 1) develop materials that are accessible, tangible, and interesting to people, including very clear steps on how people can be part of the process; and 2) conduct the workshop in five Alaska communities. Ideally, the workshop could be scheduled in some of the regions/communities prior to the chum salmon bycatch outreach meetings that are planned by Council staff (February/March 2011). Sea Grant will also evaluate the ability to provide college credit for attending the workshop.

One committee member asked how the workshop could have longevity, as opposed to going to the community one time and hoping the public retains the information. One way discussed is to find people in the community that could be trained in the process, using the materials created through the workshop, in order to continually educate other community members. This would necessitate keeping the materials

current and available. Another member noted that individuals need a vested interest in a particular issue in order to get involved. Thus, opportunistic outreach may be more effective, as it is driven by the community or tribal interest.

**The committee recommends that the Council support the educational workshop initiative by having Council staff work with Sea Grant and WWF to review educational materials and participate in workshop development.** Those materials should be inclusive, if possible, of an issue-specific demonstration of the Council process. Staff may also potentially participate in an actual workshop conducted in a community. The educational workshop should be viewed as a complement to the Council's rural community outreach efforts.

- Review committee members' ideas on how to define regional partnership concept

The committee discussed several different approaches to and goals of the regional partnership concept. One concept discussed was to create a voluntary network of regional organizations to help disseminate Council information, and create some guidelines for involvement. Each organization would have a Council staff person as a designated contact, so that they would have a point of contact for questions, as well as someone to guide them during Council meetings.

Another member stated that the goal should be to make the outreach efforts more efficient, by allowing staff to have 20 or 30 key contacts, and then those partners would have some responsibility for information distribution within a region. These partners could also assist the Council in planning outreach meetings in-region, with regard to schedules, locations, and identifying appropriate media tools. While this would not negate the need for mailings to each individual community, it would provide a local conduit for local information to help the Council work more effectively within each region.

Some members thought the committee should identify the set of partners first, and provide them with an invitation to participate. Several examples of a potential process to identify partners were discussed, including how this type of structure might be employed differently for an area like the Yukon River drainage, the Northwest Arctic, or the Kodiak Island communities. It was emphasized that while a few primary partners could be identified, it should not be exclusionary should another entity want to be included. The committee also discussed how the Council would need to communicate how participation may benefit the partner organization and their associated communities.

Staff noted that they could provide a template for identifying regional partners at the next meeting, and the committee could work to complete it. The committee generally agreed that several approaches were outlined in discussion, and that the committee needs to do further work to frame and finalize the regional partnership concept. This should be the primary agenda item at a future meeting.

## **VI. Timing & need for next meeting (wrap-up)**

Staff reminded the committee that a community and subsistence workshop was planned for the Northern Bering Sea Research Area research plan, on February 24 – 25 in Anchorage. This was a major outreach effort, to involve subsistence users early in the process to develop the research plan. Staff will update the committee regarding the results of this workshop at a future meeting.

**The committee recommended that it convene for a half-day teleconference, either the first week of June, or August/September,** in order to receive updates on several ongoing issues and discuss the outcome of the statewide teleconference for the chum salmon bycatch action. It was suggested that the committee could start to refine the regional partnership concept during this teleconference, but that an in-person meeting should be scheduled subsequent to the teleconference to focus on this effort.



## Outreach Plan for EA/RIR/IRFA on Non-Chinook Salmon Bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery

### I. Genesis for outreach plan

As a result of one of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) policy priorities, it is focusing on improving outreach and communications with rural communities and Alaska Native entities and developing a method for systematic documentation of Alaska Native and community participation in the development of fishery management actions.<sup>1</sup> Upon review of several suggestions to expand both ongoing communication and outreach specific to particular projects,<sup>2</sup> the Council initiated a small workgroup to further review potential approaches and provide recommendations. Upon review of the workgroup report in February 2009, the Council approved the workgroup's primary recommendation to initiate a standing committee (the Rural Community Outreach Committee) to provide input to the Council on ways to improve outreach to communities and Alaska Native entities. The committee has three primary tasks: 1) to advise the Council on how to provide opportunities for better understanding and participation from Native Alaska and rural communities; 2) to provide feedback on community impacts sections of specific analyses; and 3) to provide recommendations regarding which proposed Council actions need a specific outreach plan and prioritize multiple actions when necessary. The committee was initiated in June 2009.

In addition to the stated Council policy priority, the need to improve the stakeholder participation process was highlighted during development of the Chinook salmon bycatch analysis. The Council made efforts to solicit and obtain input on the proposed action from Alaska Natives, rural communities, and other affected stakeholders. This outreach effort, specific to Chinook salmon bycatch management, dovetailed with the Council's overall community and Alaska Native stakeholder participation policy.

The Council's Rural Community Outreach Committee met in August 2009 and recommended that the upcoming non-Chinook (chum)<sup>3</sup> salmon bycatch issue be a priority for rural outreach, similar to the Chinook salmon bycatch issue. The Council agreed with this recommendation, to undertake an outreach effort with affected community and Native stakeholders prior to and during the development of the draft EA/RIR/IRFA (analysis), well prior to final Council action. The committee met again in November 2009, with the primary purpose of helping to develop an outreach plan for this issue, given that the Council was scheduled to review the chum bycatch alternatives at its December 2009 meeting. Note that in October, the Council's Salmon Bycatch Workgroup also recommended that outreach begin prior to approval of the final alternatives. Both the workgroup and November committee report are on the Council website. The Rural Community Outreach Committee met again in February 2010, in part to review and finalize the outreach plan.

The outreach plan for chum salmon bycatch management was developed by Council staff with input from NMFS, the Council, the Rural Community Outreach Committee, and affected stakeholders. It is intended to improve the Council's decision-making processes on the proposed action, as well as enable the Council to maintain ongoing and proactive relations with Alaska Native and rural communities. Another of the objectives of the plan is to coordinate with NMFS' tribal consultation activities, to prevent a duplication of efforts between the Council and NMFS, which includes not confusing the public with divergent processes or providing inconsistent information.

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<sup>1</sup>This policy priority is identified in the Council's workplan resulting from the Programmatic SEIS.

<sup>2</sup>[http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/Tasking/community\\_stakeholder.pdf](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/Tasking/community_stakeholder.pdf)

<sup>3</sup>While the proposed action would regulate all non-Chinook salmon bycatch, including sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon, chum salmon comprises over 99.6% of the total catch in this category (average 2001 - 2007). Thus, the proposed action is commonly referred to as the chum salmon bycatch issue.

The remainder of the outreach plan outlines the analytical requirements and the tentative schedule for Council action on the chum bycatch issue, and a broad overview of the primary components of the chum salmon bycatch outreach plan. The final outreach report will be included, in part or in whole, in the analysis submitted to the Council prior to its final recommendation.

## **II. Analysis and tentative schedule for Council action on chum bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery**

An analytical document is being prepared to assist planning and will serve as the central decision-making document for management measures being developed by Council to manage chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, in compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). Analyses under two laws and an executive order are required to be provided to the Council to inform its decision on this action. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the preparation of either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The analysis will also include a regulatory impact review (RIR) as required by Executive Order 12866 and an initial regulatory flexibility analysis (IRFA), as required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The document will provide decision-makers and the public with an evaluation of the environmental, social, and economic effects of alternatives for managing chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fisheries. The alternatives for analysis (revised as of February 2010) are attached to this outreach plan and will be updated as necessary (see [Appendix 1](#)).

Currently, the NEPA analysis of the proposed action is scheduled to be an environmental assessment, thus, the following tentative schedule is based on this premise, recognizing that it is possible to determine that an EIS is necessary during development of the analysis. This analytical schedule was approved by the Council at the December 2009 Council meeting, and the proposed outreach meetings (in italics) are incorporated into the schedule below. Multiple aspects were considered in developing the following timeline for the Council's analysis of proposed changes to the management measures for chum salmon bycatch in the EBS pollock fishery. These include: scope of the analysis (complexity of the Council's alternatives), staff availability due to analysts' respective workloads and timeframe for additional responsibilities, the initial determination of the appropriate NEPA document (EA), outreach on the proposed action, and the timing of implementation of any preferred action by the Council. The determination that an EIS is necessary, addition of new alternatives, changes to the meeting schedule, and additional outreach meetings, are examples of factors that could alter the schedule.

**Note that the schedule proposes a preliminary review of the analysis in February 2011, outreach meetings in fall 2010 and winter 2011, and initial review and selection of a preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) at the June 2011 meeting in Nome.** This would allow several advantages with regard to rural community outreach: input provided at the community outreach meetings would be available to the Council *prior* to initial review and selection of a PPA; initial review and selection of a PPA would occur at a Council meeting in rural Alaska, as opposed to Seattle; both initial review and final action would occur at Council meetings in Alaska; and there would be more time between the outreach meetings and Council final action for the public to provide input. Final Council action on the proposed action would be scheduled in October or December 2011, with implementation possible in mid-2013.

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December 2009	Council review and refine alternatives; discuss timeline; request for staff assistance/data from ADF&G; review draft outreach plan.
February 2010	SSC review of methodological approach for analysis and review of available data/discussion of methods for dealing with data limitations.
<i>March 2010</i>	<i>Presentation to Yukon River Panel (Anchorage)</i>
April 2010	Not on Council agenda.
<i>May 4, 2010</i>	<i>Proposed community teleconference prior to Council final review of alternatives. Staff presents analytical schedule, Council meeting dates, chum bycatch trend data to-date, current suite of alternatives, and information on how to participate in the Council process.</i>
June 2010	Council review and opportunity to revise alternatives prior to preliminary analysis; review of expanded discussion paper on area closure options; report on community teleconference.
<i>October 2010</i>	<i>Outreach meeting on proposed action (AVCP, Bethel)</i>
<i>December 2010</i>	<i>Presentation to Yukon River Panel (Anchorage)</i>
June – December 2010	Preparation of preliminary review.
Mid-January 2011	Preliminary review draft available.
February 2011 (Seattle, WA)	Council preliminary review.
<i>February/March 2011</i>	<i>Rural community outreach meetings on Council preliminary review draft. Potentially eight regional meetings.</i>
February - April 2011	Preparation of revised analysis for initial review.
May 2011	Initial review draft analysis available.
June 2011 (Nome, AK)	Council initial review; review of outreach report; Council selection of preliminary preferred alternative (PPA); must be within range of alternatives analyzed.
October or December 2011 (Anchorage)	Council final action; selection of final preferred alternative.

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### III. Outreach components

The following sections outline the general components of the outreach plan for the proposed action on chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fisheries. These include: direct mailings to stakeholders; community outreach meetings; additional outreach (statewide teleconference, radio/newspaper, press releases); and documentation of rural outreach meeting results.

Note also that NMFS undertook scoping for the alternatives in late March 2009, and the scoping report was provided to the Council in June 2009. Scoping is the term used for involving the public in the NEPA process at its initial stages. Scoping is an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in an EA or EIS and for identifying the significant issues related to the proposed action. A principal objective of scoping and public involvement process is to identify a range of reasonable of management alternatives that will delineate critical issues and provide a clear basis for distinguishing among those alternatives and selecting a preferred alternative.

Through the notice of intent, NMFS notified the public that a NEPA analysis and decision-making process for the proposed action has been initiated so that interested or affected people may participate and contribute to the final decision. Scoping is accomplished through written communications and consultations with agency officials, interested members of the public and organizations, Alaska Native representatives, and State and local governments. The formal scoping period began with the publication of a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* on January 8, 2009 (74 FR 798). Public comments were due to NMFS by March 23, 2009. In the Notice of Intent, NMFS requested written comments from the public on the range of alternatives to be analyzed and on the environmental, social, and economic issues to be considered in the analysis.

The scoping report summarizes the comments received during the January 8, 2009 to March 23, 2009, scoping period, and summarizes the issues associated with the proposed action and describes alternative management measures raised in public comment during the scoping process. The purpose of the report is to inform the Council and the public of the results of scoping and to assist in the development of the range alternatives and analysis. NMFS received four written comments from the public and interested parties. (Appendix 1 to the Scoping Report contains copies of the comments.) The NMFS Alaska Region web site contains the notice of intent, the scoping report, and related additional information.<sup>4</sup>

### **Direct mailings to stakeholders**

On September 18, 2009, the Council provided a mailing to over 600 stakeholders, including community governments, regional and village Native corporations, regional non-profit Native corporations, tribal entities, Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council coordinators, Community Development Quota corporations, ADF&G Regional Coordinators, and other community or Native entities. The mailing was also sent to previous contacts or individuals that have contacted the Council on salmon bycatch issues, and State legislature and Congressional representatives.

The mailing included a two-page flyer for potential posting in communities. It provided a brief summary of the issue, including bycatch trends, and solicited input from stakeholders identified as being potentially affected by the proposed action. It also provided a summary of the Council's schedule on this issue, methods of contacting the Council, and a website reference to the current suite of alternatives and options. The flyer was intended to inform individuals and communities as to the current stage of the process that the Council was undertaking in December 2009 (i.e., refining alternatives and options and establishing a timeline for analysis). In addition, the flyer noted that pending Council direction in December, it is likely that an outreach plan will be developed for the proposed action, which would likely include regional outreach meetings in rural Alaska, in order to explain the proposed action, provide preliminary analysis, and receive feedback from rural communities.

The Council intends to send a letter and another mailing to the same group of stakeholders in April 2010, to notify the public of the May 4 teleconference and the scheduled action for the June 2010 Council meeting. The Council is tentatively scheduled to conduct a final review and possible revision of the proposed alternatives and options for analysis at the June meeting. Note that this would be prior to development of an initial review draft analysis. The intent of the mailing would be to ensure awareness of the current Council schedule, including the potential release date of the initial review draft analysis, and to solicit feedback on the alternatives and options to be analyzed. It would also notice the public of the statewide teleconference planned for early May, and regional outreach meetings that had been planned to date.

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<sup>4</sup>[http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/bycatch/salmon/non\\_chinook/default.htm](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/bycatch/salmon/non_chinook/default.htm).

Finally, the Council would send a third mailing to the same group of stakeholders prior to the Council meeting at which initial review and selection of a preliminary preferred alternative is scheduled (tentatively June 2011, in Nome). The intent of this mailing would be to ensure awareness of the suite of alternatives, the range of impacts analyzed, the schedule for final action, and to solicit input on the selection of the preliminary preferred alternative.

Note that the draft analysis (EA/RIR/IRFA), associated documents, outreach materials, and powerpoint presentations, will all be posted on the Council website as the process occurs and prior to the Council's scheduled meeting for final action. In addition, the Council newsletter will report upon progress and relevant meetings. The public is also able to listen to Council meetings real-time via the internet if they cannot attend in person. The Council will also consider a follow-up mailing to potentially affected entities as to the results of the Council's final recommendation for chum salmon bycatch reduction measures to the Secretary of Commerce, if, at that point, the website and Council newsletter are not considered sufficient means to reach potentially affected stakeholders.

### **Community outreach meetings (late 2010/early 2011)**

#### Timing

The approach for community outreach meetings is to work with established community representatives and Native entities within the affected regions and attend annual or recurring regional meetings, in order to reach a broad group of stakeholders in the affected areas. Working with established entities which have regular in-region meetings tends to reach more stakeholders than if the Council hosted its own outreach meeting in the community. It was determined that Council staff would convene individual outreach meetings only as necessary and appropriate, if a regional meeting was not scheduled in a particular area during a timeframe in which Council staff and/or members could attend sufficiently prior to final action.

While direct mailings to solicit feedback are scheduled prior to the alternatives being finalized, and well before the initial review draft analysis is developed, staff proposes conducting outreach meetings in rural Alaska in order to correspond with regularly scheduled regional meetings *and* the release of a preliminary analysis, but *prior to* the Council's selection of a preliminary preferred alternative (tentatively scheduled for June 2011). This would allow the public to review and provide comments directly on the first version of the impact analysis, such that changes can be made prior to completion of the final analysis, and allow the Council to receive community input prior to its selection of a preliminary preferred alternative. However, due to concerns with the number of regional meetings proposed, this plan proposes a schedule that would start some regional outreach meetings in late 2010 and the remainder in early 2011.

The outreach budget will likely allow for travel to regional meetings in several communities, but not two rounds of meetings in several communities (both prior to the release of the analysis and after). Thus, the plan outlines outreach presentations in eight communities, at regularly scheduled meetings that are intended to reach a broad group of stakeholders. Most of these meetings are in February/March 2011, and a preliminary draft analysis would be available prior to the meetings, such that the public can make substantive comments on the impact analysis. The preliminary review draft analysis is tentatively scheduled for release in mid-January 2011, and the Council is scheduled to review that document at its February 2011 meeting.

#### List of potential rural outreach meetings

With regard to community and Native outreach meetings, Council staff will consult with the coordinators of five of the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils (RACs), the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries

Association (YRDFA), and the Yukon River Panel, in order to evaluate the potential for time on the agendas of their annual regional meetings. This would encompass potentially 8 outreach meetings in the region, if scheduling is amenable, and two meetings with the Yukon River Panel in Anchorage. Staff recognizes that one or more of the following meetings may not be possible, as many of these regional meetings may overlap or occur within the same week. In addition, the February 2011 Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for the first week of February.

In sum, the Council will attempt to schedule outreach on the chum salmon bycatch issue at each of the following regional meetings, should each entity wish to have this issue on its agenda. All of these meetings are open to the public. Note that due to the extended timeframe, the exact dates and locations for most of these meetings have not yet been scheduled. There is also a recognized conflict between the AVCP meeting October 5 – 7 in Bethel, and the Council meeting October 4 – 12, in Anchorage. Staff is exploring possible solutions.

<b>Association of Village Council Presidents</b>	<b>(Oct 5 – 7, 2010; Bethel)</b>
<b>Yukon River Panel</b>	<b>(Dec 5 – 11, 2010; AK)</b>
<b>Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council</b>	<b>(Feb/Mar 2011)</b>
<b>Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council</b>	<b>(Feb/Mar 2011)</b>
<b>Western Interior Regional Advisory Council</b>	<b>(Feb/Mar 2011)</b>
<b>Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council</b>	<b>(Feb/Mar 2011)</b>
<b>Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council</b>	<b>(Feb/Mar 2011)</b>
<b>Tanana Chiefs Conference annual meeting</b>	<b>(Mar 15 – 19, 2011; Fairbanks)</b>
<b>Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Assn annual meeting</b>	<b>(Feb 2011)</b>

Each of these entities represents an area that encompasses several member villages and/or tribes, and it is recognized that there is some overlap between the various entities, although the participants that attend the meetings may be very different. The AVCP represents 56 tribes in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The Seward Peninsula RAC represents 21 villages (20 tribes) along the coast of the Seward Peninsula and St. Lawrence Island. The Eastern Interior RAC represents 13 villages along the Yukon or Tanana Rivers and an additional 17 villages within the region. The Western Interior RAC represents 27 villages along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta RAC represents 42 villages in its management area. The Bristol Bay RAC represents 31 Bristol Bay subsistence communities. The Tanana Chiefs Conference is a tribal consortium of 42 villages in interior Alaska, along the Yukon, Tanana, and Kuskokwim Rivers. The Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association has members along the entire Yukon River drainage. Please refer to the maps provided in Appendix 2 to see the geographic representation of these entities.

In addition to the above regional/community meetings, Council staff may provide presentations at other meetings, as necessary and possible, recognizing that preparing, attending, and following up with outreach meetings requires staff time and funding. The need for outreach meetings must be balanced with the time needed for staff to complete the analysis. One additional meeting for consideration may be the Kawerak, Inc., annual conference in March 2011, which draws residents from many communities in the Bering Straits Region.

#### Council member and staff participation

This outreach plan proposes to have one to two Council members attend each regional meeting, with one to two Council staff analysts, including the lead analyst on the project. Primary NMFS staff working on the analysis would also be invited. Council staff would provide presentations on the Council process, outreach efforts, and the proposed action on chum salmon bycatch reduction measures. Council staff and members would be available to answer questions, and staff would document the results of each meeting.

In addition to input that can be incorporated into the impact analysis, the results of the outreach meetings would be provided to the Council prior to final action in the form of an outreach report (see the *Documenting results* section below).

#### Coordination with NMFS on tribal consultations

The primary Federal mandate for tribal consultation is Executive Order 13175, which requires executive agencies<sup>5</sup> to establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Indian tribes<sup>6</sup> in the development of Federal policies that have tribal implications.<sup>7</sup> While it is NMFS' legal obligation to undertake formal tribal consultation with Federally-recognized tribes and Native corporations under E.O. 13175, Council staff will coordinate with NMFS, if and when a formal tribal consultation is requested. For example, Council staff could provide an overview or background presentation on the proposed action as part of Council public outreach, and NMFS could conduct the tribal consultation as a separate, private part of that meeting. Council staff/members could participate in the tribal consultation upon request of the tribe, depending upon scheduling.

#### **Additional outreach**

The outreach plan also includes: 1) booth space at the Alaska Federation of Natives annual meeting in October 2010; 2) conducting radio interviews for rural community radio stations; and 3) providing information and/or a press release to newspapers in regional hubs.

In addition, in order to get feedback prior to the Council's final review of the alternatives (tentatively scheduled for June 2010), this plan proposes to schedule a **Statewide teleconference**, using an internet program that allows for staff presentations to be provided on the web real-time. The primary purpose would be an orientation for the public, such that people understand the basics of the alternatives proposed and ways to provide formal input to the Council (e.g., written and oral testimony) early in the process. This purpose would be accomplished by providing a short presentation on the proposed action and Council process, and using most of the time for questions and concerns from the public. A secondary purpose of the call would be to document public input on the suite of alternatives, which would be provided to the Council in June. However, the primary purpose would be as an informational tool, as opposed to a public hearing. Note that while the Council is scheduled to finalize alternatives in June 2010, there is an extremely broad suite of alternatives proposed, and the Council can modify the alternatives at any time throughout the process if the issue is scheduled for review. The June action is primarily to allow the analysts a starting point from which to base the analysis.

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<sup>5</sup> Executive Order 13175 (*Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*) states that for the purpose of the order, 'agency' means any authority of the U.S. that is an 'agency' under 44 U.S.C. 3502(1), other than those considered to be independent regulatory agencies, as defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(5). In 44 U.S.C. 3502(1): the term "agency" means any executive department, military department, Government corporation, Government controlled corporation, or other establishment in the executive branch of the Government (including the Executive Office of the President), or any independent regulatory agency, but does not include - (A) the General Accounting Office; (B) Federal Election Commission; (C) the governments of the District of Columbia and of the territories and possessions of the United States, and their various subdivisions; or (D) Government-owned contractor-operated facilities, including laboratories engaged in national defense research and production activities.

<sup>6</sup> "Indian tribe" means an Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges exists as an Indian tribe pursuant to the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994, 25 U.S.C. 479a. Note that Section 161 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-199), as amended by Section 518 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 (Public Law 108-447), extends the consultation requirements to Alaska Native corporations.

<sup>7</sup> "Policies that have tribal implications" refers to regulations, legislative comments or proposed legislation, and other policy statements or actions that have substantial direct effects on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal government and tribes.

Under the proposed analytical schedule, the teleconference would be publicized in April and scheduled for May 4, 2010. While a draft analysis would not yet be available, staff could present the analytical schedule, important Council meeting dates, chum bycatch trend data to-date, the current suite of alternatives, and information on how to participate in the Council process. The timing of this teleconference, and all outreach efforts, are directly dependent on the analytical schedule and schedule for Council action.

Other notes pertaining to the statewide teleconference, as suggested by the Rural Community Outreach Committee include:

- Limit the call to 2 - 3 hours.
- Clearly articulate the purpose of the call.
- Provide a 2 or 3 minute time limit for questions.
- Provide a mailing/flyer to the list of community and Native contacts that includes: the suite of alternatives; the schedule for action, including community outreach meetings; information on the teleconference; and notice that those who RSVP with the Council that they will attend the teleconference will have the first priority for asking questions.
- In addition to the RSVP list, attempt to take questions from a broad geographic range.
- Work with regional organizations to provide hub sites, where many community members could call in together. Examples provided: Kawerak in Nome, Northwest Arctic Borough in Kotzebue, AVCP in Bethel, Unalakleet.
- Provide a visual (powerpoint) presentation that those with web access could follow real-time.
- Make the powerpoint available on the Council website prior to the call.
- Research whether there is a limitation on the number of callers that can be on the same line.
- Close the call with a reminder of how to participate in the Council process, and the opportunity to provide formal input to the Council in late May/June.

### **Documenting results**

Council staff will document input provided during the community teleconference (tentatively scheduled for May 2010), and provide that information to the Council at its June 2010 meeting. The Council is scheduled to review and possibly refine the suite of alternatives at the June meeting.

Council staff will also document input provided at the regional meetings, including any public testimony. An outreach report will be prepared to document the outreach process and results of the regional meetings. A short summary of each meeting will be provided in the outreach report as a brief reference. In addition, details of the regional meetings attended, a description of the participants, and the comments provided (by category) will be compiled. Resolutions or motions that result from any of these meetings will be appended to the report.

Note that as initial review of the analysis is scheduled for June 2011, the outreach report documenting community input will be presented to the Council at that meeting, which means in conjunction with the initial review draft analysis (i.e., Council selection of a preliminary preferred alternative). The outreach report will also be included in the Secretarial review draft analysis that is submitted to the Secretary of Commerce after the Council makes a final recommendation.



Appendix 1. Alternatives proposed for analysis of chum salmon bycatch measures in the EBS pollock fishery (revised as of December 2009 and February 15, 2010)

**Alternative 1 – Status Quo**

Alternative 1 retains the current program of the Chum Salmon Savings Area (SSA) closures triggered by separate non-CDQ and CDQ caps with the fleet's exemption to these closures per regulations for Amendment 84 and as modified by the Amendment 91 Chinook bycatch action.

**Alternative 2 – Hard Cap**

Component 1: Hard Cap Formulation (with CDQ allocation of 10.7%)

- a) ~~58,000~~ 50,000
- b) ~~206,000~~ 75,000
- c) ~~353,000~~ 125,000
- d) ~~488,000~~ 200,000
- e) 300,000
- f) 353,000

Component 2: Sector Allocation

Use blend of CDQ/CDQ partner bycatch numbers for historical average calculations.

- a) No sector allocation
- b) Allocations to Inshore, Catcher Processor, Mothership, and CDQ
  - 1) Pro-rata to pollock AFA pollock sector allocation
  - 2) Historical average
    - i. ~~2004-2006~~ 2007-2009
    - ii. ~~2002-2006~~ 2005-2009
    - iii. ~~1997-2006~~ 2000-2009
    - iv. 1997-2009
  - 3) Allocation based on 75% pro-rata and 25% historical
  - 4) Allocation based on 50% pro-rata and 50% historical
  - 5) Allocation based on 25% pro-rata and 75% historical
- c) Allocate 10.7% to CDQ, remainder divided among other sectors

Component 3: Sector Transfer

- a) No transfers or rollovers
- b) Allow NMFS-approved transfers between sectors
  - Suboption: Limit transfers to the following percentage of salmon that is available to the transferring entity at the time of transfer:
    - 1) 50%
    - 2) 70%
    - 3) 90%
- c) Allow NMFS to roll-over unused bycatch allocation to sectors that are still fishing

Component 4: Cooperative Provision

- a) Allow allocation at the co-op level for the inshore sector, and apply transfer rules (Component 3) at the co-op level for the inshore sector.
  - Suboption: Limit transfers to the following percentage of salmon that is available to the transferring entity at the time of transfer:
    - 1) 50%
    - 2) 70%
    - 3) 90%
- b) Allow NMFS to rollover unused bycatch allocation to inshore cooperatives that are still fishing.

### Alternative 3 – Trigger Closure

#### Component 1: Trigger Cap Formulation

##### Cap level

- a) ~~45,000~~      25,000
- b) ~~58,000~~      50,000
- c) ~~206,000~~     75,000
- d) ~~353,000~~     125,000
- e) ~~488,000~~     200,000

##### Application of Trigger Caps

- a) Apply trigger to all chum bycatch
- b) ~~Apply trigger to all chum bycatch in the CVOA~~
- e) ~~b) Apply trigger to all chum bycatch between specific dates~~
- d) c) Apply trigger to all chum bycatch in a specific area.

#### Component 2: Sector allocation

Use blend of CDQ/CDQ partner bycatch numbers for historical average calculations.

- a) No sector allocation
- b) Allocations to Inshore, Catcher Processor, Mothership, and CDQ
  - 1) Pro-rata to pollock AFA pollock sector allocation
  - 2) Historical average
    - i. ~~2004-2006~~    2007-2009
    - ii. ~~2002-2006~~    2005-2009
    - iii. ~~1997-2006~~    2000-2009
    - iv. 1997-2009
  - 3) Allocation based on 75% pro-rata and 25% historical
  - 4) Allocation based on 50% pro-rata and 50% historical
  - 5) Allocation based on 25% pro-rata and 75% historical
- c) Allocate 10.7% to CDQ, remainder divided among other sectors

#### Component 3: Sector Transfer

- a) No transfers or rollovers
- b) Allow NMFS-approved transfers between sectors
  - Suboption: Limit transfers to the following percentage of salmon that is available to the transferring entity at the time of transfer:
    - 1) 50%
    - 2) 70%
    - 3) 90%
- c) Allow NMFS to roll-over unused bycatch allocation to sectors that are still fishing
  - Suboption: Limit transfers to the following percentage of salmon that is available to the transferring entity at the time of transfer:
    - 1) 50%
    - 2) 70%
    - 3) 90%

#### Components 4: Cooperative Provisions

- a) Allow allocation at the co-op level for the inshore sector, and apply transfer rules (Component 3) at the co-op level for the inshore sector.
  - Suboption: Limit transfers to the following percentage of salmon that is available to the transferring entity at the time of transfer:
    - 1) 50%
    - 2) 70%
    - 3) 90%
- b) Allow NMFS to roll-over unused bycatch allocation to cooperatives that are still fishing

Component 5: Area Option

- a) Large area closure
- b) Discrete, small area closures identified by staff in February 2010 discussion paper (20 ADF&G statistical areas, identified in Table 4)
- c) Groupings of the small area closures (described in Option b above) into 3 zones that could be triggered independently with subarea, rather than statistical area, level closures

Component 6: Timing Option – Dates of Area Closures

- a) Trigger closure of Component 5 areas when the overall cap level specified under Component 1(a) was attained
- b) Under Component 5(b) discrete small closures would close when an overall cap was attained and would close for the time period corresponding to periods of high historical bycatch, considering both number of salmon and bycatch rate (i.e. Table 11 in February 2010 discussion paper)  
Under Component 5(c) subareas within a zone would close for the time period corresponding to periods of high historical bycatch within the subarea when a zone level cap was attained
- c) Under Component 5, areas close when bycatch cap is attained within that area (i.e. Table 12 in February 2010 discussion paper)
  - a. for the remainder of year
  - b. for specific date range

Component 7: Rolling Hot Spot (RHS) Exemption - Similar to status quo, participants in a vessel-level (platform level for mothership fleet) RHS would be exempt from regulatory triggered closure(s).

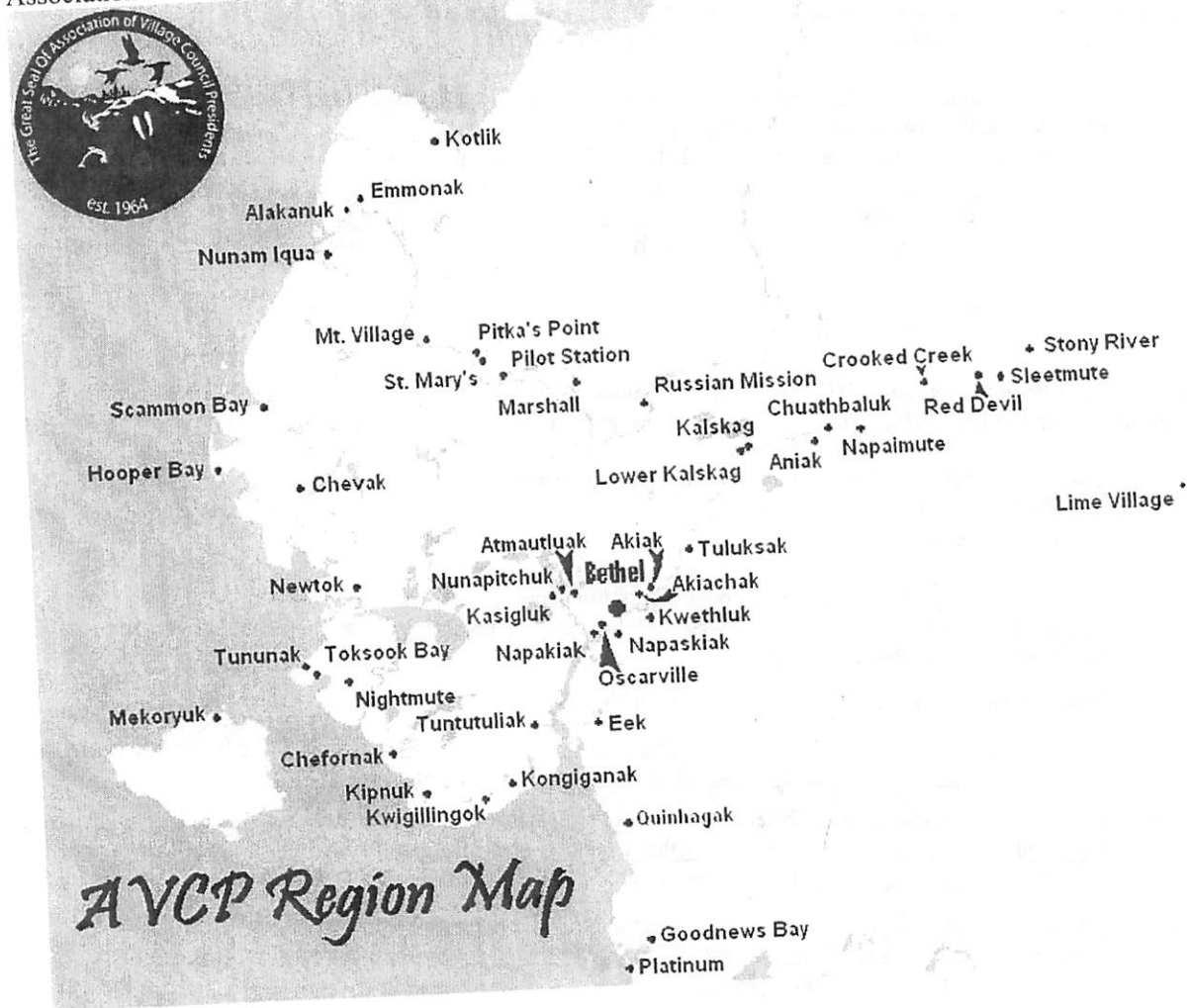
Sub-option (a) RHS regulations would contain an ICA provision that the regulatory trigger closure (as adopted in Component 5) apply to participants that do not maintain a certain level of rate-based chum salmon bycatch performance.

In addition, include the following items in the next discussion paper:

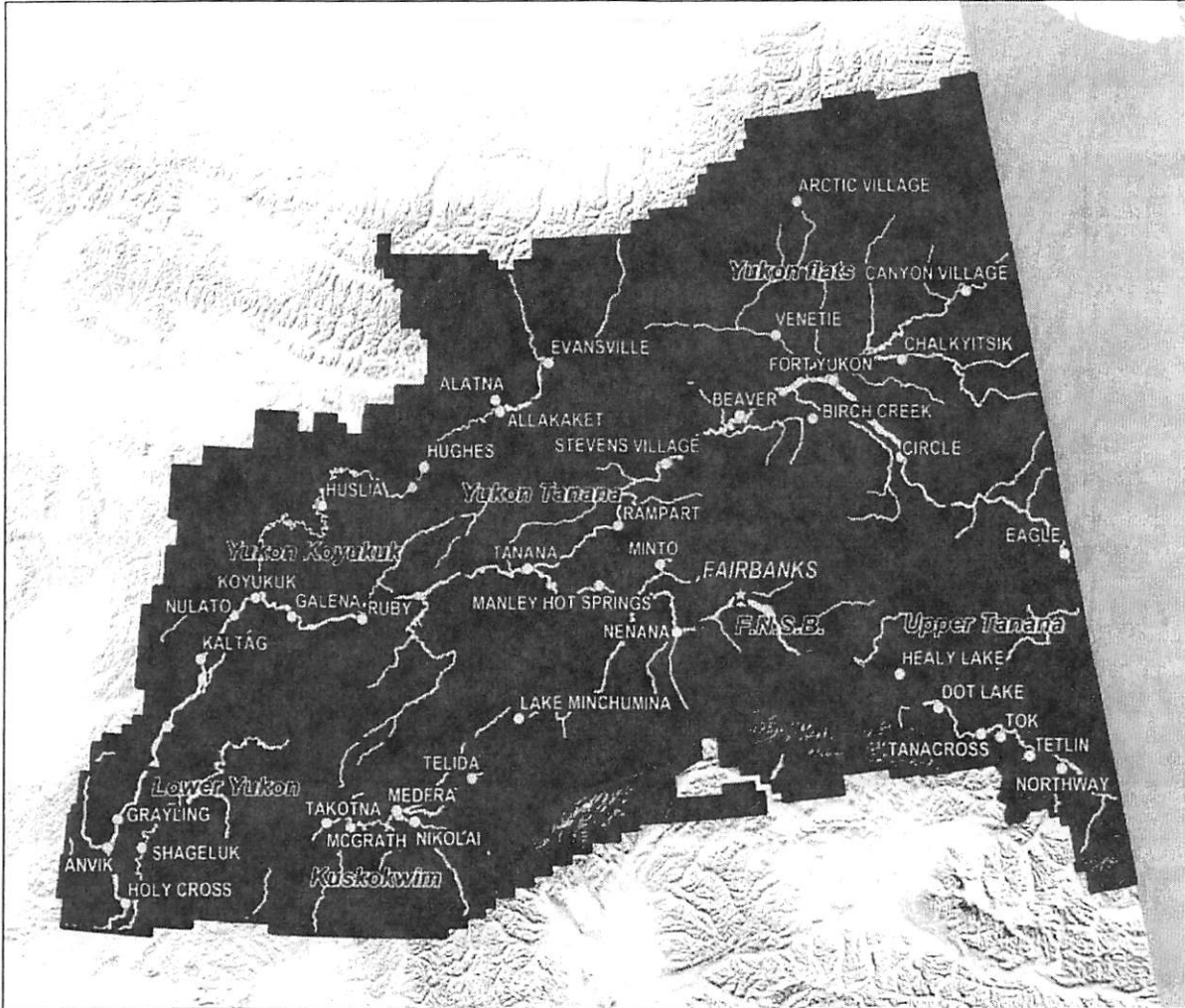
- Analyze discrete area approach normalized across years (i.e. proportion of salmon caught in an area in a year rather than numbers of salmon)
- Discuss how Component 7 and suboption would be applied
- In depth description of the rolling hot spot regulations (Amendment 84), focusing on parameters that could be adjusted if the Council found a need to refine the program to meet objectives under Component 7
- Discussion from NMFS of catch accounting for specific caps for discrete areas, and area aggregations described in Component 5 and for areas within those footprints that may have other shapes that could be defined by geographic coordinates {Component 6(e)}
- Discussion from NMFS on the ability to trigger a regulatory closure based on relative bycatch within a season (with respect to catch accounting system and enforcement limitations) considering changes in bycatch monitoring under Amendment 91
- Contrast a regulatory closure system (Components 5 and 6) to the ICA closure system (Component 7) including data limitations, enforcement, potential level of accountability (i.e., fleet-wide, sector, cooperative, or vessel level)
- Examine differences between high bycatch years (i.e. 2005) and other years to see what contributes to high rates (i.e. timing/location, including fleet behavior and environmental conditions)
- Examine past area closures and potential impacts of those closures on historical distribution of bycatch and on bycatch rates (qualitative); include 2008 and 2009 data and contrast bycatch distribution under VRHS versus the Chum Salmon Savings Area

Appendix 2. Maps of villages represented by the entities holding regional meetings at which outreach is proposed to be scheduled

Association of Village Council Presidents (56 villages)



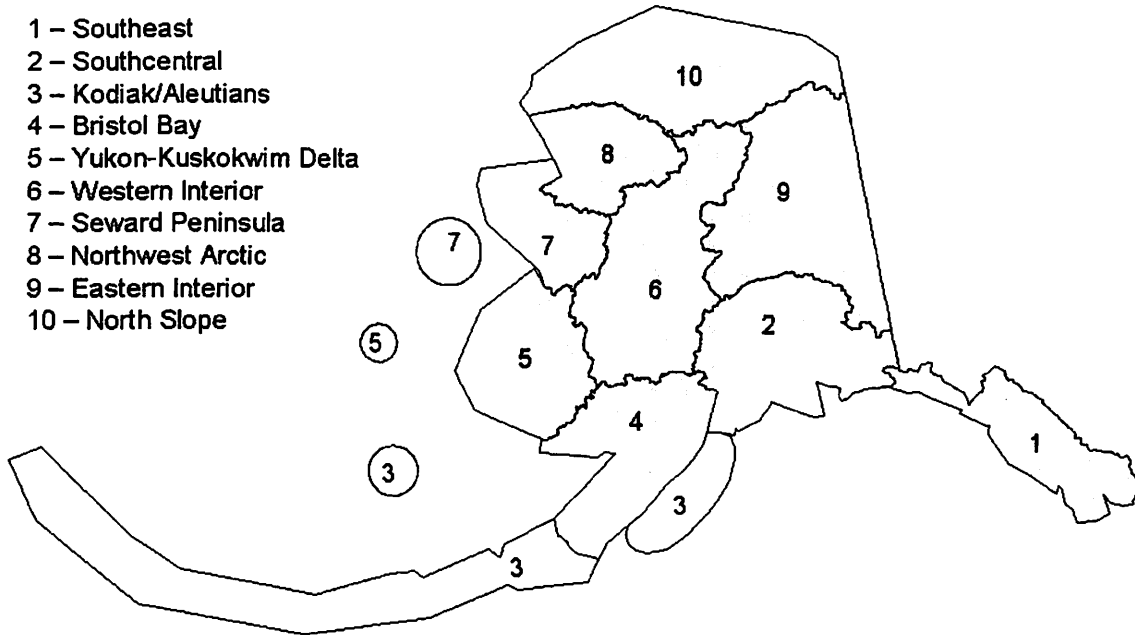
Tanana Chiefs Conference (42 tribes)





Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils: Seward Peninsula, Eastern Interior, Western Interior, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Bristol Bay

## Regional Advisory Council Areas



NOTICE: *Chum Salmon Bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery*

**The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is  
Evaluating Measures to Limit Chum Salmon  
Bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery**

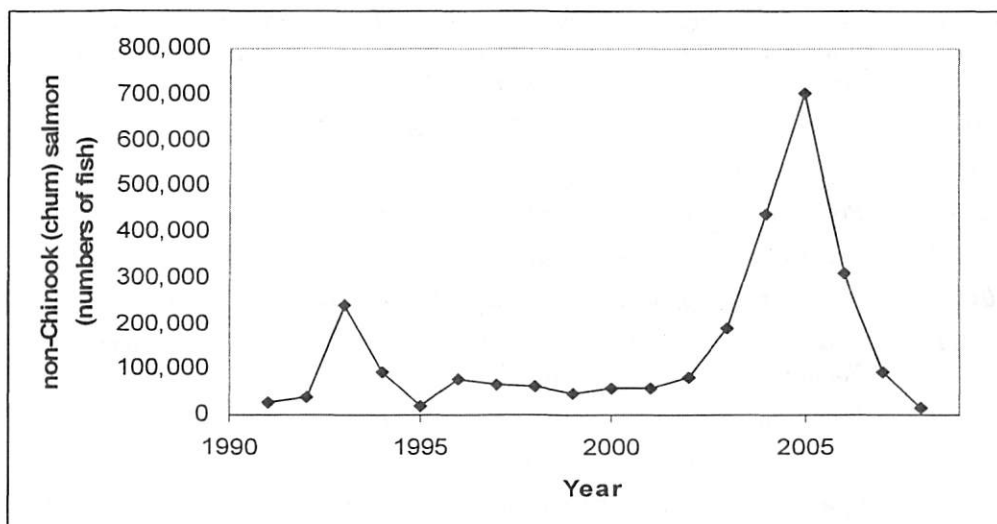


Salmon and pollock are both important fisheries for Alaska. Salmon support large and critically important subsistence, commercial, and recreational fisheries throughout Alaska and elsewhere, and are the basis of a cultural tradition in many parts of the state. At the same time, the commercial pollock fishery produces significant revenue for participants in the fishery, the State of Alaska, and other states. In addition, participation in the fishery (through royalties and employment) is important for the western Alaska Community Development Quota communities.

Salmon are caught unintentionally in the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery, and may not be kept by regulation. Despite bycatch control measures implemented in the pollock fishery since the mid-1990s, chum (non-Chinook) salmon bycatch reached a historic high of 704,590 in 2005 (see figure below). Levels since that time have been lower, about 46,000 in 2009. Current fishery regulations attempt to control bycatch through fixed area closures, triggered by a cap of 42,000 chum salmon. These are areas with historically high chum salmon bycatch. However, current regulations include an exemption to these fixed area closures for vessels that participate in a program that requires more frequently adjusted closures for vessels with high bycatch rates. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to balance minimizing salmon bycatch, to the extent practicable, with allowing full harvest of the pollock total allowable catch.

**Current trends in non-Chinook (chum) salmon bycatch**

Salmon bycatch in the groundfish fisheries is grouped as Chinook bycatch and non-Chinook bycatch (comprised of chum, sockeye, pink, and silver salmon species). Over 99% of non-Chinook bycatch is comprised of chum salmon. Chum bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery from 1991 - 2008 is shown below. Chum bycatch is taken almost entirely in the summer/fall ('B') pollock fishery.



**Non-Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery, 1991 - 2008**

Note: 1991 - 1993 values do not include CDQ fisheries.



## NOTICE: *Chum Salmon Bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery*

### The Council is considering whether new measures are needed to limit chum salmon bycatch

The Council is beginning the process of considering modifying management measures to limit chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery. The current range of alternatives is on the Council website: [http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/current\\_issues/bycatch/ChumBycatchMotion210.pdf](http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/bycatch/ChumBycatchMotion210.pdf). Measures currently under consideration include:

- caps on the amount of chum salmon bycatch allowed in the pollock fisheries, that when reached, would prevent further harvest of pollock
  - limits under consideration range from annual caps of 50,000 to 353,000 chum salmon (overall for the pollock fishery or divided by processing sector with options for transferable bycatch allocations among sectors or components of sectors).
- closure of areas where high chum salmon bycatch has historically occurred

### Next steps & schedule for action

The Council will review a discussion paper in June 2010 on area closure options, as well as the full suite of alternatives for analysis. The Council may choose to modify the suite of alternatives at this meeting.

The Council's Rural Community Outreach Committee identified this action as an important project for outreach efforts to rural communities. An outreach plan has been developed for the proposed action, available here: [http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current\\_issues/bycatch/ChumOutreach210.pdf](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/bycatch/ChumOutreach210.pdf). The outreach plan includes attending several regional meetings in rural Alaska, in order to explain the proposed action, provide preliminary analysis, and receive feedback from rural communities. The majority of these meetings will occur in early 2011. The outreach plan also includes a public teleconference, as noticed on the following page. The current schedule is as follows:

<i>May 4, 2010</i>	<i>Community teleconference, prior to Council final review of alternatives.</i>
<i>June 7 – 15, 2010</i>	<i>Council meeting, Sitka. Council review and opportunity to revise alternatives prior to preliminary analysis; review of expanded discussion paper on area closure options; report on community teleconference.</i>
<i>October 2010</i>	<i>Outreach meeting on proposed action (AVCP, Bethel; tentative)</i>
<i>December 2010</i>	<i>Presentation to Yukon River Panel (Anchorage)</i>
<i>June – Dec 2010</i>	<i>Preparation of preliminary review analysis.</i>
<i>Mid-January 2011</i>	<i>Preliminary review draft analysis available.</i>
<i>February 2011</i>	<i>Council meeting, Seattle. Council preliminary review of analysis.</i>
<i>Feb/March 2011</i>	<i>Rural community outreach meetings on Council preliminary review draft. Potentially 7 regional meetings.</i>
<i>Feb - April 2011</i>	<i>Preparation of revised analysis for initial review.</i>
<i>May 2011</i>	<i>Initial review draft analysis available.</i>
<i>June 2011</i>	<i>Council meeting, Nome. Council initial review of analysis; review of outreach report; Council selection of preliminary preferred alternative.</i>
<i>Oct or Dec 2011</i>	<i>Council meeting, Anchorage. Council takes final action, selects final preferred alternative.</i>

NOTICE: *Chum Salmon Bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery*

**TELECONFERENCE NOTICE**

**The Council is evaluating measures to limit chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery**

**Learn about the alternatives being considered, the Council process, and voice your questions and concerns**

**May 4, 2010, from 9 am - 11 am**

**Please call: (888)248-0699, code: 9589**

This process is open to the public. Council analysts will be on the line to share information and answer questions. The call will be recorded and moderated.

If you plan to ask a question, please RSVP via email ([nicole.kimball@noaa.gov](mailto:nicole.kimball@noaa.gov)) or call the Council (907-271-2809) with your name, location, and question. Due to the potential for a large number of participants, the RSVP list will have first priority for questions. We ask each participant to limit their question to 2 minutes.

A short powerpoint presentation will be given at the beginning of the call. If you wish to follow the powerpoint presentation, it will be posted here one week prior to the call: <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/>

Hosted by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, and EventBuilder.com.