



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
*National Marine Fisheries Service*  
P.O. Box 21668  
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June 3, 2026

## **Agenda B-2: NMFS Tribal Engagement Report**

### *Pre-Council Tribal Newsletter, Engagement Session, and Consultation*

On April 20, 2026, NMFS sent an [invitation for tribal consultation](#) on five June North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting agenda items to Alaska Native Tribes and corporations. On May 11, 2026, NMFS released the [2026 May/June Tribal Newsletter](#) to Alaska Native Tribes, corporations, and regional native consortia featuring updates on upcoming tribal engagements, Council actions, May and June calendars of events, and more.

### *Tribal Engagement Session on June 2026 NPFMC Actions*

On May 28, 2026, NMFS held a Tribal engagement session on five of the Council's June meeting agenda items: 1) Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Crab Acceptable Biological Catch/Overfishing Limits for Two Stocks - Plan Team Report; 2) Gulf of Alaska Tanner Crab Protection Measures - Initial Review; 3) Pelagic Trawl Gear Research Updates - Review and Consider Performance Standard if Appropriate; 4) Groundfish Fishery Management Plan Objectives - Triennial Review; and 5) Climate Workplan including: a) Workplan Update, and b) Discussion Paper on Development of Alternative Harvest Control Rules. NMFS staff presented information and answered questions from the 11 tribal participants in attendance.

Tribal participants commented on the following: 1) the timing of the engagement session which was held only one day before the Council comment deadline and a request for an earlier session in the future; 2) a call for incorporating Traditional Knowledge (TK) into Council decision-making; 3) the requirements for tribal consultation per Executive Order 13175 for fishery management plan development and modifications, emphasizing the incorporation of tribal recommendations into Council actions, not just listening to tribal comments, and for including tribal summary impact statements in the Federal Register; 4) a request to record NMFS tribal consultation and engagement meetings; 5) greater protection of Kodiak fishing areas to ensure continued participation in the tanner crab fishery, citing stock instability, and general concerns about the widespread decline of Kodiak fishing opportunities as a whole; and 6) the importance of incorporating TK in research, citing examples like Nome Eskimo Community's partnership with Alaska Sea Grant and NOAA tracking harmful algal blooms and toxins for safe subsistence harvesting, and partnering with organizations like Kawerak Inc. to protect wild salmon and support ecological baseline studies for tribal co-management.

### *Tribal Consultation on June 2026 NPFMC Actions*

On May 28, 2026, NMFS held a government-to-government consultation with the Organized Village of Kasaan. The Tribe sought more information on the potential impacts of Council fishery actions on subsistence harvest, food security, Gulf of Alaska salmon, ecosystem and cumulative fishery impacts (including bycatch), catch accounting, observer and electronic monitoring programs, Council structure and appointments, and incorporating Traditional Knowledge in the Council decision-making process. NMFS staff answered questions and provided information and web resources including: 1) [NOAA Guidance on Indigenous Knowledge \(2024\)](#), [NOAA Tribal Resources](#), and [NMFS Tribal Consultation in Alaska](#)



websites; 2) the Council adopted Local Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, and Subsistence (LTKKS) Protocol (found on the [NPFMC Climate Readiness](#) website); 3) the [NPFMC Rural Community and Tribal Liaison contact](#); 4) [North Pacific Fishery Observer Program](#) details; 5) [Electronic Fishery Monitoring in Alaska](#) information; and 6) a preliminary report on the [2023 Genetic Stock Composition Analysis of Chinook Salmon from Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska Walleye Pollock Trawl Fishery Prohibited Species Catch](#).

#### *Tribal Consultation on Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs)*

On April 1, 2026, NMFS hosted a group Tribal consultation on the AOA Planning Process with interested Alaska Native Tribes and corporations. On April 13, 2026, NMFS published in the Federal Register, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to evaluate alternatives for identifying AOAs in state waters of the Gulf of Alaska. To date, one Tribe scheduled a one-on-one consultation with NMFS on the AOA process.

On May 29, 2026, NMFS held a government to government consultation on the AOA Planning Process with the Organized Village of Kasaan. The Tribe submitted two public comment letters for the NOI to prepare a PEIS. During consultation, the Tribe sought an overview of AOA identification and potential environmental and social impacts. Although no AOA options were identified near their tribal community, they voiced concerns regarding potential impacts to other tribal communities on Prince William Island. NMFS staff provided the [AOA Digital Atlas](#), AOA proximity information, an AOA process presentation, and details on the next public comment opportunity to share within their Tribal networks.

#### *Upcoming Tribal Consultation*

Per Craig Tribal Association request, NMFS is scheduling a Tribal consultation to discuss annual Fishery Management Plans, fishery allocations, EO 13175 compliance, and related Tribal fishery issues.