

ADVISORY PANEL REPORT

C2 Chum Salmon Bycatch

February 2026



C1 AP MOTION – Chum Salmon Bycatch (1/2)

The AP recommends no changes to the Purpose and Need.

The AP recommends that the Council select Alternative 4 as the preferred alternative for final action as follows:

Alternative 4: Additional regulatory requirements for Incentive Plan Agreements (IPAs)

Include in the IPA regulations at 50 CFR 679.21(f)(12)(iii)(E) the following additive changes to further prioritize avoidance of areas and times of highest proportion of coastal Western Alaska and Upper/Middle Yukon chum salmon stocks. These requirements would be added to the existing federal regulations for IPAs at 50 CFR 679.21(f)(12), and the annual reporting requirements at § 679.21(f)(13) would still apply.

1. Require the pollock sectors to describe in their IPA how historical genetic stock composition data are included in chum salmon avoidance measures.
2. Require the pollock sectors to describe in their IPAs how they monitor for potential chum salmon avoidance closures more than once per week.



C1 AP MOTION – Chum Salmon Bycatch (2/2)

3. Require the use of salmon excluders for the duration of A and B season.
4. Require the pollock sectors to develop chum salmon vessel outlier provisions and implement within their IPA.
5. Require IPAs to provide weekly salmon bycatch reports to interested Salmon users, Alaska Native Tribes and Tribally-authorized Consortia and Fish Commissions to allow for more transparency in reporting.
6. Require the pollock sector IPAs to prohibit fishing in bycatch avoidance areas for all vessels regardless of performance when ADFG weekly stat area bycatch rates exceed 5 chum per ton of pollock (CP) and 3 times base rate (CV and MS).
7. Establish a reporting benchmark for upper-middle Yukon and CWAK chum to be developed in cooperation with Tribal cooperating management agencies

