D-1 Salmon reports
Council Motion
June 13, 2022

The Council acknowledges the western Alaska salmon crisis and the impact it is having on culture and food security throughout western Alaska. Science indicates climate as the primary driver of poor salmon returns in western Alaska. The Council commits to continued improvements in bycatch management with a goal of minimizing bycatch at all levels of salmon and pollock abundance. Towards this end,

- **The Council requests the pollock industry implement additional chum salmon bycatch avoidance measures beginning immediately**. The Council recognizes that these new chum salmon avoidance measures may have limited ability to target the proportion of chum salmon (9%) destined to return to western Alaska but can reduce overall salmon bycatch.
- **The Council requests a discussion paper updating the 2012 analysis of chum salmon bycatch**. The paper should include:
    - updated chum salmon bycatch and genetic stock composition data, including a discussion of how the genetic composition data vary across space and time;
    - a description of the Council's rationale for establishing the current Bering Sea chum salmon bycatch management program;
    - a discussion of tradeoffs in the Bering Sea pollock fishery associated with avoiding different PSC species (e.g., chum salmon, Chinook salmon, herring); and
    - a summary of conditions that have changed since the 2012 analysis (e.g., increased Asian hatchery releases and western Alaska chum salmon stock status).
- **The Council intends to consider the findings and recommendations of the State of Alaska's Bycatch Task Force as it considers how to improve salmon bycatch management**.
- **The Council intends to collaborate with western Alaska salmon users by forming a working group of Tribal members, scientists, industry representatives, and other experts.** The working group will review and provide recommendations on: 1) the discussion paper on chum salmon bycatch referenced above; 2) the findings and recommendations from the State of Alaska's Bycatch Task Force and the work of the Western Alaska salmon subcommittee; and 3) current information, including Local, Traditional, and Subsistence knowledge, and needed research to determine what is driving western Alaska salmon declines.
- **The Council prioritizes research on Bering Sea salmon**.
    - The Council supports NOAA and ADF&G prioritizing development of models to predict where and when specific salmon stocks will be located in the Bering Sea. This work will inform development of management measures focused on avoiding western Alaska salmon bycatch in the pollock fishery.
    - The Council supports and prioritizes work to reduce the time for analysis of genetic data, increased survey work in the nearshore environment in the Bering Sea as proposed by ADF&G, and continued industry innovation on gear modifications that may reduce bycatch.