

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 2, 2022

Mr. Simon Kinneen, Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1007 West Third, Suite 400
Anchorage, AK 99501

RE: Agenda Item D1 Salmon Bycatch Committee

Dear Chairman Kinneen and NPFMC Council Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment about the work of the [Salmon Bycatch Committee](#) under agenda item D1 at the upcoming meeting. I am encouraged to see the North Pacific Fishery Management Council seeking meaningful input from users who have been historically excluded from the council process.

I have consistently heard from Alaskans statewide how important salmon are to them. While food security throughout Alaska is certainly important, wild salmon are even more important than a primary food source. Salmon are the cornerstone of culture and community in many parts of Alaska and the effects of historically low returns are devastating. Simply writing off salmon and the people who depend on them in favor of tossing them overboard in pursuit of surimi and fish sticks would be an unconscionable tragedy.

I am aware that bycatch is not the only reason salmon runs are struggling in many river systems. It may not even be the primary reason, but it is undeniable that bycatch is a contributing factor that we can do something about. We are not afforded the opportunity of time and unlimited resources to get all of the scientific questions answered before we start working towards solutions. Continued work by the Salmon Bycatch Committee and swift action by the Council to protect the few salmon that are left give us hope that salmon will have a chance to rebound and our families will continue to be connected to our oceans, rivers, and land through this incredible resource.

I look forward to working with you and thank you for your service.

Best regards,



Mary Sattler Peltola