



**United States Department of the Interior
Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199**

In Reply Refer To:

SEPTEMBER 26 2024

OSM.B24052

Angel Drobnica, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1007 West 3rd Ave., Suite 400
L92 Building, 4th floor
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Chair Drobnica and Council members,

The Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) fully supports outreach and engagement on Chum Salmon bycatch with affected Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils (Councils). Bycatch of salmon and other subsistence resources in the marine environment is an on-going concern for most of the 10 Councils, as expressed during Council meetings and through letters and comments previously provided to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) and the Federal Subsistence Board.

OSM thanks the NPFMC members and staff for this forward-thinking plan to engage with the Councils following your February 2025 meeting. Our Council Coordinators look forward to the chance to collaborate with you and the Council Chairs to plan for effective outreach. We request that your staff reach out to the OSM Council Coordination Division as soon as possible to start developing tentative plans. Brooke McDavid, Council Coordinator for Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Eastern Interior Alaska Councils, can be reached at brooke_mcdavid@ios.doi.gov or 907-891-9181. As noted in the draft outreach plan, there is a very short turnaround between the February 2025 NPFMC meeting and the first Winter 2025 Council meetings (currently February 18-19 for the Bristol Bay Council and February 19-20 for the Eastern Interior Council). Due to the overlapping NPFMC and Council meetings in Fall 2025, we ask that outreach be prioritized for the Councils' Winter 2025 meeting cycle.

OSM was made aware of the draft Outreach and Engagement Plan on Chum Salmon Bycatch by one of our Council members a few days ahead of the public comment deadline. We kindly ask that NPFMC staff notify OSM directly about plans, even if tentative, that involve or impact our

Councils or programs so that we can provide appropriate and timely feedback and seek Council comments when able.

OSM thanks you for your proposed outreach efforts and awaits the opportunity to further coordinate on this and any other avenues that seek to enhance communication and collaboration between the NPFMC, Federal Subsistence Management Program, and subsistence users.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Crystal Leonetti".

Crystal Leonetti
Acting Director

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Office of Subsistence Management
Administrative Record