



RESOLUTION #26-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE QAWALANGIN TRIBE OF UNALASKA IN SUPPORT OF
ALTERNATIVE 4, OR A COMBINATION OF ALTERNATIVE 4 AND ALTERNATIVE 5, FOR
FINAL ACTION ON C-2 BERING SEA CHUM SALMON BYCATCH MANAGEMENT BY THE
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, The Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska is a federally recognized Tribe whose members have relied on the marine resources of the Bering Sea for subsistence, culture, and economic well-being for thousands of years; and

WHEREAS, Many Tribal members are employed in the commercial fishing industry and associated support sectors in Unalaska, including harvesting, seafood processing, transportation, port operations, and other fishery-dependent services; and

WHEREAS, The Alaska pollock fishery is the primary economic engine of the Unalaska region, and the Pollock B season, due to its larger allocation and longer harvest period, is particularly important to Tribal members and the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, The Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska previously submitted formal comments to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in January 2025 supporting Alternative 4 Incentive Plan Agreements and expressing openness to a hybrid management approach; and

WHEREAS, In January 2026, the City of Unalaska adopted Resolution 2026-06, expressing formal support for Alternative 4, or a combination of Alternative 4 and Alternative 5, for final action on the C-2 Bering Sea Chum Salmon Bycatch Management issue; and

WHEREAS, The Draft Environmental Impact Statement indicates that Alternatives 2 and 3, which rely on restrictive hard chum bycatch caps, present a high likelihood of Pollock B season closures in most years, creating significant economic risk for Tribal members and fishery-dependent communities; and

WHEREAS, Incentive Plan Agreements under Alternative 4 have demonstrated measurable reductions in chum salmon bycatch through adaptive, cooperative management, while maintaining the viability of the pollock fishery; and

WHEREAS, Analyses indicate that the pelagic Alaska pollock fishery exhibits low relative bycatch rates (~1.2% of total removals by weight), primarily consisting of jellyfish and other quota-managed groundfish species, that chum salmon bycatch occurs at low estimated exploitation rates (<1.5%) driven largely by chum salmon spatial distribution and foraging behavior rather than fishing effort, and that a substantial portion of chum salmon bycatch originates from Asian and Russian hatchery stocks rather than Western Alaska river systems; and





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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska supports Alternative 4 Incentive Plan Agreements, or a combination of Alternative 4 with limited and targeted elements of Alternative 5, for final action on the C-2 Bering Sea Chum Salmon Bycatch Management action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

that the Tribe urges the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to prioritize bycatch reduction strategies that are informed by the best available science, technological innovation, and meaningful stakeholder collaboration, while maintaining the economic viability of Tribal communities and the sustainability of the Alaska pollock fishery; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED

that the Tribe encourages continued State and Federal support for research, monitoring, and innovation aimed at reducing chum salmon bycatch and addressing broader environmental drivers affecting salmon abundance.

We do certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Tribal Council of the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska at a duly called meeting held the 22nd day of Jan, 2026, at which a quorum was present and resulted in a vote of 6 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstaining.

President
Shayla Shaishnikoff

Secretary/Treasurer
Johanna Tellman



Resolution #26-01

Final Audit Report

2026-01-28

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