



September 27, 2024

Agenda B-2: NMFS Management Report

Status of Actions Report Online

Updated daily at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/akro/amendments.pdf>

Progress on Rulemaking

Highlights on progress since the December 2023 meeting include:

- On **June 18, 2024**, NMFS published the 2024 final salmon harvest specifications for the Cook Inlet EEZ Area. The fishery opened on Thursday, June 20, 2024.
- NMFS published a final rule to implement Amendment 126 to the Fishery Management Plans for Groundfish of the BSAI Management Area (BSAI FMP) and Amendment 114 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA FMP) to expand electronic monitoring to the pollock fisheries on **July 29, 2024**. This rule is effective on **August 28, 2024** and fishing under the new monitoring program will begin in January 2025.
- On **July 19, 2024**, NMFS published a notice of decision announcing approval of Amendment 127 to the BSAI FMP, Amendment 115 to the GOA FMP, Amendment 56 to the Crab FMP, Amendment 17 to the Salmon FMP, and Amendment 3 to the FMP for Fish Resources of the Arctic Management Area on July 15, 2024. These amendments update the description and identification of essential fish habitat.
- On **June 27, 2024** and **August 16, 2024**, NMFS approved Amendment 113 to the GOA FMP to implement Rockfish Program adjustments and published a final rule. The final rule was effective September 16, 2024.
- On **June 27, 2024**, NMFS published a correcting notice for the final rule implementing Amendment 55 to the Fishery Management Plan for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs (Crab FMP) to correct regulatory amendment instructions. Those regulations are effective **July 5, 2024**.
- On **July 2, 2024**, NMFS published a notice of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Cost Recovery Fee Percentage for 2025.
- On **August 1, 2024**, NMFS published the Cost Recovery Fee Notice for the Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative Program for the 2024 fishing year.
- On **September 20, 2024**, NMFS published a correcting amendment to revise the formatting of table 58 to part 679 for Amendment 80 Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits.
- On **September 30, 2024**, NMFS published a Notice of Receipt of Application for the Exempted Fishing Permit in the Federal Register with a public comment period that ends on **October 14, 2024**.
- **The Status of Actions Report** provides additional detail.



Additional NMFS Documents

In addition to this B2 NMFS Management Report, NMFS also posted the following documents on the Council agenda:

1. Pelagic Trawl Gear Footrope Modification Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP)
2. Notice of Receipt of Application for the EFP
3. Critical Habitat and North Pacific right whales: the facts flyer
4. Tribal Engagement Report
5. Approval letters for the FMP Amendments discussed above.

Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery Update

The salmon fishery for the Cook Inlet exclusive economic zone (EEZ) Area opened on June 20 and closed by regulation on August 15, 2024. The percentage of the total total allowable catch (TAC) harvested for each managed salmon species were:

- sockeye salmon - 66%
- chum salmon - 29%
- coho salmon - 18%
- Chinook salmon - 13%
- pink salmon - 5%

In 2024, the Cook Inlet EEZ is estimated to have contributed approximately 20% of the total sockeye harvest in Central Cook Inlet drift gillnet fishery. There were a total of 244 EEZ Federal Fishery Permit (FFP) holders, or approximately half of all vessels recently active in upper Cook Inlet drift gillnet fishery, and participation ranged from 2 to 185 vessels actively fishing during individual openers. Peak fishing effort occurred from July 8th to July 15th and quickly dropped off, partly due to fishermen harvesting sockeye salmon in the State waters fishery rather than the EEZ. An issue identified early on was the non-reporting of Chinook salmon, which was concerning given the low TAC of 240 fish, and NOAA Office of Law Enforcement will be providing more details in their December report. Vessel Monitoring Systems were an extremely effective tool for inseason management, aiding in both the reconciliation of harvest data and for the prediction of potential fishery closures. The communication between NMFS and the processors early on helped to resolve questions on reporting and on identifying and correcting harvest data, which reduced significant errors throughout the season. Overall, communication with processors and harvesters throughout the season was a positive learning tool and the successful management of the fishery hinged on a collaborative effort.

Information about Federal management of salmon in the Cook Inlet EEZ can be found at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/commercial-fishing/salmon-management-federal-waters-cook-inlet-cook-inlet-eez>.

Chinook salmon bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska

We are actively evaluating a large prohibited species catch of Chinook salmon resulting from several trips in the Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) pollock fishery that occurred over the weekend of September 21-22, 2024. The trips were monitored and boats either had an on-board independent fishery observer or an electronic monitoring system (cameras). Observers at the shoreside processors counted every Chinook salmon and collected genetic data. The Chinook prohibited specific catch (PSC) limit for the CGOA pollock trawl fisheries is 18,316 Chinook salmon.

NMFS inseason managers quickly received reports of the high bycatch events from industry representatives. The fishing fleet voluntarily ceased fishing operations starting Monday to allow time for NMFS to evaluate the incoming information. As soon as data was available to inseason managers that indicated the PSC limit for CGOA pollock had been exceeded, NOAA Fisheries took swift action to close the CGOA (statistical areas 620 and 630) to vessels directed fishing for pollock using trawl gear on September 25, 2024 at noon (Information Bulletin 24-41).

NOAA Fisheries will continue to evaluate the data as it becomes finalized by the Observer Program to determine if additional inseason management actions may be necessary. As of September 27, NMFS' data indicates the PSC estimate for Chinook salmon in the CGOA pollock fishery is at 19,665 fish. Total PSC estimates are calculated using verified information that is collected by observers. The observed information is used to create PSC bycatch rates (a ratio of the amount of bycatch to the amount of total catch on sampled trips). For the trips that are unobserved the bycatch rates are applied to landings of retained catch. Note our data evaluation processes are dynamic, and the total PSC numbers could change as additional data becomes available.

Implementation of electronic monitoring on pollock catcher vessels in 2025 will result in a greater proportion of trips and salmon incidental catch amounts to be verified by independent fishery observers, resulting in more precision in PSC estimates of salmon.

Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Issuance of an Incidental Take Statement under the Endangered Species Act for Salmon Fisheries in Southeast Alaska Subject to the Pacific Salmon Treaty and Funding to the State of Alaska to Implement the Pacific Salmon Treaty (SEAK EIS).

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we announce the publication of this EIS. On Wednesday, October 2, the EIS will be available at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/environmental-impact-statement-issuance-incident-take-statement-under>. The 2024 Biological Opinion and incidental take statement are also available at this website. NMFS intends to issue the Record of Decision no sooner than 30 days after the publication of the EIS. The Record of Decision will also be made available at this website.

Bering Sea Snow Crab Fishery Resource Disaster

The Secretary of Commerce allocated \$39.5 million appropriated by Congress to support fisheries, industries, subsistence users, and fishing communities affected by the fishery disaster that occurred in the 2023/2024 Bering Sea snow crab fishery. The Secretary has allocated the remaining Congressionally appropriated funding from FY22 and FY23 funds to this disaster. If Congress appropriates additional funds for fishery disaster relief, the Secretary will review the appropriation to determine whether additional funds will be allocated to this fishery disaster. NMFS will work with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the State of Alaska, who will administer the grants to issue a non-competitive Request for Application letter and to assist in the development of a spend plan. Upon receipt of the letter from the Secretary, the Commission, and the state of Alaska will have 120 days to submit a spend plan to NOAA Fisheries. Additional information is available on the NOAA Fisheries webpage at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/media-release/us-department-commerce-allocates-395-million-funding-alaska-fishery-disaster>.

National Seafood Strategy Implementation Plan

NOAA Fisheries released its first-ever [National Seafood Strategy](#). The Strategy outlines NOAA Fisheries' direction over the next five years for supporting a thriving domestic seafood economy, and enhancing the resilience of the seafood sector and its critical role in food security in the face of climate change and other stressors. Central to the implementation of the Strategy is a whole-of-government approach and a focus on our industry services and tools. Informed by public comment and advice from our partners, NOAA Fisheries is preparing an implementation plan for the National Seafood Strategy with specific actions, timelines, partnerships, and milestones. NOAA Fisheries anticipates releasing an Implementation Plan in early October.

U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report on Federal Fisheries Management Efforts to Reduce and Monitor Unintentional Catch and Harm Need Better Tracking.

In June 2024, the GAO released this report to the Ranking Member Committee on Natural Resources, House of Representatives. The Report features the Bering Sea pollock fishery and how NMFS and the Council monitor and manage bycatch in that fishery and compares bycatch management in this fishery with four other fisheries with bycatch concerns nationwide. Appendix II provides a detailed overview of how NMFS and the Council manage bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery. A take home message from the Report is that NMFS and the Council have applied more monitoring and bycatch reduction measures to the Bering Sea pollock fleet than to other fisheries with bycatch concerns. For example, Table 2 shows that the Bering Sea pollock fishery has over 100% observer coverage and the other fisheries highlighted in the Report have between 2% to 41% observer coverage. This is also the only fishery with a census of all salmon caught, and the only fishery where NMFS posts weekly bycatch estimates on the web. The Report also made a number of recommendations to improve the National Bycatch Reduction Strategy that NMFS is considering. The full GAO Report is available on the GAO website at <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-24-106336.pdf>.

We also have important information on salmon bycatch in the groundfish fisheries on our Alaska Region website.

- *Fully Counted: How Salmon Bycatch is Monitored in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery* available at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/s3/2023-08/Salmon-Bycatch-Flyer.pdf>.
- Chinook salmon bycatch web page: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/bycatch/chinook-salmon-bycatch-management-alaska>.
- Non-Chinook (mainly chum) salmon bycatch web page: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/bycatch/bering-sea-non-chinook-salmon-bycatch>.

Pelagic Trawl Gear Footrope Modification Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP)

An EFP was requested by Dr. Noëlle Yochum and Shannon Carroll from Trident Seafoods on September 3, 2024. This EFP would exempt participants from the regulatory gear definition for pelagic trawl that states the specific number of allowable fishing lines, footrope, and weighted lines, to allow for testing of gear that aim to minimize seafloor contact when targeting pollock that are on or near the seafloor. In 2023, Trident Seafoods began a pilot project aimed at designing

modified footrope concepts after consulting with NMFS. At that time NMFS concluded that the work could proceed under existing regulations, but upon further review we determined that an EFP is necessary to expand the study in 2025. This EFP will help facilitate innovation to reduce impacts to the environment from pelagic trawl fishing and provide transparency in the development of new gear designs. Initial review of this EFP application indicates that this will not have any effect on fishing methods, season, fishery data collection or any other regulations except that cited above. The applicant is aiming to test in 2025 and is requesting that the EFP be valid from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2027 (3 calendar years).

On September 30, 2024, NMFS published a Notice of Receipt of Application in the Federal Register with a public comment period that ends on October 14, 2024. Dr. Yochum and Mr. Carroll will present their EFP application to the Council at this meeting.

Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Beneficiary Update

Beginning with next year's 2025 IFQ fishing season, NMFS will no longer issue IFQ to beneficiaries that have exceeded the 3 year beneficiary window outlined in § 679.41(k)(3). In the past, even when the quota share (QS) has been held by a person beyond the 3 year beneficiary window, NMFS has still issued the annual IFQ pounds to the beneficiary. There has been a consistent increase over time in the amount of annual IFQ issued to beneficiaries that hold QS beyond the 3 year maximum survivorship benefit allowed in regulations. NMFS informed the Council of this issue during the April 2024 B2 Report and has notified beneficiaries that are out of compliance with the 3 year window by certified mail that we will phase out this past practice of issuing IFQ to beneficiaries outside the 3 year window allowed in regulations. This will better align NMFS practices with the intended use of the beneficiary provision. As a result of not issuing IFQ to beneficiaries that have held QS for more than 3 years, those QS units will not be included in the QS pool for issuance of IFQ in 2025 and beyond, allowing those IFQ pounds to be distributed among other qualified QS holders.

Crab Rationalization Program; Crew Quota Share Re-issuance Update

RAM performed email outreach on June 5, 2024 to all crab permit holders to serve as a reminder of the annual crab IFQ application due date on June 15, 2024. As part of this annual reminder message, NMFS inform crew shareholders requesting reinstatement of revoked catcher vessel crew (CVC) or catcher processor crew (CPC) QS, under Amendment 54 to the BSAI Crab FMP, of the new annual application form and procedures to reinstate revoked "C" shares ([89 FR 47872](#), June 4, 2024). Additionally, the Restricted Access Management Division (RAM) sent certified mail letters on August 16, 2024 to all affected crew shareholders eligible for reinstatement of revoked CVC or CPC QS reminding them of the requirements to request reinstatement. Individual email and phone calls have also occurred to ensure as much of a response as possible for those applicants meeting the annual application deadline for the 2024/25 season.

Amendment 80 Replacement Vessel and Sideboard Issues

The Amendment 80 and Rockfish programs both have "sideboard limits" that restrict vessels and holders of license limitation program (LLP) licenses from using the increased flexibility provided by the catch share programs to expand their level of participation in specific GOA fisheries. Sideboard limits include limits on halibut prohibited species catch in the GOA. These programs explicitly apply the sideboards to vessels and do not provide any regulatory mechanisms to remove

sideboards from specific vessels. NMFS has received inquiries from companies asking to use the Amendment 80 vessel replacement provision as a way to remove sideboards from an Amendment 80 vessel or Rockfish Program vessel.

In 2012, with Amendment 97, the Council and NMFS created provisions to allow owners of Amendment 80 vessels to replace their vessel for any reason at any time, and apply GOA sideboard measures from the original Amendment 80 vessel to the Amendment 80 replacement vessel. Under Amendment 97, the Council contemplated that vessel replacement would be driven by condition of the original vessel and operational considerations such as efficiency, technology, etc. It was understood that once a vessel is replaced, it would likely no longer participate in Alaska fisheries because of the condition of the vessel. Applying sideboards to the replacement vessel ensures that the replacement vessel does not expand its participation in fisheries beyond the original vessel's participation. Removing sideboards was not identified as a reason to replace an Amendment 80 vessel.

We are notifying the Council that since there is no regulatory mechanism to remove sideboards from an original qualifying vessel under either the Amendment 80 Program or the Rockfish Program, if a vessel with sideboards from either program becomes an Amendment 80 replacement vessel, that vessel then has the applicable sideboards from both the original and the replacement vessel. In other words, any Amendment 80 replacement vessel would maintain its original sideboards and also assume the sideboards from the vessel it replaced. Also, the act of replacing a vessel does not remove the sideboards from the vessel being replaced because there is no regulatory mechanism to transfer sideboards from an Amendment 80 vessel to an Amendment 80 replacement vessel.

Allowing an Amendment 80 vessel or Rockfish Program qualifying vessel to remove their sideboards through vessel replacement would be contrary to the stated program goal. It would allow vessels that were granted advantages of quota share and cooperative membership to move into other fisheries and out-compete participants that do not have the benefits of a catch share program.

We will provide more information on Amendment 80 vessel replacements and sideboards in the Amendment 80 Program review.

December Recreational Fisheries Roundtable

NMFS and Council staff will sponsor a recreational fisheries roundtable discussion on December 2, in conjunction with the December Council meeting. Charter operators, anglers, support businesses, and any other interested parties are invited to attend. NMFS Headquarters staff plan to attend. The discussion will center on refreshing our understanding of key areas of interest, priorities, and concerns, and will also help to inform the agenda of the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit, currently scheduled for early 2026. Specific details on the schedule for the December roundtable will be released later this month.

Protected Species Updates

2025 Proposed List of Fisheries

The 2025 proposed Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) List of Fisheries published in the *Federal Register* on September 24th. The MMPA requires NMFS to publish an annual list of commercial fisheries and classify each fishery based on whether it has frequent (Category I), occasional (Category II), or remote likelihood or no known cases (Category III) of incidental mortality and serious injury of marine mammals.

The most notable proposed change for Alaska is the formal addition of two fishery classifications in the List of Fisheries for Alaska's aquaculture:

- AK invertebrate aquaculture as Category III
- AK macroalgae aquaculture as Category III

Both aquaculture methods have been in practice in Alaska, though are not yet formally classified under the MMPA List of Fisheries. In advance of proposing to add these classifications to the List of Fisheries, NMFS solicited public comment to inform how we evaluate the potential risk to marine mammals from aquaculture operations for future List of Fisheries in the proposed rule for the List of Fisheries 2024. NMFS received 9 public comments and considered that information for the 2025 proposed List of Fisheries.

The addition of these two aquaculture classification requires no change on the part of the aquaculture managers and owners. However, it does give NMFS a mechanism for evaluating and classifying the fisheries and their relative risk to marine mammals.

As a reminder, all commercial fisheries (including aquaculture) are exempted from the incidental take prohibition under the MMPA, so long as any incidental takes of marine mammals (including mammals that were entangled and released alive) are reported to NMFS within 48 hours of the incident or your return to port, regardless of the Category of the fishery you participate in. For more information about the reporting requirements, visit:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-authorization-program>

The proposed rule can be found here: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/mmpa-list-fisheries-2025>.

We are accepting comments on the 2025 proposed List of Fisheries through October 24, 2024.

GOA FMP ESA Section 7 Consultation

On July 16, 2024, AKR Protected Resources Division received a request from AKR Sustainable Fisheries Division to reinitiate formal consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on the effects of the GOA FMP on ESA-listed species and designated critical habitat. The proposed action includes all groundfish fisheries managed under GOA FMP, including State of Alaska parallel groundfish fisheries. Protected Resources reviewed the initiation package and determined it met the requirements identified under 50 CFR 402.14(c) thus reinitiating formal consultation as of July 16, 2024. Per regulations at 50 CFR 402.14, Protected Resources has up to 90 days to conclude formal consultation with Sustainable Fisheries and an additional 45 days to prepare our biological opinion (unless we mutually agree to an extension).

MAFAC Releases Survey on Marine Mammal Deterrents

The [Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee](#) (MAFAC) is releasing a survey to gather knowledge and perceptions about the nature of marine mammal interactions and use of deterrents currently employed by commercial, recreational, and tribal fishermen; aquaculture farmers; and marina and coastal property owners and managers. Developed in response to a request from the NMFS Office of Protected Resources, the data collected will be used to create an index to identify the relative effectiveness of different allowable deterrents used by various user groups nationwide to reduce the risk of expected losses from damage by marine mammals on various user groups nationwide. The ultimate goal is to help NMFS identify and prioritize those marine mammal deterrents that should be tested for their effectiveness to safely deter marine mammals and protect fishing gear/catch and property.

Survey link [HERE](#) and below. The survey is open until November 22, 2024.

For more information, please contact Katie Zanowicz at katie.zanowicz@noaa.gov.



Ice Seal Recovery Plan Development

NMFS listed the Arctic ringed seal and Beringia distinct population segment bearded seal as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 2012. NMFS is now in the process of developing recovery plans for these two species of ice seals. NMFS will be working with the Ice Seal Committee to hold public recovery planning workshops in early 2025. We will gather information from hunting communities and experts to develop draft recovery plans. We are particularly interested in information regarding the current threats to the species, ongoing beneficial management efforts, and the costs associated with implementing the recommended recovery actions. We will advertise workshop dates and location(s) once scheduled. For more information on recovery planning go to <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/endangered-species-conservation/recovery-species-under-endangered-species-act> or you can email your questions to akr.ice.seal.recovery@noaa.gov.

Personnel Changes

Retirements

Everyone in Sustainable Fisheries was excited (for them) and sad (for us) to bid **Mary Furuness** and **Bridget Mansfield** farewell and wish them happy retirement. Mary and Bridget each had over 30 years of service with NMFS.

Mary Furuness began her work with NMFS in April 1990 and she spent almost all of her career in the Alaska Region. She started off doing data entry and permitting before moving to the inseason management branch of SF. In May 2009, she became the Chief of the In-Season Management Branch. Mary has a deep and wide-ranging working knowledge of Alaska fisheries. In her tenure with NMFS she has overseen the day-to-day management and implementation of some of the most complex fishery management programs in Alaska, including CDQ, Rockfish, Amendment 80 programs, and salmon bycatch management. She was instrumental in moving Inseason Management from being largely paper-based to the robust electronic system used today. In 2023, the Council awarded Mary the *Bob Mace Award*, recognizing “Mary’s professionalism, integrity and fairness have earned her the respect, confidence, and trust from all sectors of the fishing industry, other agency and Council staff, and her coworkers.”

Bridget Mansfield was an observer onboard fishing vessels in the North Pacific and started her NMFS career in resource surveys and population dynamics at the Northeast Fishery Science Center. She then worked in the Resource Ecology Fishery Management Division in the Alaska Fisheries Science Center and the PR Division in the SE Region before coming to the Alaska Region, where she worked in both the SF and PR Divisions. Starting in 2019, Bridget has served as the Alaska Region’s National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Coordinator and she’s done a fantastic job applying her diverse experience and making this position her own. She has been a great mentor and resource for others and provided a well-rounded perspective.

Acting positions

Krista Milani is our Acting Inseason Branch Supervisor in SF. Krista brings 15 years of experience in the Inseason Branch, and previous supervisor experience with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). Krista’s deep knowledge of our groundfish and crab fisheries and inseason management, her experience as a supervisor, and her ability to understand and clearly communicate our nuanced regulations to colleagues, fishermen, the Council, and others is helping the Inseason Branch through this transition time.

Doug Shaftel is currently the Acting Alaska Region NEPA Coordinator. Doug brings his extensive experience in navigating the complex world of NEPA and other Federal laws to this role. While in SF, he’s demonstrated grit to dig into hard topics, ability to do independent research and provide solutions, excellent writing skills, ability to work well with a wide variety of people, and a drive to learn, which all serve the AKR well in ensuring our compliance with NEPA.

New Hires and Promotions

Doug Duncan is moving from his current position as Acting Regulatory Project Supervisor to a permanent Regulatory Branch Supervisor in SF. Doug has worked as a Fisheries Management Specialist (reg writer) in SF since 2018 and has tackled difficult issues related to Cook Inlet salmon, halibut, and BSAI crab. Doug also brings experience from ADF&G, the Alaska State legislature, and commercial/recreational fishing, as well as a Masters of Science in Fisheries and a Bachelor of Arts in Fisheries, both from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Doug's strengths in project management and collaboration throughout the AKR will help support timely development and implementation of a diverse range of regulatory projects.

Sabrina Donnellan will join the Alaska Region as the Branch Chief for the Records & Technical Services team in our RAM Division. Sabrina earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Policy, Analysis, and Planning from the University of California Davis, and a Master of Science in Environmental Science from Alaska Pacific University. She joins the RAM Division after 9 years with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries. While with the State, Sabrina served as the statewide GIS Analyst, and most recently as the Coordinator for the Information Services Section. In this role she oversaw the State's commercial seafood permitting, seafood harvesting, buying, and processing reporting, and served as the primary data analyst at the statewide level.

Aaron Lambert is a new Fishery Management Specialist joining the SF's Ecosystem Branch. Aaron brings with him statistical, modeling, writing, and inseason salmon management skills and he will be instrumental in the management of the new Cook Inlet EEZ salmon fishery, including playing an active role in constructing the stock assessment and fishery evaluation report and harvest specifications. In preparation for his new role in SF, Aaron has taken advanced graduate courses in quantitative fish population dynamics, applied Bayesian statistics, and the management of Pacific salmon. As part of his graduate work, he worked with personnel at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, University of Alaska, and NMFS to create an inseason model using a Bayesian updating approach to predict the run strength of Canadian-origin Yukon River Chinook salmon.

Tristan Sebens has joined SF's Catch Analysis and Data Quality Branch as a Fishery Management Specialist. Tristan has a Masters in Fisheries from UAF and his graduate research focused on model-based quantitative methods for estimating the abundance of groundfish using multiple sources of survey data. Prior to receiving his graduate degree, Tristan worked as a software developer including a period as a contractor working on the catch-in-areas database with Steve Lewis. He will be jumping into multiple spatial analysis projects and helping AKR develop a plan for replacing and redesigning the catch-in-areas database.

Devanie White joined SF as a Sea Grant fellow for the next year. Devanie has a Masters of Science in Marine Science and Management from the University of Sydney, a Masters of Science in Kinesiology from California Baptist University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She brings with her a wide range of skills including developing and executing educational curriculum materials, managing logistics and schedules, and GIS analysis as well as lab and field research experience. Devanie will be helping support SF's Tribal Engagement efforts and on a variety of fishery management projects over the next year. She is

enthusiastic about this opportunity to support healthy marine ecosystems through science based policy and management decisions.

Inseason Branch Supervisor

NMFS is recruiting a Supervisory Fishery Management Specialist, ZP-0401-04, with one vacancy located in Anchorage, AK; Dutch Harbor, AK; Juneau, AK; or Kodiak, AK. This job announcement is open to applications on 9/27/2024 and is scheduled to close on 10/11/2024. To apply, please visit USA Jobs: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/811652700>.