



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Chum Salmon Bycatch in Bering Sea Pollock Fishery

Tribal Engagement and Consultation



Tribal engagement and consultation since January 2022

- Six (6) Tribal engagement sessions
- Four (4) Tribal consultations
- July 2024 request for Tribal information and knowledge
 - October 4, 2024, letter from Yukon River Intertribal Fish Commission (Appendix 1, pg. 41-43)
 - October 4, 2024, letter from six (6) Tribal coalitions (Appendix 1, pp. 33-40)
- January 14, 2024 - Tribal engagement
- January 21, 2024 - Tribal consultation



NOAA
FISHERIES

Tribal Feedback

- Alternative 1 (no action) - impacts of salmon declines on communities
- Alternative 2 - lowest prohibited species catch limit
- Alternative 3 - Option 1 (three-river index)
- Alternative 4 - combine with other alternatives
- Alternative 5 - combine Clusters 1 and 2



NOAA
FISHERIES

Tribal Coalitions interest in a combined alternative

- Alt 2/3: an overall prohibited species catch limit well below the historical average.
- Alt 4: IPA modifications that encourage working towards using genetic testing to identify western Alaska chum salmon inseason.
- Alt 5: conservation corridor that includes both Cluster 1 and Cluster 2
- Program review after a certain number of years or metrics that have failed to be achieved.



Tribal Cooperating Agencies

Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission

Tanana Chiefs Conference

- 3.2.3.1.1 Environmental Factors Related to Western Alaska Chum Salmon Declines
- 3.2.3.1.1.1 Traditional Knowledge of Chum Salmon Declines
- 4.3.3.1 Regional Patterns of Subsistence Harvest of Salmon
- 4.3.3.2 Importance of Chum Salmon for Indigenous Peoples in the Yukon and Kuskokwim Regions
- 4.3.3.2.1 Traditional and Modern Salmon fishing
- 4.3.3.2.2 Chum Salmon Support Holistic Wellbeing of Indigenous People
 - 4.3.3.2.2.1 Physical, Mental, and Emotional Health
 - 4.3.3.2.2.2 Culture, Identity, and Family
 - 4.3.3.2.2.3 Economies and Livelihoods
- 4.3.3.2.3 Ecosystem and Biodiversity
- 4.3.4.1 Commercial Harvests of Chum Salmon in Western and Interior Alaska
- 4.4.1.1 {Alternative 1 Impacts} Subsistence Chum Salmon Users
- 4.4.3.2 {Alternative 1 Impacts} Ecosystem
- 4.4.5.3.3 Potential Benefits of the Proposed Action to Yukon and Kuskokwim Indigenous Ways of Life
- 4.4.7 Cumulative Effects for Chum Salmon Dependent Communities



Future NMFS Tribal Engagement and Consultation

- Regional Advisory Council (Federal Subsistence Board)
 - Bethel (March 4-5)
- After publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- During the rulemaking process
- As requested by Tribes



NOAA
FISHERIES

Questions?

Doug Shaftel, NOAA NMFS, Fishery Management Specialist
doug.shaftel@noaa.gov



NOAA
FISHERIES