



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of
Fish and Game**

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Chinook salmon stakeholders:

In response to problems experienced with low Chinook salmon runs and fisheries around the state, we convened a group of agency fisheries scientists, and salmon research and management staff to review current stock assessment, inseason escapement estimation, run reconstruction, harvest accounting, and local traditional knowledge programs for Chinook salmon fisheries across the state. We recognize there are significant gaps in our knowledge of Chinook salmon runs, and that we need to increase our overall research and stock assessment capabilities in many regions of the state.

The attached draft document entitled "Alaska Chinook Salmon Knowledge Gaps and Needs" is the result of our initial efforts to ultimately develop and implement a research plan to understand observed trends in productivity and abundance of this important resource for Alaskans. A better understanding of these trends and why they occur will help us to better manage Chinook salmon runs in Alaska into the future.

As one of the many stakeholders in the diverse Chinook salmon stocks and fisheries of Alaska, we ask that you read, review, and comment on the draft document with an eye towards helping us to develop a prioritized list of assessment and research projects on twelve important Chinook salmon indicator stocks around the state. We would much appreciate your input on our selection of indicator stocks, the knowledge gaps identified in assessment of these indicator stocks, and the assessment and research projects needed to fill knowledge gaps. Input you provide on this document, along with input we receive at the Chinook Salmon Symposium later this month, will be considered in finalizing our research plan that will be considered as part of the department's fiscal year 2014 funding request. To that end, we would like your comments by November 9, which can be relayed to us by email at <mailto:dfg.chinookanalysis.comments@alaska.gov>. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Eric C. Volk and Robert A. Clark in blue ink.

Eric C. Volk and Robert A. Clark
Chief Fisheries Scientists, Divisions of Commercial and Sport Fish