



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of  
Fish and Game**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
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Dear Interested Stakeholder:

As you know, Chinook salmon are vital to subsistence, commercial, and sport users across many diverse fisheries in Alaska. While other salmon species are generally healthy, some recent Chinook runs have been the poorest observed in many years. These recent downturns in abundance of Chinook salmon returning to our rivers and streams have resulted in fishing restrictions and closures needed to conserve stocks, and have led to social and economic hardships across many communities in rural and urban areas of Alaska.

In response to this low-production trend and the effects it is having on Alaskans, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is hosting the 2012 Alaska Chinook Salmon Symposium in Anchorage on October 22 and 23 titled *Understanding Abundance and Productivity Trends of Chinook Salmon in Alaska*.

Fisheries scientists, along with our federal colleagues and academic institutions, will be present to identify knowledge gaps and assemble a list of research priorities to address specific questions that inform observations of Chinook salmon abundance and productivity in Alaska. The format will largely consist of presentations coupled with panel and public discussions. An agenda can be found at [http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=chinook\\_efforts\\_symposium\\_information](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=chinook_efforts_symposium_information). Results from the symposium will inform development of a comprehensive statewide Chinook salmon research plan.

I encourage and invite your participation in the symposium. We believe we have assembled some of the top scientific expertise available. However, in order to increase our understanding and develop the most targeted and complete research plan possible, interaction with all stakeholders is needed. Your presence and input will be key in achieving these goals.

Please also feel free to share this invite with others who may be interested. I hope to see you at the symposium on October 22 and 23.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cora Campbell".

Cora Campbell  
Commissioner