



# Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council (ABAC)

## April 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes

### Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

#### 1. Call to order

The Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Gabriel at 9:04 am

#### Roll call: acknowledge Advisory Council participants and introduce new members

**Members present:** Brian Gabriel (acting chair), Kevin Delaney, Chelsae Radell, Karma Ulvi, Erik Velsko

**Other attendees:** ADF&G staff: Art Nelson, Deputy Commissioner Rachel Baker, Kari Winkel, Marit Carson Vandort (BOF Chair) Dr. Diana Stram NPFMC

#### 2. Approve Agenda: April 24, 2025, Approved

#### 3. Approve Minutes: March 3, 2024, Approved

#### 4. Election of 2025 Chair and Vice-Chair: 2025 Chair Megan O'Neil 2025 Vice-Chair Kevin Delaney

- **Member Radell:** Nominated absent member O'Neil for chair seconded and approved
- **Acting Chair Gabriel:** Nominated Member Delaney as Vice Chair, seconded and approved

#### 5. Presentation on Board of Fisheries Process

- Art Nelson provided a brief introduction and then presented a power point presentation to the group which is available on the BAC website.
- Advisory Council members asked questions about the presentation and the Board process.
- Public comment and questions regarding the board process given by the public.

#### 6. Presentation on North Pacific Fishery Management Council

- Dr. Diana Stram provided a brief introduction and then presented a power point presentation to the group which is available on the BAC website.
- Advisory Council members asked questions about the presentation and made comments.
- Public comment and questions regarding the presentation

#### 7. Public Comment

- Jordan Head: Exec director of BBSRI was able to provide real time genetic bycatch information and is available on the BBSRI webpage. In 2025 working with ADF&G to implement this to avoid bycatch of Western AK chum.

#### 8. BAC discussion and motions

- **Vice Chair Delaney:** Called for discussion on advisory council moving forward and what the next meeting will look like. Calls for a subcommittee to deal with the next agenda.
- **Member Radell:** Commented on EM called for working group on EM, all but 2 vessels on the GOS use electronic monitoring for pollock. This data is being collected but not reviewed as the number of

trips are too few to make sense for the State to build a whole program for it. Wants a clear path forward for the data collected by EM and what it is going to be used for. Fisherman built this program and led the charge on getting EM installed on nearly all boats in the fleet. There are a lot of Alaskan's that are trawlers and got this program running. Now with 100% monitoring the fisherman are looking for what is next as they have been using the EM and reporting the data. Gear innovation at NPFMC is a huge collaboration to bring fisherman together to catalog and inventory gear so that they can innovate inclusively for all gear being used. Important to bring back Jordan Head in the fall for a presentation on BBSRI work. Also requesting an update from the state on salmon and crab research. Response to member Ulvi, all data is being reviewed by PSMFC. Also building EM for non-pelagic gear for rockfish monitoring.

- **Member Ulvi:** Asked ember Radell if the Em data is being independently monitored by a non fishing industry group. Mentions how frustrated the indigenous people of Alaska are with how management and communication of fisheries is going. Feels that this council should do more commenting and advising on things as they come up and speak to relevant issues as they come up. Asks the advisory council to continue listening to the public comments and to use the recommendations made by public comment to address to what is currently going on with bycatch.
- **Member Gabriel:** Thanked the presenters and commentators wants to see the update on BBSRI and called for DC Baker to provide the presentation provided to the legislature to be updated and provided to the group in the fall. Appreciates this group for being the public into the conversation and wants a discussion to be had about how to deliver the message and advise on current issues.
- **Member Velsko:** Made comments on self-rationalizing a fishery to create sustainable fisheries over volume. The species feel stressed and are declining every year. Calls for fisherman to take care of the stocks and focus on quality over quantity.

9. **Adjournment by 11:20 am Next meeting September 23, 2025, at 9am**