

Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force

Western Alaska Salmon Subcommittee

Co-Chair George Guy
Co-Chair Stephanie Madsen
Member Ragnar Alstrom
Member Bryce Edgmon
Member Karma Ulvi

Among the work requested by Governor Dunleavy, the ABRT shall:

1. Study what impacts bycatch has on fisheries.
2. Evaluate and recommend policies informed by a better understanding of the issue of bycatch of high-value Alaska fishery resources.
3. Ensure state agencies are leveraging available resources to better understand the issue of bycatch.
4. Utilize the best available science to inform policy makers and the public about these issues.

Since we all need to learn the best available science to inform our work, presentations could be the best path forward to begin our work.

Outline for potential presentation topics.

Chinook Salmon and Chum Salmon Regulatory Structure

State Fisheries
Federal- Department of Interior
Tribal Co-management (Kuskokwim Inter-Tribal Fish Commission)

Groundfish Salmon Bycatch Regulatory Requirements

Incentive Plan presentations
Sea State presentation-technology available

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Actions

June 2022- Data/Information will be presented as outlined below. Since this will be the most recent data wondering how to best use the time before then. Ideas listed above.

How best to share this work with subcommittee so as not to duplicate efforts?

The Council moved to request a report to continue the process of evaluating the estimation and impact of high seas bycatch of salmon on run returns as well as continued support for research funding to better understand the diverse causes of low salmon returns to these regions.

Specifically, the Council requests:

An updated bycatch impact (AEQ) analysis which includes current genetic stock identification information and an updated age/length composition for Chinook salmon along with estimates of how many Chinook salmon taken as bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery would have returned to Western Alaska Chinook salmon stock groupings. The analysis should include a PSC harvest rate analysis and an estimate of the Chinook salmon bycatch impacts to each specific stock grouping at the current cap levels and at actual bycatch levels in recent years.

The Council also requests that the report include recommendations to evaluate impacts of chum salmon bycatch in the pollock fishery with currently available data. A stock status update of Western Alaska Chinook and chum salmon stocks.

Date for future meetings. General timing considerations? Folks have date conflicts with fisheries and other activities. Should try to get meetings on the books so we don't conflict with other subcommittee work.

Subcommittee--Introductory/organizational meeting: April 14th

April 3, 2022

Full Task Force Meeting: April 19th

Subcommittee-Meeting for Presentations : April 28th (T)

Subcommittee- May 2nd or 3rd

Full Task Force Meeting: May 17th

June NPFMC Action could help inform next steps for subcommittee. The subcommittee will have the opportunity to review the most current data for groundfish fisheries.

Subcommittee members have requested no meeting in the month of June.

Meeting to review NPFMC Actions: July

Meeting—next steps: July/August?

Subcommittee Report to Task Force- September