



February 20, 2023

Alaska Board of Fisheries

Marit Carlson-Van Dort, Chair

Via email dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov

Chair Carlson-Van Dort and Board Members:

This letter is in response to a request for a more detailed explanation of how Trident Seafoods utilizes a 'chum pool' in the Area M seine fishery. Please see that explanation below. Note that while other processors operate a similar program, the details of their respective programs may differ.

Chum Pool Description

- The purpose of the chum pool is to create a disincentive for individuals to target chums, as it decreases the economic returns of doing so.
- The chum pool is in place for the month of June only.
- The 'pool' consists of the total number of active harvesting vessels (broken out by gear type) on given day. There are separate pools for seine, drift, and setnet.
- Trident aggregates the total chum catch from all participating vessels (that deliver to Trident) is, and then divides the ex-vessel value for the aggregated chum catch equally amongst the pool of vessels.
- *Example:* 10 vessels fish during an opener and 3 of the 10 vessels harvested 100 pounds of chums at a hypothetical value of \$.50 a pound. The ex-vessel value of the fish (\$50) would be paid to the 10 vessels in the pool, rather than just the 3 vessels that harvested the chums (i.e., \$5 to 10 vessels, rather than \$16.66 to 3 vessels).

I would be happy to provide follow up on any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Shannon Carroll

Director, Alaska Public Affairs and Fisheries Development
