



NOAA
FISHERIES

Alaska Region Tribal Newsletter

Table of Contents:

Meet Regional Admin.....	1, 10
North Pacific Fishery Management Council.....	2-4
NOAA Job Information.....	4
National Fisheries Updates.....	5
Meet Hollings Prepara- tion Program Intern.....	6
AK Federal Funding.....	7
Education.....	8, 9
Events/Publications.....	9
Glossary of Acronyms.....	11
Tribal Liaison Contacts.....	11
Calendars	
September.....	12
October.....	13

Meet our Regional Administrator: Jon Kurland's Role at AKR NMFS

Editor's Note: This article has been edited from the original version to improve accuracy.

Hi! I'm Jon Kurland, the Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries in Alaska – a role in which I have served since March 2022. As Regional Administrator, I oversee the Alaska Regional Office, which implements the agency's regulatory and management programs for marine fisheries, protected species (mostly marine mammals), and habitat conservation in Alaska.

I have been based in Juneau since 2002 and with the agency since 1990. I previously worked in NOAA Fisheries' headquarters office and NOAA Fisheries' Northeast Region (now called the Greater Atlantic Region). Outside of work, I enjoy hiking, skiing, kayaking, and other outdoor adventures.



*Jon Kurland, NOAA Fisheries
Alaska Regional Administrator*

I'd like to explain my role in managing federal fisheries in marine waters off Alaska. I look forward to future conversations as we work together to improve our government-to-government relationships.

What is your role in fisheries management as Regional Administrator?

As Regional Administrator I represent the Secretary of Commerce as a voting member of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and I'm responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of regulatory programs to ensure sustainable management of fisheries in federal waters off Alaska's coasts. The Council synthesizes the best available scientific information along with input from the public to recommend rules and programs that will manage fisheries sustainably, such as avoiding overfishing and adverse effects on the ecosystem and limiting bycatch.

NOAA Fisheries is responsible for developing and implementing associated regulations and ensuring that those regulations and management measures comply with federal law.

It's a big responsibility because Alaska fisheries produce about 60% of the seafood caught in U.S. waters and provide thousands of jobs

Continued on page 10



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

The North Pacific Management Council (also referred to as Council) was established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA, also referred to as the Magnuson-Stevens Act) to manage fisheries off the coast of Alaska. The NPFMC meets five times per year and consists of the Science and Statistical Committee (SSC), the Advisory Panel (AP), and the Council. This newsletter includes information about the upcoming October Council meeting and is adapted from the [three meeting outlook](#) (Council schedule for the next three meetings). Visit the NPFMC webpage for the [upcoming meeting schedule](#), which includes a detailed breakdown of the upcoming Council meeting by agenda item.

Highlighted Upcoming Council Agenda Items

NOTE: For referenced materials that are available online, links are provided below. Leading up to the Council meeting, Council staff will post additional materials on the [eAgenda](#). Glossary of acronyms on page 11.

October 2024 Council Meeting

[Call for Nominations for Advisory Panel and SSC Membership 2025](#)

- Bering Sea Aleutian Islands, Groundfish Proposed Specifications
- Gulf of Alaska, Groundfish Proposed Specifications
- GOA Rockfish Spatial Management (Discussion Paper)
- BSAI Crab stocks: Allowable Biological Catch/Overfishing Level Specifications
- 2025 Observer Annual Deployment Plan (Report)
- Crew Data Collection (Initial Review)
- Observer Availability (Discussion Paper)
- Pelagic Trawl Gear Definition (Initial Review)
- Individual Fishing Quota Program Review (Report)
- Recreational Quota Entity implementation - approve proposed modifications to fee collection process
- Climate Scenarios Workshop (Report)
- Climate Science/Scientific Coordination Subcommittee Meeting Report (Discussion Paper)

December 2024 Council Meeting– Preliminary

- Ecosystem Status Reports (Review)
- Groundfish Final Specifications
- Norton Sound Red King Crab: AB/OFL Specifications
- Pelagic Trawl Gear Definition (Final Action)
- Amendment 80 Program Review (Report)
- Area 4 Vessel Use Caps (Final Action) (Tentative*)
- 2025 Charter Halibut Management Measures (Final Action)
- Bering Sea Fisheries Ecosystem Plan, Climate Change Task Force (Final Report)

February 2025 Council Meeting

The Council is holding a special meeting to review the second Initial Review Draft of the Chum Bycatch EIS. This meeting will occur February 3-10, at the Eagan Center in Anchorage, Alaska.

NOTE: Leading up to the Council meeting additional resource materials will be posted on the [eAgenda](#).

Tribal Engagement Virtual Sessions

[October NPFMC Action Items](#), Monday, September 16, 3-4 PM
meet.google.com/mvm-qbhj-njb, 1-414-909-7288, PIN: 950 684 588#

- Use online [tribal consultation request form](#) or contact amilee.wilson@noaa.gov for additional consultation.

Council Process

[Navigating the Process: Overview](#) [Council Frequently Asked Questions](#)

- Public comments may be submitted on all agenda items and instructions for how to submit public comments can be found on the [eAgenda](#).



October 2024 Council Meeting Updates

NOTE: For referenced materials that are available online, links are provided below. Leading up to the Council meeting, Council staff will post additional materials on the [eAgenda](#). Glossary of acronyms on page 11.

B Reports (Agency level reports on recent events under their jurisdiction) (Council only)

Agency level reports, recent events under their jurisdiction.

- (B1) Executive Director's Report including CCC meeting update
- (B2) NMFS Fisheries Management Report
- (B3) NOAA General Counsel Report on any legal issues
- (B4) AFSC Report
- (B5) ADF&G report on State of Alaska fisheries management
- (B6) USCG report on any highlights and news
- (B7) USFWS report on a summary of major agency updates
- (B8) U.S State Department Report
- (B9) Public Comment on B1 through B10 agenda items
- (B10) SSC report on SSC agenda items
- (B11) AP report on AP agenda items

C1: BSAI Crab Harvest Specifications - Bristol Bay Red King Crab, Tanner crab, Snow crab, St. Matthew Blue King Crab Blue King Crab (Plan Team Report; Ecosystem Status Report Preview) (SSC, AP, Council)

The Crab Plan Team will meet September 9-12 ([agenda](#)) to review the status of crab stocks, compile the annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report, and recommend overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) specifications for the upcoming crab fishing year (2024/25). The Council will review the crab stock assessment report and OFL/ABC harvest specifications for Bristol Bay red king crab, Eastern Bering Sea snow crab, Eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab, and Saint Matthew Island blue king crab and choose to adopt these harvest specifications recommended by the Crab Plan Team for the 2024/25 crab fishing year. The Crab Plan Team will also receive updates on preliminary assessments for Aleutian Islands golden king crab and Norton Sound red king crab, results from the annual Eastern Bering Sea bottom trawl survey that inform the crab stock assessments, a 2023/24 fishery performance summary on the directed crab fisheries and incidental catch of crab in groundfish fisheries, and other ongoing research updates.

C2: Recreational Quota Entity implementation - approve proposed modifications to fee collection process (Council Only)

The Council will review a NMFS discussion paper that proposes two changes to a motion the Council passed in April 2022. The original motion recommends a halibut stamp program that would be used as a funding mechanism for the Recreational Quota Entity (RQE). After a series of public scoping sessions and further analysis, NMFS recommends: 1) to use the NMFS online eFish platform to allow charter operators to purchase electronic halibut stamps, as opposed to contracting with the RQE to perform this task; and, 2) NMFS proposes to apply a single \$20 fee for all halibut stamps, rather than adopting a tiered-fee approach of \$20, \$40, and \$60 that would apply to various numbers of days for individual halibut anglers. These modifica-

tions to the Council's motion would add security, simplicity, and cost-effectiveness to the halibut stamp program, while still maintaining the Council's overall intent for the fee collection.

C3: Groundfish Harvest Specifications (SSC, AP, Council)

- Prior to the Council meeting, the joint GOA and BSAI Groundfish plan teams will meet September 17-19 virtually to review preliminary survey results, Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report, and proposed specifications. This meeting is open to the public. Information for listening virtually can be found on the Council website.
- The Council will review the proposed harvest specifications for the upcoming 2025 and 2026 specifications; joint, BSAI, and GOA Plan Team Reports from the September meeting (see above); a Discard Mortality Rate working group report on marine mammal interactions; and a GOA rockfish spatial management discussion paper on thornyhead, shortraker, blackspotted/rougheye, and other rockfish. In addition, the SSC alone will review an Ecosystem Status Report update on sablefish.

C4: Observer 2025 Annual Deployment Plan (AP, Council)

The Council will review NMFS's plan for deploying observers and electronic monitoring systems to the groundfish fisheries in 2025, as well as a report from the Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee which is an industry group that advises NMFS on issues related to monitoring on vessels that have less than 100% of their trips monitored. The Council will provide feedback to the agency as needed.

C5: Crew Data Collection (Initial Review) (SSC, AP, Council)

- The Council will review an initial Regulatory Impact Review (RIR) analyzing the benefits and costs of requiring all participants in Federal fisheries to annually complete a report on crew participation. The purpose of this action is to support economic and community impact analysis. The measures under consideration include (alternative 1) no action or (alternative 2) implementation of an annual data collection to gather information on crew licenses, crew compensation, and number of crew positions on vessels operating in commercial federal fisheries. Alternative 2 includes an option to exclude fisheries that are currently subject to Economic Data Reports and instead modify their existing EDR forms to be consistent with crew data collection under Alternative 2. The two fisheries subject to EDR requirements are the BSAI crab rationalization program and BSAI Amendment 80 fishery.

C6: Pelagic Trawl Gear Definition (Initial Review) (AP, Council)

The Council will review an initial Regulatory Impact Review analyzing potential regulatory revisions that would apply exclusively to vessels fishing with pelagic trawl gear in the Economic Exclusion Zone off the coast of Alaska.

Continued on page 4

October 2024 Council Meeting

...Cont. from Page 3.

The purpose of this action is to align regulations with the longstanding interpretation of pelagic trawl gear in Alaska and to remove unnecessary outdated text. The measures under consideration include (alternative 1) no action or (alternative 2) revising regulations at 50 CFR 679.2 that define authorized fishing gear for pelagic trawl gear and trawl gear. Alternative 2 includes options to exclude the codend from limitations applicable to the trawl net, remove outdated text related to parallel line trawls, allow for the use of flotation for bycatch excluder devices, and to allow for hardware that secures monitoring technology that does not appreciably change the intended performance of the trawl.

D1: Observer availability discussion paper (Review) (AP, Council)

The Council will review a discussion paper that compares the number of observers available with the number of observers required across all fisheries, months of the year, and observer certification levels. The paper describes changes to observer demand that are expected to occur under the regulated trawl electronic monitoring program, the Pacific Cod trawl cooperative, and under changes to monitoring requirements in the Bering Sea pot cod CP sector.

D2 BSAI Crab Program Review - review report, The Council will review the Climate Scenario Workshop Report and a Climate science and harvest specifications adjustment paper in relation to the report from the 8th Scientific Coordination Subcommittee meeting report.

D3 IFQ Program Review Report (Review)

The Council will review an initial version of the 27 year Pacific halibut and sablefish IFQ Program Review. Section 303A(c)(1)(G) of the MSA specifies that reviews of Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs) should occur no less frequently than once every 7 years. This report will evaluate the IFQ Program as required by the MSA and within the framework of the scope requested by the Council and its advisory bodies with particular focus on fishery data and information since the last review was conducted in 2016.

D2: Climate Funding (Review) (SSC, AP, Council)

The Council will review the Climate Scenario Workshop Report and a Climate science and harvest specifications adjustment paper in relation to the report from the 8th Scientific Coordination Subcommittee meeting report.

D3: IFQ Program Review Report (Review) (SSC, AP, Council)

The Council will review the 27 year Review of the Pacific halibut and sablefish IFQ Program. Section 303A(c)(1)(G) of the MSA specifies that reviews of Limited Access Privilege Programs should occur no less frequently than once every 7 years. This report will evaluate the IFQ Program as required by the MSA and within the framework of the scope requested by the Council and its advisory bodies with particular focus on fishery data and information since the last review was conducted in 2016. The Council will also receive a report from the IFQ Committee that is scheduled to meet virtually on Thursday, September 26, 2024.

A Future in Marine Stewardship

JOIN OUR NOAA FISHERIES TEAM! From marine biologists to engineers and policymakers to educators NOAA Fisheries employs people in a wide range of fields. Our 4,200 employees support stewardship of the nation's ocean resources and habitat.

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- [Navigating USAJOBS Announcements A Hiring Manager's Perspective](#)



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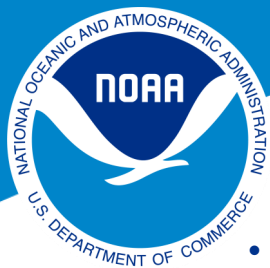
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NOAA Fisheries Updates

Habitat Division

- **Essential Fish Habitat Information:** Essential fish habitat (EFH) maps and text descriptions are being updated in the Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) as the culmination of the EFH 5-year Review. The Notice of Decision on the FMP amendments is available. Updates also include new information on fishing effects to benthic habitat and conservation recommendations for non-fishing related activities around the state that could have adverse impacts on fish habitat.
- **Transboundary Mining Projects:** NOAA is a technical advisor to British Columbia's Environmental Assessment Office on two mining projects: [Eskay Creek](#) and [New Polaris](#). These proposed mines are in transboundary river watersheds: the Unuk and Taku Rivers, respectively. NOAA highlighted concerns of downstream impacts from mining activities on salmon EFH in Alaska. We will also be participating in the Transboundary Mining Conference August 26-30 hosted by the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

Protected Resource Division

Marine Mammal and Co-Management Update

- **Aleut Community of St. Paul Island Co-Management:** NMFS AKR Protected Resources Division (PRD), AFSC Marine Mammal Lab, and the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island (ACSPI) have been working together formally since 2000 under a co-management agreement established under Section 119 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Field collaboration for this fall is being planned to tag northern fur seals to examine the duration of onshore visits and foraging trips.
- **Ice Seals:** In February 2024, NOAA Fisheries released the 5-year review for Arctic Ringed Seals. All species listed under the Endangered Species Act are required to undergo a status review every five years to ensure that the listing status is still accurate. Per the 2024 review, we concluded that the 'threatened' status for ringed seals has not changed. The Beringia DPS of bearded seal 5-year review is in progress and expected to be released in January 2025. Once this review is complete, NOAA Fisheries will develop recovery plans for both ice seal species. Recovery plans are non-regulatory documents that serve as a roadmap of the actions required to restore and conserve listed species. At their annual board meeting in March, we informed our co-management partner the Ice Seal Committee of our intentions and will coordinate with them closely throughout the process, including holding a stakeholder workshop in early 2025. Questions can be directed to our ice seal recovery team at akr.ice.seal.recovery@noaa.gov.

Chinook Salmon Status Review Update

- **Petition:** On January 11, 2024, NMFS received a petition from the Wild Fish Conservancy to delineate and list one or more evolutionarily significant units of Chinook salmon in the Gulf of Alaska as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and to designate critical habitat concurrently with the listing.
- **Positive 90-day Finding and Status Review:** On May 24, 2024, NOAA Fisheries published a positive 90-day finding on the petition to list one or more evolutionarily significant units (ESUs) of Gulf of Alaska Chinook salmon as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), meaning that our initial review indicated that the petitioned action may be warranted. Therefore, NOAA Fisheries has commenced an in-depth review of the species' status within the Gulf of Alaska.
- **Tribal Consultations:** In response to NMFS's announcement that we will conduct a status review of Gulf of Alaska Chinook salmon populations, some Tribal entities have requested consultation including Central Council Tlingit & Haida Tribes of Alaska, and Doyon, Ltd. Numerous regional subsistence advisory councils have also requested informational briefings from NMFS PRD.

Restricted Access Management Division

- The Restricted Access Management Division (RAM) is currently working to update public outreach content for special permits available under the federal subsistence halibut program, which will include current information on educational, ceremonial, and community harvest permits available to qualified Alaska communities and Alaska Native tribes.

Get to Know Our 2024 Hollings Preparation Program Intern



Pictured: Rina Basaliso

Rina Basaliso is a first generation student attending the University of Alaska Fairbanks, majoring in Climate and Environmental Change with a concentration on Sustainability.

What drew you to apply for the Hollings Prep Program (HPP)? How do you see this helping you pursue or develop your career goals?

I applied for the Hollings Prep Program initially because it seemed like a great opportunity to work within a professional science space. I wanted to see what careers within the flexibility of my major looked like. I am an aspiring environmental lawyer and what better opportunity than to go and meet some. This program has been a great stepping stone in looking into the next steps to take after undergrad. It has helped me broaden my social network and develop intrapersonal skills; furthermore, a great environment to practice advocacy and expand my understanding of federal vs. state careers.

Who did you work with this summer? What was your project?

I am currently a part of the Hollings Prep Program as an intern for NOAA and one of my responsibilities is to create a research project specifically designed to highlight my interests within the climate field. My current research is based on harmful algal blooms (HABs) and their effects on coastal communities of Alaska. I chose this as my topic after having conversations with climate leaders about the layers of science communication between indigenous leaders and scientists.

What has been your favorite part of the HPP program?

It would be the opportunity to work with people who are already in the field. What has surprised you about being a part of NOAA? I was surprised by the vast difference of backgrounds within NOAA. I have had the opportunity to meet people of nontraditional academia paths.

How did you become interested in tribal relations?

In interviews with climate leaders they mention the importance of climate change science communication between scientists and tribal communities for projects.

What would you like to share with others about HPP or NOAA?

Advocate for yourself. The best thing you can do for yourself is show up and apply.

Do you have any advice for students considering the HPP or other internships?

Go for it!!

For More Information!

**Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate
Scholarship**

MORE GRANT INFO: Page 7



NOAA NMFS Alaska Region

alaska.region.info@noaa.gov, P.O. Box 21668

709 W. 9th St., Rm 323 (UPS/Fed Ex only)

Juneau AK 99802-1668, 907-586-7221

Fax: 907- 586-7249

Alaska Region Federal Funding:

Please visit the Alaska Region federal funding website for regularly updated funding opportunities related to fisheries and mariculture.

Contact: akr.grants@noaa.gov

FY24 Species Recovery Grants to Tribes

Opens in early August, Deadline: October 31

For tribally-led management, research, monitoring, and outreach activities with direct conservation benefits for threatened and endangered species. All federally recognized tribes are eligible to apply. Summaries for grants awarded are found [here](#).

Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Recipients:

Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission will increase tribal capacity for fish passage by supporting a stream restoration biologist within the Ahtna Territory in southcentral Alaska, including a large majority of the Copper River watershed. This watershed is key to subsistence and cultural resources as a support for all Pacific salmon species. AITRC representatives include eight federally recognized tribes and two Alaska Native Corporations of the Ahtna Territory. **Awarded-** \$497,000

Chickaloon Native Village will support the coordination of the Alaska Tribal Fish Passage Working Group by training tribal staff in planning, design, and implementation of fish passage restoration. Three Matanuska watershed culverts blocking fish

passage will be removed and stream restoration will occur on Moose Creek. Tribal entities and federal, state, and local agencies which will work towards implementation of future tribal fish passage projects.

Awarded- \$6.2 million

Organized Village of Kasaan will work to rehabilitate former logging road and reopen salmon habitat by replacing 4 bridges and multiple culverts (goal of 374 culverts) Kasaan to Goose Creek Road. Work will reduce flooding on the only road to the Organized Village of Kasaan. **Awarded-** \$5 million

Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska will replace three undersized culverts blocking fish passage with a single large structure at Unalaska Lake to increase shoreline access and spawning habitat for sockeye and pink salmon (important cultural and subsistence resources). The project supports a Tribal Fisheries Coordinator to oversee the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska's Fisheries Program and projects. A detailed inventory of culverts along roadways will occur.

Awarded (First Year) - \$342,000 and up to \$2.7 million total over three years

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District will remove four fish passage barriers in West Cook Inlet to restore spawning and rearing habitat for all species of Pacific salmon. Work will benefit endangered Cook Inlet Beluga Whale (NOAA Species in the Spotlight) which preys on salmon. Project helps protect against climate change related flooding and subsequent road washouts. TTCD is a tribally-governed non-profit with representation from the Native Village of Tyonek and the Tyonek Native Corporation.

Awarded- \$3.8 million

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Scholarships, Fellowships & Internships

<u>Hollings Scholar Program</u>	<p>Annual Deadline: End of January, A 9-week, paid, summer program to increase undergraduate training in oceanic and atmospheric science research, technology and education and fosters multi-disciplinary training opportunities.</p> <p>Questions? studentscholarshipprograms@noaa.gov, 301-628-2913</p>
<u>Hollings Preparation Program (HPP)</u>	<p>HPP prepares undergraduates to be competitive applicants for the full NOAA Hollings ,Scholarship in their sophomore year of college. HPP scholars will be paired with NOAA mentors primarily on the West Coast including California, Oregon, Washington Hawaii, and Alaska. Questions? Dan Tonnes- dan.tonnes@noaa.gov, 503-230-5400</p>
<u>Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions (EPP/MSI)</u>	<p>Application period opens September 1, 2024</p> <p>This scholarship is able to be paired with the Hollings Scholar Program. To be eligible for the EPP/MSI, students must be attending a <u>Minority Serving Institution</u>. NOAA has put together a <u>video explaining how to apply for both fellowships</u> and a <u>list of FAQs</u>.</p> <p>Questions? epp.usp@noaa.gov, 301-628-2900</p>
<u>SeaGrant Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship</u>	<p>Applications due every year early February.</p> <p>The Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship provides a unique educational and professional experience to graduate students who have an interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources.</p> <p>Questions? oar.sg.fellows@noaa.gov, 240-507-3712</p>
<u>SeaGrant Alaska Sea Grant State Fellowship</u>	<p>Applications due every year early February.</p> <p>A unique professional opportunity for soon-to-graduate or recently finished graduate students interested in the science and policy needed to keep our marine resources healthy. Questions? sgweb@noaa.gov, 301-734-1088</p>
<u>Young Fishermen's Development Program</u>	<p><u>Alaska Sea Grant's successful Crew Class</u>, gabe.dunham@alaska.edu, 907-474-6982</p> <p><u>Young Fishermen's Network</u>, Jamie@akmarine.org</p> <p><u>Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA)</u>, dugan@aoos.org, 907-644-6754</p>
<u>Sea Grant Community-Engaged Fellowship</u>	<p>For more information contact Alaska Sea Grant's CEF coordination team at seagrant.fellowships@alaska.edu.</p>
<u>Graduate Programs University of Alaska Fairbanks</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>UAF - Tamamta</u>, uaf-admissions@alaska.edu, 907-474-7034 (general information) • <u>College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences</u>, info@cfos.uaf.edu, 907-474-7210 • <u>Master of Marine Policy</u>, uaf-registrar@alaska.edu, 907-474-6300
<u>CORaL Network— Community Coastal Experience</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school Internship Program in Alaska • Adult (18+) Internships and Career Development in Alaska education@alaskasealife.org, 907-224-6300

Upcoming Events, Publications and Announcements

- **Climate Scenario Workshop:** Over 200 people attended a [Climate Scenario Workshop](#) hosted by the Council, June 5-6. The workshop explored ideas for improving the climate resiliency and readiness of all federally managed fisheries under the Council's jurisdiction in the Gulf of Alaska, the Bering Sea, and the Aleutian Islands. A summary of the workshop will be presented at the [October Council meeting](#).
- **Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Report:** Under the Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Act, the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Governor of Alaska, was required to convene the Alaska Salmon Research Task Force to identify data gaps and develop a collaborative science plan for sustainable management of salmon in Alaska. NOAA Fisheries and the Governor of Alaska were required to each appoint a representative to serve on the Task Force. The Task Force was also required to establish a working group focused specifically on the research needs associated with salmon returns in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim regions of western Alaska. NOAA thanks user groups for their input on the report which is available [here](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Ed Farley, chair of the Salmon Research Task Force, at ed.farley@noaa.gov
- NOAA Fisheries announced that it has decided not to move forward with the development of the [Northern Bering Sea Effects of Trawling Study \(NETS\) project](#) this year. AFSC is reaching out to Alaska Native Tribes/Corporations and organizations to determine if there is still interest in discussing this project or the need for habitat studies in the northern Bering Sea, NOAA's broader science agenda in the region and potential research collaboration. **If you have ideas or questions contact:** marjorie.mooney-seus@noaa.gov



Fishlines is the newsletter for Alaska Sea Grants

To subscribe contact: **Dawn Montano**
dawn.montano@alaska.edu, 907- 474-6707



SeaGrant Alaska National Ocean Science Bowl

Contact science bowl coordinator [Sydney Bolin](#) to find out how your **high school students** can join in the fun, or check out our web pages for [coaches and teams](#).

The number of teams is limited so act early for the best chance of participating in the next National Ocean Sciences Bowl. **More info:** [Sydney Bolin](#)- Tsunami Bowl Regional Coordinator at Alaska Sea Life Center, Seward, Alaska, 907-224-6304, tsunamibowl@alaskasealife.org



Alaska Waters
EDUCATION RESOURCES

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Developed by Alaska teachers for Alaska classrooms grades 1-8, we provide teachers with high-quality, standards-based curricula and professional development.

Jon Kurland, AKR NMFS Regional Administrator

...Cont. from Page 1.

and other economic benefits that are vital for coastal communities in Alaska, as well as supporting world-class recreational fishing opportunities and important subsistence fisheries.

Additionally, I serve as the head of the U.S. delegation to the International Pacific Halibut Commission and one of three Commissioners appointed by the President, and I oversee NOAA Fisheries' involvement in other international fisheries organizations such as the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission.

What does it mean to be a voting member on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council?

The Council has 11 voting members: seven appointed by the Secretary of Commerce (with five appointed from Alaska, and two appointed from Washington), the heads of state agencies responsible for marine fisheries in Alaska, Washington, and Oregon, and the NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator. There are also several non-voting members, representing the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of State, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. The non-voting members can make motions and participate in Council deliberations, but only the voting members have a formal say in the positions the Council takes.

As NOAA Fisheries' representative on the Council, do you have the authority to change or disapprove Council recommendations?

I am just one of 11 voting Council members, and my vote isn't weighted any more than anyone else's. That being said, the Regional Administrator's role includes advising the Council on compliance with federal laws and national policies, as well as the practical realities of the agency's ability to implement new fishery management measures. In that role, I strive to advise the Council whether a particular action raises concerns. If a majority of the Council votes in favor of an approach that does not comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act or other applicable law, the Magnuson-Stevens Act gives the agency, through the NOAA Fisheries Assistant Administrator, authority to disapprove or partially approve it.

What guidance would you give Tribal Nations as they interact with NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region and the Council on topics of tribal interest?

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, Congress gave Fishery Management Councils the primary responsibility for developing and recommending measures to manage fisheries in federal waters, so Tribes and Alaska Native organizations can best influence the resulting decisions by participating in the North Pacific Fishery Management Council process.

Effective participants in the Council process invest a lot of time to learn about the process and how fisheries are currently prosecuted and managed, such as by reading existing Fishery Management Plans and regulations and other information available on the NOAA Fisheries and Council websites. They also carefully read the documents that are posted for each Council meeting, and they track issues being discussed by the Council's committees and advisory bodies before those issues come to the Council itself. Effective participants also submit written comments and/or testify to the Council, explaining clearly what action they want the Council to take and why, including the benefits or negative consequences of different options and how that action does or doesn't comply with applicable laws and policies. We recognize that effective participation requires significant time and costs, and that tribes may have limited staff and budgets to commit to this. NOAA is endeavoring to find ways to reduce barriers and foster tribal participation.

As one way to facilitate robust tribal engagement in fisheries actions, my office recently began hosting tribal engagement sessions prior to each Council meeting, where Alaska Native Tribes and organizations can learn more about upcoming Council actions, provide feedback, and ask questions. Please reach out to our Tribal Relations Coordinator Amilee Wilson (amilee.wilson@noaa.gov) to request to participate. We also share relevant information via our tribal newsletter.

NOAA Fisheries has additional responsibilities for marine resource management that are beyond the Council's role and authority, such as actions under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), Endangered Species Act, or Fur Seal Act. For those issues, tribes and Alaska Native organizations can reach out to NOAA Fisheries staff informally or via the co-management process under section 119 of the MMPA for topics involving the subsistence use of marine mammals.

Please feel free to contact NOAA Fisheries staff at any time with questions or concerns. Also, I encourage Alaska Native Tribes and Corporations to request consultation with NOAA Fisheries regarding any NOAA Fisheries action in Alaska that may have tribal implications.

Consistent with NOAA's Procedures for Consultation, NOAA Fisheries in Alaska is committed to obtaining meaningful and timely input from Alaska Native tribes on federal fisheries action that have tribal implications through a more consistent, effective, and proactive approach to conducting government-to-government consultation and engagement.



NOAA
FISHERIES



Tribal Liaison Contacts



Federal officials are available to listen and speak with tribal leaders. **Amilee Wilson** is the Tribal Engagement point of contact for the **Alaska Regional Office**,

Amilee is available to assist tribal governments and native communities in organizing meaningful consultation and engagement meetings. Amilee provides guidance on statutes executive orders, and policies under the federal trust responsibility. In addition, Amilee is available for newsletter feedback and questions.

907-723-7099, (Fax) 907- 586-7249

amilee.wilson@noaa.gov

akr-tribal.engagement-team@noaa.gov

[NMFS Tribal Consultation Request Form](#)



Kate Haapala is the Rural Fishing Community and Tribal Liaison for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Kate can assist with questions regarding Council actions and process.

907-271-2809

kate.haapala@noaa.gov

[General Inquiries Form](#)



Maggie Mooney-Seus is the Communications Program Manager for the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC). Maggie is available to assist tribal governments and native communities in organizing meaningful consulta-

tion and engagement meetings on science being conducted by the Alaska Fisheries Science Center.

AFSC: 206-526-4348

(C) 774-392-4865

marjorie.mooney-seus@noaa.gov



Mabel Baldwin-Schaeffer is the Tribal Research Coordinator for the Alaska Fisheries Science Center. Mabel is available to foster relationships with subsistence communities and fishing sectors to identi-

fy opportunities for scientific collaboration and co-production of research to develop mutually beneficial research priorities.

AFSC: 907-354-6838

(C) 907-354-6838

mabel.baldwin-schaeffer@noaa.gov

Glossary of Acronyms

AP, [Advisory Panel](#)

ABC, [Allowable Biological Catch](#)

ADF&G, [Alaska Department of Fish and Game](#)

AFSC, [Alaska Fisheries Science Center](#)

ADP, [Annual Deployment Plan](#)

BSAI, Bering Sea Aleutian Islands

EEZ, [Economic Exclusion Zone](#)

GOA, Gulf of Alaska

NMFS, [National Marine Fisheries Service](#)

NOAA, [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)

OFL, [Overfishing Level](#)

NPFMC, [North Pacific Fishery Management Council](#)

RQE, [Recreational Quota Entity](#)

SCS8, [Scientific Coordination Subcommittee](#)


SSC, [Science & Statistical Committee](#)

USCG, [United States Coast Guard](#)



USFWS, [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)



September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Deadline: NOAA Fisheries Comment Period on Gulf of Alaska Chinook Salmon , Submit Electronic Comment , Submit written comments: Attn. Susan Meyer, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802.	7
8	9 Public Comment/Testimony Sign Up Period for upcoming NPFMC Meetings opens 6AM AKT Comment Policy	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 3-4PM AKT NMFS Tribal Engagement Session, 1-414-909-7288, PIN: 950 684 588#	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Deadline: NPFMC Public Comment/Testimony Sign Up closes 12PM AKT Comment Policy	28
29	30 8AM-5PM AKT NPFMC: Science & Statistical Committee Meeting Anchorage, AK AGENDA				 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Alaska Tribal Consultations ♦ NOAA Tribal Resources ♦ NOAA Tribal Consultation Request Form 	

October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Alerts for NPFMC Meetings [Text]: NPFMC to 1-833-237-1598	1 8AM-5PM AKT NPFMC: Advisory Panel, Science & Statistical Committee Anchorage, AK AGENDA	2 8AM-5PM AKT NPFMC: Advisory Panel, Science & Statistical Committee Anchorage, AK AGENDA	3 8AM-5PM AKT NPFMC: Advisory Panel & Council Meeting Anchorage, AK AGENDA	4 8AM-5PM AKT NPFMC: Advisory Panel & Council Meeting Anchorage, AK AGENDA	5 8AM-5PM AKT NPFMC: Council Meeting Anchorage, AK AGENDA
6 8AM-5PM AKT NPFMC: Council Meeting Anchorage, AK AGENDA	7 8AM-5PM AKT NPFMC: Council Meeting Anchorage, AK AGENDA	8 8AM-5PM AKT NPFMC: Council Meeting Anchorage, AK AGENDA	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Deadline: Tribal Climate Resilience Program , For ore info contact: Jenier.Robinette@bia.gov 907-843-1290	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Deadline: FY24 Species Recovery Grants to Tribes For more info contact: barbara.mahoney@noaa.gov 907-271-3448	 2023-2024 Webinar Recordings	

Council: September 30-October 8, 2024; 8AM-5PM AKT, ID: 814 5113 0091

Advisory Panel: October 1-4, 2024; 8AM-5PM AKT, ID: 886 7161 2019

Join a meeting by phone (USA): +1 346 248 7799

or +1 408 638 0968 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782

How to Publically Comment During NPFMC Meetings:

1. Click 'Sign-up' link next to agenda item
2. Respond to question: testifying in-person, or remotely

Recordings of NPFMC meetings posted shortly after meeting occurs. [Pre-Meeting Review Documents for October 2024 Council Meeting](#)

NPFMC Contact info: npfmc.admin@noaa.gov, 907-271-2809, 1007 West 3rd Ave., Suite 400, L92 Building, 4th floor, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m-5 p.m. AKT