



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

National Marine
Fisheries Service
Alaska Region

Table of Contents

- 1 [Feature Story:
Invasive European
Green Crab](#)
- 2 [Aquaculture
Program Update](#)
- 2 [Habitat
Conservation
Division Update](#)
- 3 [Restricted Access
Management
Division Update](#)
- 3 [Education
Opportunities](#)
- 4 [Alaska Fisheries
Science Center
Update](#)
- 5 [North Pacific
Fishery
Management
Council Updates](#)
- 6 [May 2025 Calendar](#)
- 7 [June 2025 Calendar](#)
- 8 [Tribal Liaison
Contacts](#)

May/June 2025

ALASKA REGION

TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

Invasive European Green Crab K9 Detection Project: Makah Tribe, Washington

Alaska Region's Habit Conservation Division is working with the Makah Tribe in Washington State and Rogue Detection Services to arrange a second, and final, field trial of the invasive European green crab pilot project. The first habitat trial was held in Willapa Bay, Washington, with dogs learning and recognizing European green crab scent. While this trial was a success, and much was learned, a location that includes a wider variety of habitat types that more closely resemble habitats in Alaska is needed. We reached out to the Makah Tribe and they are enthusiastically working with us to plan the second trial in early summer as the Makah Reservation has an ideal, and accessible, variety of habitat types (as well as experienced staff) in green crab monitoring.

Violet, the detection dog, encounters a green crab.
Photo Credit: NOAA Fisheries



Aquaculture Program

Aquaculture Opportunity Areas in Alaska: NOAA Fisheries is continuing the process to identify [Aquaculture Opportunity Areas \(AOAs\) in Alaska state waters](#). The AOA project is a multi-year planning process to identify areas that have high environmental, social, and potential economic suitability for seaweed and shellfish farming in Alaska.

As a reminder, AOA identification is only a planning process; it is non-regulatory, does not pre-permit, and does not limit where aquaculture operations may be sited. NOAA Fisheries does not have jurisdiction over aquatic farm permitting and leasing in Alaska state waters.

NOAA Fisheries is currently wrapping up Phase One of the planning process, which will culminate in an in-depth spatial planning Atlas of high suitability AOA Options.

**Public
Comments
Due:
May 23**

- A 30-day [public comment period](#) open through May 23 is soliciting comments on the draft spatial planning report titled: [An Aquaculture Opportunity Analysis for the Gulf of Alaska](#).
- Tribes in or near the AOA Study Areas received early notification of the public comment period in March.
- Check out the [NCCOS Story Map](#) which walks you through the process and the science behind identifying the Draft AOA Options in Alaska.
- Several additional opportunities for in-depth public comment will occur during Phase 2 of the AOA process, consisting of environmental review through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.
- Phase 2 is scheduled to start in late fall 2025 and will include additional notifications to Alaska Native Tribes.



Photo credit: NOAA Fisheries

Habitat Conservation Division

March Lunch and Learn Series: Two invited guest speakers joined us:

- A Tribal member of the Naknek Native Village presented to NOAA Fisheries about their work as part of the indigenous collaboration team and the planning committee for the University of the Arctic Congress. In addition to sharing knowledge and experience, she also shared muktuk with us!
- **Professor Hekia Bodwitch** gave a presentation titled Reconciling Indigenous Fishing Rights: Implications from New Zealand and Atlantic Canada. We learned more about her work at the University of Alaska Southeast to support Indigenous co-governance of coastal and marine resources.

Lutak Project: A public notice from the State Department of Natural Resources regarding a permit for a log transfer station in Lutak Inlet was released. Members of the Chilkat Indian Village reached out to us to see if we were aware of the action, would be engaged moving forward, and also shared their concerns about the public notice/permit application.

Would you like to be a guest speaker during a NOAA Fisheries Lunch and Learn Session? We'd love to host you!

Please contact:
Amilee Wilson
amilee.wilson@noaa.gov



Restricted Access Management Division

Tribal and Rural Community Subsistence Flyers:

COMING SOON!

NOAA Fisheries Restricted Access Management Program is developing new materials for the Alaska Halibut Subsistence Program and the Halibut Special Permits Program. **These federal permits are currently available to designated rural and native communities.** The flyers will share information about the **free programs**, help explain the permitting process, and provide contact information to obtain a permit(s) for native and non-native community members in rural areas.



Photo credit: NOAA Fisheries

Education Opportunities

These organizations offer training and education opportunities in Alaska.



Photo credit: Alaska Sea Grant



AK On-Board Crewmember Training – Kodiak

June 2-4, 9 a.m.–5p.m., \$40 registration fee
Learn beginning crew skills, marine safety, and more, and take advantage of the opportunity to talk with skippers.

[Learn more and register.](#)



Alaska Marine Conservation Council

Young Fishermen's Almanac

Volume III of the Almanac is in the works. You can sign up to receive updates on its progress [here](#).

Young Fishermen's Development Act

The Young Fishermen's Development Act establishes a national grant program to support initiatives to educate, train, and mentor young and beginning fishermen. [Learn more.](#)

Jamie@akmarine.org or fish@akmarine.org



education@alaskasealife.org or
info@alaskaakcoastalstudies.org,

(907) 224-6300 or (907) 235-6667

- [Internships](#)
- High school Internship Program in Alaska
- Adult (18+) Internships and Career Development in Alaska
- [Scholarships](#)



- [Tamamta](mailto:Tamamta_uaf-admissions@alaska.edu), uaf-admissions@alaska.edu, 907-474-7034 (general information)
- University of Alaska Fairbanks, [College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences Graduate Programs](#), info@cfos.uaf.edu, 907-474-7210
- [Master of Marine Policy](#), uaf-registrar@alaska.edu, 907-474-6300

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

Some Ways We Share Information About Our Research

The staff at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center share their research plans and important findings with local communities, fellow scientists, and resource managers through various channels. These include blogs, research briefs, web stories, social media posts, updates on science programs, in-person and virtual presentations, and real-time communications during research operations.

Research Briefs provide an overview of planned research in 2025. They provide key information on scheduled work in Alaska, such as:

- Aerial surveys of ice seals
- Studies of fish distribution and marine ecosystems conducted on bottom trawl, mid-water trawl, and acoustic vessel surveys

Find out more about our 2025 planned research and other engagement efforts on our [website](#).

2024 Research Accomplishments and 2025 Field Season Program Updates

In 2025, the Alaska Fisheries Science Center plans to conduct research including vessel-based and aerial surveys. We do this to collect data and information to support marine resource management and conservation to meet our federal mandates under guiding U.S. laws and regulations.

Our program flyers describe each program and a few of our key accomplishments in 2024, and a preview of planned research. You can find more information and access to these documents on our [website](#).

Science Blogs

Our blogs serve as a bridge, connecting our staff with communities by detailing our fieldwork or acknowledging Indigenous Knowledge. They underscore how approachable NOAA Fisheries staff are and how eager we are to engage with the communities we serve. Through these efforts, AFSC hopes to demonstrate its commitment to meaningful and effective communication about our research and engagement with local Indigenous communities. This commitment reinforces the key role of communication in supporting transparency and strengthening connections.



Mabel Baldwin-Schaeffer aboard fishing vessel "Anchor Point" in Norton Sound. Photo Credit: Adem Boeckmann.

Mabel Baldwin-Schaeffer, our Research Coordinator, authors a blog series, '[A Voyage Through the Arctic](#).' Her blog is a platform for sharing personal reflections on her trips. It highlights the cultural importance of subsistence and Native American Heritage Month, among other topics. With its personal touch, this series is valuable for sharing Mabel's experiences and insights and fostering understanding and collaboration between NOAA Fisheries and Alaskan communities. The series aims to build relationships to inform science and resource management decisions with a shared sense of Alaska marine ecosystems, including human communities and cultures.



Stori Oates discusses field sampling plans with Tearamae Alexander, Sealaska Heritage Institute summer intern, at Auke Creek Weir. Photo Credit: ANSEP.

Stori Oates, our Education Coordinator in Juneau, authors a blog series, '[Currents and Connections](#).' Her blog focuses on Alaska's programs, students, interns, and educators. Stori shows how education and science intersect to inspire students to learn and grow, highlighting how math and science apply to real-world careers. For example, bringing on interns who have had NOAA-funded projects and other interns who return because they feel their work is valuable. This series inspires and motivates readers through the power of education.





NORTH PACIFIC

FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

JUNE 2025 – Upcoming Council Actions

The agenda items listed here for the June meeting are preliminarily scheduled and are subject to change:

- ❑ **Observer Program:** Review Annual Report for 2024
- ❑ **Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Specifications:** Review/Adopt Specifications for Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab
- ❑ **Pelagic Trawl Gear Innovation:** Update and process for implementing Discussion Paper
- ❑ **Pelagic Trawl Gear Definition:** Initial Review/Final Action
- ❑ **Crab Arbitration:** Initial Review
- ❑ **American Fisheries Act Program Review Report:** Review
- ❑ **Central Gulf of Alaska Program Review Report:** Review (Council only)
- ❑ **Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pot Cod Gear Limited Access Privilege Program:** Discussion Paper
- ❑ **Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Blackspotted/Rougheye Rockfish Accountability Measures:** Review
- ❑ **Guidance for Subarea Apportionments Acceptable Biological Catch:** Review Report
- ❑ **Tier System and Harvest Control Rule Adjustments:** Scientific and Statistical Committee Workshop and Discussion



Photo credit: NOAA Fisheries



Do you want to know more about how NOAA Fisheries works with the Council?

Check out our new [frequently asked questions and answers article](#) that provides information on our role with the Council and the Council process.

Do you want to keep up on the latest news from the Alaska Region?

Follow us:



[NOAA FisheriesAK](#)



[@noaafisheriesalaska](#)



[NOAA FisheriesAK](#)

Subscribe for NOAA email updates:

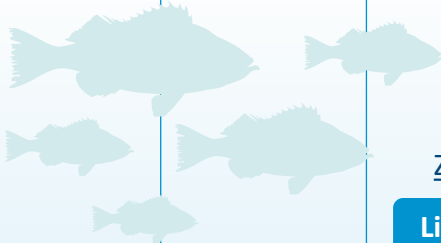
govDELIVERY 

[Click here to sign up and select options for types of information you receive.](#)

May 2025 – Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
How to Make Public Comments: You can make comments for the June Council meeting here by clicking on the meeting name and then selecting: <div>  </div>				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 June Council Meeting– Public comment period opens	10
Public commenting open						
11	12 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Bering Sea Aleutian Island Crab Plan Team 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee	13 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Bering Sea Aleutian Island Crab Plan Team	14 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Bering Sea Aleutian Island Crab Plan Team	15 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Bering Sea Aleutian Island Crab Plan Team	16 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Bering Sea Aleutian Island Crab Plan Team	17
Public commenting open						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Public commenting open						
25	26	27	28	29	30 Noon: June Council Meeting Public comment period closes	31
Public commenting open						

June 2025 – Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 7 a.m.–4 p.m. (AKT) Advisory Panel (AP) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)	3 7 a.m.–4 p.m. (AKT) AP SSC	4 7 a.m.–4 p.m. (AKT) AP SSC	5 7 a.m.–4 p.m. (AKT) Council Meeting AP	6 7 a.m.–4 p.m. (AKT) Council Meeting	7 7 a.m.–4 p.m. (AKT) Council Meeting
8 7 a.m.–4 p.m. (AKT) Council Meeting	9 7 a.m.–4 p.m. (AKT) Council Meeting	10 7 a.m.–4 p.m. (AKT) Council Meeting	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	JUNE COUNCIL MEETING QUICK LINKS:				
		COUNCIL June 5-10 Agenda > Zoom Meeting >		AP June 2-5 Agenda > Zoom Meeting >		SSC June 2-4 Agenda > Zoom Meeting >
		Listen on YouTube		Listen on YouTube		Listen on YouTube

Tribal Liaison Contacts



Amilee Wilson

Alaska Regional Office

Amilee is available to assist Tribal governments and Native communities in securing and organizing meaningful consultation and engagement meetings. She provides guidance on statutes, executive orders, and policies under the federal trust responsibility. Amilee is also available for newsletter feedback and questions.

Office: 601-568-3416 | **Mobile:** 907-723-7099 | **Fax:** 907- 586-7249

amilee.wilson@noaa.gov or akr-tribal.engagement-team@noaa.gov

Alaska Tribal Consultation Request Form



U.S. Secretary of Commerce
Howard W. Lutnick

Acting Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere and
NOAA Administrator
Laura Grimm

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
Eugenio Piñeiro Soler

Regional Administrator,
Alaska Regional Office
Jon Kurland

May 2025

www.fisheries.noaa.gov

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

National Marine
Fisheries Service
Alaska Regional Office
Juneau, AK 99801

Kate Haapala

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

907-271-2809 | kate.haapala@noaa.gov



NPFMC General Inquiries Form

Special Thanks and Farewell

This month, we are saying goodbye to two valued colleagues and want to express our deep appreciation for their collective years of NOAA Fisheries service.

Maggie Mooney-Seus

As the Alaska Fisheries Science Center Communications Program Manager, Maggie provided Tribal communications, Tribal consultation, and collaborative research.

Mabel Baldwin-Shaeffer

As the Alaska Fisheries Science Center Tribal Research Coordinator, Mabel assisted with Tribal research, Tribal collaborative research projects, communications updates, and wrote a research blog:

Voyage Through the Arctic [Read her recent post.](#)

We are grateful for their support in Tribal Relations over the years and wish them well.