



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802-1668

March 28, 2025

Agenda B-2: NMFS Tribal Engagement Report

Pre-Council Meeting Tribal Consultation Invitations and Newsletter

On March 3, 2025, NMFS released the [March/April Tribal Engagement Calendar](#) for the April North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting. As standard practice, prior to each Council meeting, NMFS normally sends out a newsletter, hosts a tribal engagement session, and invites Tribes to a consultation. However, we were unable to complete these actions for the April Council meeting due to reduced staffing. Alaska Native Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations may request tribal consultation on agency actions or policies with tribal implications at any time. No tribal consultation requests were received on the April Council agenda items.

Fisheries Tribal Engagement & Consultation

Cook Inlet Tribal Salmon Fishery Consultation: NMFS engaged with the Tribes represented by the Tikahtnu Inter-Tribal Fish Commission on a proposal for the Council on a Tribal salmon fishery in the Cook Inlet EEZ. Additional information about this topic is provided in the April B-2: NMFS Management Report.

Bering Sea Chum Salmon Bycatch Management Draft EIS and Coordination with Cooperating Agencies and Tribes: NMFS continues to work closely with Council staff to develop the draft Environmental Impact Statement on Bering Sea Chum Salmon Bycatch Management with cooperating agencies the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, the Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission (KRITFC), and the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC). Both Tribal cooperating agencies provided information and knowledge on areas within their special expertise to the preliminary draft EIS. KRITFC and TCC are working with NMFS and Council staff to incorporate additional information and knowledge into appropriate sections and appendices for the draft EIS.

In February and March, NMFS and Council staff presented the draft EIS alternatives and the current Council timeline to several Federal Subsistence Board regional advisory councils (RACs). KRITFC and TCC presented their work on the preliminary draft EIS. Staff and several Council members at each meeting answered questions. Council staff will provide an outreach report summarizing the input received at the RAC meetings at a future Council meeting.

Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Review: On February 27, 2025, NMFS held a Tribal consultation with the Kodiak Island Tribal Coalition to discuss their concerns regarding the IFQ program review presented at the December Council meeting. KITC would like NMFS to create a mechanism to fund Community Quota Entities incrementally via an annual issuance of additional quota such that each year for 10 years 1% of the total quota is allocated to the CQE program. We advised them to bring that proposal to the Council.

