



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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February 2025 Council Meeting Update

The Council will be holding a special Council meeting in February, exclusively focused on two issues: a second review of the chum salmon bycatch analysis (the Council last reviewed this analysis in April 2024), and 2025 harvest specifications for Cook Inlet salmon. The meeting will be held in-person at the Egan Center. Because this is a special-issue meeting, the Council will not take up agency B reports as normal, nor will they take up staff tasking. Those agenda items will resume at the April Council meeting.

The Council's action on the chum salmon bycatch analysis at this meeting is to review the Draft EIS, prior to taking final action at a future meeting. In February, the Council's actions are limited to: 1) maintaining or modifying the alternatives and options for analysis; 2) identifying a preliminary preferred alternative, if desired; and 3) requesting additional information. The revised chum bycatch analysis will post to the [February eAgenda](#) by the end of the day on December 20th, to allow an extended time for public review and comment prior to the February meeting. For Cook Inlet salmon, the Council will review the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report and recommend harvest specifications (OFL/ABC/TAC) for five Cook Inlet salmon species. The SAFE report will be posted on January 10, 2025. NMFS anticipates providing separate, written tribal engagement and consultation updates on the Cook Inlet salmon and chum bycatch agenda items.

The written public comment period for February will open on December 20, 2024, and close at noon on Friday, January 31, 2025. Signups for oral public testimony during the meeting will open once the meetings begin. Please note that dates for the AP and Council meetings have been extended from earlier announcements, in order to accommodate additional testifiers if needed. If the time available still appears insufficient, Chairs will adjust time limits for oral testimony to ensure that all testifiers can be heard.

- **SSC (Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee) will meet February 3-5, 2025** (Monday-Wednesday) to review the methodology for new sections in the chum salmon bycatch analysis and determine if the analysis is sufficient to inform Council decision-making at final action, and to review and recommend overfishing limits and acceptable biological catch limits (OFL and ABC) for Cook Inlet salmon species. ***Please note, the SSC does not accept public testimony on policy or management decisions, only on scientific recommendations, in accordance with their purpose.***
- **Advisory Panel (AP) will meet February 4-8, 2025** (Tuesday-Saturday), and will only take up the chum bycatch analysis. While the AP will begin hearing public testimony once the staff presentation concludes on Tuesday, the AP will keep open the opportunity for testimony through Thursday morning, and AP deliberations will not begin before Thursday afternoon.
- **Council will meet from February 6-11, 2025** (Thursday-Tuesday). On Thursday the Council will address Cook Inlet salmon harvest specifications, and staff presentations on the chum salmon bycatch analysis will begin on Friday. Depending on the volume of public testimony at the AP and Council, the Council may begin to take public testimony before receiving the AP report. ***Please plan to sign up for testimony by 5pm on Friday 2/7 if you want to be on the list for testifying to the Council.***