



# Alaska Region Tribal Newsletter

## Table of Contents:

Meet the Alaska Fisheries  
Science Center Director [1](#)

North Pacific Fishery  
Management Council..... [2](#)

NOAA Job Information..... [4](#)

National Fisheries  
Updates..... [5](#)

AK Federal Funding..... [6](#)

Educational  
Opportunities..... [6](#)

Scholarships, Fellowships  
& Internships..... [7](#)

FY24 Field Season..... [8](#)

Science Highlights  
& Featured FY24 ..... [10](#)

Organizational Chart..... [11](#)

Tribal Liaison Information [12](#)

Glossary of Acronyms  
and Resources ..... [12](#)

November Calendar..... [13](#)

December Calendar..... [14](#)

In Alaska, the National Marine Fisheries Service, known as NMFS or NOAA Fisheries, has two line offices: the Alaska Regional Office and the Alaska Fisheries Science Center. The regional office is responsible for overseeing the science-based stewardship of living marine resources and their habitat in the North Pacific and Arctic Oceans off Alaska, including sustainable fisheries, protected species, and healthy ecosystems to support resilient coastal communities. The science center conducts research to monitor and assess Alaska's fish, crabs, marine mammals and marine ecosystems. For more than three decades, this [organizational structure](#) which separates management and research has preserved the integrity of the agency's science and research activities. This Alaska Region Tribal Newsletter is a joint effort between the two offices to provide a comprehensive view of what's happening at NOAA Fisheries in Alaska.

## Meet the Alaska Fisheries Science Center Director Dr. Robert Foy



[Robert Foy, Ph.D., Director  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center](#)

In the [August/September Issue](#) of the Alaska Region Tribal Newsletter you met Jon Kurland who heads up the Alaska Regional Office. In this issue of the newsletter we would like to introduce you to Dr. Robert "Bob" Foy, the Science and Research Director of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center. Bob joined NOAA Fisheries in 2007 as the Director of the Center's Kodiak Laboratory and Program Manager for the Shellfish Assessment Program. He led the program on assessment, biological, and ecological research of commercial crab species in Alaska. Prior to that he was an Assistant Professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Bob earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Michigan, a Master in Science in Fisheries and Ph.D. in Oceanography from the University of Alaska.

[Continued on page 9](#)



# NORTH PACIFIC

## FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC, also referred to as Council) was established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act or MSA) to develop and recommend to NMFS measures for the management of federal fisheries off the coast of Alaska. The NPFMC meets five times per year and is advised a Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and an Advisory Panel (AP). This newsletter includes information about the upcoming December 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

## Upcoming Council Agenda Items

NOTE: For referenced materials that are available online, links are provided below.

### February 2025 Council Meeting - Chum Salmon Bycatch and Cook Inlet Salmon Harvest Specifications

- The Council is holding a special meeting to conduct a second Initial Review of the preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement on chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. This meeting will occur February 3-10, in person, at the Egan Center in Anchorage, Alaska.
- The revised preliminary DEIS is anticipated to be available for review on December 20, 2024. Please check the Council website for updates.
- The Council will also review the 2025 Cook Inlet Salmon Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report and Environmental Assessment and recommend harvest specifications for salmon fishing in the Cook Inlet Exclusive Economic Zone Area in 2025.
- NMFS will conduct a virtual Tribal engagement session prior to the Council meeting. Please look for an announcement about the date and time in February 2025.

### Council Process

- [Navigating the Process: Overview](#)
- [Council Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Comments may be submitted on all agenda items and instructions for how to submit comments can be found on the [eAgenda](#).



# NOAA

## FISHERIES

### NOAA Fisheries Virtual Tribal Engagement Sessions

**Upcoming December Council Actions**  
**Tuesday, November 19, 11 a.m.- 12 p.m., [Meeting Link](#)**  
+1 401-552-4523, PIN: 969 453 891#

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

# December 2024 Council Meeting

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](#).

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

- (B1) Executive Director's Report
- (B2) NMFS Management Report, including Northern Fur Seal Conservation Plan report, Final 2025 Annual Deployment Plan, year-end inseason management report
- (B3) NOAA General Counsel Report
- (B4) NOAA Enforcement Report
- (B5) Alaska Department of Fish & Game report on State of Alaska fisheries management
- (B6) U.S. Coast Guard report on any highlights and news
- (B7) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service report on a summary of major agency updates
- (B8) U.S. State Department Report
- (B9) Public comment on B1-B8 agenda items
- (B10) SSC Report
- (B11) AP Report

## **C1 and C2: Bering Sea Aleutian Island and Gulf of Alaska Groundfish harvest specifications**

**Review Ecosystem Status Reports, Stock Assessment and Fisheries Evaluation reports; review Groundfish Plan Team reports; recommend Total Allowable Catch/ Acceptable Biological Catch/Overfishing Limits**

- Prior to the Council meeting, the joint Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and Bering Sea Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Groundfish Plan Teams will meet at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, WA on November 12-15 (agenda) to review stock assessments and make overfishing limit and acceptable biological catch recommendations for the SSC. This meeting is open to the public. Information for attending the Groundfish Plan Team meeting in-person or listening virtually can be found on the Council [website](#).
- At the Council meeting, both the SSC and the Council will review the joint BSAI and GOA Plan Team reports from the November meeting; ecosystem status reports; and the stock assessment and fishery evaluation reports. The SSC will make overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations and the Council will make total allowable catch (TAC) recommendations, after receiving public comment and input from the AP, for the upcoming 2025 and 2026 final groundfish harvest specifications.

## **C3: Bering Sea Aleutian Island Crab harvest specifications**

**Review Norton Sound Red King Crab Stock Assessment and Fisheries Evaluation report chapter; Review Bering Sea Aleutian Island Crab Plan Team report; Adopt Acceptable Biological Catch/Overfishing Limits**

- Prior to the Council meeting, the Crab Plan Team met virtually on November 5 ([agenda](#)) to review the annual crab stock assessment report and recommend the 2025 OFL/

ABC harvest specifications for Norton Sound red king crab (NSRKC). Crab Plan Team meetings are open to the public. Information for attending the Crab Plan Team meeting in person or virtually can be found on the Council [website](#).

- At the Council meeting, the SSC will review the Crab Plan Team recommended stock assessment report and set the NSRKC OFL/ABC harvest specifications. The Council will review the SSC OFL and ABC recommendations and decide whether to adopt them.

## **C4: 2025 Charter Halibut Annual Management Measures – Final action; Committee report**

- At this meeting, the Council will recommend to the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) annual management measures for the charter (guided sport) fisheries in IPHC regulatory areas 2C (Southeast Alaska) and 3A (Southcentral Alaska). The halibut annual management measures are developed through the Council's Charter Halibut Management Committee, and are designed to keep charter harvests within their respective catch limits.

## **D1: Climate Planning: Review a) Inflation Reduction Act update and draft workplan, Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Climate Change Taskforce final report, and c) Alaska Fisheries Science Center Climate, Ecosystems, and Fisheries Initiative update**

- The Council's Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Climate Change Taskforce (CCTF) met on Wednesday, November 6, 2024 through Thursday, November 7, 2024. The [agenda](#) included: (a) reflections on the climate scenarios workshop; (b) a recap of workplan, process and outcomes; (c) CCTF recommendations moving forward; (d) and final report drafting and review. This is likely the final report for the CCTF and the NPFMC expects to review the final report under this agenda item.
- The Inflation Reduction Act update and CCTF final report will support the Council's discussion of planning, prioritizing, and tracking climate resilience planning efforts through new and ongoing work that includes the Programmatic Evaluation, which the Council is next scheduled to discuss in April 2025.
- The AFSC climate science update will include a brief overview of Climate, Ecosystems, and Fisheries Initiative potential projects and outputs that could help support the Council's climate readiness planning.

## **D2: Bering Sea Aleutian Island crab arbitration process – discussion paper**

The Council will review a discussion paper on the arbitration regulations associated with the BSAI Crab Rationalization Pro-

*[Continued on page 4](#)*



# December 2024 Council Meeting Updates

...Continued from Page 3

gram and their effects. The Council will use the information in this discussion paper to determine if changes are necessary to reduce industry costs, increase transparency and predictability, and/or to respond to lower crab TACs. The discussion paper evaluates the timing of joining an arbitration organization, requirements of the binding arbitration system, ability for individual processor quota and individual fishing quota (IFQ) permit holders to withdraw their application for quota any time prior to the quota being issued, and consideration of an alternate structure under low crab TAC levels to provide stability and protection for both harvesters and processors.

## D3: Bering Sea Aleutian Island Crab Crew quota shares – discussion paper

The Council will review a discussion paper considering modifications to increasing use caps and eligibility requirements for receiving and transferring of BSAI crab catcher vessel crew and catcher/processor crew quota shares, commonly known as C-shares. The modifications considered in this discussion paper would be consistent with the changes recently implemented under Amendment 54 to the FMP for King and Tanner Crabs in the BSAI for holding or maintaining active participation requirements for C-shares.

## D4: Amendment 80 Program Review Report – review

The Council will receive the seven-year review of the Amendment 80 Program. Section 303A(c)(1)(G) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act specifies that reviews of limited access privilege programs, such as the Amendment 80 Program, should occur no less frequently than once every seven years. This report evaluates the Amendment 80 Program within the scope requested by the Council and its advisory bodies, with particular focus on the achievement of program goals since the previous review.

## D5: Individual Fishing Quota Program Review Report – review, Individual Fishing Quota Committee report

The Council will receive the Program Review of the Pacific halibut and sablefish IFQ Program under section 303A(c)(1)(G) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This report evaluates the IFQ Program within the scope requested by the Council and its advisory bodies with particular focus on fishery data and information since the previous review was conducted in 2016. The Council will also receive a report from the IFQ Committee, which is scheduled to meet virtually on Monday, December 2, 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.

### FOLLOW US:

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- [Instagram @noaafisheriesalaska](https://instagram.com/noaafisheriesalaska)



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- [How to use advanced search in USAJOBS](#)
- [Navigating USAJOBS Announcements  
A Hiring Manager's Perspective](#)

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Alaska

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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 [here](#). 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 has highlighted concerns of downstream impacts from mining activities on salmon EFH in Alaska.

## Protected Resource Division

### *Gulf of Alaska Chinook Salmon Status Review Update*

- **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), and has commenced an in-depth review of the species' status within the Gulf of Alaska. The status review team includes representatives from the NMFS Alaska Region, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Tribes. The status review team expects to complete their review in early 2025.
- **Tribal Consultations:** NMFS has conducted Tribal consultations and engagements with the Central Council Tlingit & Haida Tribes of Alaska, Doyon, Ltd., Calista Corporation, and the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council as well as several regional subsistence advisory councils.



*Spring Chinook Salmon. Credit: Michael Humling,  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

## Restricted Access Management Division

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

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### Please Give Feedback

Do you have comments or suggestions for  
this newsletter? Let us know!

[alaska.region.info@noaa.gov](mailto:alaska.region.info@noaa.gov)

# ALASKA FEDERAL FUNDING

## 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

### 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](mailto:akr.grants@noaa.gov)

### Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is funding projects to implement fish passage work and build Tribal organizational capacity. This funding will support Indian Tribes, Tribal commissions, and Tribal consortia in implementing Tribal priority fish passage projects, including organizational capacity building that benefits migratory fish in coastal ecosystems.

Program contact: **Janine Harris**

Application deadline: **February 27, 2025**

Application information available online or contact:  
[infrastructure.tribal@noaa.gov](mailto:infrastructure.tribal@noaa.gov), (301) 427-8635

Eligible applicants: Indian Tribes (as defined in 25 U.S.C. Section 5304 (e)) and organizations that represent Indian Tribes through formal legal agreements.



Salmon. Credit: Adobe Stock



## Educational Opportunities



*Fishlines is the newsletter for Alaska Sea Grants*

To subscribe contact: **Dawn Montano**

[dawn.montano@alaska.edu](mailto: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 SeaLife Center, Seward Alaska, 907-224-6304



## Alaska Waters EDUCATION RESOURCES

[Search the Lesson Plan Database](#)

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



# Scholarships, Fellowships & Internships

<b><u>Hollings Scholar Program</u></b>	<b>Deadline – January 31, 2025</b> , 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. <b>Learn how to apply <a href="#">here</a>.</b> <b>Questions?</b> <a href="mailto:studentscholarshipprograms@noaa.gov">studentscholarshipprograms@noaa.gov</a> , 301-628-2913,
<b><u>Hollings Preparation Program (HPP)</u></b>	<b>Deadline – Annually in March</b> , 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, for four to six weeks during the summer of 2025. <b>Apply by sending a cover letter and resume to: <a href="mailto:hollingsprep.wcr@noaa.gov">hollingsprep.wcr@noaa.gov</a></b> <b>Questions?</b> Dan Tonnes- <a href="mailto:dan.tonnes@noaa.gov">dan.tonnes@noaa.gov</a> , 503-230-5400
<b><u>Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions (EPP/MSI)</u></b>	<b>Deadline – January 31, 2025</b> , This scholarship is able to be paired with the Hollings Scholar Program. To be eligible for the EPP/MSI, students must be attending a <a href="#">Minority Serving Institution</a> . NOAA has put together a <a href="#">video explaining how to apply for both fellowships</a> and a <a href="#">list of FAQs</a> . <b>Application accessed <a href="#">here</a></b> (same application as Hollings Scholar). <b>Questions?</b> <a href="mailto:epp.usp@noaa.gov">epp.usp@noaa.gov</a> , 301-628-2900
<b><u>SeaGrant Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship</u></b>	<b>Deadline – February 15, 2024</b> , 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. <b>Learn how to apply <a href="#">here</a>.</b> <b>Questions?</b> <a href="mailto:oar.sg.fellows@noaa.gov">oar.sg.fellows@noaa.gov</a> , 240-507-3712
<b><u>SeaGrant Alaska Sea Grant State Fellowship</u></b>	<b>Applications due every year early February</b> . 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. <b>Learn how to apply <a href="#">here</a>.</b> <b>Questions?</b> <a href="mailto:sgweb@noaa.gov">sgweb@noaa.gov</a> , 301-734-1088
<b><u>Young Fishermen’s Development Program</u></b>	Alaska Sea Grant’s successful Crew Class, <a href="mailto:gabe.dunham@alaska.edu">gabe.dunham@alaska.edu</a> , 907-474-6982 Young Fishermen’s Network, <a href="mailto:Jamie@akmarine.org">Jamie@akmarine.org</a> Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA), <a href="mailto:dugan@aooos.org">dugan@aooos.org</a> , 907-644-6754
<b><u>Sea Grant Community-Engaged Fellowship</u></b>	For more information contact Alaska Sea Grant’s CEF coordination team at <a href="mailto:seagrants.fellowships@alaska.edu">seagrants.fellowships@alaska.edu</a> .
<b><u>Graduate Programs University of Alaska Fairbanks</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Tamamta</a>, <a href="mailto:uaf-admissions@alaska.edu">uaf-admissions@alaska.edu</a>, 907-474-7034 (general information)</li> <li>• <a href="#">University of Alaska Fairbanks, College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences</a> <a href="mailto:info@cfos.uaf.edu">info@cfos.uaf.edu</a>, 907-474-7210</li> <li>• <a href="#">Master of Marine Policy</a>, <a href="mailto:uaf-registrar@alaska.edu">uaf-registrar@alaska.edu</a>, 907-474-6300</li> </ul>
<b><u>CORaL Network— Community Coastal Experience</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High school Internship Program in Alaska</li> <li>• Adult (18+) Internships and Career Development in Alaska <a href="mailto:education@alaskasealife.org">education@alaskasealife.org</a>, 907-224-6300</li> </ul>



# Information on Alaska Fisheries Science Center FY24 Field Season

In 2024, the Alaska Fisheries Science Center conducted [research activities](#) including vessel-based and aerial surveys. This research supports marine resource management and conservation in accord with guiding U.S. laws. These laws include the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act, among others.

## Ongoing research related to Yukon-Kuskokwim River Delta

- For the past 20 years the Alaska Fisheries Science Center has been conducting [ecosystem surveys](#) to assess, among other things, the abundance and condition of juvenile chum and Chinook salmon during annual surveys in the Bering Sea. Data collected from these surveys provides valuable insights for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Yukon River return estimates for Chinook as well as needed data on ocean survival for both juvenile chum and Chinook.
- Since 2014, Alaska Fisheries Science Center and Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association scientists have been [collecting data on young salmon on the Yukon River](#). The goal is to better understand how environmental conditions affect salmon as they migrate out of the Yukon River. Changes in river discharge from winter ice melt and temperature may be influencing the timing and duration of juvenile chum, Chinook, and coho migrations.
- The Alaska Fisheries Science Center Genetics Lab has been providing genetic stock composition analysis of Chinook and chum salmon bycatch samples from the Bering Sea pollock fisheries since the early 2000s. They continue to refine their methodology and use new tools to generate more fine-scale information on river returns to support understanding of the impacts of this bycatch on the Yukon-Kuskokwim region. Other information and past genetic reports can be found [here](#).
- Other Alaska Fisheries Science Center scientists have been [studying the timing and duration of the seaward migration from Yukon River](#) fresh to marine waters for juvenile coho, chum, and Chinook salmon.

## Science Center Education and Engagement Highlights

This year, the Alaska Fisheries Science Center awarded a \$1M multi-year Notice of Funding Opportunity with Inflation Reduction Act funding to support competitive grants to non-Federal entities. The goal is to support collaboration with Indigenous Knowledge holders to develop bi-directional and parallel knowledge pathways to support climate-informed studies and ecosystem policies regionally and internationally.

In 2024, the Alaska Fisheries Science Center engaged with Alaska Native communities and schools through annual education events and programs in Juneau including the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) Career Explorations Camp, Sealaska Heritage Institute Opening the Box STEAM Academy, and the Sealaska Heritage Institute Raven Writes program. Staff also hosted Alaska Native students at the Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute for tours (e.g., Bristol Bay Regional Career and Technical Education Program, with fifteen students and five educators from Togiak, Chignik Lake, Perryville, Nondalton, Newhalen) and culturally responsive Sea Week activities (e.g., K-8 students from the Tlingit Language and Literacy program). Staff visited Mt. Edgecumbe High School and met with students to share information about NOAA Fisheries internships and career opportunities. They also traveled to Utqiagvik for the 2024 Barrow Arctic Research Center (BARC) Science and Culture Fair and Saint Paul Island for the 2024 Bering Sea Days education event, to share educational hands-on activities with youth in those communities.



Staff reached out virtually in the 2023-24 school year to continue our [NOAA Live! Alaska Webinar Series](#), aimed at Alaska schools, students, and communities. We launched its Alaska Fisheries Science Center Education webpage, featuring a blog series, educational curricula and activities co-developed with communities, such as the Seaweed in the Classroom curriculum.

The Center also works with Alaska Native undergraduate students and students from underserved communities to raise awareness of internship opportunities as well as recruiting interns for Center-hosted internships. In 2024, we hosted 7 Indigenous interns and 5 interns from other programs serving underrepresented communities. In addition, Center staff held informational sessions and an

[...Continued on Page 9](#)



# Science Center Education and Engagement Highlights

[...Continued from Page 8](#)

internship application workshop with students from University of Alaska Southeast to facilitate the application process and answer questions about the applications and programs. One of our 2024 Alaska Native interns was recruited to pilot an innovative approach to co-develop an internship with Center staff, and will present her project at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in January 2025 in Anchorage.

We also launched an Alaska Fisheries Science Center [Indigenous Engagement homepage](#) with links to our various information about our research and engagement efforts.

## Bob Foy, Science Director

[...Continued from Page 1](#)

### **Please tell me a little bit about yourself and how you got involved in fisheries research?**

My interest in fisheries really started with my interest in how aquatic systems work. Growing up in the “Great Lakes state” of Michigan I had plenty of opportunity to be on and around the water. I was particularly interested in how changes in the environmental conditions of lakes and ocean affected the animals living in those waters. Because I was interested in how that affected people, I gravitated to ecological and fisheries research prior to coming to Alaska. I moved to Alaska in 1993, and was immediately drawn to the connection between people and marine ecosystems. After working in the Noatak region for a few years on the sustainability of charr populations, I worked in Prince William Sound, the Kodiak area, and then the Bering Sea studying how to sustain fish and crab stocks with changing ocean conditions.

### **What does your position at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center entail?**

I oversee the Alaska Fisheries Science Center which is responsible for NOAA Fisheries science and research in Alaska. We provide science to monitor the health and sustainability of Alaska marine ecosystems from plankton to fish, crabs, marine mammals, and their habitats across nearly 1.5 million square miles of water surrounding Alaska. Our scientists and fishery observers collect and analyze biological, ecological, and socio-economic data and information relating to federally-managed, commercial species such as Alaska pollock, Pacific cod, snow crab, and sablefish. Our science supports the co-management of bowhead and beluga whales, northern fur seals, harbor seals, Steller sea lions, and ice seals. We’re also providing needed science to support state-managed salmon fisheries and U.S. international treaty obligations under the Pacific Salmon Treaty as well as science to support the International Pacific Halibut Commission and the state’s halibut management efforts. At the core of our research is an ecosystem based approach that recognizes the importance of marine ecosystem processes and the role of humans in that ecosystem.

I am fortunate to lead a talented team of more than 350 dedicated scientists and staff committed to our mission who work at research facilities in Seattle, Juneau, and Kodiak, Alaska, and Newport, Oregon and field stations in Little Port Walter, St. Paul Island, and St. George Island, Alaska.

### **What is your role on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Scientific and Statistical Committee? Are you involved in policy setting?**

As a member of the Scientific and Statistical Committee, I am part of a team of scientists annually elected by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council who provide scientific advice to inform the conservation and management of fisheries that operate in federal waters off Alaska. These bodies function under the requirements of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. In addition to providing my expertise to advise the Council, I also represent the Alaska Fisheries Science Center to promote coordination and collaboration on the delivery of scientific information to policy and management decision makers. I see my role and that of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center as integral to ensuring information is equitably available. I strive to continue to improve the information available as changes in our marine ecosystems demand that we adapt to adequately sustain living marine resources in Alaska.

### **Why do you think it is important for the federal government to work closely with Tribal governments, Tribal organizations, and Tribal corporations in Alaska?**

Over the past decade, we have seen some pretty significant shifts in Alaska marine ecosystems due to unprecedented marine heatwaves that have been linked to climate change. The Alaska Fisheries Science Center has been conducting research, in some cases for more than 50 years, across the expanse of the Aleutian Islands, Gulf of Alaska, Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort seas so we are able to monitor changes as they are happening in these marine ecosystems. We’re also honing our predictive capabilities so we can provide information to help resource managers, fishermen, hunters, and subsistence communities better prepare and adapt to changing ocean conditions in the future. But our research still only provides a snapshot in time. Alaska’s Indigenous communities have insights acquired through direct and long-term experiences and multi-generational lessons developed over millennia. I am committed to working with communities and Indigenous Knowledge holders as we meet our requirements. Now more than ever, our collective Knowledge is needed to chart the uncertain waters that lie ahead.

# Science Highlights and Featured FY24 Publications

For more information on these and other publications visit [NOAA Fisheries Alaska](#)

## Snow Crab May Be Resilient to Ocean Acidification

As carbon emissions continue to acidify our oceans, some marine species will adapt. Others are already struggling. [New research](#) suggests that commercially important Alaska snow crab may already be well-adapted to survive levels of acidity predicted 200 years into the future.

## Link Confirmed Between Snow Crab Decline and Heatwave

In 2022, the Alaska snow crab fishery was closed for the first time in history due to a sudden, dramatic decline in adult and juvenile crabs. [Scientists now believe](#) the most likely cause of the decline was starvation and other factors linked to the 2018–2019 marine heatwave.

## Canopy Kelp Forests Persist in Coastal Alaska Despite Century of Climatic and Ecosystem Change

Scientists find that contrary to trends observed at lower latitudes, [the kelp forests that ring the Gulf of Alaska have been remarkably stable](#) and even increased in the past hundred years.

## Advancing Transparency in Fisheries Monitoring

A [NOAA study](#) takes a major step toward greater transparency, accountability, and efficiency in fisheries monitoring and enforcement. The study is the first to look at trends in compliance over time and what drives them. [Fisheries observers](#) play a critical role in ensuring that U.S. fisheries are well managed. Observers collect biological data critical for setting sustainable catch limits. They also support [NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement](#) by reporting potential violations of laws and regulations.

## New Evidence of Marine Heatwave Impacts on Western Alaska Chum Salmon

[Alaska Fisheries Science Center](#) and [Alaska Department of Fish and Game](#) scientists [found that juvenile \(first ocean year\) chum salmon](#) were more abundant during the more recent an exceptionally warm marine period (2014–2019) compared to previous warm (2003–2005) and cold (2006–2013) periods. However, this increase in juvenile abundance did not lead to an increase in adult returns as expected.

## Cracking the Code: Scientists Use DNA to Examine Differences between Hatchery and Wild Chinook Salmon in Southeast Alaska

[A new genetic study](#) shows hatchery salmon's adaptation to their environment can lead to potentially adaptive genetic differences between hatchery and wild salmon populations in only a few generations. The collaborative research was conducted by scientists from the [Alaska Fisheries Science Center](#), [Alaska Department of Fish and Game](#), and [Texas Christian University](#). It's some of the strongest and most fine-scale evidence to date of these differences.

## New Study Sheds Light on Detection Range of eDNA of Chum Salmon in Pens

Scientists are increasingly using [environmental DNA](#) to detect species in the marine environment. However, in the ocean, physical variables including temperature, depth, salinity, currents, and tides can all affect eDNA dispersal. This makes it difficult to interpret eDNA results and determine the location of animals relative to eDNA detections. In a [recent study](#), scientists examined the influence of distance and tides on the distribution and concentration of eDNA from chum salmon in net pens in southeast Alaska.

## Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Completes Science Report

NOAA Fisheries, on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, together with the Governor of Alaska are sharing the [final report](#) of the Congressionally mandated Alaska Salmon Research Task Force. It identifies potential impacts to salmon productivity, gaps in understanding of the Pacific salmon life cycle and recommended research priorities to support sustainable salmon management in Alaska.

## Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profile

NOAA Fisheries is committed to [ecosystem-based management](#) as our most powerful tool to maintain productive, resilient fisheries in a changing climate. This approach considers the entire ecosystem, including humans, to balance tradeoffs between ecological, social, and economic needs. Over the past few years, [scientists at the Center have developed a new tool](#), the Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profile (ESP), that takes a significant step toward the application of ecosystem-based fisheries management. The ESP distills information from a variety of sources into a succinct, focused report to help resource managers in their decision-making and facilitates the integration of ecosystem and socioeconomic information into fisheries management decisions.

## New Model Predicts Where Red King Crab Bycatch is Likely to Occur in Bering Sea Flatfish Trawl Fisheries

NOAA Fisheries scientists developed [new models](#) to predict [red king crab bycatch](#) occurrence and abundance in Bristol Bay flatfish trawl fisheries. They found a general northward shift in occurrence and abundance of different ages of male and female red king crab in Bristol Bay.

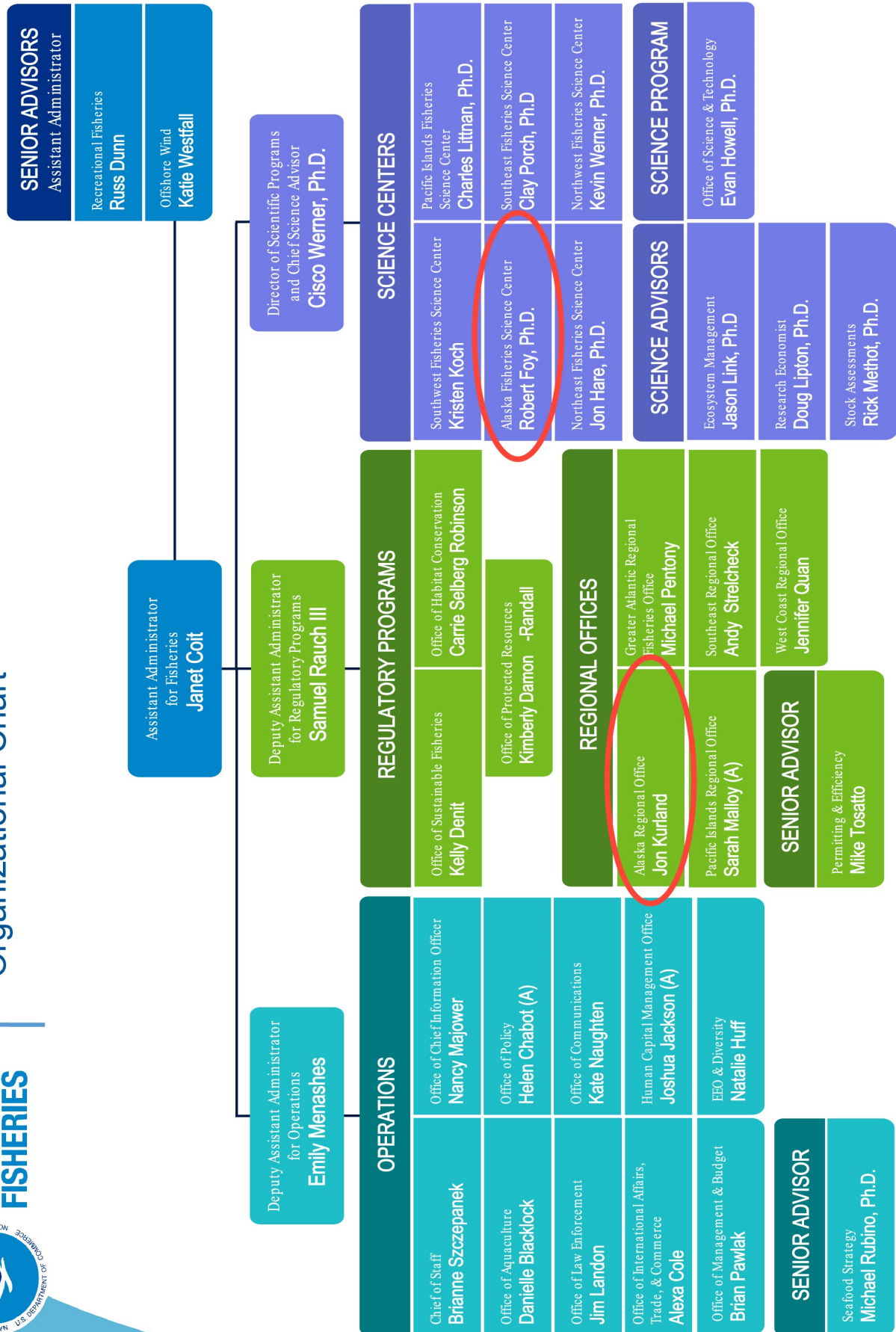
## NOAA Fisheries Announces Changes in its Alaska Survey Portfolio

NOAA Fisheries is engaged in [a multi-year effort to strategically respond to climate-driven changes in the environment](#), maintain operating efficiencies and modernization efforts, and mitigate shifting survey needs. We continue to balance national priorities against a challenging economic environment where the rising cost of mission execution demands strategic pivots within survey activities to ensure critical data collection needs can be met.



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

## Organizational Chart



Alaska Line Offices

Science Programs



Regulatory Programs



Operations



Assistant Administrator



Acting (A)



# 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.

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

[amilee.wilson@noaa.gov](mailto:amilee.wilson@noaa.gov)

[akr-tribal.engagement-team@noaa.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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 consultation and engage-

ment meetings on science being conducted by the Alaska Fisheries Science Center.

AFSC: 206-526-4348

(C) 774-392-4865

[marjorie.mooney-seus@noaa.gov](mailto: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 identify opportunities for sci-

entific 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](mailto:mabel.baldwin-schaeffer@noaa.gov)

## Glossary of Acronyms and Resources

**AP**, [Advisory Panel](#)

**ABC**, [Acceptable Biological Catch](#)

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

**AFSC**, [Alaska Fisheries Science Center](#)

**ADP**, [Annual Deployment Plan](#)

**BSAI**, [Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands](#)

**EEZ**, [Exclusive Economic 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**, [Scientific & Statistical Committee](#)


**USCG**, [United States Coast Guard](#)

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






# November 2024– Celebrate Native American Heritage Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<a href="#">Alaska Tribal Consultations</a> <a href="#">NOAA Tribal Consultation Request Form</a> <a href="#">NOAA Tribal Resources</a> Contact: Amilee Wilson, 907-723-7099, <a href="mailto:akr-tribal.engagement-team@noaa.gov">akr-tribal.engagement-team@noaa.gov</a>				1	2
3	4	5 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. AKT <a href="#">Bering Sea Aleutian Island Crab Plan Team Meeting Link</a>	6 8 a.m.-5 p.m. AKT <a href="#">Bering Sea FEP: Climate Change Taskforce Meeting Link</a>	7 8 a.m.-5 p.m. AKT <a href="#">Bering Sea FEP: Climate Change Taskforce Meeting Link</a>	8	9
10	11	12 9 a.m.-5 p.m. AKT <a href="#">Joint Meeting of the Groundfish Plan Teams Meeting Link</a> Contact(s): (907) 271-2806 <a href="mailto:diana.stram@noaa.gov">diana.stram@noaa.gov</a> <a href="mailto:sara.cleaver@noaa.gov">sara.cleaver@noaa.gov</a>	13 9 a.m.-5 p.m. AKT <a href="#">Bering Sea Aleutian Island Groundfish Plan Team Meeting Link</a>  <a href="#">Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Planning Team Meeting Link</a>	14 9 a.m.-5 p.m. AKT <a href="#">Bering Sea Aleutian Island Groundfish Plan Team Meeting Link</a>  <a href="#">Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Planning Team Meeting Link</a>	15 9 a.m.-5 p.m. AKT <a href="#">Bering Sea Aleutian Island Groundfish Plan Team Meeting Link</a>  <a href="#">Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Planning Team Meeting Link</a>	16
17	18	19 11 a.m.-12 p.m. AKT <a href="#">Dec Council Actions Virtual Tribal Engagement Session</a> , +1 401-552-4523, PIN: 969 453 891#	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 <b>Native American Heritage Day</b>	30
31	<b>Recordings of NPFMC meetings</b> posted shortly after meeting occurs. <a href="#">Pre-Meeting Review Documents for December 2024 Council Meeting</a> For additional information contact: <a href="mailto:npfmc.admin@noaa.gov">npfmc.admin@noaa.gov</a> <a href="#">Subscribe to NPFMC Newsletter</a> , <a href="#">NPFMC Archives</a> [minutes]				 <b><a href="#">Science Blog: A Voyage Through the Arctic</a></b> (left) Mabel Baldwin-Schaeffer under the Utqiagvik whale bone arch overlooking the Arctic Ocean. Credit: Patrick Savok	

# December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 8 a.m.-5 p.m. AKT NPFMC: <a href="#">Science &amp; Statistical Committee</a>  8AM-3:30 p.m. AKT <a href="#">Individual Fishing Quota Committee</a>	3 8 a.m.-5 p.m. AKT NPFMC: <a href="#">Advisory Panel, Science &amp; Statistical Committee</a>  8AM-5PM AKT <a href="#">Charter Halibut Management Committee</a>	4 8 a.m.-5 p.m. AKT NPFMC: <a href="#">Advisory Panel Science &amp; Statistical Committee</a>	5 8 a.m.-5 p.m. AKT NPFMC: <a href="#">Advisory Panel Council Meeting</a>	6 8 a.m.-5 p.m. AKT NPFMC: <a href="#">Advisory Panel Council Meeting</a>	7 8 a.m.-5 p.m. AKT NPFMC: <a href="#">Council Meeting</a>
8 8 a.m.-5 p.m. AKT NPFMC: <a href="#">Council Meeting</a>	9 8 a.m.-5 p.m. AKT NPFMC: <a href="#">Council Meeting</a>	10 8 a.m.-5 p.m. AKT NPFMC: <a href="#">Council Meeting</a>	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	 <p><b>For NPFMC Meeting Alerts [Text]:</b> NPFMC to 1-833-237-1598</p>			

## How to Comment During NPFMC Meeting(s):

1. Click 'Sign-up' link next to agenda item
  2. Respond to question: testifying in-person, or remotely
- For more information: 907-271-2809

**Council: December 5-10; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. AKT, ID: 814 5113 0091** **Advisory Panel: December 3-6; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. AKT, ID: 886 7161 2019**

**Science & Statistical Committee: December 2-4, 2024, ID: 814 5113 0091**

**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**

You can access live meeting broadcasts through the [Current](#) or [Next Meeting page](#), or watch the meeting [streamed live on YouTube](#).