

# 2026 Chum Sampling

Due to overwhelming public feedback regarding bycatch concerns, scientists have partnered to develop a method for determining a salmon's origin based on their trace element compositions. Currently, ocean bycatch of chum returning to the Norton Sound, Yukon, and Kuskokwim areas are counted collectively as Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) chum. In 2026 chum salmon from the rivers listed below will be sampled to develop a method to detect these stocks in ocean bycatch.

There will be lethal sampling of 20 adult chum from each river, with a preference for fish that have already spawned. This work will also test a nonlethal sampling method to hopefully reduce future need for mortality.

Outreach for the project began during fall 2024 and public feedback was positive during the 2024–2026 RAC meetings. If you have questions, please contact Shane Ransbury ([shane\\_ransbury@fws.gov](mailto:shane_ransbury@fws.gov), 907-334-5389).

