

## CALL TO ACTION

Tribes, Tribal Members, Tribal Non-Profit Organizations and Supporting Organizations and others should provide testimony during the June 2025 NPFMC Staff Tasking agenda item on Thursday, June 5, 2025 at the Advisory Panel and tentatively Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at the main Council about the consideration of postponing Final Action on the Chum Salmon Bycatch Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) from **December 2025** to **April 2026**, due to a packed agenda and venue constraints.

This delay would threaten years of tribal engagement, public input, and urgently needed protections for Western Alaska salmon.

### Public Testimony Points/Suggestions

- Prioritize Chum Salmon Final Action for in-person meeting for December 2025 in Anchorage at the Egan Convention Center as scheduled. Delaying until April 2026 would push implementation further into or past 2028, while subsistence communities continue to face historic salmon declines.
- Subsistence communities can't wait: Every year of delay leaves Western Alaska communities with continued hardship while commercial bycatch continues largely unchecked.
- **There is a great deal of present uncertainty due to federal reorganization of NOAA, NMFS, and other related agencies, which will likely lead to further delays in implementation. This means it is more vital than ever that Council decisions be made as soon as possible to account for these delays.**
- Hold second, virtual meeting Dec 15–19 2025, to complete specs (groundfish, halibut, Cook Inlet); Work with ADF&G and IPHC to finalize halibut data sooner or hold a brief special meeting
- Move Cook Inlet salmon specs SSC review to Jan/Feb 2026 virtually to ease some of the December schedule issues. **Reinstate a February Council meeting at least for 2026** to relieve pressure during high-conflict months like December - Evaluate flexible planning protocols that allow certain Council decisions to be made through delegated authority when full in-person review isn't feasible.
- Finally, the notice of the December 2025 meeting conflict was posted for the June 2025 NPFMC meeting on Friday, May 30, 2025 at 0848 with no Tribal Engagement opportunity, with members of the public only given 3 hours and 11 minutes of opportunity to provide written comment, with severely limited opportunity to travel to Newport, OR to be in-person for oral public comment and the beginning of a very limited salmon fishing opportunity, if any. **Even the co-management agencies that had collaborated on the EIS were given no advanced warning of this proposed change, nor consulted on the matter by either NMFS or the Council.**

Suggestions provided with collaboration from members impacted by continued salmon fishing declines and management decisions without equitable and timely inclusion in the process.