



July 17, 2026

Initial DRAFT Spend Plan for funds appropriated to address the 2022 Chignik salmon fishery disaster determination. NOAA Fisheries has allocated \$18,489,100 for this salmon fishery resource disaster. This spend plan informs the federal grant application submitted by Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) to NOAA Fisheries and is subject to change based on approval of the final grant.

Written comments are requested on all elements of the proposed spend plan and should be as specific as possible. Comments will be posted as received online and therefore, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) requests that no business proprietary information, copyrighted information, or personally identifiable information be included in written comments. Comments can be submitted by email to: dfg.com.fisheriesdisasters@alaska.gov or by mail to: ADF&G, Attn: Darion Jones
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Comments must be sent by August 14, 2026, for consideration in the next iteration of the spend plan. A second draft of the spend plan will be available for public comment before the spend plan is finalized.

Guiding principles for disaster fund distribution: Disbursement of funds is intended to 1) assist fishery participants harmed by the 2022 Chignik salmon fishery disaster, and 2) improve fishery information used to assess and forecast future fishery performance and to develop management approaches that avoid and/or mitigate the impacts of future fishery disasters that cannot be prevented.

The proposed categories and allocations in this draft spend plan are informed by the previous Chignik salmon disaster spend plans and comments received from initial public comments. Allocation percentages and amounts are estimated and subject to change based on administration fees, rounding, and/or recalculations.

Category	Allocation	Estimated funds ^a
Research	9%	\$1,665,000
Subsistence	9%	\$1,665,000
Communities	5%	\$920,000
Infrastructure	40%	\$7,390,000
Commercial Harvesters	20%	\$3,698,000
Processors	17%	\$3,140,000
Program support	0.06%	\$11,100
Total ^a	100%	\$18,489,100

^a Additional funds will be allocated to Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) to administer the federal grant

The impact of the fishery disaster created significant loss of income to those involved in the harvesting and processing sectors and to the communities in which the cultural and basic economic structure is the marine economy. Some of these funds will be allocated to research activities that restore the fishery or prevent a similar failure in the future, but they will also be used to help assist the fishing communities that were affected by this fishery resource disaster by recognizing the loss of incomes. These direct payments will compensate participants consistent with fishery investments and/or historical fishery performance. Historically one of the purposes of disaster funding was to get funds to communities and fishermen as fast as possible. Direct payments provide that method.

Research – 9% (~\$1,665,000): Funds for scientific research projects are available through this spend plan, including ongoing work funded through previous Chignik salmon fishery disasters, that provide information to help fishery scientists and managers assess the freshwater and marine conditions that influence the productivity of the Chignik salmon stock. The primary goals are to further our understanding of the cause of the Chignik salmon fishery failure, better understand the abundance and ecology of Chignik salmon, improve the ability of resource managers to identify future poor runs, and to help managers avoid and mitigate the impacts of future Chignik salmon fishery disasters that cannot be prevented.

Based on previous comments received from stakeholders, resource managers, and the public, ADF&G recommends funding research projects that are focused on the following themes:

- 1) Better understand the harvest composition and stock specific migratory timing of sockeye salmon throughout the Chignik Management Area.
- 2) Better understanding of the environmental factors and freshwater and marine processes that drive downstream movement of early and late run salmon.
- 3) Improvements to salmon escapement enumeration with a focus on late-season assessment.
- 4) Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) analysis to examine the risks and tradeoffs of management approaches and determine impacts of management actions.

ADF&G and other entities are currently utilizing previous Chignik salmon fishery disaster funding for ongoing projects on research theme two. Further funding would allow for continuous, robust data sets from those projects, which would inform other recommended research themes and objectives. ADF&G is seeking public comment on these or other research suggestions.

Subsistence – 9% (~\$1,665,000): ADF&G proposes to apportion subsistence funds into two categories: direct payments to subsistence households and funds for cultural education programs.

Subsistence households dependent on salmon from the Chignik Management Area are eligible for direct payments based on the number of eligible individuals in each household. ADF&G recommends households receive \$1,000 for each eligible member.

Proposed subsistence household eligibility requirements:

1. All eligible household members MUST be Alaskan residents meeting at least one of the following criteria:
 - a) Received an Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) for calendar year 2022.
 - b) Possessed a 2022 Alaska resident sport fishing license from the Department of Fish and Game.

- c) Registered as a resident during 2022 with the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC).
 - d) Held and returned a subsistence use permit issued by the Department of Fish and Game in 2022 for the Chignik Management Area as defined at 5 AAC 01.450.
2. Applicant for household MUST be at least 18 years old to apply per federal requirements.
 - a) Only one application may be submitted per household.
 - b) Individuals may only be listed in one household.
 - c) To ensure individuals are only counted once, a valid Social Security Number must be provided by the applicant for each individual listed in the household.
 - d) Alaskan households that participate in subsistence salmon fisheries in the Chignik Management Area may apply regardless of physical household address.
 3. MUST self-certify that they are not de-barred from receiving federal funds and are not on the federal government “do not pay list”.
 4. MUST self-certify that one or more members of the household participated in the Chignik salmon subsistence fishery in at least two of the previous six years (2016-2021).
 - Participation includes harvesting, sharing, and/or using salmon subsistence fishery resources. Subsistence harvest does NOT require the use of a sport fishing license.
 - Subsistence fisheries are defined as fisheries on salmon stocks for which the Alaska Board of Fisheries has found there are positive customary and traditional uses, in addition to federal subsistence fisheries that have no state equivalent.
 5. MUST self-certify that their household has incurred a negative impact on their ability to access subsistence salmon fishery resources in 2022 that was directly or indirectly related to the fishery disaster.

Alaska Residency (criteria #1) will be verified using State of Alaska databases (PFD, ADF&G licensing and subsistence permits, or CFEC permits). The Social Security Numbers provided (criteria 2c) will be checked using Internal Revenue Service TIN matching system. **Only individuals whose information is successfully verified will be considered eligible.**

ADF&G recommends that all remaining subsistence funds, after direct payments to households, be distributed as direct payments to support the development, administration, and operation of cultural education programs to help mitigate the impacts of limited subsistence salmon fisheries on the intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge and practices. Receiving fishery disaster funds for cultural education programs does not explicitly authorize the harvest of weak salmon stocks. ADF&G is seeking comments on this suggested use of disaster funds and the appropriate entity/entities to receive cultural education funds.

Communities – 5% (~\$920,000): ADF&G is recommending direct payments to municipalities and boroughs that rely on revenue generated from Chignik salmon landings and other economic activities related to the salmon fishery. These local government entities were negatively impacted by the fishery disaster because fishery revenues comprise a significant portion of local operating budgets and are used to support education, public works, ports and harbors, and other services. If landings occur in the bounds of a municipality and borough, landing tax revenues are shared 50/50 between each entity.

ADF&G recommends direct payments to affected municipalities and boroughs with a demonstrated loss of salmon landings due to the fishery disaster. ADF&G allocates 5% to affected communities to help mitigate losses in fish tax and other economic losses due to the fishery disaster.

ADF&G identifies the City of Chignik and the Lake and Peninsula Borough as eligible entities to receive community disaster funds. Community funds will be divided equally between the City of Chignik Bay and Lake and Peninsula Borough.

Infrastructure – 40% (~\$7,390,000): ADF&G acknowledges the funding allocation for the 2022 disaster exceeds the estimated commercial revenue loss and understands that NOAA Fisheries provided additional funds to address subsistence and other impacts of the fishery disaster. Based on initial public comments, ADF&G recommends a portion of the disaster funds be used to develop, repair, or improve fishery-related public infrastructure. This may include projects directly related to the management of the commercial and subsistence salmon fisheries (e.g., weir modernization, genetic sampling, etc.), habitat conservation and restoration, and/or other infrastructure projects that support the fishery. ADF&G is requesting comments on specific projects that should be considered for infrastructure funding.

Commercial Harvesters – 20% (~\$3,698,000): The proposed funding amount is informed by the total estimated loss to the commercial fishery.

The harvester allocation is divided into two pools, one for vessel permit holders (80%) and one for vessel crew members (20%). While most salmon seine operations employ an average of three crew members, each earning a ~10% share, the 80/20 split between permit holders and crew members considers the higher initial costs, higher level of investment, and risk that are generally borne by the vessel operator.

Permit holders (80% of harvester pool ~\$2,958,400)

Proposed eligibility criteria for Chignik permit holders:

1. The S01L permit holder must have made a Chignik salmon landing in 2022.
2. Permit holder must have a loss in 2022 gross revenue for all salmon as compared to the permit holder's average gross revenue for all salmon in the best three out of five years (2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2021).

ADF&G recommends including hardship provisions for permit holders who do not meet the first eligibility criteria due to an allowable cause. Allowable causes may include vessel mechanical issues, personal or family medical emergencies, or a death in the family that resulted in the permit holder not being able to make a Chignik salmon landing in 2022. Permit holders with an allowable cause must have renewed their S01L permit in 2022. ADF&G proposes to use the 2022 average fleet revenue of \$135,220 as a proxy for those who qualify based on hardship provisions. ADF&G is seeking comments on this or other potential hardship provisions (e.g. should crew be included).

Funds will be paid to the person listed as the 2022 'Permit holder' and temporary emergency transfer permit holders (transferees) in the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) database. Permit holders who certified they were unable to participate in 2022 to qualify for an emergency transfer or permit holders who permanently transferred a permit away in 2022 will not receive payments.

ADF&G considered the past practice of providing a base payment and additional tiered payment for S01L permit holders. However, the 2022 season was open, and some permit holders have an estimated

loss in gross revenue for all salmon that is very small compared to their best three out of five years. Due to these circumstances, **ADF&G proposes each permit holder meeting the eligibility criteria will receive payment proportional to their estimated loss.** If more than one eligible permit holder made landings on the same vessel in 2022, the total payment will be calculated at the vessel level and divided between eligible permit holders pro rata to each permit holder's loss. Estimated loss is calculated on an individual vessel level as the difference in gross revenue between 2022 and the average of their best three out of five years (2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2021) for all salmon. ADF&G estimates that 31 permit holders on 28 vessels may qualify for disaster relief based on the proposed criteria.

ADF&G is also seeking comments on the following issues:

- Should permit holders who did not participate in 2022 be eligible for payment, and if included, how should those payments be determined?
- Should permit holders who joined the fishery late in the season or showed minimal participation receive compensation proportional to their estimated loss?

Vessel Crew (20% of harvester pool ~\$739,600) ADF&G proposes **equal payments** to vessel crew meeting all criteria, not to exceed \$8,000. Unused crew funds should be redistributed to permit holders.

Direct payments to minors are not authorized by the terms of the Federal grant but may be authorized to guardians in the same household on behalf of an eligible minor.

Proposed eligibility criteria for vessel crew:

1. Crew member must have held a 2022 commercial crew license or a 2022 CFEC permit for any fishery. This information will be verified using the ADF&G Licensing database and the CFEC permit database.
2. Crew member must provide information to show they worked as crew for a qualified permit holder, based on a 2022 crew contract or an affidavit from the permit holder or vessel owner.
3. Crew member must not be eligible for fishery disaster funds as a Chignik permit holder.

Processors – 17% (~\$3,140,000) ADF&G proposes direct payments to Chignik salmon processing companies meeting the criteria be eligible for payment based on the estimated exvessel value loss using Commercial Operator's Annual Reports (COAR) buying data. COAR buying data are used to determine eligibility and payment for processors because those data are linked to the salmon harvesting location.

Proposed processor eligibility criteria:

1. Processing company must have processed Chignik salmon in 2022.
2. Processing company must have a demonstrated loss in exvessel value for Chignik salmon in 2022 as compared to the average of the best three out of five years among 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2021.

Disaster payments to processing companies are proposed to be **pro rata** to the company's demonstrated loss.

Program Support – 0.06% - (~11,100): ADF&G proposes funding for staff working on fishery disaster spend plan development and implementation in coordination with PSMFC.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DFG, ComFisheriesDisasters \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: 2022 Chignik Fisheries Disaster Spend Plan
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 7:12:27 PM

Commissioner Vincent-Lang
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
1255 W. 8th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Commissioner Lang,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2022 Chignik Fisheries Disaster Spend Plan. The City of Chignik not only relies on our fish landing tax, but on the sales tax that is levied on fuel, parts, gear and other items that are needed for the commercial fishery. These taxes support our community as a whole, but in particular our waterfront infrastructure that serves commercial and subsistence activities. Given the multiple disasters over the last 10 enueyears, it has become increasingly difficult to provide services that support the community and the loss of a long-time processor has further reduced that ability to support. In the table below, the disasters have wild swings in raw fish tax, sales tax, and moorage revenue. Additionally, I understand that funding from the disaster declaration can be dedicated by PSFMC for community projects that enhance the fishery, including local infrastructure that supports the fishery. In your spend plan, the City requests that a portion of the funds be set aside for waterfront infrastructure projects that are vitally needed to replace or repair the infrastructure that was taken when the processor pulled out of the community. Below is a chart of finances for fiscal years 2019-2023.

	Raw Fish Tax	Sales	Moorage
FY			
2019	65,165	22,021	47,882
FY			
2020	158,820	13,134	18,862
FY			
2021	1,144	8,683	12,177
FY			
2022	12,089	14,757	29,726
FY			
2023	109,027	14,177	34,253

And since the processors have left town the landing tax now goes to other communities which is extra revenue for them.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Robert Carpenter

Mayor

City of Chignik

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DFG, ComFisheriesDisasters \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: 2022 Chignik Fishery Disaster comments
Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2026 8:27:59 AM

Hello,

I like how the previous plans have been drafted. I would like again for there to be some fixed portion for permit holders to help cover expenses and then the rest be divided percentage wise by catch that year and a catch average over one or all of the previous 3 years they may have fished. For the crew portion I would like for them to have either held a crew license or a CFEC permit and have a signed contract or a signed letter by a permit holder stating they were a participant in the Chignik fishery that year.

Thanks,
Amelia Rowland

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DFG, ComFisheriesDisasters \(DFG sponsored\)](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Dale Carlson comment on the 2022 Chignik Salmon Disaster Spend Plan
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 9:45:16 AM

Dear Karla:

You already have one comment email/letter from me dated July 1, and I won't repeat those arguments although I strongly stand by them – please review those when reading this.

Although I could not attend the listening session on July 10, it is my understanding that you said that for disaster years where there was fishing opportunity and landings were made that you are strongly inclined to make landings a requirement.

the 2022 Chignik salmon disaster was such a year and if that requirement is included it will disqualify me and I very much need to be included.

I suggest that at least a substantial portion of the award go to Chignik permit holders with more than ten years of fishery participation as permit holders in Chignik who personally worked their boats in any capacity during the summer of 2022 get compensation from the 2022 disaster funds.

As before, please consider myself for this 2022 application for disaster relief, as I really do need it.

Thank you again for hearing me.

Dale Carlson

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DFG, ComFisheriesDisasters \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: RE: Chignik
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2026 1:56:34 PM

Good morning to whom it may concern

My name

Dale Carlson F/V TAJAHA life long fisherman

I have fished area L Chignik entire life 50 plus years.

Held permit in only Chignik and no other district like other recent newcomers to fish Chignik area for fin fish.

I have a home and large shop in Chignik bay I am Alaska resident

In 2022 just like all the other years in April I purchase my boat insurance 18k to 20 k per year for salmon fishing .

In 2022 I salmon tendered in Bristol Bay. My internet was to come back to chignik and fish as I always have upon my arrival in late July.

I own my own boat and permit. And have not leased or transferred at anytime.

All my groceries recipient s for salmon crew and freight on costal transportation from Seattle like I always do.

My airfare for crew on Grant and lake Clark air from Anchorage to chignik. And Alaska air from Seattle to Anchorage.

I have a boat stall in chignik harbor that I pay yearly.

I sincerely appreciate you taking the time to hear me. Please conceder myself for this 2022 application for disaster relief. As i do need it

Why should I be penalized for trying to make a living by tendering?? While some other s just sit and sat around waiting for hand out. I have worked hard fishing my whole life. Look at my track record on my permit holder card for area L Chignik

Thank you again for hearing me.

Dale Carlson

Comments received at public listening session on 7.10.26

Chuck McCallum

- George Anderson and Chuck both wanted to provide comments suggesting a structured process for review of extraordinary circumstances, exemptions, and exceptions. Consider including a hardship provisions for those that could not participate in 2022.

Jordan Keeler

- Suggest funding city projects and more funds for community allocation, there is a higher loss to the community than just fish tax.

Tim Gervais

- Would like to see the process sped up, could fishers have access to loan programs that are available within months of the disaster rather than years later.

Ben Allen

- Economic disaster continues due to the loss of buyers in the area; can we get funding to rehabilitate the city and keep operations going?
- Funding to provide the services buyers used to provide with a goal of bringing processors back to the community.
- Grant potential for cleaning and utilizing the empty buildings, rehabilitating ice machines, and/or building cold storage capability.

Axel

- Approves of the 2021 Chignik plan and suggests leaving criteria for participation as is

Robert Carpenter

- Funds should primarily be given to the harvesters, comments that fish are being delivered to other communities since the processors have left which is extra revenue for those communities.