Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting and Election Announcement

The Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee will meet on
Tuesday, November 10th beginning at 6:30 PM
In Person at **Bethel ADF&G office at 570 4th Ave in Bethel, AK**
and via Teleconference or Zoom.
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83017534191?pwd=0ZHb8SR4lA1Rv2QAbFykTXWdvIgzJ7.1
or CALL 1 253 215 8782
Meeting ID: 830 1753 4191 Passcode: BETH

Anyone who is interested is encouraged to attend.

Agenda items include elections for 1 Undesignated seat, discussion of Board of Game proposals, updates from ADF&G Staff, and other fishing, hunting, and trapping business or concerns.
The Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee is a collection of community members from all user groups that come together, discuss Fish and Game issues and recommend changes to current regulations. They also represent their community before the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game at board meetings.

This meeting is open to the public.

For more information contact:
Savannah Hollingworth, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Western Regional Coordinator | Boards Support Section
(907) 543-2931| c. (907)545-8166 | savannah.hollingworth@alaska.gov

For toll-free call in number, please contact the Western Regional Coordinator

Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Tuesday, November 10th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
Bethel ADF&G Conference Room & Via Web Conference
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83017534191?pwd=0ZHb8SR4lA1Rv2QAbFykTXWdvIgzJ7.1
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Roll Call

Name	Present	Teleconference	Absent
David Humphrey			
Jon La Valle			
Michael Glore			
Seth Madole			
Travis Burks			
Cole Nance			
Avery Hoffman			
Lucinda Alexie			
Sam Hancock			
Caleb Miller			
*Vacant			
Alternates?			

Number Needed for Quorum: 7

1) **Welcome**
2) **Invocation-** Moment of Silence
3) **Approval of Agenda**
4) **Previous Meeting Minutes**
   a) **8.25.2026**
   b) **9.29.2026**
5) **Election for 1 Undesignated Seat**
6) **Reports**
   a) Chair
   b) ADFG DWC
   c) Board Support Updates
7) **Public Comment** – Keep to 3 mins
8) **Old Business**
   a) Travel to meetings
      i) Kotzebue – either Mike or Avery – discussed 9.29.2026
      ii) Interior – Sam Hancock; Alternate - discussed 9.29.2026
9) **New Business**
      i) Board of Game Proposals, see chart
      ii) Board of Fisheries ACRs
10) **Other Business** as necessary or desired
11) **Next Meeting**
12) **Adjourn**

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Alaska Board of Game Western Arctic/Western Region **Meeting Proposals** January 23-26, 2027 | Kotzebue, AK			
Proposal Number	**Proposal Description**		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	**Number Support**	**Number Oppose**	**Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes**
Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.			
5	Add a new section to 5 AAC 92 regarding consideration of environmental change in game management decisions.		
6	Amend 5 AAC 85.025 to add a population-based closure for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd		
7	Reduce the bag limit for caribou in GMUs 23, 22, 26A to four bulls and restrict cow harvest		
8	Reduce the bag limit for taking caribou in Units 22, 23 and southwest portion of 26A to four caribou per year per hunter, only one of which can be a cow.		
9	Modify the current caribou bag limit in Units 22, 23, and the southwestern portion of 26A to four bulls per regulatory year and close the cow caribou hunt.		
10	Reduce the bag limit for caribou in Units 22, 23, and the southwest portion of 26A for resident hunters to four bull caribou and no cows for all open and 'to be announced' seasons.		
11	Reduce the bag limit for caribou in GMUs 22, 23, 26A to 4 bulls per year		
12	Modify the caribou bag limit in GMUs 23 and 26A to 5 bulls and eliminate cow harvest		
13	Eliminate the cow caribou season for the Western Arctic Herd (WAH) in Units 22, 23 and the SW portion of 26A, as follows:		

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Meeting Proposals
January 23-26, 2027 | Kotzebue, AK

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	**Number Support**	**Number Oppose**	**Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes**
14	In Units 22 and 23, caribou taken by nonresident hunters and hunters ineligible for federal subsistence harvest under drawing permit hunts may be taken by bow and arrow only.		
15	For all non-local, non-subsistence hunters participating under RC907 registration permits and general hunt conditions, restrict methods and means to bow and arrow only.		
16	Restrict nonresident caribou harvest in GMUs 26A, 23, and 22.		
17	Close caribou hunting to non-residents in units 22, 23, 26A		
18	Close all nonresident caribou hunts in Units 22, 23, and 26.		
19	Limit the WACH bag limit in Unit 22 and 23 to four caribou total, with the same season dates currently in the subunits.		
20	Establish an Intensive Management plan for the Western Arctic caribou herd in Units 22, 23, and 26A.		
21	Establish and implement an Intensive Management plan in Units 22, 23, and the southwestern portion of 26A, for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH)		
22	Establish an intensive management plan within the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH)		
23	Create an Intensive Management Plan to benefit the Western Arctic Caribou Herd		
24	Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A		

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Meeting Proposals
January 23-26, 2027 | Kotzebue, AK

Proposal Number	**Proposal Description**		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	**Number Support**	**Number Oppose**	**Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes**
25	Restrict nonresident caribou hunting in GMU 23		
26	Allow the use of artificial lights and bait to hunt grizzly/brown bears in GMU 23		
27	Modify the resident season for caribou in GMUs 22B and 22D.		
28	Close the nonresident caribou hunt in Unit 22		
29	From Sanaguich river drainage to York mountains to be closed state and federal		
30	Modify the hunt areas for caribou in Unit 22B and 22D		
31	Align the caribou hunting seasons in Unit 22 by extending the “May Be Announced” bag limit in Unit 22		
32	Revise the GMU 22 moose ANS to 350–450 moose annually up from the current ANS of 250–300		
33	Limit moose hunting permits to one permit per household in Units 22B Remainder, 22C, and 22D; and Require hunters to select a designed hunt area at the time of permit issuance.		
34	Extend the RM843 winter antlered bull moose season to January 1 – February 28.		
35	Change dates of DM845 from Nov 1st- Dec 31st to Aug 25-Sep14		
36	Change moose hunting season dates to Sep 6- Sep 20		
37	Establish a resident registration permit hunt for moose in 22E.		

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38	Lengthen the season of DM855 from September 1-14 to August 25-September 14		
39	Amend hunting season in 22E for "one antlered bull" from August 1-March 15 to August 1-December 31		
40	Change hunting dates for Musk Ox hunt in GMU 22 to August 1-March 31		
41	Extend the musk oxen hunting season in Units 22B, D, E and 23		
42	Extend the muskox hunting season to end on March 31		
43	Make the GMU 22 Musk ox Tier II permit a household permit		
44	Add unit 22A to the acceptable places in which hunters can establish a black bear baiting site		
45	Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures within Unit 22.		
46	Reduce the minimum distance from 1 mile to 3/4 mile from a house or permanent dwelling for setting up a bear bait station		
47	Allow the sale and/or barter of gall bladder of brown bear in Units 22A, B, D, and E		
48	Align the brown bear hunting seasons in Units 22B, 22C, 22D, and 22E for nonresidents.		
49	Convert nonresident brown bear hunt DB690 in Units 22D and 22E from a Drawing Permit hunt to a Registration Permit hunt		

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Proposal Number	**Proposal Description**		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	**Number Support**	**Number Oppose**	**Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes**
50	Do away with the DB690. Make the non-resident brown bear tags in 22D & E a registration hunt that allows hunters to obtain tags annually.		
51	Change the hunting season and bag limit for coyote in Unit 22 to no closed season and no bag limit.		
52	Change the trapping season for coyote in Unit 22 to no closed season		
53	Reauthorize the resident antlerless moose season in Unit 26		
55	Establish a subsistence registration permit hunt for caribou in the Cape Newenham and Goodnews Bay region.		
56	Allow the take of caribou from a motor driven boat in GMU 18		
57	Lengthen the resident only registration moose hunt RM620 in Unit 18 by two weeks to end October 15.		
58	Modify the RM615 hunt boundary description		
60	Move Unit 18, Zone 1 hunt boundary.		
61	Create a Lower Yukon River Management Area within GMU 18		
62	Establish the Andreafski Wilderness Controlled Use Area (CUA) within Unit 18 and restrict the use of aircraft in the new CUA.		
63	Lengthen the resident moose hunting season in GMU 18 remainder to open July 16.		

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Proposal Number	**Proposal Description**		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	**Number Support**	**Number Oppose**	**Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes**
64	Shorten the non-resident fall moose hunting season in GMU 18 remainder to open Sept. 10.		
65	Reauthorize the resident antlerless moose season in Unit 18		
66	Restrict the sale of moose antlers in Unit 18, unless naturally shed or used in handicraft		
67	Limit the sale of moose antlers in unit 18 to only those that are naturallyshed.		
68	Upon harvested moose or at time of kill, a portion of the antler must be sawed off to destroy the trophy value.		
69	Allow the take of moose from a motor driven boat in GMU 18.		
70	Modify the Musk Ox hunts DX001 and DX003 resident and nonresident allocations.		
71	Modify Musk Ox hunts DX001 and DX003 to resident only hunts.		
72	Limit the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 18 Muskox drawing hunt DX001, to “up to” 10% of the available permits.		
73	Limit the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 18 Muskox drawing hunt DX003, to “Up To” 10% of the available permits.		
74	Change the location of Nelson Island muskox registration permit availability to reflect the change from Newtok to Mertarvik.		
75	Open a mainland musk oxen hunt in Unit 18		

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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	**Number Support**	**Number Oppose**	**Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes**
76	Add muskoxen in Unit 18 to game that is allowed to be taken by proxy hunt		
78	Allow the use of cellular trail cameras for spring bearbaiting in unit 18.		
79	Increase the wolf harvest limit in GMU 18 from 10 to 15 wolves.		
81	Allow the use a motorized boat under power to position a hunter for a shot on a beaver in a river, lake, or pond in GMU 18.		

Minutes Recorded By: _____
Minutes Approved By: _____
Date: _____

Bethel Advisory Committee Roster

Name	**Title**	**Term Expiration**
Michael Glore	Chair (2028)	06/2028
Sam Hancock	Vice-Chair (2028)	06/2029
Dave Humphrey	Secretary (2028)	06/2027
Lucinda Alexie		06/2029
Jon La Valle		06/2027
Vacant		06/2027
Caleb Miller		06/2029
Seth Madole		06/2028
Travis Burks		06/2028
Cole Nance		06/2028
Avery Hoffman		06/2029
Vacant	Alternate	06/2026
Vacant	Alternate	06/2026

SEATS: 11 undesignated plus 2 TOTAL alternates for the committee

6 needed for quorum when all seats are filled

Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Tuesday, August 25th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
Bethel ADF&G Conference Room & Via Web Conference

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86225764595?pwd=AeHdAgwH6QcfbeY3WSbBmZPbNyKiLc.1
Call in Number: 1 (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 862 2576 4595 Passcode: BETH

Roll Call

Name	Present	Teleconference	Absent
David Humphrey			x
Alissa Rogers			x
Jon La Valle	X		
Michael Glore	X		
Seth Madole			x
Travis Burks	X		
Cole Nance	X		
Avery Hoffman	X		
*~~Jeremy Brink~~			x
*Lucinda Alexie	X		
*Sam Hancock	X		
Caleb Miller	X		
Alternates?			

1) **Welcome**
2) **Invocation-** Moment of Silence
3) **Approval of Agenda, Previous Meeting Minutes, Minutes for 4/20/26 approved unanimously**
4) **Three seats declared vacant and up for election tonight.** The term for these seats would expire 6/2029**.** Travis Burks nominates Caleb Miller. Jon Lavalle nominated Lucinda Alexie and Sam Hancock. Three seats available, three candidates, no voting needed.
5) **Officer Election for Chair, Vice-chair, and Secretary** – terms would begin at this meeting and end in the fall of 2028.
   a) **Travis nominates Mike Glore for Chair**
   b) **Jon Lavalle nominates Sam Hancock for Vice-Chair**
   c) **Sam nominates Dave Humphrey for Secretary**
      i) **Mike Glore received 8 votes for chair**
      ii) **Sam Hancock received 7 votes for vice-chair**
      iii) **Dave Humphrey received 7 votes for secretary**

   No further nominations for roles, so, no vote was taken.
6) **Reports**
   a) Chair – Start thinking about who should be sent to the Board of Game meetings this year.
      i) Reminds the group to go through the Proposal books independently, familiarize self with content.
7) **Public Comment** – Keep to 3 mins, no comments tonight.
8) **Old Business**
   a) No review tonight.
9) **New Business**
   a) Planning for Board of Game 2026-2027 season, meeting planned
      i) 2026-2027 Board Cycle – Board of Game tentative Meeting dates
         - Western Arctic and Western Region Meeting – January 22-26
         - Interior and Eastern Arctic - March 19-26

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ii) Delegates not decided at this meeting, but Avery, Sam and Mike all discussed willingness to go to one or both BOG meetings

10) Other Business Next meeting September 29th, 6:30 PM.

11) Adjourn: 7:08

Minutes Recorded By: David Humphrey, Secretary
Minutes Approved By: _____
Date: _____

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Call in Number: 1 (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 838 7003 8865 Passcode: BETH

Roll Call

Name	Present	Teleconference	Absent
David Humphrey	X		
Alissa Rogers			X
Jon La Valle	X		
Michael Glore	X		
Seth Madole	X		
Travis Burks			Excused
Cole Nance			Excused
Avery Hoffman	X		
Lucinda Alexie	X		
Sam Hancock	X		
Caleb Miller	X		
Alternates?			

Number Needed for Quorum: 7

1) **Welcome**
2) **Invocation-** Moment of Silence
3) **Approval of Agenda**, Sam approved,, Jon Lavalle second
4) **Previous Meeting Minutes, 8.25.2026 not availabl, approve at next meeting**
5) **Reports**
   a) Chair
      i) Review of attendance policy in bylaws. Absence from three consecutive meetings without reasonable justification, as determined by majority vote of committee.
      ii) Attendance – excused – text chairmen or vice-chairmen, Savannah also willing to relay info to chair and vice chair.
      iii) Motion to remove Alissa Rogers – Sam, second by Lavalle. Motion unanimously approved.
   b) ADFG DWC; Mulchatna Caribou update – Tood Rinaldi
      i) Overall, a very positive report. The program has resulted in increased calf survival and positive population growth for the western Mulchatna herd. Reported on details of the past four years of the Intensive Management (IM) project, and progress of herd. Western caribou numbers are up 22%, which is supported by a very precise estimate base on finding 100% of collars placed. The eastern group of Mulchatna caribou numbers are not as positive as the western herd, and the IM program may be a contributing factor. The IM program, population estimates, and management of this herd is very resource intensive, and is one of the most demanding projects the state has taken on.
6) **Public Comment** – Keep to 3 mins, no comments tonight.
7) **Old Business**
   a) Travel to meetings
   b) Kotzebue – either Mike or Avery
   c) Interior – Sam Hancock; Alternate -

8) **New Business**

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i) Proposal 54, extend the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Moratorium, for an additional three years. Brought forward by Sam, second Avery, none oppose.
ii) Proposal 59, create a draw hunt for youth hunts aged 10-17 in Unit 18 Zone 1, August 1 - Keith presented on moose statistics in the area.. It looks liked the population of moose relevant for this hunt, has leveled off. Moose may have moved to zone 2 due to snowfall. Overall, the presentation supports that this proposal is appropriate from a biology standpoint. Brought forward by Sam, second Jon,, none oppose.
iii) Proposal 77- Add July 1- October 31 to bear baiting season. Patrick presented on relevant data Our brown bear harvest is very small, 2025 had ~10 bears taken. The population could handle taking ~100 bears a year in unit 18 as a whole. Brought forward by Sam, second Jon, none oppose
iv) Proposal 80 - 19A Tier II to registration hunt. Further discussion not had tonight, unanimously supported by AC.
v) Proposal 90 - Repeal 40 HP restriction on Holitna - unanimously approved.
vi) Proposal 96 - Amend RM682 to allow permit holders to hold and use other valid moose permits in the Kuskokwim drainage. The AC feels this unfairly penalizes residents that live near the Kuskokwim. For example, you can hold a tag for a road system moose hunt and participate in this hunt. However, one cannot have a Kuskokwim drainage tag and use this tag to hunt 19E.
vii) Proposal 100 - Make the RM650 permit available online. Avery did not support this, Dave abstained from voting. During voting, Jon motioned to table this until next meeting for further discussion as there may be further refinement of ideas and language. Proposal was tabled. Josh Pearce was decided to be a good resource for questions, if he is available for next meeting.
viii) Proposal 126 - Amend bear baiting in Unit 19 Brought forward by Sam, second Jon none opposed.
ix) Proposal 127 - Have Unit 18 match Unit 19 to have year round harvest of beaver with small game hunting license. Unanimously supported.
x) Proposal 128 - Have Unit 18 match Unit 19 to have year round harvest of beaver with trapping license.
xi) **Other Business** as necessary or desired

9) Next Meeting: Nov. 10th , 6:30 PM tentative.

10) Adjourn: 8:16

Minutes Recorded By: David Humphrey, Secretary
Minutes Approved By: _____
Date: _____

ACR 6
Establish a 10 consecutive day closure between June 10 and June 23 for seine and drift gillnet gear in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365).

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.
5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.
This ACR requests re-instatement of Proposal #127 (RC245) approved by the Alaska Board of Fisheries at the February 2026 Alaska Peninsula Area M meeting. The Board of Fisheries voted (4-3) to **"Establish a 10 consecutive day closure between June 10 and June 23 for seine and drift gillnet gear.** ***Amended with substitute language found in RC245. Further amended (A) on the top of page 2 of RC245, changing 16 hours per day to 24 hours per day.***

Our original proposal problem statement read as follows:
The Alaska Peninsula / Shumigan Islands (Area M) is managed by a 3-year Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) cycle instead of an in-season escapement management as almost all other Alaska salmon fisheries are regulated.

In February of 2023, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted a South Unimak and Shumigan Islands Management Plan that may have encouraged under-reporting of harvest of Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) chum, while the chum stocks that the Plan intended to protect clearly remain in increasingly critical condition across Western.

Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) chum and king salmon have been in severe decline to the point of extirpation in some discrete stocks. That situation only worsened in the 2023 and 2024 AYK salmon seasons. This includes the Yukon River, Kuskokwim River, Unalakleet River and the Nushagak River. The predominant AYK chum producing rivers are the Yukon and the Kuskokwim. The relationships between the intercept of chum in Area M and the declines of CWAK chum has never been adequately established to understand the social and ecological impacts of Area M fisheries on AYK salmon and subsistence communities. But in times of severe concern over the sustainability of AYK stocks, it is not a matter of every fish counting but every egg counting for fecundity on the spawning grounds.

The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Policy (SSP/ 5AAC 39.222) requires that "the burden of conservation" of a depleted species be shared. In 2022, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, along with several tribal consortiums, wrote a letter to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game noting "If ADF&G does not limit June commercial harvest opportunities within Area M, the ensuing unmitigated interception of AYK-bound chum all but assures the destruction of AYK Region economies and traditional subsistence lifestyles, and places the entire burden of conservation on the shoulders of AYK Region subsistence users. The survival of our communities depends upon ADF&G's intervention." Even more significant, it could mean the extirpation of some chum stocks entirely.

Any closure intended to protect migrating non-target species must be long enough for a significant number of fish to completely transit the South Peninsula fishing districts. Further, for a closure to permit a substantial number of fish to transit the entire fishing area, it should be at least 10 days long and focused on the peak of the chum migration.

Actions since the February 2026 Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island/Chignik Finfish Meeting:
This is one of five Board of Fisheries actions that were vacated by the Department of Law following the February 2026 meeting. Other regulations adopted by the Board were delayed in their implementation. To date, no public explanation or justification for these actions has been provided. In the absence of a clear rationale or transparent review process, the vacating of these regulations should be considered arbitrary and capricious. There is a distinct lack of consistency and fairness in the decision-making process by the Department of Law.

On April 3, 2026, the Aleutians East Borough, Area M Seiners Association, Concerned Area M Fishermen and the Native Village of Unga, filed a Complaint For Preliminary Injunction, Declaratory Judgment and Permanent Injunction (Administrative Procedure Act, As 44.62) in the Superior Court of the State of Alaska based, on alleged ethics violations of 3 Board of Fisheries members.

On May 13, 2026, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (BSFA) filed an Order Regarding Joint Notice and Stipulation of Dismissal (Case Motion #10) and an Order On Motion To Intervene (Case Motion #7) claiming their interests would not be adequately represented by the Attorney General's office.

On May 20, 2026, Acting Attorney General Cori Mills of the State of Alaska vacated 5 proposals, including #127, named in contention in the lawsuit. On May 22, 2026, the State of Alaska dismissed the lawsuit. These two actions reversed the action of Proposal #127 which was intended to reduce the amount of chum salmon "bycatch" in the June sockeye fishery in order to increase depleted chum stocks in Western Alaska tributaries. Therefore, Area M management of the June fishery reverted back to a voluntary fleet Adaptive Management Plan which raised many concerns over excessive chum bycatch, with essentially no enforcement and a confusing non-application of "triggers" designed to limit bycatch.

Subsequent court filings by BSFA on May 26, 2026 did not result in a positive response.

Because of the unique and unprecedented circumstances resulting from the February 2026 Board of Fisheries meeting, there has been no venue for publicly adjudicating the merits of the complaint. This raises many questions on the validity of the State's intervention in a Board of Fisheries decision and has created a serious breach of trust in the public process.

In addition, this heightens the concern of Western Alaska over the State's intent to protect a vital subsistence species.

This has always been an issue of conservation. (See Section #4) Both in February 2023 and in February 2026, Western Alaskan residents, reeling from escalating decreases in Chinook and chum salmon, unable to meet ANS (Amounts Necessary for Subsistence) or even to harvest at all, have

petitioned the Alaska Board of Fisheries to restrict the Area M June fishery on the basis of the high historical bycatch of chum salmon. Both meetings were highly contentious, but at the 2026 meeting, a reasonable compromise was reached with RC245. Now that compromise has been arbitrarily vacated and the result is a much higher bycatch in 2026 of depleted chum stocks in the Area M June fishery.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?
Reinstatement of Proposal #127 (as RC245) that was approved by the Alaska Board of Fisheries on a 4-3 vote February 2026 to **"Establish a 10 consecutive day closure between June 10 and June 23 for seine and drift gillnet gear.** ***Amended with substitute language found in RC245. Further amended (A) on the top of page 2 of RC245, changing 16 hours per day to 24 hours per day.***

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED BELOW.

for a fishery conservation purpose or reason:
The BOF took sweeping action not only in the Area M meeting, but statewide to limit interception of Chinook and chum to ensure passage of those species to the spawning grounds. Only in the Aleutian Peninsula (Area M) did these regulations not take place. The net result is an increase in harvest of chum in the 2026 season, directly contradicting the intent of the Board of Fisheries and increasing harvest, rather than decreasing it. If you take mandatory non-retention of Chinook salmon that was passed to defeat data gathering on Chinook mortality (and led to two closures in the 2025 season), the end result is actually increased fishing opportunity and not conservation.

to correct an error in regulation:
The BOF made its intent clear, and to date the Department of Law has published no finding of Ethical violations, which they would have been forced to publish had there been such a violation. As a result, the BOF's will has been circumvented by administrative gamesmanship and obfuscation of facts.

to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:
The BOF did not consider that its intent would be administratively circumvented by the Department of Law. Without a finding of conflict, the Department of Law ran out the clock on the BOF's makeup in hopes of finding a more commercial fishing friendly board.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?
There will be increasing unregulated losses of chum salmon bound for Western Alaska tributaries. The integrity of the process has been compromised. The State made a commitment through the Board of Fish but subsequently failed to honor and uphold that commitment. Damage has been done. Legal and legislative options are being exercised. The most effective path forward is to restore the Board of Fisheries' regulatory process and ensure it can once again function as intended—with decisions made through a transparent, public process that provides certainty, accountability, and confidence for all stakeholders.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

The conservation of wild salmon is a fundamental principle reflected throughout the State's statutes and regulations and remains the highest management priority. Achieving sustainable escapement is essential not only for the long-term viability of individual salmon stocks but also for the continued sustainability of Alaska's fisheries. The Board recognized this principle in adopting these regulations, which were designed to focus harvest on abundant sockeye salmon while minimizing impacts on wild Chinook and chum salmon stocks that have experienced decades of decline. Although fisheries management influences harvest rates, state law and policy require that management decisions prioritize the long-term sustainability and conservation of wild salmon populations.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.
N/A

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE FISHERY THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.
The subsistence users of the Orutsararmiut Tribe and the broader AYK Region have carried the burden of conservation for CWAK chum during years of severe decline, taking on closures and restrictions while still relying on these salmon for food security, cultural tradition, and community well-being. ONC’s leadership has consistently advocated that interception in Area M contributes to reduced returns of CWAK chum to the Kuskokwim River and other AYK systems, urging management agencies to acknowledge these impacts and ensure that conservation responsibility is shared fairly across all fisheries.

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF FISHERIES
Proposal #127 (RC245) passed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in February 2026 but vacated by the Alaska Attorney General in May 2026, subsequent to the arbitrary and capricious dismissal of an active lawsuit. This is highly unprecedented and may be in violation of the Administrative Procedures Act.

SUBMITTED BY: Orutsararmiut Native Council

ACR 7
Establish a 10 consecutive day closure between June 10 and June 23 for seine and drift gillnet gear in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.365).

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.
5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.
This ACR is a request for re-instatement of Proposal #127 (as RC245) that was approved by the Alaska Board of Fisheries at the Alaska Peninsula Area M meeting, February 2026, 4-3 vote to **"Establish a 10 consecutive day closure between June 10 and June 23 for seine and drift gillnet gear.** ***Amended with substitute language found in RC245. Further amended (A) on the top of page 2 of RC245, changing 16 hours per day to 24 hours per day.***

(From the original proposal submitted by Orutsararmiut Native Council (EF-F26-143)

The Alaska Peninsula /Shumigan Islands (Area M) is managed by a 3-year Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) cycle instead of an in-season escapement management as almost all other Alaska salmon fisheries are regulated. In February of 2023, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted a South Unimak and Shumigan Islands Management Plan that may have encouraged under-reporting of harvest of Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) chum, while the chum stocks that the Plan intended to protect clearly remain in increasingly critical condition across Western. Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) chum and king salmon have been in severe decline to the point of extirpation in some discrete stocks. That situation only worsened in the 2023 and 2024 AYK salmon seasons. This includes the Yukon River, Kuskokwim River, Unalakleet River and the Nushagak River. The predominant AYK chum producing rivers are the Yukon and the Kuskokwim. The relationships between the intercept of chum in Area M and the declines of CWAK chum has never been adequately established to understand the social and ecological impacts of Area M fisheries on AYK salmon and subsistence communities. But in times of severe concern over the sustainability of AYK stocks, it is not a matter of every fish counting but every egg counting for fecundity on the spawning grounds.

The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Policy (SSP/ 5AAC 39.222) requires that "the burden of conservation" of a depleted species be shared. In 2022, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, along with several tribal consortiums, wrote a letter to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game noting "If ADF&G does not limit June commercial harvest opportunities within Area M, the ensuing unmitigated interception of AYK-bound chum all but assures the destruction of AYK Region economies and traditional subsistence lifestyles, and places the entire burden of conservation on the shoulders of AYK Region subsistence users. The survival of our communities depends upon ADF&G's intervention." Even more significant, it could mean the extirpation of some chum stocks entirely.

Any closure intended to protect migrating non-target species must be long enough for a significant number of fish to completely transit the South Peninsula fishing districts. Further, for a closure to

permit a substantial number of fish to transit the entire fishing area, it should be at least 10 days long and focused on the peak of the chum migration.

BACKGROUND: (as of August 18, 2026)

This regulation is one of five Board of Fisheries actions that were vacated by the Department of Law following the February 2026 Board meeting. Other regulations adopted by the Board were delayed in their implementation. To date, no public explanation or justification for these actions has been provided. In the absence of a clear rationale or transparent review process, the vacating of these regulations should be considered arbitrary and capricious. There is a distinct lack of consistency and fairness in the decision-making process by the Department of Law.
Subsequent to the Alaska Peninsula February 2026 Board of Fisheries (BOF) meeting, the Aleutians East Borough, Area M Seiners Association, Concerned Area M Fishermen and the Native Village of Unga, Filed A Complaint For Preliminary Injunction, Declaratory Judgment and Permanent Injunction (Administrative Procedure Act, As 44.62) on April 3, 2026, in the Superior Court of the State of Alaska based, on presumed ethics violations of 3 Board of Fish members.

On May 13th, the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (BSFA), on behalf of Western Alaska constituents, filed an Order Regarding Joint Notice And Stipulation Of Dismissal (Case Motion #10) And Order On Motion To Intervene (Case Motion #7) claiming that their interests are not adequately represented by the Attorney General's office.

On May 20, 2026, the Acting Attorney General Cori Mills of the State of Alaska vacated 5 proposals, including #127, that were named in contention in the lawsuit. On May 22, 2026, the State of Alaska dismissed the lawsuit. These two actions reversed the action of Proposal #127 which was intended to reduce the amount of chum salmon "bycatch" in the June sockeye fishery in order to increase depleted chum stocks in Western Alaska tributaries. Therefore, Area M management of the June fishery reverted back to a voluntary fleet Adaptive Management Plan that had raised many concerns over excessive chum bycatch, with essentially no enforcement and a confusing non-application of "triggers" designed to limit bycatch.

Subsequent court filings by the BSFA on May 26th have not resulted in any positive response from the State.

Because of the unique and unprecedented circumstances resulting from the February 2026 Aleutian Islands/Area M Board of Fisheries meeting, there has been no venue for publicly adjudicating the merits of the complaint. This has raised many questions on the validity of the State's intervention in a Board of Fisheries decision and has created a serious breach of trust in the public process.

In addition, this heightens the concern of Western Alaska over the State's intent to protect a vital subsistence species.

This has always been an issue of conservation. (See Section #4) Both in February 2023 and in February 2026, Western Alaskan residents, reeling from escalating decreases in Chinook and chum salmon, unable to meet ANS (Amounts Necessary for Subsistence) or even to harvest at all, have

petitioned the Alaska Board of Fisheries to restrict the Area M June fishery on the basis of the high historical bycatch of chum salmon. Both meetings were highly contentious, but at the 2026 meeting, a reasonable compromised was reached with RC245. Now that compromised is arbitrarily vacated and the result is a much higher bycatch in 2026 of depleted chum stocks in the Area M June fishery.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?
Re-instate Proposal #127 (as RC245) that was approved by the Alaska Board of Fisheries on a 4-3 vote February 2026 to **"Establish a 10 consecutive day closure between June 10 and June 23 for seine and drift gillnet gear.** ***Amended with substitute language found in RC245. Further amended (A) on the top of page 2 of RC245, changing 16 hours per day to 24 hours per day.***

See attached RC245

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED BELOW.

for a fishery conservation purpose or reason:

Arctic, Yukon, and Kuskokwim (AYK) Chinook and chum salmon begin their migration to their spawning grounds by passing through Area M. AYK salmon comprise the predominant wild stocks harvested during the Area M June fishery, yet these populations have been in decline for multiple salmon life cycles. The conservation of these wild stocks, along with the protection of the subsistence fisheries that depend upon them, is the highest priority under both state statute and Board of Fisheries regulations.

The Board took sweeping action not only in the Area M meeting, but statewide to limit interception of Chinook and chum to ensure passage of those species to the spawning grounds. Only in the Alaska Peninsula did these regulations not take place. The net result is an increase in harvest of chum in the 2026 season, directly contradicting the intent of the Board of Fisheries and increasing harvest, rather than decreasing it. If you take mandatory non-retention of chinook that was passed to defeat data gathering on Chinook mortality (and led to two closures in the 2025 season), the end result is actually increased fishing opportunity and not conservation.

The Alaska Peninsula Area M June Fishery 2026 recorded almost 490,000 transient chum salmon intercepted in the directed sockeye fishery.

In comparison, in February 2026, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) approved a bycatch cap of 45,000 Western Alaska chum for pollock trawlers in federal waters of the Bering Sea / Aleutian Islands (BSAI).

This makes the Area M intercept fishery actual harvest in 2026 over 10 times the allowable chum bycatch of the BSAI. Even if we assume that only 25% of the Area M June chum salmon harvest were of Western Alaska origin, that still amounts to over 121,000 Western Alaska chum salmon harvested in 2026 – nearly triple the BSAI limit.

Simultaneously, Chum stocks in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region are struggling to even meet escapement goals with limited to NO harvest.

Yukon summer chum and Kuskokwim chum showed one year of higher abundance in 2026 following more than 4 years of record-low returns. Because one year does not constitute a trend, conservation measures in-river continued with fishing restrictions and closures were yet again in place in the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers to protect chum salmon. On the Yukon, directed fishing for fall chum salmon was completely closed, and summer chum harvests were allowed only with selective gear (dip nets). On the Kuskokwim, the chum salmon run was marred by prolonged closures to gillnet fishing. These restrictions are aimed at supporting escapement, but nonetheless jeopardize communities' food security (as measured by ANS).

While Western Alaska directed salmon fisheries face these restrictions for the conservation of chum salmon, Area M directed salmon fisheries – though proven to intercept significant amounts of Western Alaska chum salmon – do not bear these same burdens. Adherence to the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222) and Subsistence Use and Allocation (AS 16.05.258) should require a more even allocation of conservation, including and especially for commercial harvests of depressed stocks. This ACR will allow the Board to step in-line with this policy and statute.

Moreover, because the Area M fishery is a state-managed INTERCEPT fishery, and not a terminal fishery, the Area M June salmon fishery is managed on a three-year Board of Fish cycle, rather than on escapement goals or in-season data about the stocks harvested. This is unlike almost every other regional fishery in Alaska. The current management plan inhibits transparency, prevents responsiveness to in-season information, and has not proven to be reactive to the prescribed "triggers." There is limited law enforcement in the region during this fishery because of the geographical nature of the area and limited law enforcement funding, challenging the state's ability to ensure regulations are followed. And, unlike the federal fisheries of the BSAI, there are no on-board observers.

Area M Salmon Harvest Summary

COMMERCIAL SALMON HARVEST SUMMARY

(INSEASON HARVEST ESTIMATES)

Species	Daily Harvest	Total Through June 30, 2026
Chinook	3	1,304
Sockeye	184,403	2,698,435
Coho	0	502
Pink	0	1,325,697
Chum	17	486,207
TOTAL	184,423	4,512,145

to correct an error in regulation:

The Board made its intent clear, and to date the Department of law has published no finding of Ethical violations, which they would have been forced to publish had there been such a violation. As a result, the board's will has been circumvented by administrative gamesmanship and obfuscation of facts.

The vacating of a block of regulations adopted by the Board of Fisheries is unprecedented and was not foreseen as an impediment to management. These regulations were adopted through the Board's established public process to address the documented decline of wild salmon stocks, which the Board determined were affected by the Area M fisheries. As a result of this action, important management tools were removed without providing an alternative mechanism to address the conservation concerns the regulations were intended to mitigate.

to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:
The Board did not consider that its intent would be administratively circumvented by the department of law. Without a finding of conflict, the Department of law ran out the clock on the board's makeup in hopes of finding a more commercial fishing friendly board).

Notwithstanding the management issues surrounding the decision to vacate the Board's action, the reversal of regulations adopted through the Board's established public process calls the integrity of the entire process into question. Months of preparation, statewide meetings conducted by numerous advisory committees, and extensive deliberation during Board meetings were effectively set aside through what appeared to be an internal memorandum issued at the highest levels of state government. The public process was overridden without a clear explanation or transparent justification.

As a result, confidence in the Board of Fish's regulatory process has been undermined. If decisions reached through a comprehensive and transparent public process can be reversed outside that process, it raises a fundamental question: What is the purpose of engaging the public and the Board in this process?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?
There will be increasing unregulated losses of chum salmon bound for Western Alaska tributaries. The integrity of the process has been compromised. The State made a commitment through the Board of Fish but subsequently failed to honor and uphold that commitment. Damage has been done. Legal and legislative options are being exercised. The most effective path forward is to restore the Board of Fisheries' regulatory process and ensure it can once again function as intended—with decisions made through a transparent, public process that provides certainty, accountability, and confidence for all stakeholders.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.
The conservation of wild salmon is a fundamental principle reflected throughout the State's statutes and regulations and remains the highest management priority. Achieving sustainable escapement is essential not only for the long-term viability of individual salmon stocks but also for the continued sustainability of Alaska's fisheries. The Board recognized this principle in adopting these regulations, which were designed to focus harvest on abundant sockeye salmon while minimizing impacts on wild Chinook and chum salmon stocks that have experienced decades of decline. Although fisheries management influences harvest rates, state law and policy require that management decisions prioritize the long-term sustainability and conservation of wild salmon populations.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.
Not applicable.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE FISHERY THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.
The Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FAC) is an advisory to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. We are deeply concerned with the declining Chinook, chum and coho stocks on the Yukon River and in the general trend of declining abundance all over Western Alaska. We are further concerned about the general decline in average size and year class of Chinook, and average sizes for all salmon species, including sockeye. This greatly impacts subsistence, personal use and sports fishing, aside from the historic loss of commercial fishing, and it makes potential recovery much more difficult.

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF FISHERIES
This was a proposal passed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in February 2026 but vacated by the Alaska Attorney General in May 2026, subsequent to the dismissal of a lawsuit. This is highly unprecedented and may be in violation of the Administrative Procedures Act.

SUBMITTED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FAC)

ACR 8

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to enforce king salmon caps with reductions in commercial salmon fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula (5 AAC 09.366).

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

The depletion of king salmon across the Gulf of Alaska is quickly becoming a crisis that threatens the very livelihood of Alaska's commercial salmon fleet. The South Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon fishery needs restrictions in place to deter the harvest of king salmon similar to the restrictions that exist in the Chignik Area.

This ACR is a request for re-instatement of Proposal #141 that was approved by the Alaska Board of Fisheries on a 5-2 vote February 2026 to **"Amend the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula to enforce king salmon caps with reductions in commercial salmon fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula.**

The positive action of the BOF was subsequently vacated by the Attorney General of Alaska in an action that may have violated the Administrative Procedures Act. (Case No. 3AN-26-05959 CI MOTION TO RECONSIDER filed by BSFA May 26, 2026 Superior Court for the State of Alaska.)

BACKGROUND: (as of August 18, 2026)

1) This regulation is one of five Board of Fisheries actions that were vacated by the Department of Law following the February 2026 Board meeting. Other regulations adopted by the Board were delayed in their implementation. To date, no public explanation or justification for these actions has been provided. In the absence of a clear rationale or transparent review process, the vacating of these regulations should be considered arbitrary and capricious. There is a distinct lack of consistency and fairness in the decision-making process by the Department of Law.

The Board of Fisheries considered, deliberated upon, and formally approved this regulation through its established public process. The Department of Law, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Department of Public Safety each indicated that there were no errors or omissions in the Board's consideration of the regulation. The regulation was properly proposed, reviewed, adopted, and approved for implementation through the required process and should therefore be reinstated and allowed to take effect as originally intended.

2)The Area M June salmon fisheries harvest depleted western Alaska Chinook and chum salmon stocks. While sockeye salmon stocks are the primary target of the Area M fisheries and provide significant economic value, the conservation of depleted wild Chinook and chum salmon stocks remains a critical management priority. Sockeye salmon are generally known to occupy surface waters, whereas Chinook and chum salmon tend to migrate at deeper depths, creating opportunities

for more selective harvest strategies. Significant conservation measures have been implemented throughout Alaska to protect and rebuild vulnerable wild salmon stocks, particularly in western Alaska. Maintaining a focus on sockeye salmon harvest while reducing impacts on depleted Chinook and chum salmon stocks supports the long-term sustainability of wild salmon populations and aligns with the State's legal, conservation, and stewardship obligations.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?
Re-instate Proposal #141 that was approved by the Alaska Board of Fisheries on a 5-2 vote at the Alaska Peninsula / Area M meeting, February 2026

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED BELOW.

for a fishery conservation purpose or reason:
Arctic, Yukon, and Kuskokwim (AYK) Chinook and chum salmon begin their migration to their spawning grounds by passing through Area M. AYK salmon comprise the predominant wild stocks harvested during the Area M June fishery, yet these populations have been in decline for multiple salmon life cycles. The conservation of these wild stocks, along with the protection of the subsistence fisheries that depend upon them, is the highest priority under both state statute and Board of Fisheries regulations

to correct an error in regulation:
The vacating of a block of regulations adopted by the Board of Fisheries is unprecedented and was not foreseen as an impediment to management. These regulations were adopted through the Board's established public process to address the documented decline of wild salmon stocks, which the Board determined were affected by the Area M fisheries. As a result of this action, important management tools were removed without providing an alternative mechanism to address the conservation concerns the regulations were intended to mitigate.

to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:
Notwithstanding the management issues surrounding the decision to vacate the Board's action, the reversal of regulations adopted through the Board's established public process calls the integrity of the entire process into question. Months of preparation, statewide meetings conducted by numerous advisory committees, and extensive deliberation during Board meetings were effectively set aside through what appeared to be an internal memorandum issued at the highest levels of state government. The public process was overridden without a clear explanation or transparent justification.

As a result, confidence in the Board of Fish's regulatory process has been undermined. If decisions reached through a comprehensive and transparent public process can be reversed outside that process, it raises a fundamental question: What is the purpose of engaging the public and the Board in this process?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?
The lack of a Chinook salmon conservation plan in the South Alaska Peninsula Area will continue to deplete Chinook resources.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.
The conservation of wild salmon is a fundamental principle reflected throughout the State's statutes and regulations and remains the highest management priority. Achieving sustainable escapement is essential not only for the long-term viability of individual salmon stocks but also for the continued sustainability of Alaska's fisheries. The Board recognized this principle in adopting these regulations, which were designed to focus harvest on abundant sockeye salmon while minimizing impacts on wild Chinook and chum salmon stocks that have experienced decades of decline. Although fisheries management influences harvest rates, state law and policy require that management decisions prioritize the long-term sustainability and conservation of wild salmon populations.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.
Not applicable.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE FISHERY THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.
The Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FAC) is an advisory to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. We are deeply concerned with the declining Chinook, chum and coho stocks on the Yukon River and in the general trend of declining abundance all over Western Alaska. We are further concerned about the general decline in average size and year class of Chinook, and average sizes for all salmon species, including sockeye. This greatly impacts subsistence, personal use and sports fishing, aside from the historic loss of commercial fishing, and it makes potential recovery much more difficult.

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF FISHERIES
This was a proposal passed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in February 2026 but vacated by the Alaska Attorney General in May 2026, subsequent to the dismissal of a lawsuit. This is highly unprecedented and may be in violation of the Administrative Procedures Act.

SUBMITTED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FAC)

ACR 9

Reduce maximum gillnet depth in the Alaska Peninsula Area to 70 meshes (5 AAC 09.331).

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC: 5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

5AAC 09.331 Gillnet specifications and operations. (a) the size and operation for drift gillnets is as follows:

(3) In the Northwestern, Unimak, and Southwestern Districts, no drift gillnet may exceed 70 meshes in depth.

(4) beginning in 2027, in the Northwestern, Uniimak, and Southwestern Districts, no drift gillnet may exceed 70 meshes in depth;

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

This ACR is a request for re-instatement of Proposal #147 that was approved by the Alaska Board of Fisheries on a 4-3 vote February 2026 to **Reduce maximum gillnet depth to 70 meshes.** ***Amended with substitute language found in RC161. (attached.)***

The positive action of the BOF was subsequently vacated by the Attorney General of Alaska in an action that may have violated the Administrative Procedures Act. (Case No. 3AN-26-05959 CI MOTION TO RECONSIDER filed by BSFA May 26, 2026 Superior Court for the State of Alaska.)

BACKGROUND: (as of August 18, 2026)

1) This regulation is one of five Board of Fisheries actions that were vacated by the Department of Law following the February 2026 Board meeting. Other regulations adopted by the Board were delayed in their implementation. To date, no public explanation or justification for these actions has been provided. In the absence of a clear rationale or transparent review process, the vacating of these regulations should be considered arbitrary and capricious. There is a distinct lack of consistency and fairness in the decision-making process by the Department of Law.

The Board of Fisheries considered, deliberated upon, and formally approved this regulation through its established public process. The Department of Law, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Department of Public Safety each indicated that there were no errors or omissions in the Board's consideration of the regulation. The regulation was properly proposed, reviewed, adopted, and approved for implementation through the required process and should therefore be reinstated and allowed to take effect as originally intended.

2)The Area M June salmon fisheries harvest depleted western Alaska Chinook and chum salmon stocks. While sockeye salmon stocks are the primary target of the Area M fisheries and provide significant economic value, the conservation of depleted wild Chinook and chum salmon stocks remains a critical management priority. Sockeye salmon are generally known to occupy surface waters, whereas Chinook and chum salmon tend to migrate at deeper depths, creating opportunities for more selective harvest strategies. Significant conservation measures have been implemented

throughout Alaska to protect and rebuild vulnerable wild salmon stocks, particularly in western Alaska. Maintaining a focus on sockeye salmon harvest while reducing impacts on depleted Chinook and chum salmon stocks supports the long-term sustainability of wild salmon populations and aligns with the State's legal, conservation, and stewardship obligations.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?
Reapprove the regulations that have passed the Board process during the February 2026 meeting.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED BELOW.

for a fishery conservation purpose or reason:
Arctic, Yukon, and Kuskokwim (AYK) Chinook and chum salmon begin their migration to their spawning grounds by passing through Area M. AYK salmon comprise the predominant wild stocks harvested during the Area M June fishery, yet these populations have been in decline for multiple salmon life cycles. The conservation of these wild stocks, along with the protection of the subsistence fisheries that depend upon them, is the highest priority under both state statute and Board of Fisheries regulations.

to correct an error in regulation:
The vacating of a block of regulations adopted by the Board of Fisheries is unprecedented and was not foreseen as an impediment to management. These regulations were adopted through the Board's established public process to address the documented decline of wild salmon stocks, which the Board determined were affected by the Area M fisheries. As a result of this action, important management tools were removed without providing an alternative mechanism to address the conservation concerns the regulations were intended to mitigate.

to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:
Notwithstanding the management issues surrounding the decision to vacate the Board's action, the reversal of regulations adopted through the Board's established public process calls the integrity of the entire process into question. Months of preparation, statewide meetings conducted by numerous advisory committees, and extensive deliberation during Board meetings were effectively set aside through what appeared to be an internal memorandum issued at the highest levels of state government. The public process was overridden without a clear explanation or transparent justification.

As a result, confidence in the Board of Fish's regulatory process has been undermined. If decisions reached through a comprehensive and transparent public process can be reversed outside that process, it raises a fundamental question: What is the purpose of engaging the public and the Board in this process?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?
The integrity of the process has been compromised. The State made a commitment through the Board of Fish but subsequently failed to honor and uphold that commitment. Damage has been done. Legal and legislative options are being exercised. The most effective path forward is to

restore the Board of Fisheries' regulatory process and ensure it can once again function as intended—with decisions made through a transparent, public process that provides certainty, accountability, and confidence for all stakeholders.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.
The conservation of wild salmon is a fundamental principle reflected throughout the State's statutes and regulations and remains the highest management priority. Achieving sustainable escapement is essential not only for the long-term viability of individual salmon stocks but also for the continued sustainability of Alaska's fisheries. The Board recognized this principle in adopting these regulations, which were designed to focus harvest on abundant sockeye salmon while minimizing impacts on wild Chinook and chum salmon stocks that have experienced decades of decline. Although fisheries management influences harvest rates, state law and policy require that management decisions prioritize the long-term sustainability and conservation of wild salmon populations.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.
Not applicable.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE FISHERY THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.
The Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FAC) is an advisory to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. We are deeply concerned with the declining Chinook, chum and coho stocks on the Yukon River and in the general trend of declining abundance all over Western Alaska. We are further concerned about the general decline in average size and year class of Chinook, and average sizes for all salmon species, including sockeye. This greatly impacts subsistence, personal use and sports fishing, aside from the historic loss of commercial fishing, and it makes potential recovery much more difficult.

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF FISHERIES
This was a proposal passed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in February 2026 but vacated by the Alaska Attorney General in May 2026, subsequent to the dismissal of a lawsuit. This is highly unprecedented and may be in violation of the Administrative Procedures Act.

SUBMITTED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FAC)

ACR 10

Amend Alaska Peninsula Area seine specifications to reduce net size (5 AAC 09.332).

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

5 AAC 09.332. Seine specifications and operations.

Amend the seine specification to reduce the allowable size gear as follows:

(a) Purse seines or hand purse seines may not be less than 100 fathoms nor more than 250 fathoms in length. A purse seine or hand purse seine may not exceed 325 [375] meshes in depth. Seine mesh may not be more than three and one-half inches, except that the first 25 meshes above the leadline may not be more than seven inches.

(b) **A lead** [LEADS] may not be [less than 50 fathoms nor] more than **100** [150] fathoms in length. **The aggregate length of seine and lead may not be more then 250 fathoms in length.** Only one lead may be used with a seine. [A LEAD MAY BE ATTACHED TO ONLY ONE END OF A SEINE, AND THE LEAD MAY NOT BE ATTACHED TO THE BOAT END OF THE SEINE.]

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

This ACR is a request for re-instatement of Proposal #148 that was approved by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in a 6-1 vote at the February 2026 Alaska Peninsula/Area M meeting to Amend the seine specification to reduce the allowable size gear **Amended with substitute language found in RC208. (attached)**

The rapid increase of chum salmon caught in the June fishery in the South Unimak and Shumagin Island purse seine fishery. The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery has averaged approximately 572,000 chums per season over the past five years (2020–2024), which is among the highest five-year average in decades. In 2026, despite assurances of closures based on triggers, the incidental catch of chum in the June fishery was almost 490,000 chum harvest recorded.

In comparison, in February 2026, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) approved a bycatch cap of 45,000 Western Alaska chum for pollock trawlers in federal waters of the Bering Sea / Aleutian Islands (BSAI).

This makes the Area M intercept fishery actual harvest in 2026 over 10 times the allowable chum bycatch of the BSAI. Even if we assume that only 25% of the Area M June chum salmon harvest were of Western Alaska origin, that still amounts to over 121,000 Western Alaska chum salmon harvested in 2026 – nearly triple the BSAI limit.

Chum stocks in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region are struggling to even meet escapement goals. The huge changes made in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery in 2004, coupled with the rapid growth of the purse seine fleet in recent years has resulted in this recent huge increase in chum interception in the June fishery. Purse seiners harvest over 90% of the chums caught in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery.

Current regulations allow the aggregate length of purse seines and leads in this area to be up to 400 fathoms in length. That is 60% longer that what is allowed in Kodiak and Lower Cook Inlet (up to 250 fathoms), and 78% longer than what is allowed in Chignik and Prince William Sound (up to 225 fathoms). Longer seines = more fish per set.

Current regulations also allow purse seine depth in this area to be a maximum of 375 meshes. The deeper a purse seine, the more chums and chinook salmon it will catch as they travel at greater depths then sockeye, pinks, and coho. This fishery is supposed to be targeting traveling sockeye salmon, and not chums and chinook.

Bring the purse seine regulations in this area into line with the purse seine regulation in Chignik, Kodiak, Cook Inlet, and Prince William Sound. Shorten the seines and reduce the allowable depth in order to reduce the interception of migrating chums and chinook. 250 fathoms in length and 325 meshes deep is more the adequate to harvest targeted salmon species, as is evidenced by the purse seine fisheries in Chignik, Kodiak, Cook Inlet, and Prince William Sound.

The positive action of the BOF was subsequently vacated by the Attorney General of Alaska in an action that may have violated the Administrative Procedures Act. (Case No. 3AN-26-05959 CI MOTION TO RECONSIDER filed by BSFA May 26, 2026 Superior Court for the State of Alaska.)

BACKGROUND: (as of August 18, 2026)

1) This regulation is one of five Board of Fisheries actions that were vacated by the Department of Law following the February 2026 Board meeting. Other regulations adopted by the Board were delayed in their implementation. To date, no public explanation or justification for these actions has been provided. In the absence of a clear rationale or transparent review process, the vacating of these regulations should be considered arbitrary and capricious. There is a distinct lack of consistency and fairness in the decision-making process by the Department of Law.

The Board of Fisheries considered, deliberated upon, and formally approved this regulation through its established public process. The Department of Law, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Department of Public Safety each indicated that there were no errors or omissions in the Board's consideration of the regulation. The regulation was properly proposed, reviewed, adopted, and approved for implementation through the required process and should therefore be reinstated and allowed to take effect as originally intended.

2)The Area M June salmon fisheries harvest depleted western Alaska Chinook and chum salmon stocks. While sockeye salmon stocks are the primary target of the Area M fisheries and provide significant economic value, the conservation of depleted wild Chinook and chum salmon stocks remains a critical management priority. Sockeye salmon are generally known to occupy surface waters, whereas Chinook and chum salmon tend to migrate at deeper depths, creating opportunities for more selective harvest strategies. Significant conservation measures have been implemented throughout Alaska to protect and rebuild vulnerable wild salmon stocks, particularly in western Alaska. Maintaining a focus on sockeye salmon harvest while reducing impacts on depleted

Chinook and chum salmon stocks supports the long-term sustainability of wild salmon populations and aligns with the State's legal, conservation, and stewardship obligations.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?
Reapprove the regulations that have passed the Board process during the February 2026 meeting.

Submitted by Board Member Wood, prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
February 23, 2026
Substitute language for proposal #:148
5 AAC 09.332 is amended to read:
5 AAC 09.332. Seine specifications and operations. (a) Purse seines or hand purse seines may not be less than 100 fathoms nor more than 250 fathoms in length. A purse seine or hand purse seine may not exceed 375 meshes in depth. Seine mesh may not be more than three and one-half inches, except that the first 25 meshes above the leadline may not be more than seven inches.
(b) **Beginning in 2027, a purse seine or hand purse seine may not exceed 335 meshes in depth. Seine mesh may not be more than three and one-half inches; in addition, a maximum of 25 meshes of chafing gear with a maximum mesh size of seven inches may be used.** [LEADS MAY NOT BE LESS THAN 50 FATHOMS NOR MORE THAN 150 FATHOMS IN LENGTH. ONLY ONE LEAD MAY BE USED WITH A SEINE. A LEAD MAY BE ATTACHED TO ONLY ONE END OF A SEINE, AND THE LEAD MAY NOT BE ATTACHED TO THE BOAT END OF THE SEINE.]

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED BELOW.

for a fishery conservation purpose or reason:
Arctic, Yukon, and Kuskokwim (AYK) Chinook and chum salmon begin their migration to their spawning grounds by passing through Area M. AYK salmon comprise the predominant wild stocks harvested during the Area M June fishery, yet these populations have been in decline for multiple salmon life cycles. The conservation of these wild stocks, along with the protection of the subsistence fisheries that depend upon them, is the highest priority under both state statute and Board of Fisheries regulations.

to correct an error in regulation:
The vacating of a block of regulations adopted by the Board of Fisheries is unprecedented and was not foreseen as an impediment to management. These regulations were adopted through the Board's established public process to address the documented decline of wild salmon stocks, which the Board determined were affected by the Area M fisheries. As a result of this action, important management tools were removed without providing an alternative mechanism to address the conservation concerns the regulations were intended to mitigate.

to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:
Notwithstanding the management issues surrounding the decision to vacate the Board's action, the reversal of regulations adopted through the Board's established public process calls the integrity of the entire process into question. Months of preparation, statewide meetings conducted by numerous advisory committees, and extensive deliberation during Board meetings were

effectively set aside through what appeared to be an internal memorandum issued at the highest levels of state government. The public process was overridden without a clear explanation or transparent justification.

As a result, confidence in the Board of Fish's regulatory process has been undermined. If decisions reached through a comprehensive and transparent public process can be reversed outside that process, it raises a fundamental question: What is the purpose of engaging the public and the Board in this process?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?
Incidental catch of chum salmon in the Alaska Peninsula / Shumigan Island June sockeye fishery will continue to increase, impacting the declining Western Alaskan stocks.

The integrity of the process has been compromised. The State made a commitment through the Board of Fish but subsequently failed to honor and uphold that commitment. Damage has been done. Legal and legislative options are being exercised. The most effective path forward is to restore the Board of Fisheries' regulatory process and ensure it can once again function as intended—with decisions made through a transparent, public process that provides certainty, accountability, and confidence for all stakeholders.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.
This ACR applies to a harvest practice within a single sector and is not allocative.

The conservation of wild salmon is a fundamental principle reflected throughout the State's statutes and regulations and remains the highest management priority. Achieving sustainable escapement is essential not only for the long-term viability of individual salmon stocks but also for the continued sustainability of Alaska's fisheries. The Board recognized this principle in adopting these regulations, which were designed to focus harvest on abundant sockeye salmon while minimizing impacts on wild Chinook and chum salmon stocks that have experienced decades of decline. Although fisheries management influences harvest rates, state law and policy require that management decisions prioritize the long-term sustainability and conservation of wild salmon populations.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.
Not applicable.

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