

**Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**

c/o Office of Subsistence Management

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In Reply Refer To:

R26071

AUG 13 2026

Douglas Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Commissioner Vincent-Lang,

On behalf of the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council), I write to express our support for Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) efforts to monitor Chum Salmon stocks on the Kobuk River. The Council encourages ADF&G to prioritize Chum Salmon projects and pursue funding to conduct future research and monitoring in the region.

The Council represents subsistence harvesters of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands and waters in the Northwest Arctic Region. It was established by the authority in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Section 805 of ANILCA and the Council's charter establishes the Council's authority to initiate, review, and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters related to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region. The Council also reviews resource management actions occurring outside their regions that may impact subsistence resources critical to communities served by the Council. The Council provides a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations regarding any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region.

During the Council's public meeting held March 31 – April 1, 2026, in Kotzebue, members heard an update about ADF&G research on Chum Salmon stocks in the region, and input from the Council was requested about the direction of future research. The Council voted to support ADF&G efforts to monitor Chum Salmon, specifically on the Kobuk River. Due to declining Chum Salmon returns in recent years and ongoing pressures of climate change, including more frequent extreme weather events, along with commercial fishing operations in marine waters, the Council is concerned about the long-term health and vitality of future runs and the sustainability of subsistence opportunities.

The Council greatly appreciates ADF&G past efforts to monitor salmon runs in the region, such as sonar studies and test fisheries that, in addition to collecting data, helped provide jobs and feed

families in our local communities. The Council understands ADF&G funding constraints, but emphasizes that securing future funding for additional Chum Salmon monitoring and research in the region is a crucial step in helping ensure the long-term viability of the species. This research is not only essential for understanding ongoing trends and changes, but it also provides critical information for managing subsistence and commercial harvests in real time.

Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions or would like to follow up, please contact me through our Subsistence Council Coordinator, Grace Cochon at (907) 317-2165 or [grace\\_cochon@ios.doi.gov](mailto:grace_cochon@ios.doi.gov).

Sincerely,



Thomas Baker  
Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board  
Interagency Staff Committee  
Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Office of Subsistence Management  
Benjamin Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Aaron Poetter, Federal Subsistence Liaison, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Administrative Record