

PROGRESS REPORT

Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force Recommendations

Prepared by Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council
Fall 2023

STATE ENGAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation: Establish a process for providing bycatch-related information and resources that is understandable and easily accessible.

Progress:

- 1. Continued development of a bycatch website to provide upcoming meeting information, presentations and links to sites of interest.*
- 2. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are being developed for bycatch website.*
- 3. Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council (BAC) virtual meetings provided presentations on how to access bycatch information at the NPRMC, NMFS and state levels, as well as updates on state engagement, research and management actions.*
- 4. Future BAC meetings will provide updates on ABRT recommendations and other bycatch information.*

Recommendation: Offer the public an opportunity to provide input on NPFMC issues before each NPFMC meeting.

Progress:

- 1. State officials meet virtually and in person with Alaskan stakeholders before each NPFMC meeting.*
- 2. Deputy Commissioner attends Bycatch Advisory Council meetings and testimony is taken at each meeting on bycatch issues.*
- 3. ADF&G Commissioner initiated a series of townhall meetings on bycatch.*

Recommendation: Create a permanent bycatch advisory entity.

Progress: ADF&G Commissioner established the Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council and made it effective for three years. Council will meet four times per year and provide reports to the Commissioner on recommendations and progress. Presentations and information will be provided via the State of Alaska BAC website. A link is shown below:

[Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council and Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force \(ABRT\) Meeting Information, Alaska Department of Fish and Game](#)

Recommendation: Support legislative action to remove the sunset of the Education Tax Credit Program and expand to allow for gear modification or technology improvements that help reduce bycatch.

Progress: The Alaska State Legislature is reviewing this action. House Bill 144 is currently in House Finance and Senate Bill 120 is in Senate Finance. It is anticipated this legislation will be addressed and finalized in the 2024 legislative session.

Recommendation: Work with other entities to improve information on the bycatch of Chinook and chum salmon taken in Russian domestic fisheries.

Progress: The State of Alaska continues to urge the State Department to provide accountability through observers or other means to determine Chinook and chum take by Russian vessels.

Recommendation: Develop a State of Alaska Bycatch Policy.

Progress: This issue has not yet been addressed.