



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Angel Drobica, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
1007 W. 3rd Avenue, Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone 907-271-2809 | www.npfmc.org

June 12, 2024

Mr. Jon Kurland
Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802-1668
Via email: jon.kurland@noaa.gov

Dear Mr. Kurland:

At their June 2024 meeting, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council received a briefing on NOAA Fisheries' announcement of a positive 90-day finding on a petition to list Gulf of Alaska Chinook salmon as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. With this finding, we understand that the agency will convene a status review team of federal scientists to review the species' current status and extinction risk. **We strongly support the inclusion of subject matter experts from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as guest consultants to the team**, as requested in the State of Alaska's letter.

Additionally, we understand that the agency is also accepting information from all interested parties regarding the status of Gulf of Alaska Chinook salmon during a 60-day public comment period for consideration in the review. During the June Council meeting, we heard testimony from fishermen who are interested to provide information, but who would be unable to do so before the current July 23rd deadline as it overlaps with fishing seasons. **The Council formally requests that NOAA Fisheries extend the deadline to provide comments and information through September 30th**, in order to allow for input from the public on this consequential issue.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

David Witherell
Executive Director