

Tribal Consultation Talking Points

June 2025 NPFMC Meeting



PELAGIC TRAWL GEAR DEFINITION (INITIAL/FINAL ACTION)

KEY ISSUES:

The current definition of pelagic trawl gear may be too vague, allowing bottom trawl gear to be used in ways that still disturb seafloor habitats and threaten subsistence species.

The distinction between pelagic and non-pelagic trawl methods matters for habitat protections, bycatch controls, and enforcement.

CONSULTATION TALKING POINTS:

REQUEST CLARITY: Definitions must be biologically and operationally clear and enforced to protect critical habitats used by salmon and other species that feed coastal and riverine communities.

DEFEND TRADITIONAL HARVESTS: Emphasize how unclear gear regulations can allow fishing methods that indirectly harm subsistence resources.

SUPPORT STRONGER ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS: Clear gear regulations help prevent unintended habitat damage and improve onboard observation and compliance. Ask NOAA to ensure that gear definitions are enforceable on the water and backed by monitoring.

PELAGIC TRAWL GEAR INNOVATION (DISCUSSION PAPER)

KEY ISSUES:

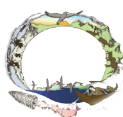
The Council is exploring innovation in trawl gear to reduce bycatch and habitat impacts. There's an opportunity to shape what "innovation" means, and who benefits from it.

CONSULTATION TALKING POINTS:

INDIGENOUS INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE: Ask for Indigenous knowledge holders in innovation working groups.

SUPPORT REAL BYCATCH REDUCTION INCENTIVES: Ensure results lead to actual lower bycatch rates, not just 'pilot projects.'

DEMAND TRANSPARENCY: Innovations should be reported publicly and independently verified. Innovations should be publicly reported and independently verified, not based solely on industry-reported outcomes.



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CLIMATE WORKPLAN & CLIMATE, ECOSYSTEM, AND FISHERIES INITIATIVE (CEI)

KEY ISSUES:

Climate is rapidly changing marine ecosystems, affecting salmon migration, cod distribution, ocean temperature, and food web health. The Council is beginning to consider climate impacts more seriously through the CEFI.

CONSULTATION TALKING POINTS:

PRIORITIZE INDIGENOUS COMANAGEMENT: Include Tribes as formal partners in monitoring and management.

USE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE: Incorporate traditional knowledge into climate planning and fisheries decisions.

REQUEST ADAPTATION SUPPORT: Tribes need resources for local monitoring, capacity-building, and participation.

CONSULTATION POINTS FOR ALL TOPICS

MEANINGFUL CONSULTATION REQUIRES TIMELINES that allow Tribes to review documents, hold internal discussions, and respond with input.

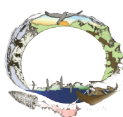
TRANSPARENCY AND CO-DEVELOPMENT are critical - Tribes should not be presented with near-final proposals, but invited in early as co-designers.

TRIBAL GOVERNANCE ARE NOT STAKEHOLDERS - they are sovereign governments with legal rights to be consulted.

REQUEST THAT TRIBAL VOICES BE REFLECTED IN FINAL DOCUMENTS, not just recorded in meeting minutes.

Decisions that affect fish, habitat, or fishing access must consider Tribal food security and cultural survival.

To request a Tribal consultation with NOAA, you can contact the Sustainable Fisheries Tribal Engagement Team directly at AKRO.SFD.tribal.team@noaa.gov with any questions or consultation requests. You may also submit a formal request using the [NOAA Fisheries Tribal Consultation Request Form](#). This is the primary method for initiating a consultation with NOAA.



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