

# Stop Wasteful Bycatch



Over the last 10 years, trawlers have bycaught and largely discarded **141 million pounds** of salmon, crab, halibut and other species each year, on average. That's **more than a billion pounds** in less than ten years.



**51,510 chum salmon** originating from Western Alaska were caught by trawlers in



**Take action**  
[salmonstate.org/bycatch](https://salmonstate.org/bycatch)

# 2021



**ALASKAN OCEANS  
ARE ECOSYSTEMS  
NOT POLLOCK  
FACTORIES**

Fish populations are crashing while the NPFMC allows trawlers to take **millions of pounds of those same species as bycatch** each year – a clear failure of ecosystem-based management. Bering Sea snow crab, Bristol Bay red king crab and subsistence salmon fishing seasons have all been closed in recent years. Meanwhile, trawlers kill these species with **no adaptation to the changing ecosystem**.



Salmon fishery disasters have been declared on the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers, leaving Alaska Native communities without salmon and creating an **environmental and human rights crisis**. Meanwhile, trawlers pursuing pollock for fish sticks and fake crab continue to indiscriminately catch **massive amounts** of a myriad of marine species including salmon, crab and halibut, a harvest of non-targeted species called **bycatch**. Bycatch cannot be sold to market, is oftentimes considered "waste," and is dumped overboard.

# Who can change the status quo?



**The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)** manages federal fisheries within 3 - 200 miles off of the coast of Alaska and has representatives from AK, WA, & OR who are appointed by the governor of each state. The NPFMC meets 5 times a year and allows public comment and testimony opportunity. However, the "public process" is often times confusing, time consuming and stacked in favor of the pollock trawling industry.



**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s fisheries division** under the U.S. Dept. of Commerce oversees the implementation of National Standards in fisheries management that include how to manage bycatch. The guidelines for implementing national standards will potentially be updated and will be guided by public review and comment periods. This update will allow for a science-based, socially just, ecosystem wide approach when it comes to managing federal fisheries.



**The Biden Administration** oversees the Dept. of Commerce and NOAA and has set an agenda that includes bringing social justice to the forefront of policy decisions. With Alaska Natives in Western Alaska suffering at the hand of a disproportional fish management system, it is imperative that NOAA and NPFMC take this into account in their management practices such as including Tribal representatives on the NPFMC and listening to the region.