



September 21, 2026

Second DRAFT Spend Plan for funds appropriated to address the 2022 Chignik salmon fishery disaster determination. NOAA Fisheries has allocated \$18,489,100 for this salmon fishery resource disaster. This spend plan informs the federal grant application submitted by Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) to NOAA Fisheries and is subject to change based on approval of the final grant.

Written comments are requested on all elements of the proposed spend plan and should be as specific as possible. Comments will be posted as received online and therefore, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) requests that no business proprietary information, copyrighted information, or personally identifiable information be included in written comments. Comments can be submitted by email to: dfg.com.fisheriesdisasters@alaska.gov or by mail to: ADF&G, Attn: Darion Jones
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Comments must be sent by November 20, 2026, for consideration in the final spend plan.

Process to develop the spend plan: ADF&G provided an initial draft spend plan for public comment in August 2026 and received 11 written comments on the initial plan (Appendix I). ADF&G revised the plan based on public comments and is requesting comments on the second draft spend plan before it is finalized and submitted to PSMFC.

In response to public comments on the initial draft spend plan, ADF&G is recommending the following revisions:

Commercial Harvesters

- Crew compensation is proposed to be proportional to that of the permit holder, or vessel if there is more than one permit holder. This would not reduce the amount of funds to each eligible permit holder.

Processors

- ADF&G is proposing to reduce the allocation to processors from 17% to 13% in recognition that the Chignik management area no longer has any active shore-based processing facilities. The reduced allocation would mitigate 67% of the estimated loss to processors, consistent with recent federal disaster assistance for Alaska fisheries.

Additionally, the following sections have been updated with suggested funding projects:

Research

- Funds are proposed to be directed to ongoing ADF&G research projects.

Infrastructure

- A portion of the funds are proposed to be used to improve infrastructure related to management of the salmon fishery.

Public comment on the first draft spend plan recommended reducing the infrastructure allocation and allocating additional funds to commercial harvesters. ADF&G notes the current proposed allocation to commercial harvesters would fully mitigate the estimated loss for permit holders and crew. Allocating additional funding to commercial harvesters would exceed the revenue loss for the 2022 commercial fishery, which is not allowed under NOAA policy.

Guiding principles for disaster fund distribution: Disbursement of funds is intended to 1) assist fishery participants harmed by the 2022 Chignik salmon fishery disaster, and 2) improve fishery information used to assess and forecast future fishery performance and to develop management approaches that avoid and/or mitigate the impacts of future fishery disasters that cannot be prevented.

The proposed categories and allocations in this draft spend plan are informed by previous Chignik salmon disaster spend plans and public comments. Allocation percentages and amounts are estimated and subject to change based on administration fees, rounding, and/or recalculations.

Category	Allocation	Estimated funds ^a
Research	9%	\$1,663,020
Subsistence	9%	\$1,663,020
Communities	5%	\$923,900
Infrastructure	44%	\$8,130,320
Commercial Harvesters	20%	\$3,695,600
Processors	13%	\$2,402,140
Program support	0.06%	\$11,100
Total ^a	100%	\$18,489,100

^a Additional funds will be allocated to Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) to administer the federal grant

The impact of the fishery disaster created significant loss of income to those involved in the harvesting and processing sectors and to the communities in which the cultural and basic economic structure is the marine economy. Some of these funds will be allocated to research activities that restore the fishery or prevent a similar failure in the future, but they will also be used to help assist the fishing communities that were affected by this fishery resource disaster by recognizing the loss of incomes. These direct payments will compensate participants consistent with fishery investments and/or historical fishery performance. Historically one of the purposes of disaster funding was to get funds to communities and fishermen as fast as possible. Direct payments provide that method.

Research – 9% (~\$1,663,020): Funds for scientific research projects are available through this spend plan, including ongoing work funded through previous Chignik salmon fishery disasters, that provide information to help fishery scientists and managers assess the freshwater and marine conditions that influence productivity of the Chignik sockeye salmon stock. Primary goals are to further understanding of the cause of the Chignik salmon fishery failure, better understand the abundance and ecology of Chignik sockeye salmon, improve the ability of resource managers to identify future poor runs, and to help managers avoid and mitigate the impacts of future Chignik salmon fishery disasters that cannot be prevented.

ADF&G and other entities are currently utilizing previous Chignik salmon fishery disaster funding for ongoing projects to better understand the abundance and ecology of Chignik sockeye salmon. Further

funding for these projects would allow for continuous, robust data sets and inform other recommended research themes and objectives. Specifically, ADF&G proposes additional funding to continue the following research projects:

- **Chignik Linkages:** This project will analyze 20+ years of limnological and juvenile sockeye salmon data and enhance this data set with genetic, bioenergetic, and high-resolution limnological data to evaluate drivers of Chignik River watershed sockeye salmon population productivity to understand critical linkages between ecological conditions in time and space that are key drivers to annual salmon production. Results will benefit the maintenance and conservation of Chignik sockeye salmon by identifying the importance of lake rearing habitats for survival, mediated by habitat quality effects on juvenile sockeye salmon condition and growth, which will assist in identifying factors affecting future returns.
- **Chignik Hydroacoustics:** This project proposes to study the seasonal Chignik Lake habitat utilization by juvenile sockeye salmon within the watershed using split-beam hydroacoustics.

Developing a comprehensive and seasonal understanding of the Chignik Lake habitat utilization by different temporal spawning components and age classes of the Chignik watershed sockeye salmon is crucial to understanding the population dynamics and rearing habitat productivity of the watershed.

- **Chignik GSI:** This project will conduct genetic stock ID on samples collected from the 2028 to 2031 Chignik sockeye salmon escapement, to aid in run reconstructions and brood tables and assessment of the two interdependent stocks (early and late runs).

Public comment on the initial draft spend plan supported research funds for a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) analysis to examine the risks and tradeoffs of management approaches and determine impacts of management actions. ADF&G is seeking additional public comment on these and other research suggestions.

Subsistence – 9% (~\$1,663,020): ADF&G proposes to apportion subsistence funds into two categories: direct payments to subsistence households and funds for cultural education and outreach programs.

Subsistence households dependent on salmon from the Chignik Management Area are eligible for direct payments based on the number of eligible individuals in each household. ADF&G proposes households receive \$1,000 for each eligible member.

ADF&G proposes all remaining subsistence funds, after direct payments to subsistence households, be distributed to tribal entities as direct payments to support the development, administration, and operation of cultural education programs to help mitigate the impacts of limited subsistence salmon fisheries on the intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge and practices.

Proposed subsistence household eligibility requirements:

1. All eligible household members **MUST** be Alaskan residents meeting at least one of the following criteria to prove residency:
 - a) Received an Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) for calendar year 2022.
 - b) Possessed a 2022 Alaska resident sport fishing license from the Department of Fish and Game.

- c) Registered as a resident during 2022 with the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC).
- d) Held and returned a subsistence use permit issued by the Department of Fish and Game in 2022 for the Chignik Management Area as defined at 5 AAC 01.450.

ADF&G notes only one of the four criteria listed above must be satisfied to verify Alaska residency.

2. Applicant for household MUST be at least 18 years old to apply per federal requirements.
 - a) Only one application may be submitted per household.
 - b) Individuals may only be listed in one household. To ensure individuals are only counted once, a valid Social Security Number must be provided by the applicant for each individual listed in the household.
 - d) Alaskan households that participate in subsistence salmon fisheries in the Chignik Management Area may apply regardless of physical household address.
3. MUST self-certify that they are not de-barred from receiving federal funds and are not on the federal government “do not pay list”.
4. MUST self-certify that one or more members of the household participated in the Chignik salmon subsistence fishery in at least two of the previous six years (2016-2021).
 - Participation includes harvesting, sharing, and/or using salmon subsistence fishery resources. Subsistence harvest does NOT require the use of a sport fishing license.
 - Subsistence fisheries are defined as fisheries on salmon stocks for which the Alaska Board of Fisheries has found there are positive customary and traditional uses, in addition to federal subsistence fisheries that have no state equivalent.
5. MUST self-certify that their household has incurred a negative impact on their ability to access subsistence salmon fishery resources in 2022 that was directly or indirectly related to the fishery disaster.

Alaska Residency (criterion #1) will be verified using State of Alaska databases (PFD, ADF&G licensing and subsistence permits, or CFEC permits). Social Security Numbers provided (criteria #2c) will be checked using Internal Revenue Service TIN matching system. **Only individuals whose information is successfully verified will be eligible.**

Due to a reduction in subsistence participation resulting from weaker salmon runs, public comment on the initial draft spend plan suggested removal of eligibility criterion #1d, “held and returned a subsistence use permit...” However, residents only need to satisfy one of four criteria used to verify residency, so ADF&G proposes retaining the subsistence permit criterion as one potential pathway.

ADF&G proposes **all remaining subsistence funds, after direct payments to households, be distributed as direct payments to tribal entities and/or the Chignik Intertribal Coalition.** These funds will help maintain food security donations and support the development, administration, and operation of cultural education programs to help mitigate the impacts of limited subsistence salmon fisheries on the intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge and practices. Receiving fishery disaster funds for cultural education programs does not explicitly authorize the harvest of weak salmon stocks. ADF&G is seeking comments on this suggested use of disaster funds and the appropriate tribal entity/entities to receive cultural education funds.

Communities – 5% (~\$923,900): ADF&G proposes direct payments to affected municipalities and boroughs with a demonstrated loss of salmon landings due to the fishery disaster. ADF&G allocates 5% to affected communities to help mitigate losses in fish tax and other economic losses. These local government entities were negatively impacted by the fishery disaster because fishery revenues comprise a significant portion of local operating budgets and are used to support education, public works, ports and harbors, and other services. If landings occur in the bounds of a municipality and borough, landing tax revenues are shared 50/50 between each entity.

ADF&G identifies the City of Chignik Bay and the Lake and Peninsula Borough as eligible entities to receive community disaster funds. Community funds will be divided equally between the City of Chignik Bay and Lake and Peninsula Borough.

Infrastructure – 44% (~\$8,130,320): ADF&G acknowledges the funding allocation for the 2022 disaster exceeds the estimated commercial revenue loss and understands that NOAA Fisheries provided additional funds to address subsistence and other impacts of the fishery disaster. These additional funds were not provided for previous Chignik salmon fishery disasters. Based on public comments, ADF&G proposes allocating a portion of the 2022 fishery disaster funds to develop, repair, or improve fishery-related public infrastructure. This may include projects directly related to the management of the commercial and subsistence salmon fisheries (e.g., weir modernization, genetic sampling, etc.), habitat conservation and restoration, and/or other infrastructure projects that support the fishery.

ADF&G proposes to establish a pool of infrastructure funds, \$4,280,320, which would be available by application to eligible entities that are authorized to receive federal grant funds. Public comment recommendations included:

- \$2.25 million for the purchase and repair of the Chignik Bay school and associated housing units. The school would be repurposed and used for fishery research, vocational training, and as a cultural center. Operations for the school building are estimated at \$125,000 per year. \$500,000 for the development and repair of dockside facilities and industry support services, such as ice machines and community cold storage.
- Renovation of local infrastructure using local workforce to construct or rebuild a small-scale processing facility and freezer unit to enhance food and economic security.
- Execution of a moist egg incubation box project for Chinook salmon rehabilitation.
- Developing a strategy for collecting fishery data and research focused on habitat restoration needs and fishery management practices.

ADF&G proposes using approximately \$3,850,000 of the infrastructure allocation to update and improve structures and facilities used in the management of the Chignik salmon fishery including:

- A Chignik weir redesign and fabrication (\$1.5 million)
- A Chignik weir bulkhead storage building (\$1.1 million)
- A Chignik weir power grid modernization and upgrade (\$450,000)
- A field office at the Chignik Bay or Lagoon (\$350,000)
- Research/pilot housing at Chignik Lake (\$250,000)
- An Aircraft revetment building (\$50,000)
- A storage facility at Chignik Lake for skiffs and equipment (\$150,000).

ADF&G is requesting additional comments on these or other specific projects that may be considered for infrastructure funding.

Commercial Harvesters – 20% (~\$3,695,600): The proposed funding amount is informed by the total estimated loss to the commercial fishery of approximately \$2,885,000 for all commercial harvesters **who participated** in the 2022 season. This value is calculated by comparing all participating permit holders' estimated 2022 gross revenue to their average gross revenue for all salmon in their best three out of five years (2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2021). This value does not include permit holders whose estimated 2022 gross revenue exceeded their average gross revenue. Permit holders cannot receive more than their estimated loss.

The harvester allocation is divided into two pools, one for vessel permit holders (80%) and one for vessel crew members (20%). While most salmon seine operations employ an average of three crew members, each earning a ~10% share, the 80/20 split between permit holders and crew members considers the higher initial costs, higher level of investment, and risk that are generally borne by the vessel operator.

Permit holders (80% of harvester pool ~\$2,956,480)

Proposed eligibility criteria for Chignik permit holders:

1. The S01L permit holder must have made a Chignik salmon landing in 2022.
2. Permit holder must have a loss in 2022 gross revenue for all salmon as compared to the permit holder's average gross revenue for all salmon in the best three out of five years (2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2021).

ADF&G proposes including hardship provisions for permit holders who do not meet the first eligibility criteria due to an allowable cause. Allowable causes may include vessel mechanical issues, personal or family medical emergencies, or a death in the family that resulted in the permit holder not being able to make a Chignik salmon landing in 2022. Permit holders with an allowable cause must have renewed their S01L permit in 2022. ADF&G proposes to use the 2022 average fleet revenue of \$135,220 as a proxy for those who qualify based on hardship provisions. ADF&G is seeking comments on this or other potential hardship provisions (e.g., should crew be included).

Funds will be paid to the person listed as the 2022 'Permit holder' and temporary emergency transfer permit holders (transferees) in the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) database. Permit holders who certified they were unable to participate in 2022 to qualify for an emergency transfer or permit holders who permanently transferred a permit away in 2022 will not receive payments.

ADF&G considered the past practice of providing a base payment and additional tiered payment for S01L permit holders. However, the 2022 season was open, and some permit holders have an estimated loss in gross revenue for all salmon that is very small compared to their best three out of five years. Due to these circumstances, **ADF&G proposes that each permit holder who meets the eligibility criteria will receive a direct payment equal to their estimated loss.** This change ensures that no permit holders are under- or over-compensated compared to the previous base pay and tiered plan. If more than one eligible permit holder made landings on the same vessel in 2022, the total payment will be calculated at the vessel level and divided between eligible permit holder's pro rata to each permit holder's loss. Estimated loss is calculated on an individual vessel level as the difference in gross revenue between 2022 and the average of their best three out of five years (2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2021) for all salmon. ADF&G estimates that 31 permit holders on 28 vessels may qualify for disaster relief based on the proposed criteria.

ADF&G is also seeking further comments on the following issues:

- Should permit holders who did not participate in 2022 be eligible for payment, and if included, how should those payments be determined? Public comments recommended that permit holders who did not participate in 2022 but participated in two of the previous six years be eligible if they had a valid S01L permit in 2022.
- Should permit holders who joined the fishery late in the season or showed minimal participation receive compensation proportional to their estimated loss? Public comment recommended that permit holders need to have fished for a majority of the season and/or made over 5 deliveries to receive full compensation.

Vessel Crew (20% of harvester pool ~\$739,120) In response to public comment, ADF&G proposes crew payments that are **proportional to the loss of the eligible permit holder**. This change is feasible due to the larger funding pool available for this disaster year. ADF&G proposes that each eligible crew member receives funds equal to 10% of the qualified permit holder's funds (or vessel if more than one permit holder operated on the vessel). Crew payments may be more or less than the previously proposed flat payment of \$8,000 depending on the loss of the permit holder they fished for.

Direct payments to minors are not authorized by the terms of the Federal grant but may be authorized to guardians in the same household on behalf of an eligible minor.

Proposed eligibility criteria for vessel crew:

1. Crew member must have held a 2022 commercial crew license or a 2022 CFEC permit for any fishery. This information will be verified using the ADF&G Licensing database and the CFEC permit database.
2. Crew member must provide information to show they worked as crew for a qualified permit holder, based on a 2022 crew contract or an affidavit from the permit holder or vessel owner.
3. Crew member must not be eligible for fishery disaster funds as a Chignik permit holder.

ADF&G is seeking further comment on the proposed crew payment method and amount.

Processors – 13% (~\$2,402,140) ADF&G proposes direct payments to Chignik salmon processing companies meeting the eligibility criteria based on the estimated exvessel value loss using Commercial Operator's Annual Reports (COAR) buying data. COAR buying data are used to determine eligibility and payment for processors because those data are linked to the salmon harvesting location.

Proposed processor eligibility criteria:

1. Processing company must have processed Chignik salmon in 2022.
2. Processing company must have a demonstrated loss in exvessel value for Chignik salmon in 2022 as compared to the average of the best three out of five years for among 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2021.

Program Support – 0.06% - (~\$11,100): ADF&G proposes funds to partially cover salary and benefits for a Program Coordinator who helps manage the disaster program on behalf of the State of Alaska.

General direction: Unless otherwise specified, unclaimed funds in any category/subcategory will be allocated among all eligible entities within the same category/subcategory. Excess funds may also be directed toward research and/or infrastructure.



CHIGNIK INTERTRIBAL COALITION
427 AIRPORT ROAD
CHIGNIK LAGOON, ALASKA 99565

August 14, 2026

ADF&G, Attn: Darion Jones
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: Comments on the Draft 2022 Chignik Salmon Fishery Disaster Spend Plan

Dear Darion Jones,

This letter is written on behalf of the five Federally recognized Tribes represented by the Chignik Intertribal Coalition (CIC). Our tribes are members of the communities of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay and Perryville. The Coalition has represented these tribes as directed, since 2018. Please find below the following suggestions on how the funds appropriated by Congress to address the 2022 Chignik Area salmon fishery disaster should be allocated.

We are concerned that holding listening sessions and setting comment feedback deadlines during the 2026 salmon season can diminish local input. With this in mind, please consider a fluid approach to suggestions for changes on subsequent feedback because the third and final draft comment opportunity will be the only comment period that Chignik stakeholders may have.

2022 Chignik

Research – 9% (~\$1,665,000):

The Chignik Intertribal Coalition strongly supports the integration of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) into the research framework. While historical research initiatives have predominantly focused on sockeye salmon, habitat conditions, and the socio-economic distress caused by persistent disaster declarations in Chignik, we propose broadening the scope to include

management and human interactions within the fishery. For example, we request the state consider the suggestions below that can be incorporated in the MSE application:

1. Facilitating stakeholder collaboration to align priorities and analyze research findings.
2. Evaluating the success of various research combinations, analytical methodologies, and subsequent operational steps in achieving core management objectives.
3. Refining daily, in-season management operations.
4. Facilitate a collaborative analysis to develop a deeper understanding of specific management approaches and their corresponding impacts.

The CIC advocates for this research approach as a critical funding priority because the underlying drivers of these fishery disasters extend across multiple salmon species and distinct geographical areas.

Subsistence – 9% (~\$1,665,000):

The Chignik Intertribal Coalition (CIC) concurs with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) draft spend plan regarding subsistence, with the exception indicated below:

d) Held and returned a subsistence use permit issued by the Department of Fish and Game in 2022 for the Chignik Management Area as defined at 5 AAC 01.450.

While we acknowledge the language above is a qualifying criteria, we ask the state to consider that the downward trend in the number of locals who returned subsistence use permits can be weighed as an indicator of an increase in the number of people who have contributed to salmon conservation measures.

Our subsistence users' practices have been disrupted since 2018 because whether these years were state recognized fisheries disasters or not, it's likely that less people have utilized the process of obtaining subsistence permit applications and reporting because the collective priority among our tribes has been to forego subsistence harvest and sharing to help protect our future salmon returns. We've had to rely on salmon donations shipped into our communities numerous times since 2018.

We strongly recommend allowing the local tribes and/or the CIC to be eligible for any remainder of unspent funds in the subsistence category to conduct subsistence related outreach and education for cultural and ceremonial practices, and other culturally relevant activities related to subsistence harvesting and practices, or to cover costs related to maintaining food security donations, if necessary. In summary, one of the CIC's purposes and goals is to maintain food security for our tribes, including through acquiring and distributing salmon to our communities.

Communities – 5% (~\$920,000):

CIC proposes to allocate a portion of the disaster funds to municipalities and boroughs in the Chignik region that rely on revenue generated from salmon landings and other economic activities related to the salmon fishery. These local government entities were negatively impacted by the fishery disaster because fishery revenues comprise a significant portion of local operating budgets and are used to support education, public works, ports and harbors, and other services.

Infrastructure – 40% (~\$7,390,000):

The Chignik Intertribal Coalition (CIC) recommends the allocation of funds toward the development, repair, or enhancement of public infrastructure related to fisheries. This initiative encompasses projects directly associated with the management of commercial and subsistence salmon fisheries—such as the modernization of weirs and genetic sampling—as well as habitat conservation, restoration, and other infrastructure supporting the fishery. These proposals align with allowable uses under federal law, specifically for developing, repairing, or improving fishery-related public infrastructure, as well as advancing habitat conservation, restoration, and the collection of fishery information to improve management. In response to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s (ADF&G) request for feedback on specific projects eligible for infrastructure funding, the Coalition submits the following proposals:

- Purchase Chignik Bay school building for Chignik Bay tribe. The vision is to acquire the vacant school building from the Lake and Peninsula Borough to develop a sub-regional cultural center and field station in Chignik, AK.
- Renovation of local infrastructure utilizing a local workforce to construct or rebuild elements of a small-scale processing facility and freezer unit, thereby enhancing food and economic security. This initiative will employ local Chignik fishermen for the renovation of infrastructure, establishing an independent, small-scale local harvest and seafood processing solution that reduces reliance on transient processors.
- Revitalization of adequate housing facilities to support the seafood innovation workforce. In partnership with the City of Chignik, Chignik Bay Tribe and Far West, Inc. (ANSCA Corp), these housing upgrades can accommodate regional fishers and seasonal workers, helping to overcome critical manpower and operational gaps.
- Establishing a specialized location for cultural camps, youth outreach programs, and professional growth strategies, implemented in coordination with local and regional organizations. This center will serve as a centralized hub for vocational training programs (such as HVAC, roof repair, and interior remodeling) in collaboration with Bristol Bay regional entities, fostering enduring community involvement and cultural preservation. This program will be administered in partnership with the Chignik Intertribal Coalition.

- Providing dedicated facility spaces to accommodate academic research, state and federal management initiatives, and displays celebrating regional cultural heritage and historical artifacts. Intended to act as a spoke connected to larger regional centers, this field station will offer collaborative environments for academic institutions and research partners, facilitating direct interaction with personnel from both ADF&G and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Execution of a project focused on Chinook salmon through the use of moist egg incubation box technology. This initiative will be run in partnership with the Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association (CRAA) and Lake & Peninsula School District (LPSD) to counter the continuing decrease of Chinook salmon, which is a cornerstone of subsistence culture and food security. This undertaking is expected to operate under an educational permit from the Commissioner.
- Developing an all-inclusive strategy to gather fishery data and perform research aimed at reinforcing salmon conservation in Area L. This involves integrating local observations with data from state and federal agencies (such as genetic sampling) to pinpoint key habitat restoration needs and advance fishery management practices.
- We recommend that funds be prioritized for seafood-related infrastructure or value-added infrastructure that furthers long-term improvements in seafood-related revenues. This may include shoreside ice machines. Due to the lack of shore-based facilities and infrastructure for the fleet, vessel breakdowns, such as refrigerated seawater (RSW) failures, have become more frequent. During these breakdowns, our participants lose critical fishing opportunities while waiting for replacement parts and qualified technicians. Having ice available would support stakeholders during repairs. The acquisition of ice machines by the City of Chignik would provide necessary shore-based support, preserving salmon quality and enhancing fleet resilience during the salmon season. Additionally, providing ice to subsistence harvesters would improve catch quality and meet the food security needs of stakeholders.

Commercial Harvesters – 20% (~\$3,698,000):

Chignik Harvesters – 85%: The harvester allocation will be divided into two pools, one for vessel permit holders (80%) and one for vessel crew members (20%). The split between permit holders and crew members is based on average crew size and crew shares and considers the higher initial costs borne by the vessel operators that are typically reimbursed through standard deductions to crew pay when the fishery is open.

Chignik Permit holders (80% of harvester pool) Proposed eligibility criteria for Chignik permit holders:

1. The S01L permit holder must have made a Chignik salmon landing in 2022.

2. Permit holder did not make landings in another 2022 salmon seine fishery.
3. Permit holder must have a loss in 2022 gross revenue for all salmon as compared to the permit holder's average gross revenue for all salmon in the best three out of five years (2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2021).

CIC agrees, including hardship provisions for permit holders who do not meet the first eligibility criteria due to an allowable cause. Allowable causes may include vessel mechanical issues, personal or family medical emergencies, or a death in the family that resulted in the permit holder not being able to make a Chignik salmon landing in 2022.

Funds should be paid to the person listed as the 2022 'Permit holder' and temporary emergency transfer permit holders (transferees) in the CFEC database. Permit holders who certified they were unable to participate in 2022 in order to qualify for an emergency transfer or permit holders who permanently transferred a permit away in 2022 should not receive payments.

Vessel Crew (20% of harvester pool ~\$739,600) Vessel crew meeting all criteria are proposed to receive an **equal payment** from the crew member pool. Direct payments to minors are not authorized by the terms of the Federal grant but may be authorized to guardians in the same household on behalf of an eligible minor.:

1. Crew members must have held a 2022 commercial crew license or 2022 CFEC permit for any fishery. This information will be verified using the ADF&G Licensing database and the CFEC permit database.
2. Crew members must provide information to show they served as fishing crew in 2022 for a qualified permit holder, based on an affidavit from the permit or vessel holder.
3. Crew members must not be eligible for fishery disaster funds under the Chignik permit holder category of this distribution plan.

Processors – 17% (~\$3,140,000)

There has not been a shore-based processing plant in Chignik since 2008. The current buyer tenders the salmon they purchase in Chignik to False Pass and/or Kodiak Island. When Chignik has a poor, or non-existent season, buyers simply send their tenders elsewhere. Consequently, no enduring value is retained by a local processor to assist in establishing sustainable, year-round processing capability. Therefore, we recommend that the state consider any unspent funds go towards a local eligible entity to renovate locally based seafood innovation activities.

Additionally, an evaluation of essential shoreside services (store, fuel, mechanical, and parts) lost following the departure of the previous processor is necessary, with an action plan to be established.

Program Support – 0.06% - (~11,100):

CIC proposes funding for staff working on fishery disaster spend plan development and implementation in coordination with PSMFC.

In closing, we offer these recommendations on the proposed draft spend plan for the 2022 Chignik salmon disaster funds. We appreciate the opportunity to comment in this process and our Coalition membership appreciates your work. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

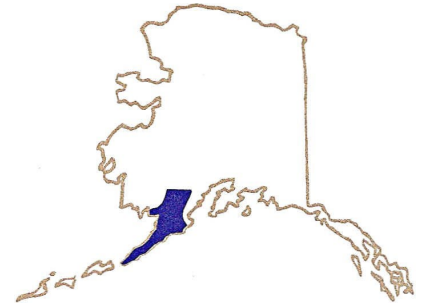
George Anderson
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Lake and Peninsula Borough

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August 14, 2026

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Attn: Darion Jones
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: Comments on the Draft 2022 Chignik Salmon Fishery Disaster Spend Plan

Dear Mr. Jones,

The Lake and Peninsula Borough (LPB) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft 2022 Chignik Salmon Fishery Disaster Spend Plan.

LPB recognizes the compounding impacts of multi-year salmon crises that continue to be felt on and off the water for Chignik region fishing villages. These impacts include loss of fishery income, employment, and infrastructure, population decline and school closures, erosion of access to and participation in subsistence activities and other cultural practices, and more. Collectively, these impacts degrade regional well-being, knowledge transmission, and community connections for Chignik youth.

LPB's comments on the 2022 Draft Spend Plan are primarily focused on disaster funds allocated for infrastructure and subsistence. We strongly support allocating infrastructure funds to projects that are responsive to community needs and the interconnectedness of fishery and community sustainability.

Public and community infrastructure is essential to Chignik's future as a fishing region. LPB strongly supports inclusion of infrastructure projects that will support the economic and cultural survival of Chignik villages as fishing communities. LPB supports allocating funding for community-identified and -supported infrastructure projects such as:

- Development and repair of dockside facilities and industry support services, such as ice machines, community cold storage, and other fishermen support services. These infrastructure investments are sorely needed and serve both commercial and subsistence fishermen and their families (estimated \$500,000).
- Purchase of Chignik Bay school by Chignik Bay Tribe (estimated \$1.5 million). The vacant school building in Chignik Bay represents a unique opportunity for timely investment in the realization of a sub-regional training, research, and culture center. This center will serve as a space for gathering, knowledge exchange, cultural stewardship, and cutting-edge research to advance sustainable fisheries and western and Indigenous knowledge systems. LPB is interested in helping transfer ownership from the Borough to the Chignik Bay Tribe, as we

have done in other LPB villages that have suffered through a school closure. This shared space will revitalize the regional economy and enhance culture and community as a centralized hub for fishery research, vocational training, and culture camps. The sale of the school to the Village of Chignik Bay includes two housing units that are in excellent condition and will support visiting scientists, agency staff, seasonal workforce needs, in-region youth, and more.

- School building operations are estimated at \$125,000 per year.
- School building upgrades and repairs (estimated \$750,000). We anticipate roof repairs and other upgrades may be needed to ready the building as a site of scientific collaboration and cultural revitalization. Associated housing units are move-in ready.

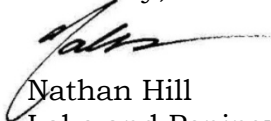
The erosion of infrastructure in Chignik communities has had devastating consequences for the long-term sustainability of Chignik salmon fisheries and fishing communities. Supporting community infrastructure needs is a central component of restoring stability and ensuring community preparedness for the future. We are ready to help assist with these efforts when needed.

On a separate issue, LPB supports allocating unspent or excess subsistence funds for culture camps and other initiatives aiming to advance food security and cultural well-being in the Chignik region.

Finally, we understand time constraints and delays are always a challenge. In this case we have heard concerns from Chignik communities and fishermen that the timeline for ADF&G listening sessions and deadlines for public comment occurred during the 2026 salmon season. We offer these comments as a first draft and intend to submit more detailed plans and budget estimates in the second round after we have had time to meet with Chignik communities and fishermen who were unable to provide feedback on the initial draft of the Spend Plan. We request ample opportunity in future comment periods to ensure public feedback is possible.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment on this process and for your efforts to date to draft a Spend Plan that is responsive to the communities that have experienced this fishery disaster.

Sincerely,



Nathan Hill
Lake and Peninsula Borough Manager

CHIGNIK BAY TRIBAL COUNCIL

**P.O. BOX 50
Chignik, AK 99564**

August 14, 2026

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Attn: Darion Jones
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: Comments on the Draft 2022 Chignik Salmon Fishery Disaster Spend Plan

To Whom It May Concern:

The Chignik Bay Tribal Council appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments on the Draft 2022 Chignik Salmon Fishery Disaster Spend Plan.

The Chignik Bay Tribe is a federally recognized Tribe. The Chignik Bay Tribal Council is its sole governing body. Our Tribe is deeply connected to our lands and waters and strives to advance local stewardship activities integral to sustainable fisheries and the continuation of our ways of life. Chignik Bay Tribal Council hosts the Chignik Region Resiliency Symposium, youth culture camps, and recently led development of the first-ever Chignik Sub-Region Watershed Plan. We are actively involved in solutions-focused, community-oriented planning that will improve our region's ability to respond to change. We are committed to bringing people together and building partnerships to ensure the long-term health of our fisheries and our people who depend on them.

Chignik Bay Tribal Council is acutely aware of the devastating impacts of multi-year salmon crises that continue to be felt across the Chignik sub-region. The allocation of disaster funds for research, subsistence, and infrastructure will potentially provide our fishing communities and families with a foundation for supporting the science and stewardship essential to the long-term sustainability of our region.

We strongly support the activities and project ideas submitted in comments by the Chignik Intertribal Coalition (CIC) and the Lake and Peninsula Borough (LPB).

We support the use of unspent subsistence funds to host youth and culture camps, community workshops and trainings, and other food security and food sovereignty initiatives.

We are especially interested in the allocation of infrastructure funds to support the purchase and renovation of the Chignik Bay School. We envision the now dormant building as the future site of a community learning, research, and culture center. Our community infrastructure needs are fundamentally fishery related. Leveraging disaster funds intended to support fishery

sustainability and community resiliency for this purpose will help to build local capacity, advance collaborative science, and develop shared priorities and strategies for ensuring a sustainable future for our fisheries and communities.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment on this draft of the Spend Plan and intend to weigh in with more specific comments in the next iteration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roderick Carlson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Roderick Carlson, President

From:
To: [DFG, ComFisheriesDisasters \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Comments for 2022 Chignik Spend Plan
Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 11:26:34 AM

Hello,

I have a few comments regarding the Chignik 2022 spend plan.

1.) First, I do not agree with opening the funding up to S01L Permit Holders who did not make a landing. That adds a lot of gray area and takes from the fishermen who committed to fishing Chignik and suffered the consequences for its failure. Fishermen who made landings in Chignik were unable to fish other fisheries like those who did not. If they did not participate, there should not be funding. It is easy to confirm qualifications based on landings. There is no way to verify legitimate breakdowns, family emergencies, and deaths in the family as stated in the plan. I think that adds too much complication and room to be taken advantage of, resulting in less compensation for those who suffered real loss.

2.) The second question you asked about permit holders showing up late, should they receive compensation based on their estimated loss? I don't think we should be receiving compensation based on our estimated loss. Receiving compensation based on previous years success in tiers like has been done in the past, seems the best way to divide and the most fair, as it would be closest to how money would be disbursed without a disaster. First reason for this, showing past years' success on good years shows how the money would be divided if the season had gone normally. Second reason, odd years are almost always higher income years because of the pink return. Using an average to decide loss for 2022, an even year, based on how much loss we suffered wouldn't be fair compared to odd years previously. We should be dividing it out based on success on normal years passed.

3.) I agree with how the rest of the plan is written.

Thank you,
Axel Rowland

From:
To: [DFG, ComFisheriesDisasters \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Infrastructure
Date: Monday, August 3, 2026 10:39:10 AM

My comment is on the division of disaster monies, I completely disagree on the 40% for infrastructure, this is not what the money is meant for in my opinion, I think this needs to be restructured to a fair division, please rethink this

Respectfully submitted

F/V Zachery J. John E Jones Sr

From: Boris Jr
To: [DFG, ComFisheriesDisasters \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2026 1:05:27 PM

40% infrastructure

20% harvesters

I think that needs to be reworked who had the disaster here adfg or the fisherman. On top of the harvesters 20% it gets taken down even more by the crew shares.

15% infrastructure is plenty more needs to go towards the harvesters and crew shares.

From: Ernest Carlson
To: [DFG, ComFisheriesDisasters \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Date: Friday, August 14, 2026 4:40 PM

To Whom This May Concern

I would like to see the crew members tied into the tier program to the boats that they crewed on. We have crew members that have family to support and crew members that are head of house holds they should not be given equal shares to boats that don't work as hard or leave early in the season to go to another fishery.

The Spend Plan has a New Entity, Infrastructure, there was no Infrastructure in the last Disasters going to Chignik. I see 40% as a little Extreme, Reducing the Infrastructure to 10% and increasing the Community's to 10% and the harvesters to 45%.

Also a harvester has to showed He or She has fished over 50% of the season thru fish tickets thru ADF&G, not just a one to Five tickets to show effort and move on to another fishery in the State.

Thank you

Ernest Carlson

F/V Desperado

A Chignik Area L Permit holder sense 1978

From: Dale Carlson
To: [DFG, ComFisheriesDisasters \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Draft Addendum or Comments re 2022 Disaster Grant Application
Date: Sunday, August 9, 2026 6:50:49 AM

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Tina Torrey"
To: "Dale Carlson"
Sent: Tue, Aug 4, 2026 at 8:56 PM
Subject: Fwd: Draft Addendum or Comments re 2022 Disaster Grant Application

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tina
Date: July 31, 2026 at 4:37:32 PM AKDT
To: Dale Carlson
Subject: Draft Addendum or Comments re 2022 Disaster Grant Application

Addendum to Comments

If this Board is not going to consider what I have previously presented to you, then they don't you have a separate pool for individuals like myself that have only Area L permits and no other area; have had a boat, seine, and a skiff registered with the State in 2022 with the intent to fish and have had fished Area L two of the last six years.

Or something like: If you have a permit and no boat; or no boat or skiff registered for 2022, then you do not apply. In other words, you have to have had a boat and skiff registered with the State saying that your intent was to fish and have fished two of the past six years and only have a permit in Area L.

Please give heavy consideration to individuals like myself in Area L that this is the only place I have a permit, a boat, and skiff all registered with ADF&G for the past 10 or 20 years. And equal consideration that I have fished in Area L two out of the last ten years.

As you can see, my intent was to fish. I have fished every other year since the

decline of the Area L fisheries. In July 2022, I got back from tendering in Bristol Bay, as I have did in the past, but the fisheries was very limited to opening time and area upon my return.

My intention was to fish. I had my crew; and boat and skiff were registered with ADF&G and my insurance was paid.

I truly appreciate you letting me have this opportunity to request my application for disaster funds be granted to its fullest extent.

Again, I have a home, a shop, a fishing vessel, two skiffs, and all my gear is stored in Chignik year-round. I maintain a mail box in Chignik. I retain my residency in Chignik. I am an active salmon fisherman, not just a permit-holder. I pay for boat storage fees in the winter; I pay for net storage fees; I pay for boat and skiff lift fees to get my boat put in the water in May; I pay for boat slip fees; I pay for my boat and skiffs to be taken out of the water in August. I pay for winter storage fees for my boat. As you can see, my intent each and every year is to fish. In 2022, it was not economically feasible for me to pay more expenses (fuel, groceries, insurance, boat slip fees, etc.) when there were no fish to be caught.

Dale L. Carlson

F/V Tajaha

P.O. Box 3, Chignik, AK 99564

From: Alfredo Abou Eid
To: [DFG, ComFisheriesDisasters \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: 2022 salmon disaster spend plan comments
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2026 2:54:02 PM

We strong feel that the current forecasted spend plan is inappropriate in a couple ways.

1. That the infrastructure projected 40% is way too high, considering this is state run program giving 40% to infrastructure is way too high especially since it's above community and harvesters we strongly believe that it should only be 15-20% of the budget and that's being more then generous.
2. We belive that 20% for harvester which include vessel and crew is much to low and that it should be 40% since it was the harvesters and crew that were directly effected by the loss and we would like the crew portion to be slightly higher then what was proposed to help the family's that were directly impacted by loss.

These are our comment to please be taken into consideration when making the final spend plan with the hope that the people who where financial impacted by the loss are the ones who are getting the help that is needed to offset the cost of living that has in the past decade increasingly gone up especially for those who live in the rural parts of Alaska.

Thank you for your time and consideration and please contact us if you have further questions.

From: Rodney Anderson
To: [DFG, ComFisheriesDisasters \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: 2022 Chignik disaster spend plan
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2026 3:34:38 PM

Dear Dorian Jones,

I'm a Year-round Chignik lagoon resident, been so for 66 years, Have commercial salmon fish for 56 years I have my tax return to prove that I've been paying taxes for that many years And a subsistence user.

I would like to point out that the timing for public comments is not convenient for the commercial fishery. That's in progress now for those individuals that would like to comment it's cumbersome because of the timing.

What really sticks me is the infrastructure allocation at 40% first off if it wasn't for the commercial fisherman, we wouldn't be talking about disaster relief. Disaster relief is supposed to help those that are in need and that would be the commercial fisherman to subsistence user the communities and the processors who rely on this commercial fishery for income. I think the 9% would be more than generous for infrastructure, 9% would fall in line with research. keep in mind This is not the department's piggy bank

9% allocation per subsistence users at \$1000 per user what will happen to the surplus funds if there are only 25 permits issued (Hypothetically)?

Eligibility requirements,

ADF&G seeking comments on the following issues should permit holders who did not participate in the 2022 be eligible for payments and if included, how should those payments be determined? Perhaps if they did not participate, they should not qualify unless they made multiple deliveries and proof that they bought fuel groceries fishing licenses paid for repairs plane, tickets, and so forth. A good faith, Effort.

Should permit holders who joined the fishery late in the season or showed minimal participation, receive compensation proportional to their estimated loss?

There are two parts to this question, one you have an individual joining the fishery late in a season and two you have a fisherman, leaving late in the season to fish elsewhere. One individual say, comes off a tender contract, entering the fishery late in the season He should be entitled to a percentage of the fishery, just like the guy that moved on to another fishery to fish, a different area, He'd be entitled to the first part, but not 100%.

The permit holder that fished for the full season he needs to be compensated accordingly, it's not fair to the fisherman that stuck out the entire season, if you compensate the other two groups, 100%.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Concerned Area L permit and subsistence user.

From:
To: [DFG, ComFisheriesDisasters \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: comment for the 2022 Chignik Salmon Disaster allocation
Date: Friday, August 14, 2026 11:58:44 AM

Dear ADF &G,

I am writing to formally request a reallocation of the currently designated funds to better support the needs of our fishing community.

Specifically, I request that the allocation for infrastructure be reduced from **40% to 10%**, with the remaining **30% redirected to support fishermen**. This adjustment would allow a greater portion of the available funding to directly benefit fishermen and address their immediate economic and operational needs.

The additional funding could help fishermen with essential costs such as equipment, vessel maintenance, fuel, safety improvements, market access, and other expenses necessary to maintain sustainable and productive fishing operations.

While infrastructure remains important, I believe that providing direct assistance to fishermen will have a more immediate and meaningful impact on the community. Supporting the people who depend on the fishing industry will also strengthen the local economy and help preserve the long-term viability of the fishing sector.

I respectfully request that this proposed change in funding allocation be considered and approved. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dan and Jennie Grunert
F/V Adventuress