

**Submitted by Board Member Carlson-VanDort, prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game<sup>i</sup>.**

April 30, 2026

Substitute Language for Proposal 189:

5 AAC 96 is amended by adding a new section to read:

**5 AAC 96.6XX. Board of fisheries traditional knowledge policy. (a) The Board of Fisheries will incorporate local knowledge and traditional knowledge as an aspect of best available science to inform Board of Fisheries regulation adoption.**

**(b) In this section,**

**(1) "traditional knowledge" means a way of knowing that is unique to a given culture or society, often through language, that encompasses a worldview that defines specific relationships between humans and nonhuman attributes of the world;**

**"traditional knowledge" includes**

**(A) knowledge that derives from personal experiences and the cumulative experiences of a person's forbearers; generational knowledge; and**

**(B) knowledge that is characterized by a long time scale that is local in scope and that may provide a counterpoint to more broad-based, scientifically produced knowledge;**

**(2) "local knowledge" means a way of knowing developed from the observations and personal and shared experiences of people living, working, harvesting, and processing fish or game in a specific place; "local knowledge" may be obtained rapidly rather than generationally.**

**Authority:** AS 16.05.251      AS 16.05.258

5 AAC 01.249(1) is amended to read:

(1) the department shall use the best available data, including preseason projections, mainstem river sonar passage estimates, test fisheries indices, subsistence and commercial fishing reports, [AND] fish passage estimates from escapement monitoring projects, **and traditional knowledge** to assess the run size of chum salmon;

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<sup>i</sup> Preparation of draft substitute language at the request of a Board member does not imply ADF&G support. The Department will state its position on the language during deliberation.