



Enforcement Committee

MINUTES

April 4, 2023, Hybrid meeting from 1pm-4pm

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1007 West third Ave, Suite 400
Anchorage, AK 99501

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Enforcement Committee met on April 4, 2023, at the Council office.

Committee members in attendance included: Steve Williams (Co-Chairman), Nathan Lagerwey (Co-Chairman), LCDR Jedediah Raskie, CAPT Conor Sullivan, Alex Perry, Pete Harwell, Karla Bush, Aaron Frenzel, Andrea Hattan, Jennifer Ferdinand, Tom Meyer, and Brian McTague. The committee was staffed by Jon McCracken.

Others in attendance included: Josh Keaton, Julie Bonney, David Witherell, Anne Maria, Doug Duncan, Phil Null,

1. C1 Cook Inlet Salmon

Doug Duncan and Josh Keaton, NMFS staff, provided an overview of the alternatives and the enforcement considerations for the proposed FMP amendment to manage the salmon fisheries that occur in Federal economic exclusive zone (EEZ) waters of Cook Inlet. Under Alternative 1 there would be no additional Federal management or enforcement considerations or measures as the State would continue to manage the upper Cook Inlet (UCI) EEZ salmon fishery outside of a Federal FMP. Under Alternative 2, there would be Federal management of the UCI EEZ salmon fishery with specific management measures delegated to the State, and therefore subject to MSA requirements and other applicable Federal law. The State has an existing management and enforcement infrastructure for the Cook Inlet salmon fishery in place. These existing processes would interface with Federal fisheries management through the associated Council process, which would provide additional review and resources to evaluate Cook Inlet salmon stocks and inform their management. Alternative 3 would result in NMFS managing the UCI EEZ salmon fishery under the Salmon FMP. This would require the creation of a completely new Federal management and enforcement infrastructure for the fishery. NMFS would be responsible for opening the fishery, monitoring catch and landings data, and closing the fishery before EEZ catch limits are exceeded.

After the presentation and some discussion, the Enforcement Committee made the following recommendations concerning C1 Cook Inlet Salmon:

- Require use of paperless self-service logbooks (eLandings) with full reporting of catch, including bycatch.
- Optional retention of bycatch.
- Open the UCI EEZ federal fishery on the same days as the State drift gillnet fishery.

- To effectively enforce concurrent fishing openers, a prohibition is needed on fishing in the Cook Inlet EEZ commercial salmon fishery and the adjacent State of Alaska waters on the same calendar day.
 - Require VMS when operating a federally permitted vessel in the Cook Inlet with a drift gillnet onboard for both management and compliance purposes.
 - Craft regulations for the Cook Inlet EEZ salmon commercial fishery that are consistent with adjacent State of Alaska waters requirements concerning:
 - Prohibiting the use/hire of aircraft for the commercial taking of salmon or to direct commercial fishing operations;
 - Gear configuration, to include requiring two State permits on a vessel for use of a 200-fathom net; and
 - Gear markings.
 - Impose landing recordkeeping and reporting requirements similar to the IFQ program with regard to the first transfer of fish for both management and compliance purposes.
 - Craft first transfer receiver requirements similar to those imposed on IFQ registered buyers.
 - Delegate recreational management authority to the State.
 - If not delegated, enact federal recreational bag and possession limits that mirror the State limits and prohibit stacking bag or possession limits.
2. **The Enforcement Committee is planning to meet prior to the June 2023 Council meeting to review the initial review BBRKC closure analysis and the chapter associated with the compliance and enforcement of the North Pacific Program 2023 Annual ReportAnnual Observer Enforcement**