

Draft SSC Report

April 2023



C1 Cook Inlet Salmon FMP Amendment

C1 - Cook Inlet Salmon FMP Amendment (1 of 4)

- SSC reviewed EA/RIR describing proposed alternatives and options for including salmon fisheries in UCI EEZ within the salmon FMP (2 of 4 appear viable):
 - Alt. 2 - Federal management with specific measures delegated to the State
 - Alt. 3 - Full Federal management
- The SSC **highlights** that this action necessitates blending of management paradigms, escapement-based policy and regulatory requirements under MSA
- The SSC **highlights** that either alternative will require significant coordination, data sharing, and collaboration between NMFS and ADF&G

C1 - Cook Inlet Salmon FMP Amendment (2 of 4)

- The EA/RIR has benefitted from a substantive revision addressing past SSC comments, now including consideration of recreational fisheries within EEZ waters, and calculations for OY and MSY
- The SSC *finds* that this document is sufficient to inform the Council at final action
- The SSC *highlights* that the proposed definition for MSY is not consistent with the way MSY is estimated in standard (Tier 1) stock-recruitment analyses, but is consistent with SDC definitions relative to the lower bound of escapement goals

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- The SSC ***finds*** that the description and equations for the calculation of Status Determination Criteria is consistent with MSA requirements.
- The SSC ***highlights*** that the EEZ management measures will require considerable development before implementation, with several specific decisions deferred to NMFS or a future Salmon Plan Team.

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- The SSC ***commends*** development of detailed profiles for communities engaged in this fishery, however impacts of alternatives are only described in qualitative terms.
- The SSC ***suggests*** consideration of scaling the level of precaution in ABC calculations based on past preseason forecast performance
- The SSC ***highlights*** that the escapement goal for Kenai River late-run Chinook salmon is size-based (>75cm), and careful consideration is necessary to ensure a common currency of large-sized salmon is used throughout calculations of potential yield, SDC, ABC, and other management quantities