

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Chris Oliver *DO*
Executive Director *For*

DATE: September 15, 2011

SUBJECT: Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

ESTIMATED TIME
8 HOURS

ACTION REQUIRED

- (a) Receive the report from the Salmon FMP Workshop.
- (b) Initial Review of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft FMP; take action as necessary.

BACKGROUND

The Council is in the process of reviewing and updating the Salmon FMP in order to comply with recent Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) requirements and to reflect the Council's policy with regard to the State of Alaska's (State) continued management authority over the sport (i.e., recreational) and commercial salmon fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Though the FMP has been amended nine times in the last two decades, there has not been a comprehensive analysis of management strategy or scope of FMP coverage since 1990. State fisheries regulations and Federal and international laws affecting Alaska salmon have changed and the reauthorization of the MSA has expanded the requirements for FMPs. Further, the FMP is vague with respect to management authority for three directed commercial salmon fisheries that occur in the West Area EEZ (west of Cape Suckling).

At its April 2011 meeting, the Council received a preliminary analysis that provided a review of the FMP and a basic discussion of how and to what degree Federal requirements are addressed in the FMP. The preliminary analysis also provided options for modifying FMP provisions and highlighted areas where the Council could recommend changes to the FMP's management measures. The Council selected Alternative 3 as its preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) and provided direction for FMP provisions the Council is considering modifying, removing, or adding.

At this meeting, the Council will review an Initial Review draft environmental assessment (EA) analyzing the alternatives and options the Council identified back in April. Appendix 3 of the EA is a working draft FMP that reflects the Council's PPA. The EA was posted on the Council website on September 6, 2011 and sent out in a Council mailing on September 9, 2011.

A public workshop on the Salmon FMP was held September 14, 2011 in Anchorage, Alaska to provide interested members of the public with the opportunity to review the EA, gain an understanding of the issues, and to assist in their preparation of written comments and public testimony for the Council's consideration. At this meeting, the Council will receive the workshop report (attached as Item C-1(a)), review the EA and the working draft of the FMP, and determine whether to modify the alternatives and options or request further information prior to Final Action, tentatively scheduled for December 2011.