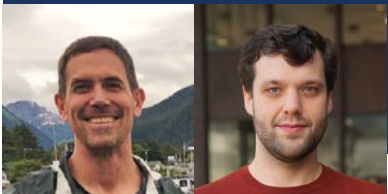


# C4 COOK INLET SALMON *PRELIMINARY REVIEW*

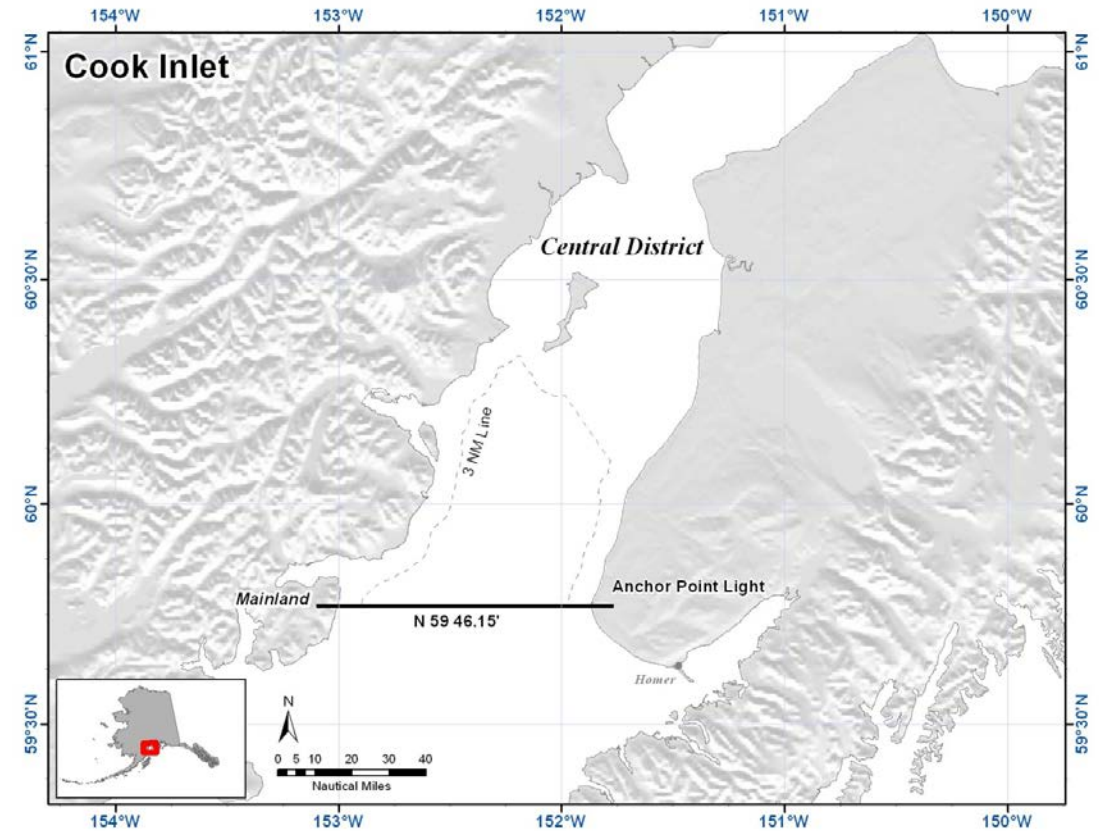
JIM ARMSTRONG, COUNCIL STAFF

DOUG DUNCAN, NMFS REGIONAL OFFICE



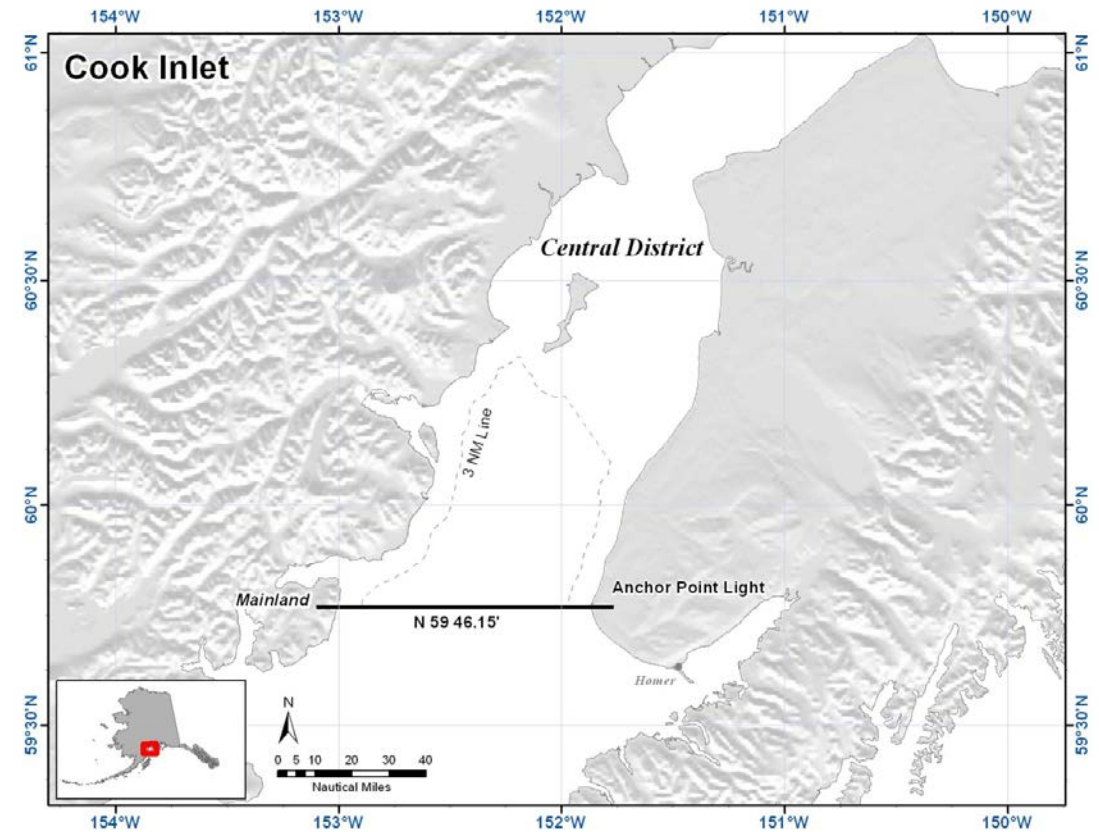
# PRELIMINARY REVIEW ACTION

- SSC
  - provide recommendations on plan for the analysis for initial review
- Council
  - clarify alternatives to be analyzed for initial review in Oct 2020



# MATERIALS

- Action Memo
- Cook Inlet Salmon *Preliminary Review Draft*
- Presentations
- Written Public Comments
- Cook Inlet Salmon Committee Report 2/20
- Cook Inlet Salmon Committee Report 5/20



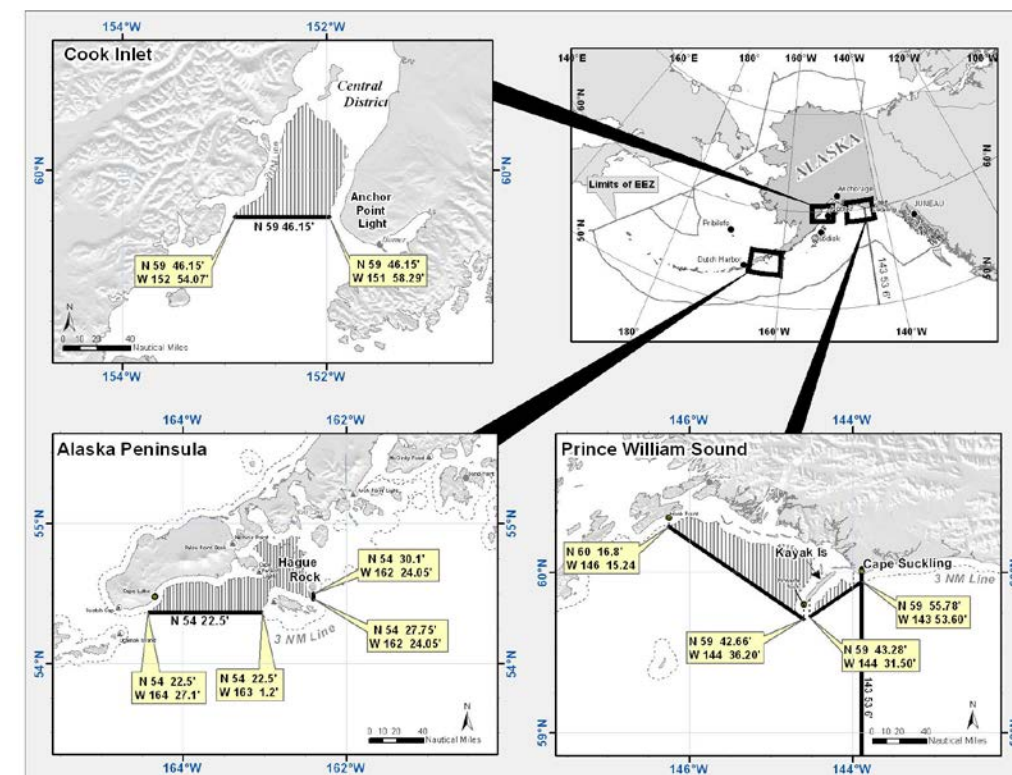
# STAFF PRESENTATIONS

- **Background, Alternatives** – Jim Armstrong, Council Staff
- **Draft Environmental Assessment** – Doug Duncan, NMFS Regional Office
- **Draft Regulatory Impact Review** – Marcus Hartley, Northern Economics
- **Draft Fishing Community Assessment** – Mike Downs, Wislow Consulting
- **Workgroup staff available for questions** – Gretchen Harrington (NMFS), Curry Cunningham (UAF), Andrew Munro (ADF&G), Jordan Watson (NMFS), Lauren Smoker (NOAA GC)



# BACKGROUND

- Dec 2012 Amendment 12
  - Updated FMP to comply with the MSA
  - Removed Cook Inlet, PWS, S.AK Pen.
- Jan 2013 UCIDA Lawsuit
- Sep 2016 9th Circuit rules in favor of Plaintiffs
- Apr 2017 Council initiates action
- Jan 2020 Court orders Dec 31, 2020 deadline



## DRAFT PURPOSE AND NEED (DEC 2019)

*The Council intends to amend the Salmon FMP to **manage the traditional net fishing area that occurs in Federal waters of Cook Inlet**. Federal management in an FMP must meet the Magnuson-Stevens Act required provisions for an FMP in section 303(a) and related Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions. This proposed action is necessary to bring the Salmon FMP into compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act consistent with the recent Ninth Circuit ruling and the Judgement of the District Court in UCIDA et al., v. NMFS.*



# DRAFT ALTERNATIVE I

- **Alternative I: No Action.**
  - *No amendment to the Salmon FMP. This alternative would maintain status quo. Alternative I is not a viable alternative given the Ninth Circuit decision, however, NEPA requires that Federal agencies analyze a no action alternative.*



## DRAFT ALTERNATIVE 2

- **Alternative 2:** *Federal management with specific management measures delegated to the State.*
  - *Amend the Salmon FMP to include the Cook Inlet EEZ in the FMP's fishery management unit in the West Area and establish a Federal management regime for these salmon fisheries that delegates specific management measures to the State of Alaska, to use existing State salmon management infrastructure, in compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and Ninth Circuit ruling. Alternative 2 would identify the management measures that would be managed by the Council and NMFS, the management measures that would be delegated to the State to manage with Federal oversight, and the process for delegation and oversight of management.*





# DRAFT ALTERNATIVE 3

- **Alternative 3: Federal management.**
  - *Amend the Salmon FMP to include the Cook Inlet EEZ in the FMP's fishery management unit in the West Area and apply Federal management to those portions of the fisheries that occur in the EEZ.*



# COOK INLET SALMON COMMITTEE HX

- Cook Inlet salmon fishery stakeholders, including Plaintiffs
  - review and provide comments on specific, Council-identified issues;
  - develop options for fishery management measures for specific, Council-identified management needs, and
  - provide perspectives on potential social and economic impacts of proposed fishery management measures.
- Meetings from Dec 2018 – May 2020



# COOK INLET SALMON COMMITTEE REC

- Perspectives challenge conventional jurisdictional paradigms
- Reports will be reviewed by Council at this meeting
- Council may
  - affirm or improve existing alternatives
  - advance Committee recommendations on alternatives, management measures for analysis



# MSA REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTENTS OF FMPS

- **Table ES-I in the Executive Summary**
- **Discussed in Section 1.6**
  - **SEC. 301. NATIONAL STANDARDS**
  - **SEC. 302. REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS**
  - **SEC. 303. CONTENTS OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS**



# DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

- 1. Management Policy and Objectives**
- 2. Procedures for Implementation (State and Federal Roles)**
- 3. Management Measures**
- 4. Status Determination Criteria, Annual Catch Limits**
- 5. Accountability Measures**
- 6. Optimum Yield**
- 7. Annual Process for Determining the Status of the Stocks**
- 8. Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology**
- 9. Appeal Process**
- 10. Monitoring, Recordkeeping, and Reporting Requirements**



# ALTERNATIVE I

Issue	Summary
<b>Management Policy and Objectives</b>	Focuses on the East Area only
<b>Procedures for Implementation (State, Fed Roles)</b>	Pacific Salmon Commission, ADF&G in East only
<b>Management Measures</b>	Legal gear – allows for troll gear only
<b>Status Determination Criteria, ACLs</b>	SDC Addressed by PSC, ADF&G; ACLs not applicable for PSC
<b>AMs</b>	Achieved through State processes
<b>OY</b>	Sum of troll fishery catches
<b>Annual Process for Status of the Stocks</b>	Peer review process
<b>SBRM</b>	ADF&G Fish tickets
<b>Appeal Process</b>	Applies to East only
<b>Monitoring, Recordkeeping, and Reporting</b>	Accomplished by PSC, State



# ALTERNATIVE 2

Issue	Summary
<b>Management Policy and Objectives</b>	Objectives 1 and 2 modified to include Cook Inlet
<b>Procedures for Implementation (State, Fed Roles)</b>	Categories modeled after Crab, Scallop FMPs
<b>Management Measures</b>	Criteria in need of development
<b>Status Determination Criteria, ACLs *</b>	Tier system, preseason and postseason ACLs
<b>AMs</b>	Responsive to postseason ACLs
<b>OY</b>	Sum of catches that w/ all other catches achieves escapement goal
<b>Annual Process for Status of the Stocks *</b>	SAFE
<b>SBRM</b>	eLandings and/or ADF&G fish tickets
<b>Appeal Process</b>	All EEZ fisheries
<b>Monitoring, Recordkeeping, and Reporting</b>	eLogbooks, EM*, VMS*, Observers*...



# ALTERNATIVE 2 CHANGES

- 2.4.4 Status Determination Criteria
  - “Alternative Approach” option removed
    - Needed for adapting FMP to reauthorized Act under AM 12
  
- 2.4.7 Annual Process for Determining the Status of the Stocks
  - “Peer Review Process” option removed
    - More appropriate for East Area





# ALTERNATIVE 3

Issue	Summary
<b>Management Policy and Objectives</b>	Could model these after the Programmatic Groundfish Policy
<b>Procedures for Implementation</b>	N/A – fed only
<b>Management Measures</b>	TACs, time/area management, n development
<b>Status Determination Criteria, ACLs</b>	Tier system w/ EEZ catch accounting; preseason, postseason ACLs
<b>AMs</b>	Inseason, Postseason
<b>OY</b>	Sum of EEZ catches w/ all other catches achieves escapement goal
<b>Annual Process for Status of the Stocks</b>	SAFE – serious issues with timing
<b>SBRM</b>	eLandings monitoring options
<b>Appeal Process</b>	N/A – fed only
<b>Monitoring, Recordkeeping, and Reporting</b>	eLogbooks, EM*, VMS*, Observers*...



# COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

Issue	No Action	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<b>Management Policy and Objectives</b>	East only	2 new obj for Cook	Model after GF?
<b>Procedures for Implementation (State, Fed Roles)</b>	East only	several	N/A
<b>Management Measures</b>	Troll gear only	Major dev issue	In dev
<b>Status Determination Criteria, ACLs</b>	PSC, State	Tier system	Tier system,EEZ
<b>AMs</b>	State	Postseason	Postseason
<b>OY</b>	Troll only	$\Sigma$ catches	$\Sigma$ EEZ catches
<b>Annual Process for Status of the Stocks</b>	Peer review	SAFE	SAFE
<b>SBRM</b>	Fish tickets	eLandings	eLandings
<b>Appeal Process</b>	East only	All EEZ fisheries	N/A
<b>Monitoring, Recordkeeping, and Reporting</b>	PSC, State	several	several



# QUESTIONS SO FAR?

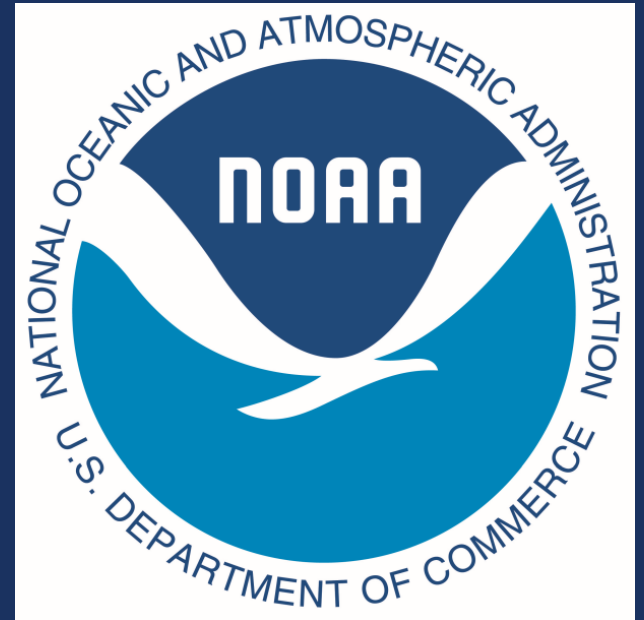


- [JAMES.ARMSTRONG@NOAA.GOV](mailto:JAMES.ARMSTRONG@NOAA.GOV)
- 907-271-2809



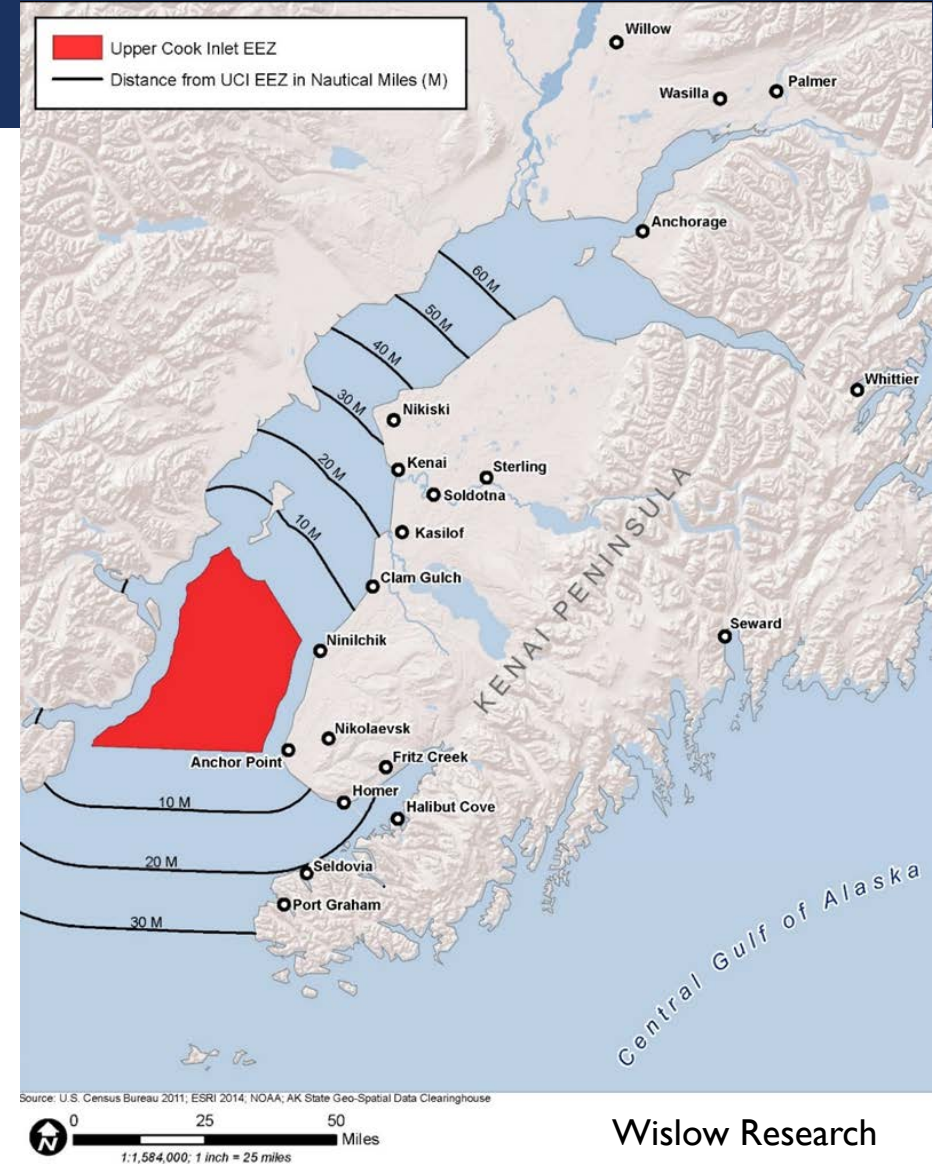
# C4 - COOK INLET SALMON FMP AMENDMENT PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF THE DRAFT EA

DOUG DUNCAN, NOAA FISHERIES, 5/15/20



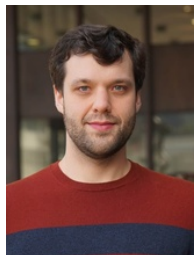
# ACTION

- Amend Salmon FMP to include upper Cook Inlet EEZ commercial drift gillnet fishery
- The Council is reviewing Cook Inlet Salmon Committee recommendations and finalizing Alternatives



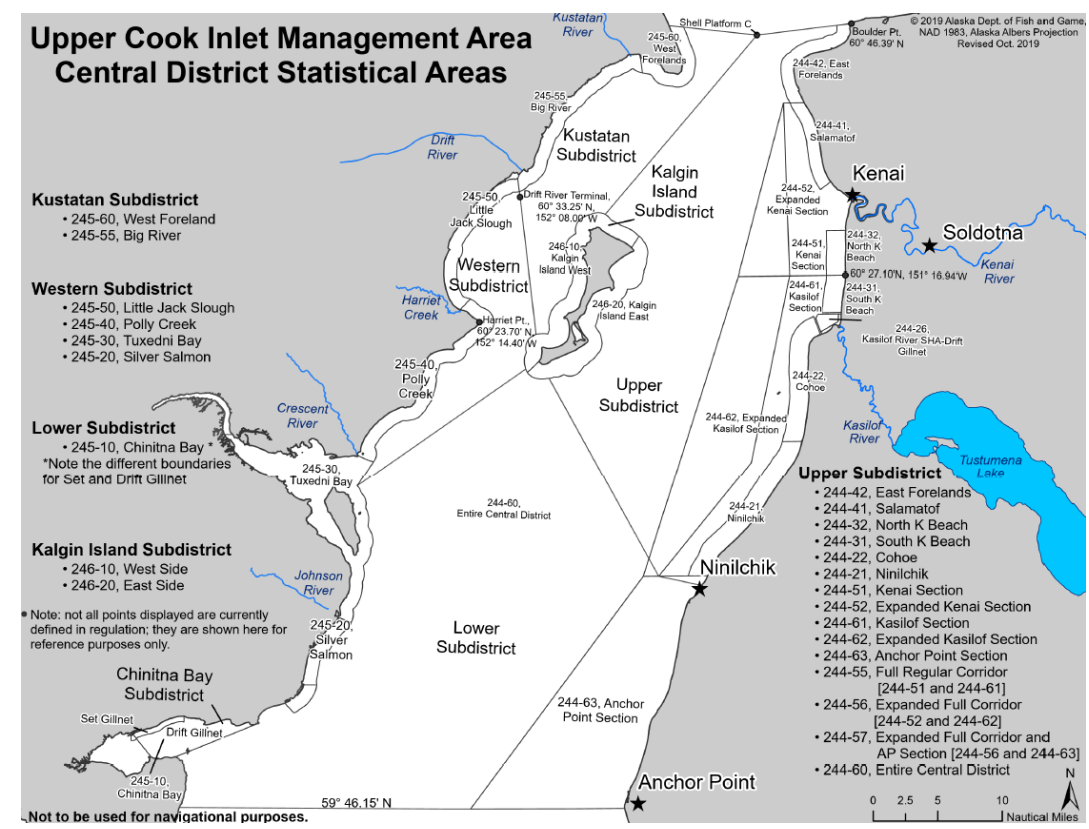
# ALTERNATIVES AND PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

- Alternative 1 – status quo – management deferred to the state
- Alternative 2 – management measures delegated to the state
- Alternative 3 – federal management
  
- Draft EA focuses on preliminary information under existing conditions. Additional information and analysis provided after alternatives selected.



# GENERAL IMPACTS

- Overall salmon removals (state and federal waters)
- Spawning escapement
- Salmon availability as prey and ecosystem considerations
- Location/timing of fishery
- Potential for gear interaction with marine mammals and seabirds

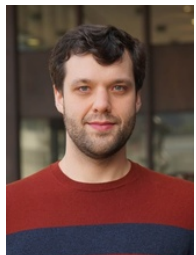


## SALMON STOCKS (3.1, PAGE 107)

- Alaska salmon stocks (apply SDC/ACL's to each stock for analysis)
  - Stocks of concern
- ESA listed salmon stocks (review GSI/CWWT data, ESA Section 7 consultation req'd)



Elizabeth Earl/Peninsula Clarion





# MARINE MAMMALS (3.5, PAGE 116)

- **Cook Inlet Beluga Whales**  
(prey availability, gear interactions)
- Steller Sea Lions  
(prey availability, gear interactions)
- Humpback Whales (gear interactions)
- Fin Whales (gear interactions)
- Section 7 consultation required for listed species.
  - Review of take data
  - Review information on prey usage and dependence



## SEABIRDS (3.6, PAGE 127)

- Kittlitz's Murrelet (gear interaction)
- Common Murre (gear interaction)
- Gulls (gear interaction)
- Steller's Eider & Short-tailed Albatross (ESA listed, no known fishery interactions)
- ESA Section 7 consultation required for listed species



Sarah Schoen, USGS, Alaska Science Center

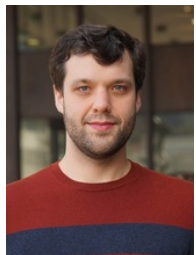


## ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (3.7, PAGE 129)

- Drift gillnet gear in Cook Inlet has minimal to no contact with EFH substrates
- Recreational troll gear has minimal to no contact with EFH substrates
- No Habitat Area of Particular Concern overlap
- Minimal, temporary, or no effect expected



Matanuska-Susitna Borough Public Affairs



# CUMULATIVE EFFECTS (3.8, PAGE 131)

- Invasive species
  - Pike
  - Elodea
- Climate change
- Habitat degradation/urbanization

Who you going to call?

Aquatic Invasives  
**MONSTERS**

1-877-INVASIV

This spooky fun series was provided by your  
Alaska aquatic invasive species defender squad:



V.Rathbun (BLM)



# Questions?



Doug Duncan  
Doug.Duncan@noaa.gov

