



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
Office of General Counsel  
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**Litigation Updates for the  
October 2024 Meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council**

***UCIDA v. NMFS***

Parties:

**Plaintiffs:** United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA); Cook Inlet Fishermen’s Fund.

**Federal Defendants:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS); National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); Secretary of Commerce, Gina M. Raimondo; and Assistant Administrator for NOAA, Janet Coit.

**Defendant-Intervenor:** State of Alaska.

Case Activity:

On May 29, 2024, Plaintiffs filed a motion in the United States District Court for the District of Alaska challenging Amendment 16 to the Salmon Fishery Management Plan and implementing regulations—issued May 1, 2024—as inconsistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Administrative Procedure Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act. Federal Defendants filed their answer on July 22. Separately, on July 17, Plaintiffs filed a new complaint challenging the 2024 harvest specifications for the Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishery on many of the same grounds. On August 9, Plaintiffs filed a motion to consolidate the two cases and stay briefing deadlines until Federal Defendants filed their answer to the complaint challenging the harvest specifications. The district court granted Plaintiffs’ motion to consolidate on September 11, and Federal Defendants filed their answer to the harvest specifications complaint on September 16.

Status/Next Steps:

The district court will now set a briefing schedule for the two consolidated cases and briefing will likely take place this fall.