

Lara K Fleenor
Edgewater Marine Surveyors of Alaska LLC; 4th generation fishing family (F/V Clara Lee)
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RE: C2 Cook Inlet Salmon FMP – Final Action

November 27, 2020 Mr. Simon Kinneen, Chair North Pacific Fishery Management Council 1007 West Third, Suite 400 Anchorage, Alaska 99501 Re: Final action on Item C2, the Cook Inlet Salmon FMP to the Chair and members of the NPFMC: Dear Chairman and all North Pacific Fishery Management Council representatives, In your upcoming December meeting you will be selecting from a range of 4 alternatives and taking final action on the Cook Inlet Salmon FMP. We are extremely concerned about the recent addition of Alternative 4 to the range of options that was introduced last minute by the State of Alaska representatives on the Council. We are very much opposed to Alternative 4 as it would have a significant negative financial effects on our local fisherman, businesses and our community. Our local fisherman, businesses and towns benefit greatly from the upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishery and have so for over six decades. We do not support Alternative 4 which advocates for the closure of commercial salmon fishing in over half the designated area in Upper Cook Inlet that the commercial fleet needs to harvest salmon. Supporting Alternative 4 would effectively eliminate the entire upper Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishery. The upper Cook Inlet drift fleet is already burdened to the point of bankruptcy by politically motivated area closures of this type during the fishing season. We support joint management of the Cook Inlet salmon fishery between the State of Alaska and NPFMC / NMFS using the directions of a legal Fishery Management Plan that is compliant to the Magnuson - Stevens Act including the Ten National Standards. We support applying the best scientific management practices to ensure the sustainability and viability of this nationally important economic natural resource for generations to come. Sincerely, Lara Fleenor