

## RE: C2 Cook Inlet Salmon FMP – Final Action

Commenting on Alternative 4, being considered for federal management to take over Cook Inlet and close it to commercial fishing. Restricting fishing in federal waters is restricting catch, and is truly a technique of re-allocation of the resource to in river users. With the depth of waters in Cook Inlet, and the historic flow of salmon, harvesting fish effectively within 3 miles of shore is very difficult. This is not Bristol Bay and cannot be managed in the same way. To effectively harvest salmon the drift fleet needs access to federal waters, they need the opportunity to catch where fish rise to within net depth, this can be very random and is thus why fishermen need access to larger areas to be effective. The natural flow of sockeye into the Kenai river, the main sockeye producing system in Cook Inlet, runs through federal waters and is virtually not harvestable in state waters by the drift fleet. Those within the state who propose the shut down of federal waters are aware of this, and their goal is to reallocate this resource through any means possible to in river users. Be aware that an acceptance of alternative 4 is an acceptance of reallocation of the salmon resources of Cook Inlet away from the commercial users and towards in river users. This is the goal, and you will be complicit in it if you vote in favor of this option. I would ask that you consider the people who are being displaced, not the trade groups, or political actors who claim to represent us. I am a third generation Alaskan Cook Inlet commercial drift fisherman, I have left Cook Inlet because the future there has been unjustly destroyed. We have watched, under state management, the intentional destruction of our fishery, my culture has been destroyed so much so that I had to leave it. Many hoped that federal management would restore some sort of justice, restore some sort of hope, restore some sort of culture for us and our children. Alternative 4 would be the opposite, it would be the nail in the coffin, and those who don't care for their neighbors and their neighbors historic tie to these lands would revel in that nail. Many trampled on minorities have looked for the protection of the federal government when states have been tyrannical, count us as one more. I ask that you please protect our rights, and our way of life- I ask that you reject Alternative 4