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## NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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# C4 Cost Recovery Report and Program Improvements

June 2026 Council Meeting

## Action Memo

Council Staff: Taylor Holman  
Other presenters: Josh Keaton, Alicia Miller (NMFS AKR)  
Action Required: 1) Receive Annual Cost Recovery Report presentation  
2) Review initial draft of RIR, provide input and recommendations  
3) Consider next steps, potentially identifying a preliminary preferred alternative, and releasing the analysis for final action

## ANNUAL COST RECOVERY REPORT

In Alaska, the Council and NMFS have implemented multiple Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs). Section 304(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) requires the collection of cost recovery fees for these programs. Under this authority, NMFS can recover actual costs directly related to the management, data collection, and enforcement of LAPPs and the Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program. On an annual basis, NMFS produces a report that consolidates cost recovery data and analysis across all NPFMC programs, providing a comprehensive view of fisheries cost recovery in Alaska for the 2025 fiscal year.

In April 2025, the Council [recommended](#) that NMFS and NOAA Office of Law Enforcement include additional information in future consolidated cost recovery reports. Section 1.1 of the 2025 report provides a summary of the information included in response to the Council's recommendations.

## INITIAL REVIEW ANALYSIS

In April 2025, the Council received a discussion paper that informed options to adjust the annual timing and administrative processes for all of the Council's cost recovery and fee collection programs. That paper identified inefficiencies and challenges faced by stakeholders and NMFS, as well as opportunities to improve clarity, consistency, and efficiency within the cost recovery processes administered by NMFS' Alaska Regional Office (AKR). The Council requested that NMFS staff further evaluate options for the cost recovery changes proposed in the discussion paper and initiate a package for Council consideration.

The Initial Review analysis prepared for the June 2026 Council meeting considers modifications to the Halibut and Sablefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) cost recovery program. The suite of alternatives and options developed by NMFS staff seek to address and remedy current time constraints for the annual IFQ cost recovery process alone; options for changes and improvements to other cost recovery programs, as described in the April 2025 discussion paper, were not included within the suite of alternatives in this analysis. NMFS does not plan to address the other program improvements at this stage given limited capacity. If the Council or the public would like any of the other improvements, that feedback would be welcomed.

Included within Appendix A is a discussion paper describing potential changes to the Aleutian Islands Golden King Crab fishery start date. The Council initiated an action to develop a discussion paper on this topic in June of 2021. Given the alignment with the Council's ongoing cost recovery process action, NMFS AKR staff recommended that this action be combined and included within the Council's cost recovery action.