

**NPFMC ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
April 2025 - Teleconference**

E Motions

Motion 1 - Tribal Salmon Fishery

The AP recommends the Council initiate a discussion paper on how a Tribal Salmon Fishery can be implemented into regulation for the Cook Inlet Exclusive Economic Zone. The discussion paper should incorporate the proposal elements developed between NMFS Alaska Region and the Tikahtnu Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and include, but not be limited to:

- Review of commercial regulatory requirements for gear and how commercial gear could be used in the Tribal fishery.
- Review of commercial regulatory requirements for recordkeeping, and how they could be implemented in the Tribal fishery.
- Review of commercial regulatory requirements for fishing times, and how those could be different for the Tribal fishery.
- Considerations for how TAC could be apportioned to the Tribal fishery, including how regulations could be developed to allow the ability to sell some catch to recover costs of engaging in fishery.
- A review of the management of other Tribal fisheries that have been established within Federally managed fisheries (including other Regions) as a comparison for these decision points.

Main Motion passed 20-0

Rationale in Support of Main Motion

- *The AP's request that the Council initiate a discussion paper. This request is responsive to public testimony from the Tikahtnu Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (TIFC) and numerous tribes who have worked extensively with NMFS to develop a management plan.*
- *The AP heard public testimony that the Cook Inlet EEZ salmon fishery is underutilized and the TAC is not being fully harvested. The tribes in this region live in a non-subsistence area, so they utilize commercial fishing to provide enough salmon resources for their subsistence needs.*
- *The motion maker noted this action would uphold the federal trust responsibility to protect tribal rights to cultural and natural resources, including the right to hunt, fish and gather.*
- *The motion reflects some of the key decision points and needs from Tribal stakeholders that should be included in the discussion paper, but the AP anticipates that if directed by the Council, staff would include any other aspects of the proposal or issues that may arise in development of the paper.*
- *The AP noted that the proposal submitted in public comment by TIFC referred to the fishery as a "Tribal Salmon Fishery" or TSF, which is reflected in the motion language, but realized that sockeye salmon will be the target species harvested by the TSF.*

- *The discussion paper should include information on historical and current tribal access to salmon resources, including information on jurisdictional overlap.*
- *An AP member recognizes that there are a multitude of issues facing Cook Inlet salmon and wanted to emphasize that the Tribal Salmon Fishery is intended to be a subsistence fishery, breaking from all other fisheries managed by the NPFMC, which are commercial.*
- *The AP noted that since a future TSF in the Cook Inlet EEZ commercial salmon fishery would be unfamiliar territory for the NPFMC process, just as the newly established Cook Inlet EEZ commercial salmon fishery is, the inclusion of other Tribal fisheries into the discussion paper would be an important comparison as the process considers particular decision points.*

Motion 2 - Sablefish IFQ and Fixed Gear CDQ

The AP recommends the Council initiate a regulatory amendment to establish the time of day of the start and end of the sablefish IFQ and fixed gear CDQ commercial fishing seasons that aligns with the time of day of the start and end of the halibut commercial fishing period established by the International Pacific Halibut Commission.

Main Motion passed 20-0

Rationale in Support of Main Motion

- *The halibut and sablefish longline IFQ and CDQ fixed gear season has historically always started at noon on the date established through the IPHC Annual Meeting. Starting in 2024, the season start time was changed to 6 am at the IPHC Annual Meeting as a way to provide more daylight hours on opening day of the season.*
- *When the IPHC regulatory package was reviewed for approval by NMFS, it was flagged that while the IPHC sets the season start date for the IFQ and CDQ fixed gear fleet for halibut and sablefish, it can only set the start time for the halibut fishery, as the sablefish fishery starts at noon by regulation. This has created a disjointed start to the halibut and sablefish longline IFQ fishery where you can set gear for halibut at 6 am and have to still wait until noon for sablefish to open.*
- *The AP noted that this was a housekeeping request that was responsive to the longline fleet who requested this regulatory amendment to establish both the season start date and the season start time for the IFQ and CDQ fixed gear longline fishery at the IPHC Annual meeting.*
- *An AP member noted that OLE has no concerns regarding a motion to align season start times with halibut. It is consistent with the Enforcement Precepts, which advocates for consistency in regulations.*