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Leadership to enhance, foster and promote economic development

November 18, 2020

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1007 West 3rd Ave., Suite 400
Anchorage, AK 99501


Re: Support for the Cook Inlet Commercial Fishery

The Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District is a regional non-government agency tasked with economic development for the Kenai Peninsula Borough region. We work diligently to support the industries that make up our diverse economy and foster sustainable development projects. As you are likely aware, salmon is the major economic driver in the region's seafood industry, accounting for 85% of the total wholesale value. Our region, like many others, have also been deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected nearly every business on the Kenai Peninsula. Now is not the time to eliminate a critical industry in our communities.

As the Executive Director of the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District, I urge you to eliminate Alternative 4 from the Cook Inlet Fishery management options. Alternative 4, closing of all federal waters in Cook Inlet to commercial fishing, would effectively close our fishery. We ask that you apply best management practices to the entire fishery.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Tim Dillon
Executive Director
Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District
Tim@kpedd.org
907-242-9709



Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR)
The State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development certified KPEDD as an
ARDOR in 1989.



Economic Development District (EDD)
The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic
Development Administration (EDA) recognized KPEDD
as an Economic Development District in 1988.