



VIA ONLINE PORTAL

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
1007 West Third Avenue, Suite 400  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
<https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/1745>

November 27, 2020

Dear North Pacific Fishery Management Council:

SalmonState submits the following comments on the proposed C2 Cook Inlet Salmon Final Action for the Fishery Management Plan for Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ, dated December 2020. SalmonState opposes the adoption of “Alternative 4: Federal management of the commercial fishery in the EEZ with the EEZ closed to commercial fishing” by NPFMC.

SalmonState is a nonprofit organization working to protect salmon habitat and promote policies that will guarantee Alaska remains home to the world's largest, healthiest and most abundant wild salmon resource, which provides culture, food, income, employment, and recreation to Alaskans, Americans, and the rest of the world. SalmonState is a project of New Venture Fund, which is a non-profit that supports effective public interest projects.

The proposed Alternative 4 would eliminate access to commercial harvest of salmon within Cook Inlet federal waters. This prohibition of commercial harvest would adversely impact Cook Inlet communities by eliminating a major economic driver to the region. The coastal communities of Cook Inlet thrive from an active commercial fishing fleet, and the closure of such an industry will devastate those communities. These communities rely on owners and crew of the commercial fishing fleet to fill the harbor with vessels, provide business to supporting industries, and support local establishments and organizations.

Furthermore, closure and regulatory decisions for the Cook Inlet salmon fishery should be made by regulatory bodies delegated that authority and based on sound science and those ten standards set forth in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Alternative 4 is not an appropriate approach to regulation of the commercial salmon fishery in Cook Inlet. The State of Alaska has a long history of management of commercial salmon fishery and should retain the authority previously delegated. Alternative 2 allows NMFS and the State of Alaska to appropriately manage the commercial Cook Inlet salmon fishery in a manner that is based on science and consistent with the MSA. Alternative 2 should be adopted by the Council.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Tim Bristol, Executive Director  
SalmonState  
Homer, Alaska  
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