

To: Members of North Pacific Fisheries Management Council,

I have been involved in the Cook Inlet Commercial Salmon Fishery for 35 years. And now, in these difficult times, I find it appalling the Dunleavy Administration and the State of Alaska would propose an alternative as detrimental to so many fishing families, businesses and Alaskan communities as Alternative 4. As other user groups have developed and grown, commercial fishing in Cook Inlet has become more restricted with progressive reductions in time, opportunity, and area. Alternative 4 will drive more people out of commercial fishing. The domino effect will in turn challenge the ability for continued operation of processors, equipment and marine suppliers, fuel, groceries et al.

There has been a long historical record of sustainable Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishing. It is one of the cleanest commercial fisheries of wild stocks anywhere in the world. The time has come to **end the continuous effort** to shut down Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishing. It is time to stop pointing at and blaming commercial fishing families for problems with salmon stocks. It is time to recognize Cook Inlet commercial fishing for the important and viable industry it is, desired for its value and necessity to the future health and prosperity of the region. It is time to acknowledge and recognize the exploding growth, and detrimental impact of in river user groups on all of the salmon stocks. It is time for all Cook Inlet salmon user groups to acknowledge their own culpability in problematic salmon fisheries, and then work together to resolve issues.

It is time to end political management of Cook Inlet salmon stocks and return to biological management.

Please reject Alternative 4 entirely. This was unethically late submitted, is unvetted, and would collapse the longstanding viable Cook Inlet salmon fishery in direct opposition to the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, common sense, and the benefit and sustainability of the local communities and economies.

Please approve Alternative 2 with amendments to comply with Magnuson-Stevens Act national standards as required by law.

Respectfully,
Michael Gatling