



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

August 12, 2021

Mr. David Witherell, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1007 West Third, Suite 400
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear David:

We have approved Amendment 14 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Salmon Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Off Alaska (Salmon FMP) (RIN 0648-BK31). This amendment incorporates the Cook Inlet EEZ Subarea into the Salmon FMP's West Area, thereby bringing the Cook Inlet EEZ Subarea and the commercial salmon fisheries that occur within it under federal management by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The action applies the prohibition on commercial salmon fishing that is currently established in the rest of the West Area to the newly added Cook Inlet EEZ Subarea. The amendment also specifies separate maximum sustained yield, optimum yield, and annual catch limits for the Cook Inlet fishery and the Cook Inlet EEZ Subarea, reflecting the fact that Cook Inlet salmon stocks have historically been harvested in both State of Alaska and federal waters. All other West Area management measures will be applicable to the Cook Inlet EEZ Subarea. No changes are made to reference points or management measures for the West Area outside of the Cook Inlet EEZ Subarea. A final rule to implement Amendment 14 will follow at a later date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB", written over a white background.

James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.
Administrator, Alaska Region

