

**C-2 Salmon FMP
Council Motion (Balsiger/Cotten)
April 6, 2017**

The Council directs NMFS and Council staff to initiate an analysis and work with the State of Alaska to develop alternatives to amend the *Fishery Management Plan for the Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ Off Alaska* (Salmon FMP).

The Council adopts the following preliminary purpose and need and a preliminary range of alternatives.

Preliminary Purpose and Need

The Council intends to amend the Salmon FMP to manage the three traditional net fishing areas that occur in Federal waters; Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, and South Alaska Peninsula. Federal management in an FMP must meet the Magnuson-Stevens Act required provisions for an FMP in section 303(a) and related Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions. This proposed action is necessary to bring the Salmon FMP into compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act consistent with the recent Ninth Circuit ruling (*UCIDA et al., v. NMFS*).

Preliminary Alternatives

Alternative 1: Status quo – no amendments to the 2012 Salmon FMP.

Alternative 2: Amend the Salmon FMP to include three traditional net fishing areas in the FMP's fishery management unit in the West Area and establish cooperative management for these salmon fisheries that delegates specific management measures to the State of Alaska, to use existing State salmon management to the extent possible, in compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and Ninth Circuit ruling. Alternative 2 would identify those management functions that would be under Federal jurisdiction or delegated to the State and the process for delegation and cooperative management.

Alternative 3: Amend the Salmon FMP to include three traditional net fishing areas in the FMP's fishery management unit in the West Area and apply Federal management to those portions of the fisheries that occur in the EEZ.

Options for Alternative 2 and Alternative 3: Direct staff to develop a range of options for the conservation and management measures required under 303(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and related Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions. Staff should prioritize their work on the following requirements —

- management policy and objectives,
- conservation and management measures,
- status determination criteria,
- annual catch limits and accountability measures,
- methods to report bycatch and measures to minimize bycatch and the mortality of unavoidable bycatch,
- the salmon plan team or other process for annually determining status of the stocks and providing stock assessment and fishery evaluation information, and
- the process for review and appeal of State management measures applicable under the FMP.

After receiving this preliminary analysis, the Council intends to form a stakeholder workgroup comprised of stakeholders from Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, and the South Alaska Peninsula, as well as the East Area to ensure that the affected public has appropriate input in the development of a new Salmon FMP amendment. The composition, scope, and schedule for a stakeholder workgroup will be determined at a future meeting.