North Pacific Council
Agenda Item: C-8 Salmon FMP
October 7, 2017

The Council intends to amend the *Fishery Management Plan for the Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ Off Alaska* (Salmon FMP) to manage the commercial salmon fishery in the Cook Inlet exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Focusing on Cook Inlet first allows the Council to design fishery management regime for Cook Inlet that recognizes the complex issues in Cook Inlet. The Council intends to consider an FMP amendment to address the salmon fisheries in the EEZ of Prince William Sound and South Alaska Peninsula under a separate and subsequent action.

The Council modifies the preliminary purpose and need to read as follows. Additions are shown in bold, deleted text is shown in strikethrough.

Preliminary Purpose and Need

The Council intends to amend the Salmon FMP to manage the ~~three~~ traditional net fishing area~~s~~ that occur in Federal waters~~;~~ **of** 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 **and the Judgement of the District Court in** *UCIDA et al., v. NMFS*.

Conservation and Management Measures for Alternative 2 and Alternative 3

The Council directs NMFS and Council staff to continue to work with the State of Alaska to develop options for the conservation and management measures required under 303(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and related Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions. Staff should continue to 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.

Stakeholder Salmon Committee

The Council intends to form a Salmon Committee for stakeholders to address the required provisions for an FMP amendment to manage the commercial fisheries in the Federal waters of Cook Inlet.

To develop the scope of work for the Salmon Committee, the Council will solicit written proposals from the public to help the Council identify the specific required conservation and management measures under 303(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and related Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions where a committee would assist in the evaluation of information relevant to the development of options for a fishery management plan amendment and serve a useful purpose.

Council and NMFS staff, working with ADF&G staff, will provide an update on the issues identified from this solicitation and a proposed timeline for engagement by a stakeholder committee at a future Council meeting.

With this information, the Council will determine the composition, scope, and schedule for a stakeholder workgroup and request stakeholder participation in the Salmon Committee.