

# PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP SHEET

Agenda Item: C8 Salmon FMP

Check the boxes below if you will  
have a PowerPoint or Handout

NAME (Please Print)	TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF:	Handout	PPT
1 Terry Ninninger	Mat-Su Fish + wildlife SELF	✓	
2 Larry Engel	" " "		
3 Howard Delo -Keep	" " "		
4 Mike Wood	" " "		
5 Beth Stewart	Peninsula Fishermen's Coalition		
6 Erik Huebsch	UCIDA	X	
7 David Martin	<del>UCIDA</del> COOK INLET Fishermen Fund		
8 Ernie Weiss / Paul Gronholdt	Aleutians East Borough		
9 MIKE STANLEY	<del>CAMF</del> CDFU		
10 Steve Brown	CAMF		
11 Jeff Stephan	UFMA		
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NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(l) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

## UCIDA's Position and Objectives for Cook Inlet Salmon Management

In an article published in April 2016, celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the authors; Dr. Balsiger, Commissioner Cotten, Doug DeMaster and Chris Oliver wrote: "The goal is to get the most benefit from our fisheries for food and economic well-being, while conserving ecosystem health and fish stocks for continued productivity to benefit future generations of fishing families and coastal communities."

UCIDA's goal is to have that statement apply to Cook Inlet.

Current management of Upper Cook Inlet salmon undermines the sustainability and the optimum yield of salmon stocks in the region and the entire commercial salmon fishing industry.

Cook Inlet salmon have not been managed within the parameters of the ten National Standards under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Bringing salmon management into compliance with the standards will have numerous benefits: sustainability; regulatory stability for both commercial and recreational sectors; reduced contention between user groups; and improved yields which will increase the food supply for the nation.

The lack of parameters has led to the so-called fish wars in which allocation and politics have overrun scientific management of the resource. This in turn has led to the destabilization of the commercial fishing industry and is causing economic harm to the region's coastal communities.

The state has not focused on a remedy for problems with salmon production that has occurred in some systems. For example, the state's response to freshwater salmon production problems like invasive pike predation and effects of urbanization, that have led to a decline in some Mat-Su salmon stocks, has been to restrict commercial fishing in saltwater. This irrational approach creates a situation where everyone loses. Those affected salmon stocks continue to decline, leading to reduced harvests for all user groups and the resulting loss of economic benefits.

Successful salmon management in Cook Inlet requires real time in-season monitoring and decision-making for optimizing the benefit of this renewable resource. It is not possible to stockpile surplus salmon for harvest at a later time. Migrating salmon heading for spawning grounds pass through Cook Inlet's fishing grounds rapidly and once they move through, typically in a week or less, the opportunity for commercial harvest is gone forever. Sport fishing efforts are inherently inefficient; they do not, and cannot, harvest large surpluses of salmon. The resulting excess escapements do not benefit anyone in the short term and reduce production and future food supply from the salmon stocks in the long term.

Denying the commercial fishery a reasonable harvest opportunity on millions of sockeye and pink salmon and hundreds of thousands of chum salmon, in order to reduce the harvest of coho salmon by a few thousand fish, is not a zero sum game. It is enormously costly to the commercial fishing industry, with no measurable gain for others, and greatly reduces the potential food supply from our salmon resources.

## Objectives

State management policies, management plans and in-season management practices that comply with the MSA, the 10 National Standards and other applicable federal law.

Provide reasonable opportunity for commercial harvest on all surplus stocks of salmon and optimize the food production from the Cook Inlet salmon resources.

Provide reasonable opportunity for recreational users to harvest salmon.

Develop and implement strategies and mitigation measures to rebuild those salmon stocks that have impaired production levels.

# Matanuska-Susitna Borough



October 4, 2017

North Pacific Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup>, Suite 306  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

RE: Salmon FMP Revision & Stakeholder Work Group

Dear North Pacific Fishery Management Council,

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) is an all-volunteer commission appointed by the Borough Mayor and Assembly. The FWC works on behalf of the citizens of the Mat-Su to protect fisheries and fish habitat for the benefit of our community and maximum utilization by all user groups.

Since the Mat-Su Borough (MSB) is at the northernmost end of Cook Inlet, our fisheries will be heavily impacted by revisions to the Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. The Northern Cook Inlet has eight of the state's 14 salmon stocks of concern and the MSB has been successfully implementing conservation measures to bring more fish north to replenish these stocks for over a decade. These efforts include \$2.5 million dedicated to unprecedented fish passage improvements and salmon research.

With over 2/3 of the state's population living around Cook Inlet, our communities have a strong interest in having salmon management objectives that reflect the complex, mixed-stock fishery that exists in Cook Inlet. Management strategies that address overlapping run-timing and the weak-and strong-stock mix for the different species in the commercial fishery is the only way to ensure sustainability and to provide reasonable harvest opportunity for subsistence, personal, and sport fishery users. Mat-Su waters support the largest chinook, coho, pink and chum salmon populations in Upper Cook Inlet.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission respectfully requests to be included and actively involved in any stakeholder workgroup discussions to address revisions to the Salmon FMP impacting Cook Inlet.

Sincerely,

 **DEPUTY MANAGER**  
for John M. Moosey  
Borough Manager

