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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA

UNITED COOK INLET DRIFT
ASSOCIATION, AND COOK INLET
FISHERMEN'S FUND,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES
SERVICE ET AL.,

Defendants.

Case. No. 3:13-cv-00104-TMB

SECOND STATUS REPORT

In accordance with the Court's judgment, Federal Defendants provide a second status report. *See* Exhibit A.

DATED: February 22, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted:

JEFFREY H. WOOD
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/s/ Coby Howell
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was today served via the Court's CM/ECF system on all counsel of record.

/s/ Coby Howell
COBY HOWELL

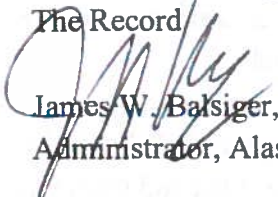


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

February 21, 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

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

SUBJECT: Status Report on the Development of a Salmon FMP Amendment
to Address Cook Inlet

By order dated August 3, 2017, the United States District Court for the District of Alaska required the National Marine Fisheries Service ("NMFS") to file a report on a tri-annual basis that describes the status of the agency's development of a Salmon Fishery Management Plan ("FMP") amendment to address Cook Inlet. NMFS filed its first status report on October 24, 2017. Given the court's order and when NMFS filed its first status report, status reports are due in February, June, and October each year. This memorandum serves as the February 2018 status report.

As explained in NMFS' previous status report, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council ("Council") stated its intent to form a salmon committee for Cook Inlet stakeholders. To develop the scope of work for the committee, the Council also issued a call for proposals. The Council's call for proposals asked the public to identify those conservation and management measures that should be considered by the Salmon Committee once it is formed in order to assist the Council in developing suitable options for the Salmon FMP amendment. The Council asked that proposals be submitted to the Council by February 1, 2018. To reach the broadest audience possible, the Council announced its call for proposals and the deadline for submitting proposals in its October newsletter¹ and on its website.² In late November 2018, the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries also announced the Council's call for proposals and deadline for submitting proposals through its email notification process.

The Council received a number of submissions in response to its call for proposals. Submissions included nominations for the Council's Salmon Committee and well as the identification of topics that should be discussed by the Salmon Committee. Over the next few weeks, personnel from the Council, NMFS, and the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game will review and

¹ The October Newsletter can be found at: <https://www.npfmc.org/salmon-fmp/content/PDFdocuments/newsletters/news1017.pdf>

² <https://www.npfmc.org/fishery-management-plan-team/salmon-fmp/>



discuss the submissions and prepare a report. Council staff plan to post the report on the Council's website and have it available for public review on or around March 16, 2018. The report will be considered by the Council at its April 2018 meeting.

At its April meeting, the Council will be focused on the formation of the salmon committee and the tasks it will ask the committee to consider. At this time, the agency also plans to provide the Council with information and guidance on the scope of the new Salmon FMP amendment. The Council has asked for this guidance in part due to comments submitted by United Cook Inlet Drift Association and Cook Inlet Fishermen's Fund.

Finally, personnel from the NMFS Alaska Region, the NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center, the Council, and the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game have been working on the data and scientific analysis needed for the Council's consideration and development of status determination criteria for the salmon stocks in Cook Inlet. These data also will be used for conducting the analysis necessary to understand the environmental impacts of alternative status determination criteria.

NMFS will submit its next status report to the court in June 2018.