



## United Cook Inlet Drift Association

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UCIDA Press Release -

### **Ninth Circuit Rules in Favor of Fishermen in *United Cook Inlet Drift Association v. National Marine Fisheries Service* (14-35982)**

The recent ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of United Cook Inlet Drift Association and Cook Inlet Fishermen's Fund versus the National Marine Fisheries Service is a victory for our salmon resources and the people of Alaska.

In a unanimous decision, the Ninth Circuit held that the plain language of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (“MSA”) requires the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to develop a fishery management plan for Cook Inlet salmon fisheries and that the delegation of that authority to the State of Alaska and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game can only occur through a fishery management plan that complies with the MSA’s requirements.

The ruling allows the Cook Inlet salmon resources to once again benefit from the MSA. This 40-year-old Fisheries Act is a global model of sustainability. One of the MSA’s authors, our very own Sen. Ted Stevens, had an exceptional vision for our nation’s fisheries, especially for those in his home state of Alaska. Many elements of the State of Alaska’s fishery management are woven into the fabric of the MSA.

With the use of standards described in the MSA, such as conservation, sustainability, prevention of over fishing, and by utilizing the best scientific information available, the salmon resources of Cook Inlet will be sustainable and bountiful for all Alaskans who rely on Cook Inlet salmon for recreation, healthy food, and jobs, for generations to come.