



# **D1 Cost Recovery**

April 2025

## **Action Memo**

Council Staff: Sarah Marrinan  
Other Presenters: Josh Keaton, Alicia Miller (NMFS AKR)  
Action Required: 1. Receive Annual Cost Recovery Report presentation  
2. Review Discussion Paper

## **BACKGROUND**

### Annual report

In Alaska, the Council and NMFS have implemented multiple Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs), and Section 304(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) requires the collection of cost recovery fees for these programs. Under this authority, NMFS can recover actual costs directly related to the management, data collection, and enforcement of LAPPs and the Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program. On an annual basis, NMFS produces a report that consolidates cost recovery data and analysis across all NPFMC programs, providing a comprehensive view of fisheries cost recovery in Alaska for the 2024 fiscal year.

### Discussion paper

At the December 2024 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting, the Council received a report reviewing the Pacific Halibut and Sablefish Individual Fishing Quota Program (IFQ Program) where NMFS recommended initiating a regulatory change to adjust the timing of the annual cost recovery process to address and remedy current time constraints for this annual process. The Council then requested staff prepare a discussion paper to inform options to adjust the annual timing and administrative processes for all of the Council's cost recovery and fee collection programs. The paper, which is attached to the eAgenda, aims to identify inefficiencies and challenges faced by stakeholders and NMFS as well as opportunities to improve clarity, consistency, and efficiency within the cost recovery processes administered by NMFS' Alaska Regional Office (AKR).

NMFS is providing this draft discussion paper as an initial step. Since the December Council meeting, NMFS staff have had limited capacity to explain all of the issues associated with the annual cost recovery process. However, this document provides information for the Council and the public to begin to understand the data, timing, process complexities and challenges with the multiple annual cost recovery programs and identify potential solutions for additional analysis, should the Council wish to initiate any.