

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC, and AP
FROM: Jim H. Branson *[Signature]*
Executive Director
SUBJECT: Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Groundfish Fishery,
Foreign Salmon PSC for 1984
DATE: March 28, 1983

ACTION REQUIRED

Approve for public review the 1984 ⁻¹⁹⁸⁵ Salmon PSC Amendment

BACKGROUND:

Amendment 3 to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP established salmon prohibited species catches (PSC) for the foreign groundfish fisheries. PSCs were set for 1981, 1982, 1983.

The goal of the amendment was to reach a salmon PSC of 16,250 chinooks or 17,473 of all salmon by 1986. Table 1 (Attachment C-4a) shows the proposed salmon reduction schedule.

Salmon PSCs should be established by FMP Amendment for 1984 ^{and 1985}. The Council staff has received word from representatives of the Western Alaskan residents that they and the representatives of the Japanese trawl fleet have agreed on the following PSCs for 1984 ^{and 1985}:

SALMON

	<u>Chinook</u>	<u>Total Salmon</u>
1984	35,750	38,441
1985	27,957 26,000	27,957

The Council should approve these numbers as a proposal for public review at this time and take final action on the amendment at the May meeting. This schedule will assure that the regulation is in place by January 1, 1984.

Table 1--Target reduction schedule of salmon prohibited species catches based on the average 1977-80 foreign trawl salmon incidental catch.

Year	Chinook	Salmon	Total Salmon ^{1/}
<u>Base Numbers</u>			
1977-80	74,400		80,000
<u>Reduced Catch Levels</u>			
(1981)	65,000		69,893
(1982)	55,250		59,409
(1983)	45,500		48,925
(1984)		to be determined	
(1985)		to be determined	
(1986)	16,250		17,473

^{1/} Total salmon numbers are calculated on the assumption that 93% of incidentally-caught salmon are chinook.

Note: A full and complete review of the salmon incidental catch reduction program will be conducted in 1983 to determine what the salmon incidental catch limits should be thereafter. This review will consider the status of the salmon resource, the economic and technological possibility of further incidental catch reductions, and other relevant matters. The review would also consider the economic and technological reasonableness of the goal set out above.