



D1 Salmon Bycatch

June 2019 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Staff: Diana Stram

Other Presenters: **IPA Reports:** John Gruver, Stephanie Madsen, Austin Eastabrooks,
James Mize

Seashare: Jim Harmon

Salmon Genetics: Chris Kondzela, Chuck Guthrie (AFSC), ,

Action Required: 1. 2018 reports (IPA reports, GOA Chinook report, SeaShare) – review
2. Salmon genetics 2017 review for EBS and GOA - review
3. Council salmon bycatch workshop report – review, action as necessary

BACKGROUND

2018 Salmon Reports

Three reports are provided for the 2018 fishery: Incentive Plan Agreement (IPA), reports from the 3 eastern Bering Sea pollock fishery sectors, a NMFS report on GOA Chinook management and an update from SeaShare on the salmon and halibut donations. Note that the information in the NMFS report has been combined with the presentation on the Salmon Bycatch Workshop.

Chinook salmon Incentive Plan Agreements annual reports

Under regulations implementing the Amendment 91 Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch management program, annual reports are required of each IPA entity and are provided to the Council at the April Council meeting (postponed until June this year). Regulations at 50 CFR 679.21(f)(13) stipulate generally that IPA entities report annually on the following:

- Incentive measures in effect in the previous year;
- How incentive measures affected individual vessels;
- How incentive measures affected salmon savings beyond current levels;
- IPA amendments approved by NMFS since the last annual report and the reasons for amendments;
- Sub-allocations to each participating vessel;
- Number of Chinook PSC and amount of pollock (mt) at the start of each fishing season;
- Number of Chinook PSC and amount of pollock (mt) caught at the end of each season;
- In-season transfers among entities of Chinook salmon PSC or pollock among AFA cooperatives;
- Transfers among IPA vessels; and amount of pollock (mt) transferred.

Regulations promulgated under Amendment 110 added a requirement that some description of how chum salmon will be managed under the IPAs should be included in reports from the IPAs. Reports from each of the three IPAs are posted and IPA representatives will be available to provide verbal reports.

GOA Chinook report

In April 2018, in conjunction with Council review of GOA Chinook PSC actions, the Council requested that staff develop a report (once the requisite information becomes available) of the following items:

- Status of Chinook salmon runs and escapement in Alaska, British Columbia, and the U.S. West Coast stocks;
- Progress of Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiations;
- Performance (harvest, effort, timing) of GOA non-pollock trawl CV fisheries that are subject to Chinook PSC limits

Not all of this information is available as yet, however much of this was discussed in conjunction with the items taken up in the Council's Salmon Bycatch Workshop in April 2019. Updated information as available, and a discussion of recommended approaches moving forward, will be included in the presentation or the Salmon Bycatch Workshop report under this agenda item.

SeaShare report

SeaShare provides an annual update on the Prohibited Species Donation Program efforts to provide donated salmon and halibut PSC as well as other non-PSC fish to food donations programs in the GOA and BSAI communities as well as communities across the lower 48 states. Mr. Jim Harmon will be available to provide an overview of program modifications as well as 2018 donations.

Salmon genetics 2017 review for EBS and GOA

Genetics reports on stock of origin of Chinook and chum salmon bycatch are available for the 2017 Bering Sea pollock fishery, the GOA pollock fishery, GOA rockfish (and arrowtooth) CV trawl fishery and the GOA non-pollock CP trawl fisheries. These reports are posted and NOAA fisheries genetics staff will be available to present these results.

Council salmon bycatch workshop report

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) held a public workshop on the state of knowledge, and future potential research avenues, for genetic stock identification of salmon bycatch in Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and Bering Sea and Aleutian Island (BSAI) groundfish fisheries. The purpose of the workshop was to facilitate feedback on how stock composition reports can be improved to better inform industry bycatch avoidance efforts, discuss appropriate spatial and temporal resolution of stock identification, and identify other associated analyses that could be used by stakeholders to better understand the causes of, and potential measures to minimize, salmon bycatch. The report is posted and Council staff will provide an overview of presentations received and recommendations for moving forward.