

PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP SHEET

Agenda Item: D-1a GOA Chinook Bycatch

	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF:
1	HERMAN SQUARTSOFG / Howard / Torres	INDIGENOUS VILLAGE OF OURIAKTA
2	George Hutchings	Myself
3	Joe Hanson	THE BOAT COMPANY
4	Jon Warrick	Ocean
5	Jolie Benny	ALDB
6	Kenney	
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13	Kenney	
14	Kenney	
15	Kenney	
16		
17		
18		Kenney Down
19		Kenney Down
20		
21	Kenney Down	
22		
23		
24		
25		

NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

January 24, 2012

Paul Olson, Attorney-at-Law
606 Merrell St.
Sitka, AK 99835
polsonlaw@gmail.com

Eric Olson, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252
Fax: (907) 271-2817

Re: Chinook PSC Limits and discussion paper

Dear Mr. Olson:

TBC thanks the Council for its efforts to establish Chinook PSC limits for the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). These comments pertain generally to the ongoing work on Chinook PSC now that NMFS is in the process of implementing Amendment 93 with its 18,316 chinook PSC limit for the Central reporting area and a 6,684 chinook limit for the Western reporting area for a total PSC limit of 25,000 chinook. I submit the following scoping comments on behalf of The Boat Company (TBC). TBC is a tax exempt, charitable, education foundation with a long history of operating in southeast Alaska. TBC conducts multi-day conservation and wilderness tours in southeast Alaska aboard its two larger vessels, the 145' M/V Liseron and the 157' M/V Mist Cove and has operated in southeast Alaska since 1980. TBC's clients participate in various activities that include environmental education, kayaking, hiking, beachcombing and fishing. Many clients who enjoy sport fishing in smaller catcher vessels deployed from one of our larger boats consider the opportunity to catch Chinook salmon as one of the key attractions of the Alaska visitor experience. Chinook salmon are Alaska's state fish and are the most important salmon species in terms of recreational value.

Therefore, TBC supports the effort to consider further reductions in GOA Chinook PSC. TBC thanks the Council for stepping in and addressing the absence of a formal limit in an expeditious manner. But NMFS and the Council should consider more substantial PSC reductions during the process as they move forward. The selected range of PSC limits in Amendment 93 did not reduce PSC. Instead, it was an actual increase over historical bycatch rates based on a 17 year period.

The historical annual average bycatch over a 17 year period from 1994 – 2011 was 15,116 fish from both the Central and Western Gulf of Alaska Pollock fisheries.¹ NMFS notes that the Pollock fisheries account for 75% of the Chinook PSC in GOA groundfish fisheries from 2001 to 2010.² Based on this information, a PSC limit that maintains the status quo would be roughly 20,000 fish based on a 17 year average. One of the reasons given for excluding the high bycatch years of 2007 and 2010 from the calculation was that it was inappropriate to reward Pollock fishers for increase bycatch. Yet by selecting the past ten years as a baseline, the PSC limit levels proposed in the alternatives do precisely that – reward the industry for increasing its Chinook bycatch over the last ten years.

Second, there are a number of significant uncertainties regarding the long-term sustainability of the Chinook resource. TBC has reviewed materials pertaining to the Bering

¹ EA/RIR/IRFA at 23.

² 76 Fed. Reg. at 72386.

Sea Chinook bycatch program.³ The sentiments of Yukon River fishers are shared by members of the scientific community who have noted that the trawl fishery likely played a significant role in those declines.⁴ Similarly, Kodiak residents have expressed the concern that "lightning strike" tows may be directly responsible for the significant decline of Karluk River stocks.⁵ Kodiak, Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound stocks all had below average escapements in 2010.⁶ Other affected stocks implicate ESA considerations. Since NMFS does not know the origin of many Chinook stocks caught in the Pollock fishery, there is really no way to know at this point the exact extent of the damage done to any of these stocks by trawl fisheries. But we do know that overall Chinook salmon abundance is in decline.⁷

TBC encourages NMFS and the Council to move forward with plans to improve efforts to determine stock composition of trawl bycatch and to develop a better research program so that it is possible to determine exact Chinook stock contributions. This knowledge will be essential in determining impacts to watersheds and communities affected by declines in harvestable numbers of Chinook salmon. But the PSC limit should be set much lower than currently proposed in the absence of adequate data.

Sincerely,

Paul Olson



³ EA/RIR/IRFA at 46-47 (indicating that despite conservative fisheries management at considerable expense to residents who rely on these fish for food and income, few escapement goals were achieved).

⁴ Heard, H.R., E Shevlyakov, O.V. Zikunov and R.E. McNicol. 2007. Chinook salmon – trends in abundance and biological characteristics. N. Pac. Andr. Fish Comm. Bull. 4:77-91.

⁵ EA/RIR/IRFA at 47 (indicating that closures to sport, subsistence and commercial fisheries did not result in achieving even low end escapement goals).

⁶ *Id.*

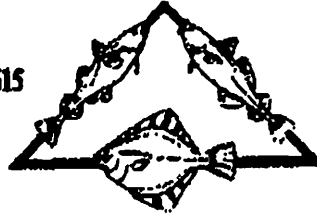
⁷ Irvine, J.R. and Fukuwaka, M. 2011. Pacific salmon abundance trends and climate change. ICES Journal of Marine Science 68: 1122 – 1130.

Groundfish Data Bank

Alaska

PH: 907-486-3033 FAX: 907-486-3461 P.O. BOX 788 - KODIAK, AK. 99615

Julie Bonney, Executive Director jbonney@gei.net
Katy McCauley, Fisheries Biologist agdb@gei.net



Sent by fax January 24, 2012

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Eric A. Olson, Chairman
605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306
AK 99501-2252
Fax (907) 271-2817

Re: D-1(a) Groundfish Issues/Miscellaneous: Discussion paper on GOA Chinook Bycatch in all trawl fisheries

Chairman Olson:

Alaska Groundfish Data Bank (AGDB) is a member organization that includes shorebased processors and trawl catcher vessels that operate in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). We submit these comments addressing Chinook bycatch in non-pollock fisheries.

Amendment 93, establishing PSC hard caps for Chinook salmon in the GOA pollock fisheries, if approved, goes into effect this year (C Season). With about 75% of GOA Chinook bycatch caught in the pollock fisheries, on average, we have been working hard and proactively to address this issue (see attached Appendix 1: Actions to monitor, avoid and reduce Chinook salmon bycatch in the 2011 GOA Pollock Fisheries and industry preparations for the 2012 fisheries). Chinook salmon bycatch in the non-pollock fisheries accounts for a relatively small proportion of the total Chinook bycatch in the GOA: in some years, the percentage is high (e.g. 2009, 2003) but this is because overall bycatch in those years was low, resulting in a higher percentage in non-pollock targets (see appendix 2). Salmon bycatch in the non-pollock fisheries is problematic because estimates are based on at-sea observer basket samples, not offload census data. Also, whereas gear innovations have evolved over the years to reduce salmon bycatch using pelagic gear (e.g. salmon excluders), there has been no research or innovations in gear designs to exclude salmon from bottom, non-pelagic nets. It is impracticable at this time -with derby-style fisheries, catch estimates based on at sea basket samples and inadequate gear technology - to control or reduce salmon bycatch in non-pelagic GOA trawl fisheries using a hard cap approach.

In addition, our members are being overwhelmed with Federal and State regulatory actions and Council agenda items focused on the Gulf of Alaska trawlers. Summarized here are the numerous recent and upcoming Council and State actions that have affected, will affect and are affecting the GOA trawlers:

1. This Action: Council implementation of PSC limits for the GOA non-pollock trawl fisheries (additional Chinook salmon limits).
2. Amendment 93: PSC hard caps for Chinook salmon in the GOA pollock fisheries
3. Amendment 83: GOA Pacific Cod gear split. Each sector is now responsible for its own incidental catch but with no catch share programs in place, there is still no relief from maximum retainable allowance (MRA) restrictions to reduce regulatory discards.
4. Amendment 88: New Rockfish program including a reduction of halibut PSC to the co-op vessels and new harvest caps and ownership caps.

5. Observer Program Restructuring (Amendment 76 – proposed rule not yet published): expected to be in place in 2013 or at the latest 2014.
6. Board of Fisheries, April 2011: closed State waters near Karluk River to trawling.
7. Tanner Crab Bycatch package (Amendment 89 - proposed rule not yet published): closes an area in Marmot Bay to trawling; until the observer restructuring package is implemented, will require 100% observer coverage in the Marmot Bay, Chiniak Gully and Sandbox areas – major flatfish fishery grounds.
8. Upcoming: GOA Halibut PSC reductions - proposed amendment to reduce the trawl/longline halibut PSC caps by 5, 10 or 15%.
9. Trailing amendment to the Tanner crab bycatch package (require elevating devices on trawl sweeps to reduce unobserved crab mortality and impacts to bottom habitat/flora/fauna).
10. Council discussion paper (February 2012): pollock D Season - redistribute GOA D-season pollock quota to the A-, B-, and C-seasons to reduce fleet exposure to Chinook PSC
11. Council discussion paper (April 2012): Pacific cod A-season opening dates
12. Council discussion paper (February 2012): AFA Vessel Replacement GOA Sideboards

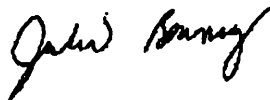
It is for all of these reasons that we believe that a hard cap management regime for the non-pollock fisheries does not meet the "practicable" standard of National Standard 9 for the catcher vessel fleets in the GOA at this time.

For this action, we advocate for Alternative 4: Full retention of salmon and request that the Council give us a reprieve from more piecemeal actions so we can focus our energies on new regulations and also on developing a GOA wide trawl catch share plan that gives the tools, incentives, individual accountability and necessary authority to accomplish, among other things, bycatch reduction goals. Catch share plans (CSP), such as Amendment 80 and the lone GOA trawl CSP, the Rockfish Program, include individual allocations and cooperative arrangements which, if properly designed for the affected fisheries, participants and community(s) will give us the tools to accomplish the goals desired by the Council, our fleets and other affected stakeholders in our communities.

Please see attached appendices:

1. Actions to monitor, avoid and reduce Chinook salmon bycatch in the 2011 GOA Pollock Fisheries and industry preparations for the 2012 fisheries
2. Tables and graphs of total GOA Chinook numbers and % of total Chinook, pollock vs. non-pollock targets, 2003 – 2011 showing that when total salmon numbers are low, the corresponding % Chinook in the non-pollock fisheries is high. Conversely, in high bycatch years, the % Chinook in the non-pollock targets is low compared to the pollock fisheries.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,



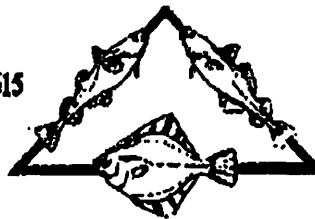
Julie Bonney
Executive Director
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc

Groundfish Data Bank

Alaska

PH: 907-486-3033 FAX: 907-486-3461 P.O. BOX 788 - KODIAK, AK. 99615

Julie Bonney, Executive Director jbonney@gei.net
Katy McGauley, Fisheries Biologist ksgdb@gei.net



February 2012 NPFMC Council meeting

Appendix 1: Actions to monitor, avoid and reduce Chinook salmon bycatch in the 2011 GOA Pollock Fisheries and industry preparations for the 2012 fisheries

Mid-year implementation of the Chinook hard cap is expected this year (2012) with an 8,929 salmon cap for the Central Gulf 2012 C and D seasons. Whereas the fleet would have been below that cap in 2011 (7,552 fish), the pollock TAC will be higher in 2012: retrospectively applying the same overall average number of salmon / MT of groundfish (NMFS CAS) experienced in the Fall of 2011 times the 2012 C/D quota in the CGOA, the fleet would have exceeded the cap by 969 fish.

Efforts in 2011

Without the tools afforded by a regulatory catch share plan, the CGOA pollock trawl fleet (~35 vessels) has been taking action and implementing voluntary measures to address the monitoring, accounting and bycatch avoidance hurdles facing the fleet.

1. **Hot Spot Reporting:** Starting A season 2011 and continuing through D season 2011, the fleet agreed to implement a voluntary real-time hotspot reporting and avoidance program. Four hot spot alerts were issued during the CGOA C/D Seasons. Operators were requested to:
 - a. immediately report to their processor and/or AGDB as well as to other boats in the area the time, set location and haul location and depth of tows perceived as having high Chinook salmon numbers. The processor and/or AGDB distributed the hotspot alerts to the fleet.
 - b. avoid fishing in any area with reported unacceptable levels of salmon bycatch.
2. **Voluntary Catch Share Plans:** The fleet agreed to some voluntary catch share plans for the A/B seasons and C/D seasons to avoid overharvesting the available quota as well as give them the flexibility to deal with Chinook bycatch. Without the derby-style race for fish, operators were, at times, able to fish more carefully, moving or delaying fishing to reduce bycatch.
3. **Voluntary Salmon Bycatch Reporting System:** This newly enacted system consists of operators submitting a "salmon reporting form" after each pollock delivery detailing the haul information, the number of salmon seen in each haul and whether or not an excluder was used for the trip and if an observer was on board. The information was gathered and assessed, as well as compared to and compiled with plant and observer pollock data, by AGDB. While this system is still in its infancy, with several kinks and issues that will need to be worked out over time, the goal is to build a database to educate ourselves about potential hotspots and bycatch avoidance techniques.
4. **Observer Data Access:** In 2011, 36 CGOA pollock vessels granted AGDB access to their observer data, enabling us to use these data to track salmon bycatch and detect anomalies in observer data, such as missing or incomplete census data.

5. **Landings access:** Starting Sept 1, 2011, all eight Kodiak processors have granted AGDB access to their landings accounts to track fish ticket salmon numbers. The goal of this effort is to detect and reconcile accounting irregularities between industry and NMFS, and ultimately improve the overall accuracy of salmon counts.
6. **Salmon excluder testing:**
 - a. **Voluntary at-sea efforts:** Several vessels purchased and experimented with excluders during the A/B season fishery. A North Pacific Fisheries Research Foundation (NPFRR) technician was in Kodiak in February 2011 and available to the Kodiak operators to install underwater video equipment to monitor the excluder's flapper weighting and performance when fishing. The video, however, did not provide any information about the excluder's success in allowing Chinook salmon to escape without allowing appreciable pollock catch loss. These issues can only be assessed by a scientifically designed EFP.
 - b. **Flume Tank trip:** St John's, Newfoundland, October 23-29, 2011. Industry representatives including Julie Bonney (AGDB) along with three Kodiak fishermen traveled to the flume tank at the Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University to observe and participate in the testing of several alternative excluder models. The NPFRR coordinated and funded this opportunity for CGOA participants.
7. **Prohibited Species Donation Program/Sea Share:** Representatives from all eight Kodiak processors met with Jim Harmon of Sea Share on August 22, 2011 to discuss participation in the Prohibited Species Donation Program in Kodiak. All eight processors agreed to donate useable landed salmon and halibut to the food donation program and signed up by September 1. This allows the Kodiak fleet to not discard salmon caught while targeting pollock, something long desired by harvesters (100% retention will be required when the hard cap goes into place in 2012).

In the Fall of 2011, over 5,000 pounds of processed/packaged halibut and salmon were donated to the Kodiak Island Food Bank, and over 10,000 pounds to the Food Bank of Alaska headquarters in Anchorage. The Kodiak processors delivered the product as needed to the Kodiak food bank and to Carlile Shipping upon request for the one shipment to Anchorage. The processors were also responsible for proper labeling of the containers and for submitting accurate product packing and shipping/delivery information to Sea Share. As reported by Laine Welch, the director of the Kodiak Food Bank had the following to say about the new program:

"We took as much as our freezers could hold. I had to watch how I handed it out. It went really fast. . . I am really thankful to all the people who made the program work. I had given up on it ever happening and I hope it continues. And I am glad the fish is being used instead of thrown back into the ocean" (Kodiak Daily Mirror, 11/28/11)

8. **Observer Program collaboration:**
 - a. **Timeliness of Observer Data:** Vessel observers are often unable to submit timely offload data because they do not have timely access to the offload delivery weight due to a variety of factors: the captain of the boat is typically in a rush to leave the dock due to the race structure of the fishery; the plant office is often closed (no fax available); plant personnel are delayed in completing the fish ticket; the observer may change boats (for example, one observer was reassigned, prior to submitting his offload data, to a longliner for a 3-4 week trip); and there are data errors that do not get detected until debriefing. These data lags have resulted in large, extrapolated salmon numbers remaining in the catch accounting system (CAS) until such time as the vessel observer submits the offload delivery weight to NMFS or

the data get corrected and the extrapolated number reverts to a true census number. The last C season (Sept 1 - Oct 1) census number did not enter CAS until mid-November and, as of January 20th, 2012, there are still two census reports missing from the D season - meaning that salmon bycatch numbers based on temporary at-sea sample by-catch rates are still in CAS where true census counts should be. The CAS Chinook number from the C season pollock fishery was reduced by >3,100 fish from the week ending Oct 29 to the week ending Nov 5 due to observer census data finally entering the system.

Glenn Campbell, Martin Loefflad, Brian Mason, Patti Nelson, Rob Swanson (NPGOP) and Julie Bonney (AGDB) met during the Plan Team meeting in Seattle on November 17, 2011 to discuss the observer data time lag issue. The following possible solution was proposed and agreed upon for 2012:

"At the time of the offload the vessel observer will count the salmon from the delivery and then before leaving the plant, they will fill out the offload plant/vessel form with those fields filled out that they know of at the time of the delivery. The main pieces that will be missing are the offload delivery weight and the landing report id. The observer will then fax to NMFS in Seattle the partially filled out offload plant/vessel form and the completed species composition sample form. Once the faxes are received in Seattle, the inseason staff will query the e-landings database and get the total delivery weight that was entered by plant personnel. Once the total delivery weight is added to the offload plant/vessel form by the Seattle inseason staff, all the data can be keyed. During the next offload or at some near point in the future, the observer must still get the completed fish ticket information from the plant and update their forms and re-fax their updated data to NMFS in Seattle. The updated data will then be entered in the database in Seattle." (memo from Glenn Campbell, 11/18/2011)

In addition, AGDB will work with the plants to get fish tickets entered in a timelier manner so that the data is available as soon as possible to the observer, as well as ensure that the observers have 24-hour access to a fax machine. Lastly, the observer contractors and vessel operators have agreed to ensure that the observer has 30-60 minutes after completion of the delivery to finish the necessary paperwork.

This improved, faster data submission approach will be tested in the 2012 A/B season fisheries starting ~February 20th.

- b. **ATLAS Transmission:** Observer data transmission via onboard observer computer program, ATLAS, is considered to be faster and more efficient because of the speed and built-in data checks. Several Kodiak vessels and plants have purchased laptops and have had ATLAS installed on them by observer program personnel in an effort to speed up the data transmission process for bycatch monitoring. In addition, the plants all have several ATLAS laptops required for use in the Rockfish Pilot Program available to operators upon request. Whereas the use of ATLAS is the ideal method in non-pollock fisheries, accounting glitches result with the mix of ATLAS and fax data transmissions in the pollock fisheries: a vessel observer may use ATLAS to submit haul, species composition and length data from the boat but be forced to fax the final delivery forms because he/she is released from the boat and no longer has access to that specific laptop when the final offload data is available for submission. For this reason, NPGOP requested that all pollock trip data be faxed during the 2011 C/D seasons - the slower and less efficient method. However, in 2012, it is anticipated

that a split reporting system will be allowed (and tested) for the pollock fishery with a combination of ATLAS / faxed reports.

c. **Plant Accounting:** As part of the Council's June 2011 Chinook motion:

NFMS shall work with the processors to evaluate and address the quality of sorting at the plants to assist improvements in observer salmon estimates. The Council encourages NMFS to apply lessons learned from the BSAI to the GOA where applicable.

Processing plants, with assistance from NMFS, should endeavor to ensure their fish tickets accurately reflect the species and number of salmon, which will be delivered and sorted as salmon bycatch at their facilities.

To this end, the NPGOP personnel toured several Kodiak processing plants to identify layout and sorting issues that may result in less than accurate salmon accounting. One plant in particular is not well designed to sort bycatch out of the deliveries prior to entering the processing area: a fast sorting belt and a thick flow of fish results in significant differences between observer census and fish ticket counts. Plant personnel count the salmon in the processing area, long after the observer has left. Due to engineering and power issues, only a major redesign of the sorting area (tentatively scheduled for 2013) can improve the situation.

9. **Chinook Salmon Stock of Origin:**

- a. Dr. Jeff Guyon, Manager of the Genetics Program at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center's Auke Bay Laboratories, submitted a proposal to the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund (AKSSF) to produce annual stock composition estimates of the 2011, 2012, and 2013 salmon bycatch in both the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska pollock fisheries. Funding was approved at the end of December 2011 and sample collection in the GOA is expected to commence in February, 2012. The estimation process will be as follows:
 1. Collect tissue and scale samples from 2011, 2012, and 2013 salmon bycatch from the BSAI and GOA pollock fisheries (observer duty). To increase the collection rate of coded wire tags, coded wire tag tunnel detectors will be used at two GOA pollock processors (one in CGOA, one in the WGOA) over two years (two months/year); starting C season 2012
 2. Genotype the samples
 3. Estimate stock composition
- b. Samples will be collected from all pollock deliveries, not only observed deliveries.
- c. To assist the observers, processing plants will verify Chinook salmon count by individual vessel and hold the salmon until they can be sampled by an observer prior to discard or donation. This will occur for all pollock deliveries, both observed and unobserved.
- d. Industry match for the grant for the GOA is \$21,000.

Efforts in 2012

The pollock fleet and their associated processors will continue voluntary measures to address Chinook salmon bycatch avoidance for the 2012 pollock fishery, including hot spot reporting and vessel trip reporting forms. Monitoring Chinook salmon counts and data quality checks will continue via observer data records and plant fish tickets. In addition, vessels and processors expect to continue to participate in the prohibited species program donation program in partnership with Sea Share. In a fleet-wide meeting on January 17, 2012, operators expressed continued commitment to 2011 internal efforts and a desire to improve upon them in the upcoming pollock fisheries. Several new elements will be either implemented or tested during the 2012 pollock fisheries:

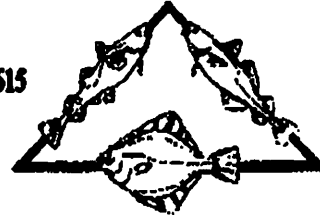
- a. **Plant Relay Of Chinook Salmon Count To Vessels:** Due to the technical aspects of vessel operations during pollock fishing, vessel operators are often unaware that they have caught any salmon while on the grounds. Giving them a count for each delivery as soon as possible after sorting lets them know if there was a problem. This will be accomplished by plant personnel relaying the salmon counts to the vessel via radio check or phone call or email to the boat.
- b. **Improved Timeliness of Observer Data:** Split observer record reporting of catch composition and delivery weight between the vessel observers and the observer program office, in which observer program staff adds the total delivery weight obtained from elandings to the observer data. This means that observers no longer have to wait for total delivery weight before submitting catch composition data, thus removing that data lag. Processing plant personnel will need to submit fish ticket data as soon as possible to the elanding program as well as provide 24 hour faxing capability to observers (joint processing plant / observer program effort).
- c. **Increased ATLAS Observer Data Reporting:** Encourage improved computer availability /capacity across the fleet. Develop data transmission protocols for vessel observers and test the feasibility of wireless transmission at port (fleet / observer program effort).
- d. **Revised Observer Manual For GOA Pollock Sampling:** The NPGOP staff altered Kodiak vessel and plant observer duties in the 2012 Observer Sampling Manual to reflect the need for more timely and accurate accounting of, as well as collection of genetic samples from salmon in the Kodiak trawl pollock fisheries. The following excerpts illustrate these changes:
 - "In addition to the vessel observer tracking salmon for their offload salmon census, the plant observer will perform an independent salmon count and identification for salmon retention and collect genetic specimens and FMA ID scales (5-31, 2012 Manual)"
 - Processing plants in all fisheries must transmit data "once per day" (2-34, 2012 Manual) rather than "3-4 times per week" for plants not receiving AFA pollock deliveries (2-32, 2011 Manual)
- e. **Chinook salmon Genetic Stock of Origin (AKSSF):** Develop plant protocols for setting aside all Chinook salmon from all pollock trips for tissue sample collection by observers (processing plant / observer program effort).
- f. **Chinook salmon Coded wire detection (AKSSF):** Identify one processing plant in both the CGOA and WGOA for pilot program testing. Develop protocols for sample collection and scanning (collaborative effort between Auke Bay, observer program and processing plants).
- g. **Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP):** John Gauvin with NPFRF, in collaboration with AGDB, will be designing the first formal salmon excluder trials in the GOA. These are expected to occur in the Fall of 2012. Two Kodiak vessels are expected to participate in the month-long trial. A formal EFP application will most likely be submitted to NMFS and the Council at the April 2012 meeting.

Groundfish Data Bank

Alaska

PH: 907-486-3033 FAX: 907-486-3461 P.O. BOX 788 - KODIAK, AK. 99615

Jill Bonney, Executive Director jbonney@goi.net
Katy McGauley, Fisheries Biologist agdb@goi.net



NPFMC February 2012: D1 (a) GOA Chinook Bycatch All Fisheries

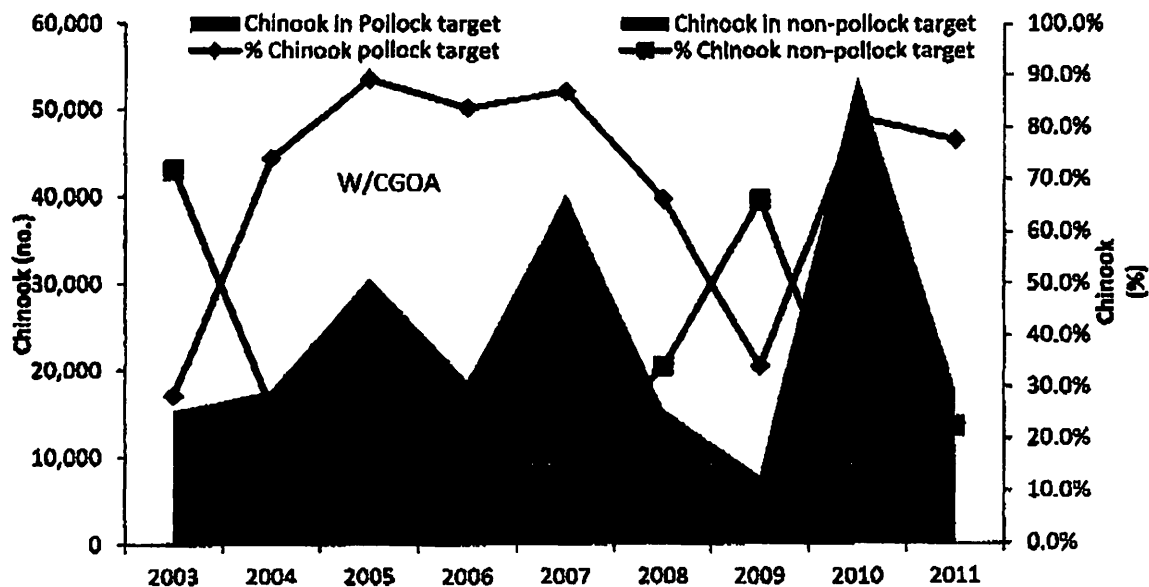
Appendix 2: January 24, 2012

Table 1 summarizes and figure 1 graphically depicts Chinook salmon bycatch numbers and % of total Chinook bycatch in the pollock and non-pollock GOA fisheries. When total salmon numbers are low, the corresponding % Chinook in the non-pollock fisheries is high. Conversely, in high bycatch years, the % Chinook in the non-pollock targets is low compared to the pollock fisheries.

Table 1. Total GOA Chinook numbers and % of total Chinook, pollock vs. non-pollock targets, 2003 - 2011 (from Table 6 of the analysis; 2011 data updated from NMFS PSC reports).

		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Chinook No.	Pollock target	4,295	12,982	27,380	15,667	35,006	10,130	2,656	44,061	13,597
	non-pollock target	10,877	4,593	3,344	3,060	5,304	5,198	5,157	9,714	3,919
	<i>Total</i>	<i>15,172</i>	<i>17,575</i>	<i>30,724</i>	<i>18,727</i>	<i>40,310</i>	<i>15,328</i>	<i>7,813</i>	<i>53,775</i>	<i>17,516</i>
Chinook %	Pollock target	28.3%	73.9%	89.1%	83.7%	86.8%	66.1%	34.0%	81.9%	77.6%
	non-pollock target	71.7%	26.1%	10.9%	16.3%	13.2%	33.9%	66.0%	18.1%	22.4%

Figure 1. W/CGOA Chinook numbers combined and % of total Chinook, pollock vs. non-pollock targets, 2003 - 2011.

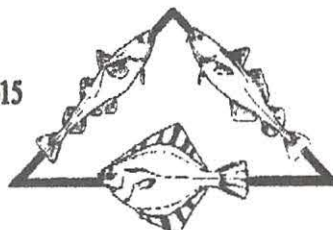


Groundfish Data Bank

Alaska

PH: 907-486-3033 FAX: 907-486-3461 P.O. BOX 788 - KODIAK, AK. 99615

Julie Bonney, Executive Director jbonney@gci.net
Katy McGauley, Fisheries Biologist agdb@gci.net



D-1 (a) Discussion paper on GOA Chinook Bycatch in all trawl fisheries

February 4, 2012

The below alternatives apply to non-pollock trawl fisheries in the Central and Western GOA.

Alternative 1: Status Quo.

Alternative 2: 5,000, 7,500, 10,000, 12,500 or 15,000 Chinook salmon PSC limit (hard cap).

Option 1: Apportion limit between Central and Western GOA.

~~Option 2: Apportion by directed fishery.~~

~~Option 3: Apportion by fishing sector (CP and CV).~~

Applies to both options: Apportion proportional to historic average bycatch of Chinook salmon (5 or 10-year average).

~~Alternative 3: Mandatory salmon bycatch control cooperative membership.~~

~~In order to fish in the Central or Western GOA trawl fisheries a vessel must be a member of a salmon bycatch control cooperative for the area where they are participating. Cooperative formation will be annual with a minimum threshold (number of licenses). Cooperative contractual agreements would include measures to control Chinook salmon bycatch, promote gear innovation, salmon hotspot reporting, and monitoring individual vessel bycatch performance. Annual cooperative reports to the Council would include the contractual agreements and successes and failures for salmon bycatch controls by season and calendar year.~~

Alternative ~~4~~3: Full retention of all salmon.

Vessels will retain all salmon bycatch until the number of salmon has been determined by the vessel or plant observer and the observer's collection of any scientific data or biological samples from the salmon has been completed.

~~Option: Deploy electronic monitoring or observers to monitor for discards in order to validate salmon census data for use in catch accounting.~~

Option: Develop options for Chinook salmon census for purposes of accounting for Chinook salmon PSC on trawl CPs and CVs.