

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISH

JAY S. HAMMOND, Governor

210 Ferry Way
Juneau, Alaska 99801

October 17, 1977

Mr. James H. Branson, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 3136 DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Mr. Branson:

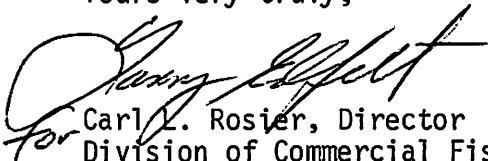
I enclose herewith the Department's 1978 Work Proposal for our Troll Fishery Tag Recovery Program for funding consideration by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Your assistance in bringing this proposal before the Council is appreciated.

A comprehensive report on the results of the 1977 season's program will be published and made available to the Council early in calendar year 1978.

Thank you.

Yours very truly,


for Carl L. Rosier, Director
Division of Commercial Fish

Enclosure

cc: David Cantillon
Gary K. Gunstrom
Alan R. Davis

OCT 24 1977

TROLL FISHERY TAG RECOVERY PROGRAM

1978 WORK PROPOSAL

Two important aspects of fisheries research are the definition of stocks and the estimates of contribution these stocks give to fisheries. In this respect, little is known about the origin of chinook and coho salmon which are taken in Alaska sport and commercial fisheries. However, we have an opportunity to advance our knowledge of stock composition and relative contribution because segments of the ocean population of chinook and coho salmon available to Alaskan fisheries have been marked prior to their migration from rearing areas as smolts.

This project is critically important in that it will supply base data required for planning and conduct of a State-Federal Fisheries Management Plan for the Alaska coastal chinook and coho troll fishery. Further, it will supply information pertinent to negotiations between Canada and the United States on west coast salmon management problems. This project has interstate as well as international implications and the fishery has been identified as a high-priority candidate for the State-Federal program by the Department.

The objectives are:

1. Determine incidence of occurrence of marked chinook salmon released from Columbia River hatcheries.
2. Determine incidence of occurrence of marked chinook salmon released from coastal streams of Washington and Oregon.
3. Determine incidence of occurrence of chinook and coho salmon released from coastal streams and hatcheries in Southeast Alaska.
4. Compile catch information by fishing district for the Alaska troll fishery.
5. Provide NMFS with all Southeast Alaska troll catch data by two week period, fishing district, and number of landings.

Procedures:

Chinook and coho salmon landed by the coastal troll fishery and the inshore gillnet fishery will be sampled at the appropriate cold storages and canneries. We can achieve almost

complete coverage of chinooks and cohos at the locations occupied by samplers. We therefore estimate that we will examine 80% of coastal-caught chinook salmon and 60% of the coastal-caught coho salmon.

Selected cold storage and canneries, and dates during which sampling is proposed:

1. Pelican Cold Storage.....May 1-Sept. 20
2. Craig Cold Storage.....May 1-Sept. 20
3. Sitka Sound Seafoods.....May 15-Sept. 20
4. Petersburg Cold Storage.....June 15-Sept. 20
5. Juneau Cold Storage.....May 15-Sept. 20
6. Ketchikan Cold Storage.....June 1-Sept. 20

Budget Requirements: May 1, 1978 through April 30, 1979

Six (6) samplers, two (2) decoders, one (1) assistant

Personal Services	\$62,300.00	Overtime included
Travel	6,000.00	Includes travel costs of project supervisor
Contractual Services	8,000.00	Aircraft charter for transportation of men and supplies.
Supplies	<u>3,000.00</u>	Misc. Supplies
TOTAL	\$79,300.00	

Reasons for Increase (\$58,700 in 1977):

Primary increase is in Line 100, Personal Services, for acquisition of two decoders. The numbers of tags we recovered in 1977 was nearly 3 times the number of tags recovered in 1976. This will make it necessary for us to change our operational methods for the coming season in order to maintain schedules of tag decoding and publication of results. We will also be using the sampling results for assistance in our management of the ocean troll fishery. Having access to current data will be mandatory if we are to use coded-wire tags as a management tool.

Permanent Personnel:

This project will be supervised by the Southeast Alaska regional troll fishery biologist. Administrative supervision will be provided by the Region Research Supervisor.