

**Motion on GOA Salmon PSC Limits
Agenda Item E-1**

Initiate an analysis with the following purpose and need and suite of alternatives.

Purpose and Need

Regulations establish a Chinook salmon prohibited species catch (PSC) limit of 32,500 Chinook in the Central and Western Gulf of Alaska (GOA) trawl fisheries. Chinook salmon PSC limits are managed under two separate programs; one that allocates 25,000 Chinook to the catcher vessels in the pollock trawl fishery (Amendment 93 to the GOA FMP), and another that allocates 7,500 Chinook to three sectors in the non-pollock trawl fisheries; the catcher/processor (3,600), Rockfish Program catcher vessel (1,200), and the non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel (2,700) sectors (Amendment 97 to the GOA FMP). Closures could occur under the existing Chinook salmon PSC limits.

The 2,700 Chinook salmon PSC limit on the non-pollock/non-rockfish catcher vessel sector has resulted in a closure in that fishery. Currently, there is no ability for managers to reallocate unused Chinook salmon PSC between the pollock or non-pollock fisheries. Fishery closures could be avoided, or limited, by providing NMFS the authority to use inseason management to reallocate unused Chinook salmon PSC between the GOA pollock and non-pollock fisheries. Inseason reallocation of Chinook salmon PSC between the pollock and non-pollock fisheries would provide increased management flexibility without exceeding the overall 32,500 Chinook salmon PSC limit, increase the likelihood that groundfish resources are more fully harvested, and minimize the adverse socioeconomic impacts of fishery closures on harvesters, processors, and communities.

Alternative 1: No action alternative (status quo)

Alternative 2: Allow NMFS to reallocate unused Chinook salmon PSC between the GOA pollock and non-pollock sectors based on criteria established for inseason reallocations (examples in regulations at § 679.20). Existing reallocation procedures from the Rockfish Program catcher vessel to the non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector would not be modified.

Option 1: Only allow reallocations between the GOA pollock and the non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel sectors (no reallocation to Rockfish Program catcher vessels).

Option 2: Only allow reallocations that do not exceed (suboptions: 10%, 20%, or 30%) of any initial allocation of a Chinook salmon PSC limit during a calendar year.

Option 3: Prohibit the reallocation of Chinook salmon PSC from catcher vessel sectors to the non-pollock catcher/processor sector.#