

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman
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April 7, 1983

Dear Reviewer,

At the March 1983 meeting the Council approved for public review Amendment 8 to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Fishery Management Plan. Amendment 8 will establish salmon prohibited species catch (PSC) limits for the foreign trawl fisheries for 1984 and 1985, as shown in Table 1.

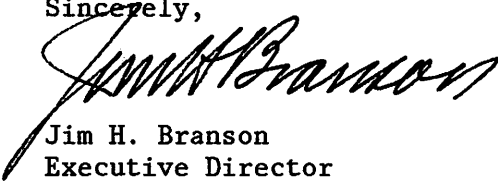
Amendment 8 is a continuation of Amendment 3 which imposed regulations on the foreign trawl fishery to reduce their bycatch of salmon, halibut, king crab and Tanner crab. Amendment 3 set a goal of a total salmon bycatch of 17,473 fish by 1986, which is a 75 percent reduction from the 1981 salmon PSC of 69,893 and a 78 percent reduction from the average salmon bycatch of 80,000 fish for the years 1977-1980.

The salmon PSC numbers proposed for 1984 and 1985 were agreed to by the Western Alaskan residents who depend on the salmon resource and the Japanese trawl industry, principle harvestors of groundfish in the Bering Sea. The Council will accept comments on Amendment 8 until May 13, 1983. Comments may be sent to:

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, Alaska 99510
Attention: Jim H. Branson

The Council is scheduled to approve Amendment 8 for Secretarial review at the May 24-26 meeting. The public is invited to testify on Amendment 8 at that time.

Sincerely,


Jim H. Branson
Executive Director

Attachment

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

<u>Salmon</u>		
	Chinook	Total Salmon ^{1/}
<u>Base Years</u>	<u>Average Incidental Catch</u>	
1977-80	74,400	80,000
<u>Reduced Catch Levels</u>		
Year	(1981)	65,000
	(1982)	55,250
	(1983)	45,500
	(1984)	35,750
	(1985)	26,000
	(1986)	16,250
		69,893
		59,409
		48,925
		38,441
		27,957
		17,473

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



BSA-1 *February*
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 1668
Juneau, Alaska 99802

July 8, 1983

Reply to Attn. of:
F/AKR11:SS

F/M - Carmen J. Blondin

F/AKR - Robert W. McVey

**Notice of Proposed 1984 and 1985 Salmon Prohibited Species Catch Limits
for the Foreign Trawl Fishery in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area**

Attached is a rule-related notice that announces proposed figures for the 1984 and 1985 prohibited species catch (PSC) limits for salmon in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area foreign trawl fishery. These figures are proposed under authority of the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area as amended by Amendment 3. This amendment was implemented July 4, 1983, and established a five-year (1982-1986) schedule for reduction of PSC limits for salmon, Pacific halibut, king crab, and Tanner crab in the foreign trawl fishery. The rule implementing Amendment 3 indicated salmon PSC figures through 1983 only, with the objective of achieving a 75 percent reduction from the 1981 salmon PSC level (established under an amendment to the preliminary fishery management plan) by 1986. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) conducted a review of the salmon PSC schedule at its May 1983 meeting to determine further reductions in salmon PSC levels for 1984 and 1985 for purposes of achieving the 1986 PSC limit. After considering the status of the salmon resource and the economic and technological reasonableness of further PSC reductions and of the 75 percent reduction goal by 1986, the Council adopted a salmon PSC limit of 38,441 fish for 1984 and a limit of 27,957 fish for 1985. The 1986 PSC limit was unchanged and remains at 17,473 fish. The 1984-86 salmon PSC levels reflect limits negotiated between representatives for those western Alaska residents who depend on the salmon resource and the Japanese trawl industry, the principle harvester of Bering Sea groundfish.

The attached notice is intended to solicit public comment on the proposed 1984 and 1985 salmon PSC levels and proposes to revise Table 2 in 50 CFR 611.93 to incorporate these figures in the schedule for reduction of salmon PSC limits.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 611

[Docket No.]

Foreign Fishing, Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
Commerce.

ACTION: Rule-related notice; proposed salmon incidental catch limits.

SUMMARY: This document announces proposed figures for the 1984 and 1985 prohibited species catch limits for salmon in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area foreign trawl fishery. These figures are proposed under provisions of the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area and are intended to reduce the incidental catch and unnecessary mortality of salmon in foreign groundfish operations while still allowing the foreign fisheries an opportunity to harvest their groundfish allocations.

DATE: Comments on the proposed salmon catch limits are invited until (insert date 30 days after filing for public inspection with the Office of the Federal Register).

ADDRESS: Comments should be addressed to Robert W. McVey, Director, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 1668, Juneau, Alaska 99802. Copies of the regulatory impact review/final regulatory flexibility analysis (RIR/FRFA) prepared on the rule that authorizes this regulatory change may be obtained by contacting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, P.O. Box 103136, Anchorage, Alaska 99510, 907-274-4563.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan J. Salveson (Regional Plan Coordinator), 907-586-7230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMP) was developed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and is implemented by rules appearing at 50 CFR 611.93. Eight amendments to the FMP have been adopted by the Council under authority of the Magnuson Act. One of those amendments (Amendment 3) was implemented July 4, 1983 (48 FR 24719), and established a five-year (1982-1986) schedule for reduction of prohibited species catch (PSC) limits for salmon, Pacific halibut, king crab, and Tanner crab in the foreign trawl fishery. The annual PSCs established for these species are apportioned to foreign nations in proportion to each nation's groundfish allocation. When U.S. observer information, or other reported statistics that are considered reliable, indicate that trawl vessels of a

particular nation have caught incidentally that nation's specified portion of the PSC for one of the above species, those vessels will be subject to a significant time-area closure in order to reduce or eliminate further taking of that species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area. The preamble to the proposed rule for Amendment 3 (48 FR 10383, March 11, 1983) thoroughly discussed the need and justification for the amendment; it also discussed the procedure for apportionment of PSCs to foreign nations, considerations for adjustments of PSCs, exemptions to PSC regulations, and additional incentives to reduce the catch of prohibited species in foreign groundfish fisheries.

The rule implementing Amendment 3 indicated salmon PSC figures only for 1981, ^{1/} 1982, and 1983, with the objective of achieving a 75 percent reduction from the 1981 salmon PSC level by 1986. A complete review of the salmon PSC program was to be conducted by the Council in 1983 to determine further reductions in salmon PSC levels for 1984 and 1985 for purposes of achieving the 1986 PSC limit. The Council conducted such a review at its May 1983 meeting and adopted a salmon PSC limit of 38,441 fish for 1984 and a limit of 27,957 fish for 1985. The 1986 PSC limit was unchanged and remains at 17,473 fish. When making this determination, the Council considered the status of the salmon resource, the economic and technological possibility of further PSC reductions, and the economic and technological reasonableness of the 75 percent reduction goal by 1986.

1/ An amendment to the preliminary fishery management plan for the Trawl Fisheries and Herring Gillnet Fishery of the Eastern Bering Sea and Northeast Pacific (46 FR 60002, December 8, 1981) established a chinook salmon PSC of 65,000 fish.

The salmon PSC figures adopted for 1984 and 1985 reflect salmon PSC levels that were negotiated between representatives for those western Alaska residents who depend on the salmon resource and the Japanese trawl industry, the principle harvester of Bering Sea groundfish. NOAA now proposes to implement the Council's 1984 and 1985 salmon PSC figures by inserting them into the reserved portions of Table 2 in 50 CFR 611.93. The revised table would read as follows:

TABLE 2.--Target Reduction Schedule of Salmon Prohibited Species Catches Based on the Average 1977-80 Foreign Trawl Salmon Incidental Catch

Year	Total Salmon ^{1/}
Base numbers: 1977-80	80,000
Reduced catch levels:	
(1981).....	69,893
(1982).....	59,409
(1983).....	48,925
(1984).....	38,441
(1985).....	27,957
(1986).....	17,473

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

Classification

The Council prepared a regulatory impact review/final regulatory flexibility analysis (RIR/FRFA) for the rule implementing Amendment 3, which authorizes this action. You may obtain a copy of this analysis from the Council at the address listed above. The salmon PSC levels proposed for 1984-1986 will result in direct and measurable losses to

domestic salmon fishermen in subsequent seasons. (A full treatment of the assumptions and methodology employed in estimating the discounted loss in gross earnings to domestic salmon fishermen is provided in the RIR/FRFA prepared on Amendment 3). The discounted present exvessel value of the loss to domestic salmon fishermen as a result of the 1984, 1985, and 1986 salmon PSCs are estimated to be \$567,305, \$412,584, and \$257,863, respectively. These estimated losses compare very favorably with the discounted present value loss to domestic fishermen which would accrue each season absent the salmon PSC reduction schedule. That loss to domestic salmon fishermen, in discounted present value terms, was estimated to be approximately \$1.19 million at the exvessel level, per year. The difference between this annual loss and each of the estimated PSC schedule losses constitute the savings attributable to this action.

These gross exvessel savings (benefits) are attainable without imposition of significant costs on the foreign fishery. That is, the salmon PSC limits are fully attainable without significant adverse impacts on the foreign fleets' ability to achieve allocated TALFF. Therefore, the prescribed salmon PSC schedule allows full and complete achievement of the Council's expressed objectives for Amendment 3 and this action, as articulated in the RIR/FRFA prepared on the amendment.

Other Matters

This action is authorized by 50 CFR 611.93 and complies with Executive Order 12291.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 611:

Fish, Fisheries, Fishing, Reporting requirements.

(16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.)

Dated:

**Carmen J. Blondin
Deputy Assistant Administrator for
Fisheries Resource Management
National Marine Fisheries Service**