

Proposed Amendment 103 Text for the GOA Groundfish FMP

Amendments in the GOA Groundfish FMP are identified as follows: Additions are in **bold** and deletions are in ~~strikeout~~

The following changes should be made to the GOA Groundfish FMP:

1. In Table ES-2, row “Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) Limits”, revise the third paragraph to read:

Chinook Salmon: The annual PSC limit for the pollock trawl fishery in the Central Regulatory Area and adjacent State of Alaska waters is 18,316 Chinook salmon. The annual PSC limit for the pollock trawl fishery in the Western Regulatory Area and adjacent State of Alaska waters is 6,684 Chinook salmon. Attainment of a limit closes the directed pollock trawl fishery in the respective regulatory area. The annual base PSC limit for the catcher/processor sector in the non-pollock trawl fisheries of the Western and Central Regulatory Areas and adjacent State of Alaska waters is 3,600 Chinook salmon; no more than 66% of the annual PSC limit can be taken by the catcher/processor sector before June 1. The annual PSC limit for the catcher vessel sector in the non-pollock trawl fisheries of the Western and Central Regulatory Areas and adjacent State of Alaska waters is 3,900 Chinook salmon; 1,200 of this amount is apportioned to catcher vessels fishing under the authority of Central GOA Rockfish Program cooperative quota permits. Attainment of a limit closes directed non-pollock trawl fishing for the respective sector or season. The catcher/processor sector and catcher vessels not fishing under the authority of a Central GOA Rockfish Program cooperative quota permit in the non-pollock trawl fisheries may receive an amount of Chinook salmon PSC in addition to the sector’s annual base PSC limit if the sector achieved a certain standard of Chinook salmon avoidance in the preceding year. Non-pollock trawl catcher vessels not fishing under the authority of a Central GOA Rockfish Program cooperative quota permit may receive a reapportionment of Chinook salmon PSC from Rockfish Program catcher vessels during each year. **The Regional Administrator may reapportion Chinook salmon PSC from any of these limits to one of the trawl catcher vessel sectors during a year, based on need for, and availability of, Chinook salmon PSC; the amount of reapportioned Chinook salmon PSC that a sector may receive is limited to 50 percent of that sector’s annual Chinook salmon PSC apportionment as defined in Federal regulations.**

2. Revise Section 3.6.2.2, “Prohibited Species Catch Limits -- Chinook Salmon”, to read:

Attainment of a Chinook salmon PSC limit will result in the closure of the respective fishery for the remainder of the season or the year.

Central GOA pollock trawl fishery: The annual PSC limit for Chinook salmon in the directed fishery for pollock in the Central Regulatory Area and adjacent State of Alaska waters is 18,316 Chinook salmon.

Western GOA pollock trawl fishery: The annual PSC limit for Chinook salmon in the directed fishery for pollock in the Western Regulatory Area and adjacent State of Alaska waters is 6,684 Chinook salmon.

Central and Western GOA non-pollock trawl fishery, catcher/processor sector: The annual base PSC limit for Chinook salmon in all directed non-pollock trawl fisheries in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas and adjacent State of Alaska waters is 3,600 Chinook salmon. No more than 66 percent of the annual PSC limit can be taken by the catcher/processor sector before June 1.

Central and Western GOA non-pollock trawl fishery, catcher vessel sector: The annual PSC limit for Chinook salmon in all directed non-pollock trawl fisheries in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas and adjacent State of Alaska waters is 3,900 Chinook salmon. From this total, 1,200 Chinook salmon are for use during fishing activity that takes place under the authority of a Central GOA Rockfish Program cooperative quota permit, between May 1 and November 15. The limit for all other GOA trawl catcher vessel activity is 2,700 Chinook salmon. If more than 150 Chinook salmon PSC are available to the Central GOA Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector on October 1, **the Regional Administrator may reapportion Chinook salmon PSC to the Non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector, so long as no fewer than 150 Chinook salmon PSC remain with the Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector** ~~all Chinook salmon PSC in excess of 150 will be made available to the Non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector.~~ Any Chinook salmon PSC that remain available to the Central GOA Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector on November 15 ~~may shall~~ be made available to the Non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector upon that date.

3. Insert a new section after Section 3.6.2.2 “Chinook salmon”, titled Section 3.6.2.2.1 “Inseason reapportionments”. Insert the following text for new Section 3.6.2.2.1:

During a calendar year, the Regional Administrator may reapportion the Chinook salmon PSC limits that are established under Section 3.6.2.2 to the catcher vessel sectors named in that section. Reapportionments will be made on the basis of the need for, and the availability of, Chinook salmon PSC that is projected to be unused in the sector to which it was initially apportioned. In a given year, a catcher vessel sector may not receive total reapportionments that exceed 50 percent of the amount of Chinook salmon PSC limit that is established for it under Section 3.6.2.2.

Maximum annual Chinook salmon PSC reapportionment:

Central GOA pollock trawl fishery: 9,158 Chinook salmon

Western GOA pollock trawl fishery: 3,342 Chinook salmon

Central and Western GOA non-pollock trawl fishery catcher vessel sector (Non-Rockfish Program): 1,350 Chinook salmon

Central GOA Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector: 600 Chinook salmon

4. In Appendix A, add the following description of Amendment 103 in numerical order, and fill in the implementation date when it is known:

Amendment 103, implemented _____ :

1. Allows the Regional Administrator to make in-season reapportionments of Chinook salmon PSC between sectors of the GOA groundfish trawl fishery.
2. Caps the amount of reapportioned Chinook salmon PSC that any trawl sector may receive in a given year, based on that sector's annual Chinook salmon PSC limit.
3. Provides the Regional Administrator with increased discretion regarding the timing and amount of the Chinook salmon PSC rollover from the Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector to the non-pollock Non-Rockfish Program trawl catcher vessel sector.

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