

## Proposed Amendment 97 Text for the GOA Groundfish FMP

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

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

Salmon: All salmon intercepted in the ~~pollock~~ **trawl** fisheries in the Western and Central GOA must be retained until an observer (if an observer is present) is provided the opportunity to count the number of salmon and to collect scientific data or biological samples from the salmon. If no observer is available, all salmon should be recorded, by species, on the fish ticket.

2. 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.**

3. Revise Section 3.6.1.2, “Prohibited Species – Salmon Retention”, to read:

All salmon species that are intercepted in the ~~pollock~~ **trawl** fisheries in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas and adjacent State of Alaska waters in the GOA must be retained consistent with regulatory requirements. All salmon must be retained until an observer (if an observer is present) is provided the opportunity to count the number of salmon and to collect scientific data or biological samples from the salmon. If no observer is available, all salmon should be recorded, by species, on the fish ticket. Requirements for retaining and handling intercepted salmon species will be established in regulations implementing the FMP.

4. 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.

~~If PSC limits are implemented mid-year 2012, specific PSC limits of 8,929 Chinook salmon in the Central Regulatory Area and adjacent State of Alaska waters and 5,598 Chinook salmon in the Western Regulatory Area and adjacent State of Alaska waters will be established for the 2012 C and D seasons, and attainment of either PSC limit in those seasons will result in the closure of the respective pollock fishery for the remainder of the year.~~

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, 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 shall be made available to the Non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector upon that date.

5. Revise Section 3.6.4.1, “Prohibited Species Catch Reduction Programs – Prohibited Species Catch”, to read:

The Secretary of Commerce, after consultation with the Council, may implement by regulation measures that provide incentives to individual vessels to reduce bycatch rates of

prohibited species for which PSC limits are established **under Section 3.6.2**. The intended effect of such measures is to increase the opportunity to harvest groundfish TACs before established PSC limits are reached by encouraging individual vessels to maintain average bycatch rates within acceptable performance standards and discourage fishing practices that result in excessively high bycatch rates.

**Chinook salmon: In the directed non-pollock trawl fisheries in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas and adjacent State of Alaska waters, the non-pollock trawl catcher/processor sector may increase its annual apportionment of Chinook salmon PSC from 3,600 to 4,080 if its PSC use in the preceding year was no more than 3,120; the trawl catcher vessel sector, excluding any fishing under the authority of a Central GOA Rockfish Program cooperative quota permit, may increase its annual apportionment of Chinook salmon PSC from 2,700 to 3,060 if its PSC use in the preceding year was no more than 2,340.**

6. In Appendix A, add the following description of Amendment 97 in numerical order, and fill in the implementation date when it is known:

Amendment 97, implemented \_\_\_\_\_:

1. Established annual and seasonal PSC limits for Chinook salmon in the Western and Central GOA non-pollock trawl fisheries.
2. Established a bycatch reduction incentive program in the Western and Central GOA non-pollock trawl fisheries, wherein certain operational type sectors that perform to a higher standard of Chinook salmon avoidance in one year may receive additional amounts of Chinook salmon PSC in the following year.
3. Required full retention of salmon intercepted in the Western and Central GOA non-pollock trawl fisheries.
4. Provided for the rollover of unused Chinook salmon PSC from the Central GOA Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector to the Non-Rockfish Program catcher vessel sector at certain times of the year.