

WINTER TROLL FISHERY SAMPLING, 1987

By

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## WINTER TROLL FISHERY SAMPLING

1987 Final Report

### Summary of Progress

#### Work Accomplishments

##### A. Tasks Scheduled:

This project supports the sampling of the winter troll fishery for collection of coded micro-wire tag data and age and size data from chinook salmon. Our initial goal was to sample a minimum of 20% of the chinook harvested during the winter troll fishery from 1 October to 15 November 1987 and 16 March to 15 April 1988. Sampling was to be conducted at shore based processors in the major ports of landing - Sitka, Petersburg, Ketchikan, and Juneau. Soon after commencement of the winter troll season our sampling goals were expanded to include sampling up to 50% of the catch for CWT data, sampling throughout the duration of the winter troll season, and sampling in additional ports - Hoonah, Wrangell, and Craig.

##### B. Tasks Accomplished:

We succeeded in examining 29,252 (51.6%) of the 56,703 chinook salmon harvested during the 1987/1988 winter troll season (Table 1). This was a record winter troll harvest with exceptional catches in October and November. Our sampling coverage was fairly uniform between quadrants during the first half of the season, 1 October to 31 December 1987, but weighted toward inside catches the second half of the season, 1 January to 15 April 1988 (Table 1). We recovered 1,878 (91.5%) of the heads from the 2,052 adipose clipped fish observed in the first half of the season and 580 (98.8%) of the 587 adipose clipped fish observed the second half of the season. We received excellent cooperation from the processors in recovering heads of tagged fish considering that most fish were destined to fresh/whole (heads on) markets. All CWT data was forwarded to the F.R.E.D. Divisions Tag Lab as scheduled.

Our employees did an excellent job of sampling winter troll landings for scale and length data. Samples were collected from all districts with significant catches. A total of 4,161 chinook's were sampled during the first half of the season and 1,497 during the second half (Table 2). We have not aged these scales nor generated age and length composition summaries yet.

C. Special Problems, Differences, etc.:

Despite the record catches and the accompanying expansion of sampling effort we encountered no significant problems in meeting project objectives. Early in the season we occasionally had problems recovering heads since many processors intended to sell all their fish with heads-on, as mentioned above. Several personnel changes were needed throughout the season since sampling involved part time work in all ports from November to March and we had few employees available.

Table 1. Number of chinook salmon harvested and sampled for coded microwire tag data, by period and quadrant, during the 1987/1988 winter troll season in Southeast Alaska.

Period	Quadrant	Number Harvested	Number Sampled	Percent
1 Oct. to 31 Dec. 1987	Northeast	18,831	10,429	55.4
	Northwest	16,684	7,776	46.6
	Southeast	5,126	3,561	69.5
	Southwest	<u>255</u>	<u>277</u>	<u>108.6</u>
		41,076	22,043	53.7
1 Jan. to 15 April 1988	Northeast	4,367	3,381	77.4
	Northwest	6,755	1,998	29.6
	Southeast	3,415	1,560	45.7
	Southwest	<u>1,090</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>24.8</u>
		15,627	7,209	46.1
Total		56,703	29,252	51.6

Table 2. Number of chinook salmon sampled for age (scales) and length data, by period and district, from the 1987/1988 Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery.

District	Period	
	1 Oct. to 31 Dec. 1987	1 Jan. to 15 April 1988
101	306 <sup>a</sup>	50
102	120	18
103	116	67 <sup>b</sup>
105		147
106	422	18
107	233	63
108	359	23
109	120	358
110	610	213
111	40	18
112	26	
113	1,076	522
114	<u>733</u>	<u>        </u>
	4,161	1,497

<sup>a</sup> Includes 36 fish sampled from a mixed District 101 and 102 landing.

<sup>b</sup> Includes 14 fish sampled from a mixed District 103 and 104 landing.