



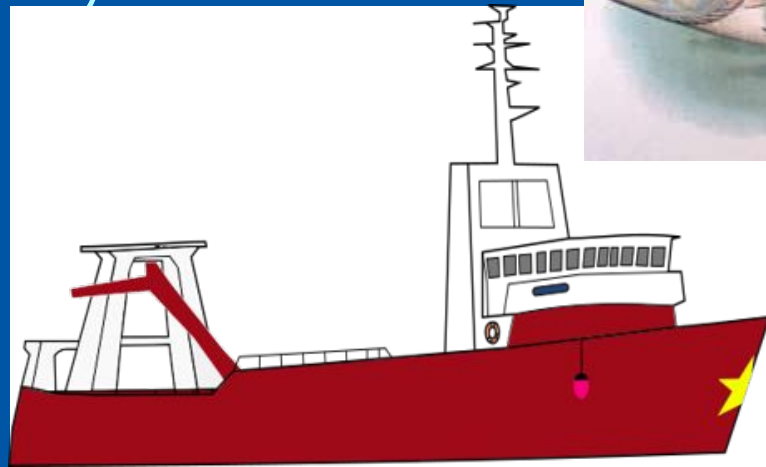
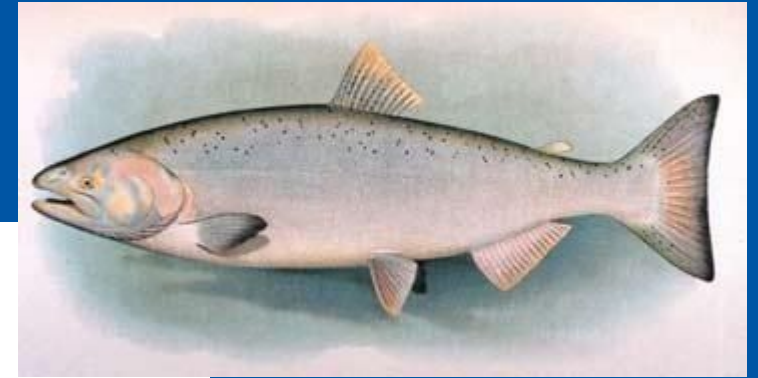
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Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT) Western Alaska Salmon Subcommittee

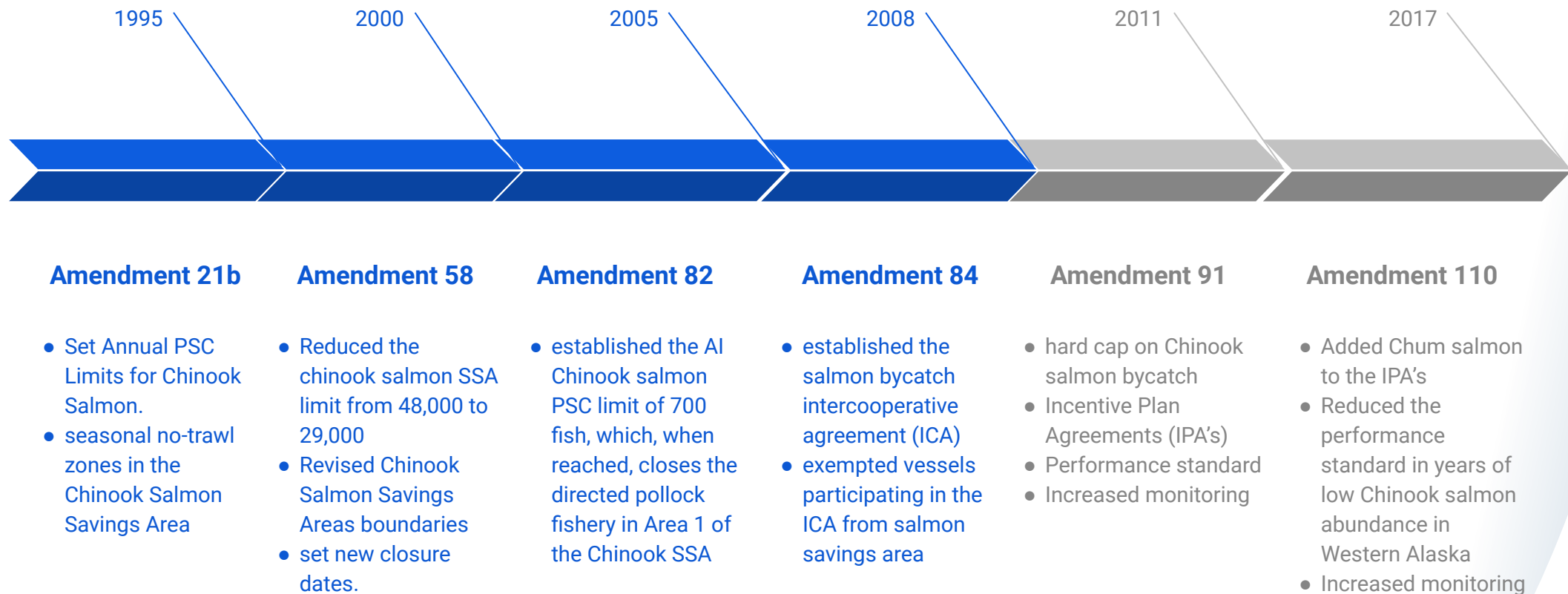
Regulatory Structure Overview of Salmon Bycatch measures for the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery

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Catch Shares Branch Chief
NOAA Fisheries, Alaska Region**

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BSAI FMP Amendments



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Regulatory Structure

| | |
|--|--|
| Prohibited Species Catch limits | <p>Bycatch Caps that close or modify fisheries</p> <p>Chinook bycatch caps are linked to Western Alaska returns</p> <p>Performance Standard</p> |
| Cooperative and Incentive Plan Measures | <p>Catch share management that allows fleets to avoid a “race for fish”, share information, and adopt better fishing practices</p> <p>Incentive Plan Agreements (IPA)</p> <p>Constant communication with the fleets to help them avoid bycatch “hot spots” and manage effort; Rolling hotspot program</p> <p>Annual Cooperative Report</p> |
| Monitoring | <p>100% and 200% observer coverage, advanced salmon sampling procedures coupled with electronic monitoring to ensure complete and accurate accounting of all salmon species.</p> <p>Reports on the website updated weekly</p> |



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Prohibited Species Catch limits

- Bycatch Caps that close or modify fisheries - [679.21\(f\)](#)
- Chinook bycatch caps are linked to Western Alaska returns - [679.21\(f\)\(2\)](#)
- Bycatch Performance Standard - [679.21\(f\)\(6\)](#)

| | High Abundance | Low Abundance |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| IPA approved and performance standard not exceeded | 60,000 | 45,000 |
| No IPA or the sector has exceeded its performance standard* | 47,591 | 33,318 |
| *If the performance standard is exceeded in 3 of 7 consecutive years, this lower limit becomes permanent. | | |



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Cooperative and IPA measures

- Catch Share Program Management Structure
 - American Fisheries Act
 - Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program
- Incentive Plan Agreements - _____

- Constant communication with the fleets to help them avoid bycatch “hot spots” and manage effort
- Salmon Excluder Gear modifications
- Annual Cooperative report to the Council - _____
and IPA report to the Council - _____



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Monitoring

Comprehensive monitoring program with independent, at-sea observers and video cameras

- Complete enumeration of all bycaught salmon
 - how many Chinook and chum salmon caught
 - where those fish came from
 - whether or not a potential violation of laws occurred
- Independent bycatch data collected by observers
- Biological Data
- Reliable Genetic sampling



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Monitoring - Catcher Vessels

- 100% Observer coverage to ensure a complete count of salmon - [679.51\(a\)\(2\)](#)
- Catch handling requirements- [679.21\(f\)\(15\)\(B\)](#)
- Electronic Monitoring option is in development. See the [Trawl EM EFP](#) website.



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Monitoring - Shoreside or SFP Processors

- Full Observer Coverage - [679.51\(b\)\(2\)](#)
 - Every pollock delivery is monitored in entirety for salmon bycatch to ensure a complete count of all salmon bycatch
- Catch Monitoring and Control Plan (CMCP) [679.7\(k\)\(3\)\(vi\)](#)
 - Submitted to NMFS describes how all catch delivered will be sorted and weighed
 - Location to store salmon and ensure all salmon sorted and weighed within view of an observer - [679.28\(g\)\(7\)\(vii\)](#) and [679.28\(d\)\(7\)](#)
 - Salmon handling and observer notification - [679.21\(f\)\(15\)](#)



Photo credit: Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division, AFSC



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Monitoring - Catcher/Processors & Motherships

- Two observers onboard 100% of time - [679.51\(a\)\(2\)\(vi\)](#)
- Weigh Catch on a NMFS-certified Scale - [679.63\(a\)\(1\)](#) & [679.28\(b\)](#)
- Observer Sampling Station - [679.63\(a\)\(2\)](#) & [679.28\(d\)](#)
- Catch handling requirements - [679.21\(f\)\(15\)\(ii\)\(A\)](#)
- Video Monitoring to ensure compliance - [679.28\(e\)](#)



Photo credit: Fisheries
Monitoring and Analysis Division,
AFSC



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NMFS AKRO Data Reporting & Sharing

- Salmon prohibited species catch updated in Regional Catch Accounting System daily
- Data electronically shared (following confidentiality rules) with industry for industry-led bycatch avoidance measures- e.g., Sea State and hot-spot avoidance - [679.21\(f\)\(3\)\(viii\)](#)

Available at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/commercial-fishing/fisheries-catch-and-landings-reports-alaska>



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Many thanks go to...

Harvesters and Processors

Observers

Observer Providers

Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

Alaska Regional Office

NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Alaska Division

NOAA Office of General Counsel

State of Alaska



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More Information & Contacts

- NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region www.noaa.alaskafisheries.gov
- North Pacific Fishery Management Council www.npfmc.org
- State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game www.adfg.Alaska.gov
- Alaska Fisheries Science Center; interactive salmon genetic information: https://pdbarry.shinyapps.io/GSI_Salmon_LandingPage/
- Salmon genetics reports here: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/science-data/genetics-research-alaska-fisheries-science-center>



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