

North Pacific Fishery Management Council June 2009 Chinook Bycatch Data Collection Motion

The Council requests that staff prepare an analysis of the following alternatives for Initial Review in October 2009:

Alternative 1

Status quo (existing data sources)

Alternative 2A

In addition to the status quo data sources:

- (1) Transaction data for salmon – quantity and price of transfers (survey will be used to determine whether these are arm's length transactions).
- (2) Information regarding change in fishing grounds:
 - a) For both the original and new fishing grounds, the date, time, bycatch rate, location, and CPUE of tow.
 - b) Pollock quota remaining for harvest and salmon allowance remaining at time of event.
 - c) Time, distance, and use of fuel in searching for cleaner fishing grounds.

Alternative 2B

In addition to the status quo data sources:

- (1) Transaction data for salmon and pollock– quantity and price of transfers (survey will be used to determine whether these are arm's length transactions).
- (2) Information regarding change in fishing grounds:
 - a) For both the original and new fishing grounds, the date, time, bycatch rate, location, and CPUE of tow.
 - b) Pollock quota remaining for harvest and salmon allowance remaining at time of event.
 - c) Time, distance, and use of fuel in searching for cleaner fishing grounds.

Alternative 3

In addition to the status quo data sources:

- (1) Transaction data for salmon and pollock– quantity and price of transfers (survey will be used to determine whether these are arm's length transactions).
- (2) Surveys to estimate costs of moving vessels to avoid salmon bycatch (vessel fuel use, transit time, and lost fishing time).
- (3) Post-season surveys of skippers to determine rationale for decision making during the pollock season (fishing location choices and salmon bycatch reduction measures).
- (4) Survey of roe quantity, quality, and revenues at the minimum level collected by the company (e.g., lot, trip).

Alternative 4

In addition to the status quo data sources:

- (1) Transaction data for salmon and pollock– quantity and price of transfers (survey will be used to determine whether these are arm's length transactions).
- (2) Surveys to estimate costs of moving vessels to avoid salmon bycatch (vessel fuel use, transit time, and lost fishing time).
- (3) Post-season surveys of skippers to determine rationale for decision making during the pollock season (fishing location choices and salmon bycatch reduction measures).
- (4) Survey of roe quantity, quality, and revenues at the minimum level collected by the company (e.g., lot, trip).
- (5) Survey of daily vessel operating costs (labor, observer, etc.).

The Council discussed the purpose and need of the proposed action, including the need to verify and supplement conclusions drawn by industry in the Incentive Plan Agreement (IPA) annual reports. The focus of a data collection program would be to (1) evaluate the effectiveness of the IPA incentives, the hard cap, and the performance standard in terms of reducing salmon bycatch, and (2) evaluate how the Council's action affects where, when, and how pollock fishing and salmon bycatch occur. The Council also requested that the analysis include draft statements of these objectives that the Council may consider including in its purpose and need statement.

The Council indicated that it supports moving forward with a data collection program to make implementation of the program possible at the time Amendment 91 is implemented or as soon as practicable. The analysis should evaluate how each of the alternatives meets the objective of evaluating the effectiveness of the IPAs. The analysis should also discuss the feasibility of each alternative, including the effects of the alternative's scope on the timeliness of implementation.

The analysis should also include a discussion of how existing data sources may be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the IPAs. That discussion should identify statistical measures to detect behavior resulting from Chinook bycatch avoidance incentives, and inform the Council in its development of a plan to independently verify that IPAs are creating the intended incentives. Such measures might include:

- (1) Comparisons of bycatch rates of vessels fishing simultaneously in different areas.
- (2) Trends in changes of the standard deviations of individual vessel bycatch rates.
- (3) Comparisons of individual vessel bycatch rates prior to and following changes in fishing locations.
- (4) Comparisons of individual vessel bycatch rates relative to distance traveled from port.
- (5) Calculation of salmon avoided through rolling hot spot closures.
- (6) Comparisons of the percentage of the TAC harvested at times of relatively high and low Chinook salmon encounter rates.
- (7) Comparisons of Chinook salmon bycatch rates achieved by vessels participating in an IPA and by vessels not participating in an IPA.

Further, the analysis should evaluate the availability and feasibility of collecting the cost, revenue, and product information required in Alternatives 3 and 4, and the timeframe for developing appropriate surveys to collect these data.