

Inshore Salmon Savings Incentive Plan – SSIP

Managing Chinook Bycatch for the Bering Sea
Inshore Pollock Sector



Bering Sea Pollock Fishery Chinook Bycatch Regulations

- New regulations for Chinook salmon came into place in 2011 – Amendment 91
- Implemented a Hard Cap on Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery
- Provided 3 Hard Cap options

Amendment 91

- Three Options
 1. 60,000 Chinook Hard Cap with Incentive Plan Agreement (IPA)
 2. 47,591 Chinook Hard Cap with no vessels participating in an IPA
 3. Up to 28,496 Chinook in an Opt Out Pool for vessels choosing not to participate in an IPA when a portion of the fleet does participate in an IPA.

Amendment 91

- Options 1 & 2 Include sub allocations to each pollock sector.
 1. CDQ
 2. Catcher/Processor
 3. Mothership
 4. Inshore

IPA Requirements

1. Provide incentives at the individual vessel level
2. Incentivize vessels to avoid Chinook bycatch at all levels of abundance in all years
3. Reward vessels that successfully avoid Chinook and/or penalize vessels that fail to avoid Chinook

IPA Requirements

4. Incentives must influence fishing decisions at levels below the hard cap
5. Hold Bycatch to a Performance Standard of 47,591 in most years

IPA Requirements

- The Incentive Plan Agreement must describe how each vessel will manage their bycatch to keep total bycatch below the sector level regulatory Performance Standard
 - The Agreement must contain rules to prevent the sum of vessel bycatch within a sector from exceeding that sector's portion of 47,591 in any 3 years within a consecutive 7 year period

INSHORE SECTOR'S SALMON SAVINGS INCENTIVE PLAN - SSIP -



IPAs found at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/bycatch/default.htm>

Inshore SSIP Rules

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- Base Cap Allocations are made pro rata to a vessel's pollock allocation
- Vessels may not exceed their Base Cap Allocation unless they earn Salmon Savings Credits – The *Incentive* in SSIP
- **Savings Credits bridge the gap between the Performance Standard and the Hard Cap**

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Inshore SSIP Rules

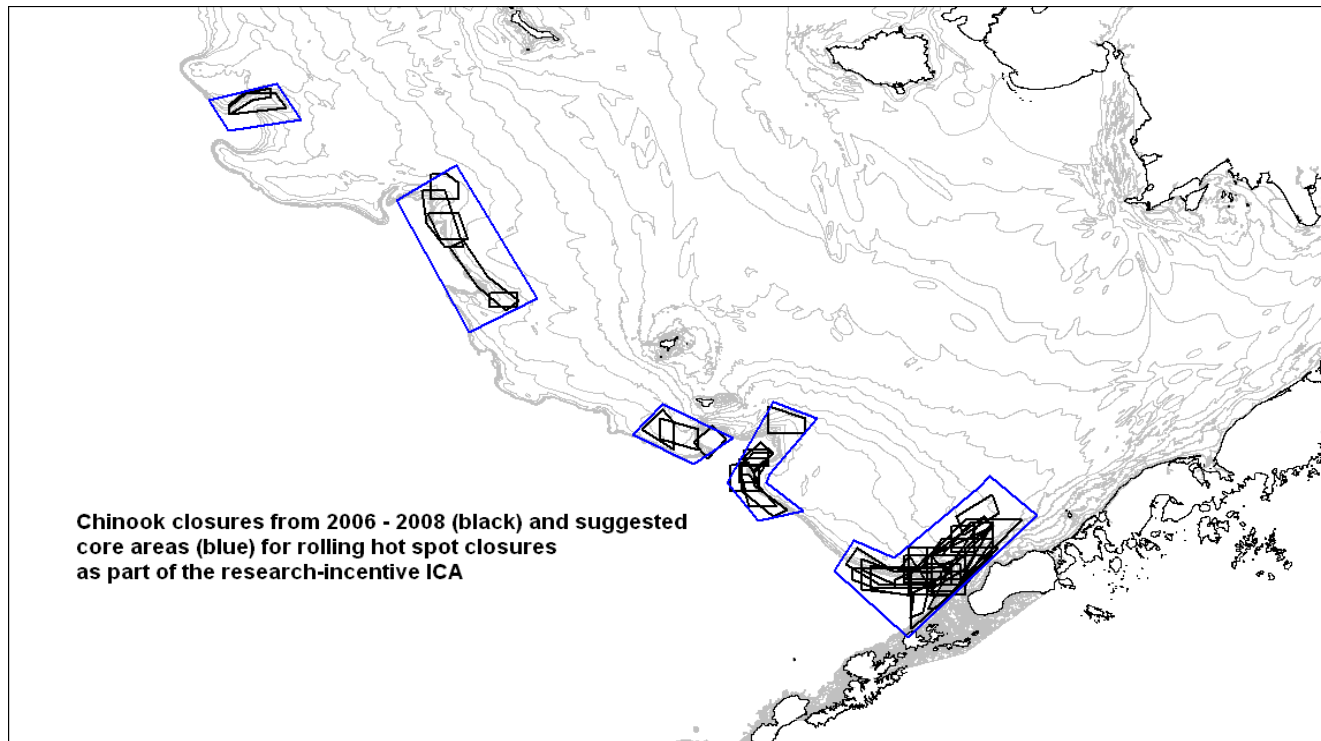
- **Salmon Savings Credits**
 - When a vessel's annual bycatch falls below its Base Cap it earns Salmon Savings Credits.
 - One credit earned for every 3 salmon avoided below the Base Cap.
 - Credits are saved in a Salmon Savings Credit Account until used – Unused credits expire after 5 years

Inshore SSIP Rules

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 - One credit is earned for every 3 salmon avoided below their Base Cap.
 - Credits are saved in a Salmon Savings Credit Account until used – Unused credits expire after 5 years
 - **Vessels may not exceed their share of the 60,000 Hard Cap in any given year even if they have Salmon Savings Credits to do so**

Inshore SSIP Rules

- Includes a Rolling Hot Spot Program
- Includes a Chinook Conservation Closure in the A Season



Inshore SSIP Summary

- Under the SSIP program the 60,000 Hard Cap is not a Hard Cap in the usual sense.
- SSIP participants have their share of the 60,000 limit available to them only if they earned the necessary Salmon Savings Credits.
- The SSIP rules make it impossible for participants to continuously approach bycatch levels at, or even near, the hard cap.

Inshore SSIP Summary

- SSIP Program contains mechanisms that guarantees average bycatch will be at or below the 47,591 level.
- The 47,591 or less bycatch average is not theoretical or experimental; but rather an **absolute fact**.
- SSIP program provides incentives to keep bycatch at or below 35,000 Chinook salmon