



Alaska Marine Conservation Council



Alaska State Legislature
House Fisheries Committee
February 19, 2013

The People of Alaska Place Chinook Salmon in High Regard



Chinook Bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska

- The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is Analyzing a Motion offered by Commissioner Campbell (ADF+G) to Cap the Chinook Bycatch in the GOA in the Non-Pollock Trawl Fisheries. This is the last of the trawl fisheries that are fishing without a cap.

Will Catch Shares Be the Solution to Chinook Bycatch?

- When caps were set in the Bering Sea, they were set higher than those recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of State, the Yukon River Panel, the Federal Subsistence Board, and the Alaska Board of Fisheries. In the Gulf of Alaska, the 25,000 cap set on the Pollock fishery exceeds the 10-year average. The hard caps set will prevent high bycatch rates, but do little to reduce bycatch of Chinook and Chum salmon.

Every Chinook Salmon Counts

- At times of low abundance, every fish counts. While other users have had to reduce their harvest to conserve Chinook salmon with tremendous economic and cultural impacts, the trawl fisheries must do the same.
- While there are a number of factors contributing to the current poor state of our Chinook salmon runs, bycatch mortality is one factor that we *can* control.

Wastefulness Is Not the Alaskan Way

- Alaska has a reputation for sustainable fisheries Management. We can and must do better when it comes to reducing bycatch.
- The best tools for reducing bycatch are caps on prohibited species, observation and sampling, and finally research funding to analyze the samples to determine river of origin and migration paths.

How Can the Legislature Help?

- A resolution from the legislature to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that supports reduction of Chinook salmon bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea would let the Governor-appointed Council know that the commercial, charter, sport, and subsistence fishermen of Alaska are being represented in their call for reductions in Chinook salmon bycatch.

All Users of Chinook Salmon Thank You!



Questions? www.akmarine.org



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