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 Hard Cap Options:
 - 1. 60,000 Chinook Hard Cap & 47,591 Performance Standard 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.

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

Amendment 91

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

Sector Hard Cap Limits

- 1. HARD CAP AVAILABLE IN ONLY 3 OF 7 YEARS
- 2. EXCEEDING THE PERFORMANCE STANDARD NOT REACHING THE HARD CAP COUNTS AS ONE OF THE 3 YEARS

	Performance Standard - 47,591	IPA Hard Cap - 60,000
All Sectors	47,591	60,000
Inshore	26,484	33,390
Mothership	3,707	4,674
C/P	13,516	17,040
CDQ	3,883	4,896

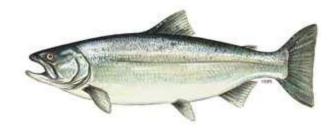
Sector Performance Standard Allocations

- 1. THE **PERFORMANCE STANDARD** IS THE BYCATCH LIMIT TYPICALLY IN PLAY
- 2. ALLOCATIONS MADE SEASONALLY
- 3. ALLOCATIONS MADE TO THE VESSEL LEVEL

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INSHORE SECTOR'S SALMON SAVINGS INCENTIVE PLAN - SSIP -





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

Inshore SSIP Rules

- Each inshore vessel receives a Base Cap Allocation
 - its share of the 26,484 Inshore Performance Standard.

- And an Annual Use Limit
 - its share of the 33,390 Inshore Hard Cap Limit.
- Allocations and limits are made Pro Rata to each vessel's pollock allocation.

Inshore SSIP Rules

Vessels may not exceed their Base Cap
 Allocation unless they earn Salmon Savings
 Credits - The *Incentive* in SSIP

Inshore SSIP Rules

- Salmon Savings Credits
 - When a vessel's annual Chinook bycatch is below its Base Cap, Salmon Savings Credits are earned.
 - -Savings Credits bridge the gap between the Performance Standard and the Hard Cap Limit.
 - One credit earned for every 3 salmon avoided below the Base Cap.

Inshore SSIP Summary

- Under the Inshore SSIP program the 33,390 Hard Cap Limit is not a "Hard Cap" in the usual sense.
- Inshore SSIP participants have their share of the 33,390 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 Limit.

Inshore SSIP Summary

- SSIP Program contains mechanisms that guarantees average bycatch will be at or below the Performance Standard level.
- The 26,484, *or less*, bycatch average is not theoretical or experimental; but rather an <u>absolute</u> <u>fact</u>.
- The Inshore SSIP program provides incentives to keep inshore average annual bycatch at or below 21,750 Chinook salmon.

Fishing Grounds Access Controls

- Includes a Rolling Hot Spot Program during times with low Chinook bycatch
- Includes a Chinook Conservation Closure in the A Season

