SCOMM
74:8

Alaska State Senate
Office of the President
Senator Richard I. Eliason, President

To testify on SCR13

Robin Samuelson, Bd. of Fish

Dave Carlisle -
Biometrician for Comm. Fish
ADF&G

Someone from NMFS
Jim Brooks
Harold Sparks of Bethel
by teleconf. hook-up

Also to attend:
Larry Cotter - NPFMC
By-catch chrmn
Greg Sieden of UFA

DATE: 2/20/91 FURTHER: Resources

Date of 5-Day Notice: Feb. 28
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: _____

Senate Spec. Comte. on Domestic and International Commercial Fisheries considered SCR 13

Bycatch of chinook salmon by United States and foreign trawl fisheries.

and recommended:

[✓] **replace with** _____ **CS** SCR13 (FSH) [✓] **same title** [ ] **new title**

[ ] **attached amendment(s)**

[ ] _____ **letter of intent adopted**

[✓] **do pass**

[ ] **do not pass**

[ ] **no recommendation**

[ ] **individual recommendations**

[ ] **further referral to** _____

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department(s)/Date:	Department(s)/Date:
[✓] fiscal note(s) _____	[✓] zero fiscal note(s) _____
	ADF&G / 3/5/91
[ ] appropriation-no fiscal note	[ ] Governor's bill w/fiscal note

SIGNING DO PASS:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Chair: Signature and Recommendation

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SCR 13

Revision Date: 3/5/91
Department Affected: Fish and Game
Title: Bycatch of Alaska Chinook Salmon
BRU: Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish
Component:
Sponsor: Senator Hoffman
Requestor: Governor
COMPONENT SERIAL NO. [ ] [4 4 4] [5 6 6] [9 1 5]

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Changes in CSSCR13 (FSH) have no fiscal impact. This fiscal note is appropriate.

3-8-91 date — M.M. Comte Aide (initial)

Prepared By: Bob Clasby
Phone: 465-4210
Division: Commercial Fisheries
Date: 3/5/91
Approved by Commissioner: CARL REGIER by Mike Crapps
Agency: ADF&G
Date: 3/6/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

Rev 10/90

7-LS0743\D
Utermohle
3/8/91

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13 (FSH)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATOR HOFFMAN

A RESOLUTION

Relating to the bycatch of Alaska chinook salmon by United States and foreign trawl fisheries.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS salmon of Alaska origin are important to the people of Alaska for subsistence, sport, and commercial fisheries; and

WHEREAS chinook salmon are one of the most prized and valuable species of Alaska salmon; and

WHEREAS chinook salmon originating in Alaska range extensively along the Alaska coast and out into the North Pacific; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska has a vested interest in the conservation of chinook salmon populations originating within Alaska, and throughout western North America, due to its active involvement in numerous national and international salmon management bodies and treaties; and

WHEREAS new information from the National Marine Fisheries Service observer program reveals a significant bycatch of chinook salmon in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone that [redacted]he chinook salmon conservation programs of the State of Alaska and the Pacific Salmon Commission allocation of chinook salmon to the Southeast Alaska troll fishery; and

WHEREAS new information from domestic and federal observers also strongly indicates a significant bycatch of chinook salmon in the international waters of the central Bering Sea "donut hole"; and

WHEREAS biological information developed by the Fisheries Research Institute of the University of Washington and accepted by the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission has determined that the chinook salmon in the Bering Sea are primarily North American in origin and from streams in Southcentral, Southeast, and western Alaska as well as from British Columbia; and

WHEREAS bycatch occurs on a mixture of salmon stocks well before run strength can be assessed and thus reduces the number of fish available in inshore areas and increases the risk of overharvest; and

WHEREAS the chinook salmon fisheries on the Yukon River and in Southeast Alaska are transboundary river fisheries, and the lack of chinook salmon strains the relationship among Alaska, the other West Coast states, and Canada, including its provinces and territories;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor petition the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the United States Secretary of Commerce [redacted]nt emergency regulations to limit the bycatch of chinook salmon in the 1991 trawl fisheries in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone, and to expedite a 1992 chinook salmon bycatch plan amendment to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island and Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plans; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor petition the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the United States Secretary of Commerce to implement emergency regulations limiting the bycatch of Alaska chinook salmon by domestic trawlers in the central Bering Sea "donut hole"; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor petition the United States Secretary of Commerce to identify the complete range of chinook salmon as defined in the 1990 revisions of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act and implement a rebuttable presumption for the interception of chinook salmon beyond the United States Exclusive Economic Zone; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor petition the United States Secretary of State, Secretary of Commerce, and Secretary of Transportation to immediately initiate international negotiations to end fishing within the "donut hole" in order to protect Alaska chinook salmon; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor request the United States Secretary of State, Secretary of Commerce, and Secretary of Transportation to authorize the United States Coast Guard to seize, under the authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act as well as other

treaties or bilateral agreements as might be appropriate, vessels discovered with contraband salmon on board, with such vessels to be sequestered in United States ports until disposition by the Federal Courts.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable James A. Baker, III, Secretary of the U.S. Department of State; to the Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher, Sr., Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; to the Honorable Samuel K. Skinner, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

Gov's copy

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

POSITION PAPER

Bill No: SCR 13

Sponsor: Senator Hoffman

Division: Commercial Fisheries

Bill Title: Bycatch of Alaska Chinook Salmon

Department Position: Support

Background/Legislative Intent:
This resolution seeks to petition the federal government, and the federal agencies responsible for managing or enforcing fishery regulations, to move quickly to limit/reduce the unintended bycatch of chinook salmon in domestic trawl fisheries and on high seas fisheries conducted by foreign fleets.

Analysis of Bill/Program Effects:
The effect of this resolution would be to increase the amount of chinook salmon surviving to return to coastal areas where they would be harvested by sport, commercial and subsistence fishermen. In some instances, significant returns of chinook, could alleviate existing allocation problems.

Amendments proposed:
(1) - Suggest a wording change in the 3rd WHEREAS which reads:
WHEREAS chinook salmon originating in Alaska range extensively along its coast and out into the North Pacific; and
(2) - Suggest that the 5th WHEREAS add the words "could possibly" before the word affect(s) in line 15.
(3) - Suggest that the 8th WHEREAS which talks about implications on management programs be changed to read:
"WHEREAS bycatch occurs on a mixture of stocks, well before run strength can be assessed, and thus reduces the number of fish available in inshore areas and increases the risk of overharvest, and;"

Commissioner's Signature Carl L. Rosier Date 9/6/91

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SCR 13

Revision Date: 3/5/91
Department Affected: Fish and Game
Title: Bycatch of Alaska Chinook Salmon
BRU: Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish
Component:
Sponsor: Senator Hoffman
Requestor: Governor
COMPONENT SERIAL NO. | | 4 4 4 | 5 6 6 | 9 1 5 |

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared By: Bob Clasby
Phone: 465-4210
Division: Commercial Fisheries
Date: 3/5/91
Approved by Commissioner: CARL ROSIER by
Agency: ADF&G
Date: 3/6/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

Rev 10/90

UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 4th Street, Suit 112
Juneau, AK 99801
907-586-2820
Fax# 907-463-2545

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

Alaska Crab Coalition
Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association
Alaska Longline Fisherman's Association
Alaska Trollers Association
Bering Sea Fishermen's Association
Bristol Bay Driftnetters Association
Concerned Area 'M' Fishermen
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association
Copper River Fishermen's Cooperative
Cordova District Fishermen United
Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association
North Pacific Fisheries Association
Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
Peninsula Marketing Association
Petersburg Vessel Owners Association
Prince William Sound Aquaculture Association
Prince William Sound Seiners Association
Seafood Producers Cooperative
Southeast Alaska Seiners
Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
United Cook Inlet Drift Association
United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
Western Alaska Cooperative Marketing Association

March 7, 1991

Special Committee on Domestic and International Fisheries
Testimony for
SCR 13

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

My name is Greg Seider. I am the Executive Director of the United Fishermen of Alaska. I would like to address the committee today in favor of Senate Concurrent Resolution #13.

In the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands reporting area there has been an alarming increase in the chinook (or king salmon) bycatch in the first two months of this year, 1991. It already was double the amount taken from January 1, 1990 through November 11, 1990. The total bycatch estimates for 1989 in this area, based on domestic observer data, ranged from 29,210 to 34,320 king salmon. During the period from January 1, 1991 to February 24, 1991 the cumulative king salmon bycatch total, as reported by the National Marine Fisheries Service was 26,823 fish.

Based on the harvest figures for chinook salmon in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands for 1989 the bycatch amounted to 13 - 15% of the total legitimate harvest.

Some indication of the economic impact of the loss of these fish to Alaska can be gained by the following illustration. If the estimated 34,320 chinook salmon had returned to the Lower Yukon Area in 1989 and upon harvest would have averaged 23 pounds, the total weight of these fish would have been 789,360 pounds. The price of king salmon in the Lower Yukon in 1989 was $2.77 per pound. The total ex-vessel loss to the fishermen was $2,186,527. If we consider the loss to the local economy using the accepted multiplier of 2.5 times the ex-vessel price the amount of $5,466,317 can be added to the ex-vessel loss for a total of 7,652.844. This is illustrated best by the table I prepared for you:

Salmon Return	Average Weight	Total Weight	1989 $/#	Ex-vessel Loss	Standard Multiplier	Loss to Economy	Total Loss
34,320	23	789,360	$2.77	$2,186,527	2.5	$5,466,317	$7,652,844

This of course is a very over simplified example but it does graphically illustrate in dollars and cents what is at risk when we discuss the bycatch issue. Please bear in mind that this simple example does not consider other economic ramifications to the State of Alaska in lost raw fish tax; or the value of other lost stocks: herring, blackcod, halibut, crab, or other salmon species. There is a possible additional loss of revenue because of time area closures of other salmon fisheries to allow for adequate escapement of weak chinook stocks has not been considered.

The above model also does not consider the impact on tourism; the sport fishing lodges in Western Alaska will not maintain their past success in booking clients if chinook stocks are severely impacted. The well-being of the subsistence user has not been considered. There certainly is a tangible economic hardship if enough fish do not return to the river systems to supply subsistence needs.

A greater bycatch problem may be developing this year than in past years in the Gulf of Alaska or the Bering Sea "donut hole"; however, I have not cited any correlating data.

A recent paper from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has noted "...districts such as Bristol Bay, and perhaps Cook Inlet and the Copper River, ...have experienced a significant drop in the numbers of returning fish in spite of adequate escapement."

There is no absolute data that resolves what happened to these chinook salmon but every indication is that the growth of the domestic trawl fisheries, with no significant incentive to avoid bycatch of chinook salmon and other prohibited species, has been detrimental to these stocks.

This resolution is a starting point to deal with the very complex bycatch issues. I would urge you to support this measure with the following suggested change: lines 18 to 20 on page 2 appear to be aimed at a temporary solution. It might be preferable to reword this portion to read:

> "**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor petition the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the United States Secretary of Commerce to implement <u>permanent</u> [emergency] regulations limiting the bycatch of Alaska chinook salmon by domestic <u>and foreign</u> trawlers in the central Bering Sea "donut hole"; and be it"

<u>New text underlined</u> [Deleted text bracketed]

Thank you very much for the opportunity to address you on SCR 13.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

BOARD OF FISHERIES

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 3-2000
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-2000
PHONE: (907) 465-4110
FAX: 463-5331

February 12, 1991

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To Molly McCammon	From Nancy
Co. Sen. Hoffman	Co. ADF&G
Dept.	Phone # 465-4110
Fax # 465-4523	Fax #

Steve Pennoyer
Regional Director
Alaska Region
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 1668
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Dear Mr. Pennoyer:

The State of Alaska, Board of Fisheries is extremely concerned with the high rate of salmon by-catch in area 517 by the mid-water pollock trawl fishery.

We formally request you take immediate action to address this unacceptable high rate of salmon by-catch. We would strongly support an immediate closure of all or parts of area 517 and, if necessary, area 518 under your "hot spot" authority and would naturally support such closures in Federal Waters with closures of state waters in the contiguous areas.

We seek an immediate response from you and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council at the earliest date possible. An analysis of what actions might conceivably be taken by the council in the coming year to address this issue would also be in order and greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Martin
Mike Martin
Chair
Board of Fisheries

Deborah Lyons
Deborah Lyons
Chair
By-Catch Committee

cc: Governor Hickel
Clarence Pautzke, Chairman, NPFMC
Commissioner of Fish and Game

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 3-2000
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-2000
PHONE: (907) 465-4100

February 13, 1991

Steve Pennoyer
Director
Alaska Region
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 1668
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Dear Mr. Pennoyer:

As you are aware, the Bering Sea trawl fishery has exhibited some startlingly high bycatch rates for chinook salmon during the first several weeks of 1991. The incidental harvest of some 20,000 chinook by February 3 has fishermen, biologists, and the Alaska Board of Fisheries very alarmed. Past reports of chinook bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska and in the "donut hole" of international waters of the central Bering Sea are also of great concern.

The Department of Fish and Game has developed a summary of the 1991 bycatch to date, based upon initial observer reports, and comparisons to past levels of chinook catches, both as bycatch and as directed harvest in state waters (enclosed). The few stock identification studies available indicate that the majority of chinook taken in Bering Sea trawl fisheries are likely from western and central Alaska stocks. Most of these stocks are already fully allocated to commercial, sport, and/or subsistence fisheries, and several of them are suffering declines in run strength.

The additional pressure of bycatch on these stocks may, in at least a few instances, constitute a conservation problem; it certainly constitutes a reallocation of state-managed resources. Given the obvious disputes between our own fishermen over even small numbers of kings in many systems, I am sure you understand our concern for yet another source of mortality, let alone one that is truly incidental and of no apparent benefit.

I believe that this problem warrants your immediate attention. We encourage the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to monitor the salmon bycatch very closely and make projections of any additional take expected during the 1991 groundfish fisheries. In addition, I ask that you review your authorities to institute time/area ("hot spot") closures or other emergency measures to protect Alaskan chinook stocks. Because of the importance of these

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stocks to our traditional fisheries, we are urging you to consider emergency action as requested by the Board of Fisheries.

As a potential point of reference, we note that foreign and joint-venture fishermen were able to control their annual chinook bycatch rates from 115,100 chinook salmon per 1.33 million mt of groundfish (0.087 chinook/mt) in 1980 down to about 0.004 chinook/mt in 1986. Presumably we should expect our own domestic fishermen to exhibit the same, if not better, control of their impacts on the resources upon which other domestic fishermen depend. I suggest that NMFS, in the short term, and perhaps the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, consider a bycatch management program that would limit chinook take to, at maximum, a commensurate 0.004 chinook/mt. For 1990, this rate would have restricted bycatch to approximately 6,600 chinook for the 1.65 million mt of groundfish taken, rather than the 14,000 chinook reported by observers. Similar protection may also need be afforded in the Gulf of Alaska and the donut hole.

Steve, I know that this is not a simple issue. On the other hand, it is not an issue easily dismissed. The burden of responsibility lies properly with the newly exploding groundfish fishery rather than with the established and traditional users of chinook salmon. I look forward to your consideration of the control of this bycatch and offer the assistance of ADF&G staff for any further data analysis which may be necessary. Please keep us apprised of your actions. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Ron Somerville
Deputy Commissioner

Enclosure

cc: Michael Martin
Clem Tillion
Clarence Pautzke
Denby Lloyd

1991 Chinook Salmon Bycatch Summary
February 13, 1991

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries

Current Status of Chinook Bycatch in the Groundfish Fisheries of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and the Gulf of Alaska

As of February 3, 1991 an estimated 20,708 chinooks had been caught incidentally in the groundfish fisheries of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BS/AI). An additional estimated 2,213 chinooks had been caught in the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries, primarily in the midwater trawl fishery for pollock.

In the BS/AI, the vast majority of the bycatch has occurred in the pollock midwater trawl fishery, predominantly from federal statistical area 517 and, to a lesser extent, statistical area 515. The pollock fishery was initially concentrated in statistical area 517 and, during the last two weeks of January, expanded to include statistical area 515. As of February 3, the bycatch rates for these two areas were 0.325 and 0.013 chinooks/mt of groundfish, respectively. Federal statistical areas are indicated in Figure 1a.

In addition, preliminary data from groundfish vessels in the Donut Hole suggest bycatches of chinook salmon that could be in excess of 60,000 in 1990.

BS/AI Groundfish Catch and Chinook Bycatch: 1990 VS. 1991

This year, by January 27, both reported groundfish catch and reported chinook bycatch in statistical area 517 had increased dramatically compared to the same period in 1990. However, the observer program was newly established in 1990 and actual observer coverage was very minimal prior to March 1990. Therefore, it is possible that the actual chinook bycatch for the first month of 1990 in the entire Bering Sea was higher than the approximate 3,000 chinooks reported.

By January 27, reported groundfish catch and chinook bycatch for 1990 and 1991 in statistical area 517 of the BS/AI was:

YEAR	GROUNDFISH (MT)	CHINOOKS (NOS.)	BYCATCH RATE (NOS./MT)
1990	7,657	383	0.05
1991	53,872	12,316	0.23

Cumulative bycatches of chinook salmon through the week ending February 3 are shown in Figure 1.

Commercial Catch History and Health of Chinook Salmon

The total statewide commercial harvest of chinook salmon has been relatively stable since the late 1980's. The projected total statewide commercial harvest for 1991 is 672 thousand chinook salmon (Geiger and Savikko, 1991). The total statewide harvest in 1990 was 665 thousand chinooks.

On tha district level, the Bristol Bay chinook salmon stocks have suffered the greatest decline. Chinook salmon numbers have dropped since the early 1980's raising concern over the health of the Nushagak and Togiak River runs. The number of chinook harvested in the Cordova district (Copper River) and the Cook Inlet district (Kenai River) have also declined since 1987. According to area management biologists, the Yukon and Kuskokwim stocks are currently in a rebuilding phase after lower-than-optimum returns in the mid-1980's.

The total annual commercial catch for districts or combined districts from the years 1980 - 1990 are provided in Figure 2. The total bycatches of salmon for each year are provided in this figure as well. The projected 1991 harvest by district, the 1980-1990 average, the 1990 catch, and comments are provided below:

Yukon/Kuskokwim	The 1991 projected harvest of 166 thousand chinook salmon is below the 1990 harvest of 190 thousand chinook salmon and below the 11 year average of 198 thousand fish. The 1990 catch was 95.7% of the 11 year average.
Bristol Bay	The 1990 harvest of 33 thousand chinook salmon was 28.0% of the 1980-90 average of 118 thousand fish. The projected 1991 harvest is 45 thousand fish, an increase from the 1990 catch. However, the chinook salmon catch in the Nushagak district has been in decline since 1984. There has been no directed commercial fishery for chinook salmon since 1986.
Ak Pen/Chignik	The eleven year average of 33 thousand chinook salmon is less than the 1990 catch of 35 thousand chinook. However, the 1991 projected harvest of 22 thousand fish is well below the average.
Kodiak	Although historically small, the commercial catch in Kodiak has risen from between 1 and 5 thousand chinook salmon during the period

1980-87, to 22 thousand in 1988 and 19 thousand in 1990. The 1991 projected harvest is 15 thousand fish.

Cook Inlet — Although high chinook harvests were reported in 1986 and 1987 (40 and 41 thousand fish, respectively), the 1990 harvest of 18 thousand chinook salmon was 75.9% of the eleven year average of 24 thousand fish. The 1991 projection is for 32 thousand chinook salmon.

Cordova — The 1990 harvest of 22 thousand chinook salmon was lower than the 1980-90 average of 34 thousand fish. However, the run is thought to be stable and the 1991 projected harvest is 42 thousand chinook salmon.

Origins of Chinook Salmon Caught Incidentally in Groundfish Fisheries

Information on the origins of chinook salmon caught incidentally in trawl and other fisheries of the Bering Sea comes primarily from salmon scale pattern analysis. The study most relevant to the groundfish fisheries is Myers and Rogers (1988). Scales collected by groundfish observers were analyzed to identify the origin of chinook salmon bycaught in the foreign and joint-venture groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea EEZ during 1979, 1981 and 1982. The percent origin of chinook salmon from various regions and within the Western Alaska region over all three years was:

Western Alaska		60 %
Yukon	17 %*	
Kuskokwim	24 %*	
Bristol Bay	29 %*	
Central Alaska		17 %
Asia		14 %
S.E. Alaska/British Columbia		9 %

* Not intended to sum to Western Alaska total percentage.

Myers and Rogers indicated that the predominant ages of chinook salmon in the western Alaska commercial catches were ages 1.3 (years in fresh water.years in salt water) and 1.4. They speculated that the greatest effect of large incidental catches of ages 1.2 and 1.3 chinooks offshore on inshore harvests would likely occur 1 or 2 years later.

Davis (1990) also used scale pattern analysis to determine origins of chinook salmon near Japanese mothership and landbased driftnet

salmon fisheries in 1985 and 1986. Based on scales collected in the vicinity of the mothership fisheries (north of the Aleutians and between 175°E and 175°W) the percent origin of immature (age-1.2) chinook salmon was:

	1985	1986
Western Alaska	58 %	10 %
Central Alaska	3 %	17 %
Asia (Kamchatka)	39 %	73 %

A previous study of chinooks from the area of the Japanese mothership salmon fishery, 1975 to 1981 (Myers et al., 1987), indicated the following percentage origin of chinooks from the Bering Sea:

Western Alaska		70 %
Yukon	48 %*	
Kuskokwim	21 %*	
Bristol Bay	14 %*	
Central Alaska		10 %
Asia		18 %
S.E. Alaska/British Columbia		2 %

* Not intended to sum to Western Alaska total percentage.

Davis (1990) cites additional scale pattern studies (Major et al. 1975, 1977a,b) which also indicated "that western Alaskan fish predominated in the Bering Sea and that the proportion of western Alaskan fish increased to the east".

Tagging data to determine region of chinook origin have been very limited but tend to corroborate results of scale pattern analyses (Myers and Rogers, 1988). Although scales from chinooks are currently being collected by observers, no scale pattern analysis is currently being conducted to determine the origin of chinook salmon bycaught in the groundfish fisheries. Observers are also collecting the heads of salmon with clipped adipose fins for potential recovery of coded wire tags.

Potential Future Chinook Bycatch

As of February 3, 59 % of the pollock roe season quota had been taken in the Bering Sea, 61 % of the Bogoslof management area (Figure 1a) quota had been taken and 18 % of the Aleutian Islands quota had been taken. At these rates of fishing, the Bering Sea

and Bogoslof quotas will probably be attained near the end of February. Once the roe season pollock quota has been taken in the Bering Sea, it is expected that a large percentage of the fleet will shift to the Aleutians for what remains of a minimal quota on pollock, to bottom trawling for Pacific cod and other species, and to the Gulf of Alaska for pollock.

As of February 3, only 9 % of the Pacific cod quota in the BS/AI had been taken. In 1990, the chinook bycatch rate in the Pacific cod bottom trawl fishery (range: 0 - 0.043 chinooks/mt groundfish) exceeded the rate in the pollock midwater trawl fishery (range: 0 - 0.020 chinooks/mt groundfish) in eight of the ten management areas. The 1990 chinook bycatch rate in the Pacific cod trawl fishery in statistical area 517 (0.037 chinooks/mt groundfish) was over twice the corresponding rate in the pollock midwater trawl fishery in statistical area 517 (0.016 chinooks/mt groundfish). This suggests the possibility of continued high bycatch of chinook salmon even after the fleet shifts to fishing for Pacific cod and other species.

A shift of boats to the Gulf of Alaska could increase the bycatch of chinook salmon in the Gulf, where bycatch of chinooks exceeded that of the BS/AI in 1990 (see Figures 3 and 4). It should be emphasized that the early-year bycatch of chinooks in 1990 in the Bering Sea may have been similar to that reported for January 1991, but may have been largely unreported due to the delays in implementing the observer program in 1990. Thus, the apparent increase in chinook bycatch in 1991 compared to 1990 may in part be an artifact of inadequate observer coverage in early 1990. Weekly and cumulative bycatches of chinook salmon for 1990 in the Bering Sea are shown in Figure 5. The same information for chinook salmon bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska is shown in Figure 6.

In addition to incidental catches of chinook in the groundfish fisheries of the U.S. EEZ, the bycatch of chinooks in the groundfish fisheries in the Donut Hole should be taken into account in evaluating the potential impact of bycatch on the directed catches of chinook salmon.

To fully understand the impact of chinook salmon bycatch on Alaskan salmon stocks will require a detailed analysis of the data provided by onboard observers. Additional information concerning the origin of the stocks of salmon being intercepted by the trawl fleet is also necessary to reveal specifically affected stocks. Scale pattern analysis, tag recovery, and genetic stock identification are means which can be incorporated to identify stock origins. Knowledge concerning the affect of chinook salmon bycatch on Alaskan stocks is especially necessary in the case of districts such as Bristol Bay, and perhaps Cook Inlet and the Copper River, which have experienced a significant drop in the numbers of returning fish in spite of adequate escapement.

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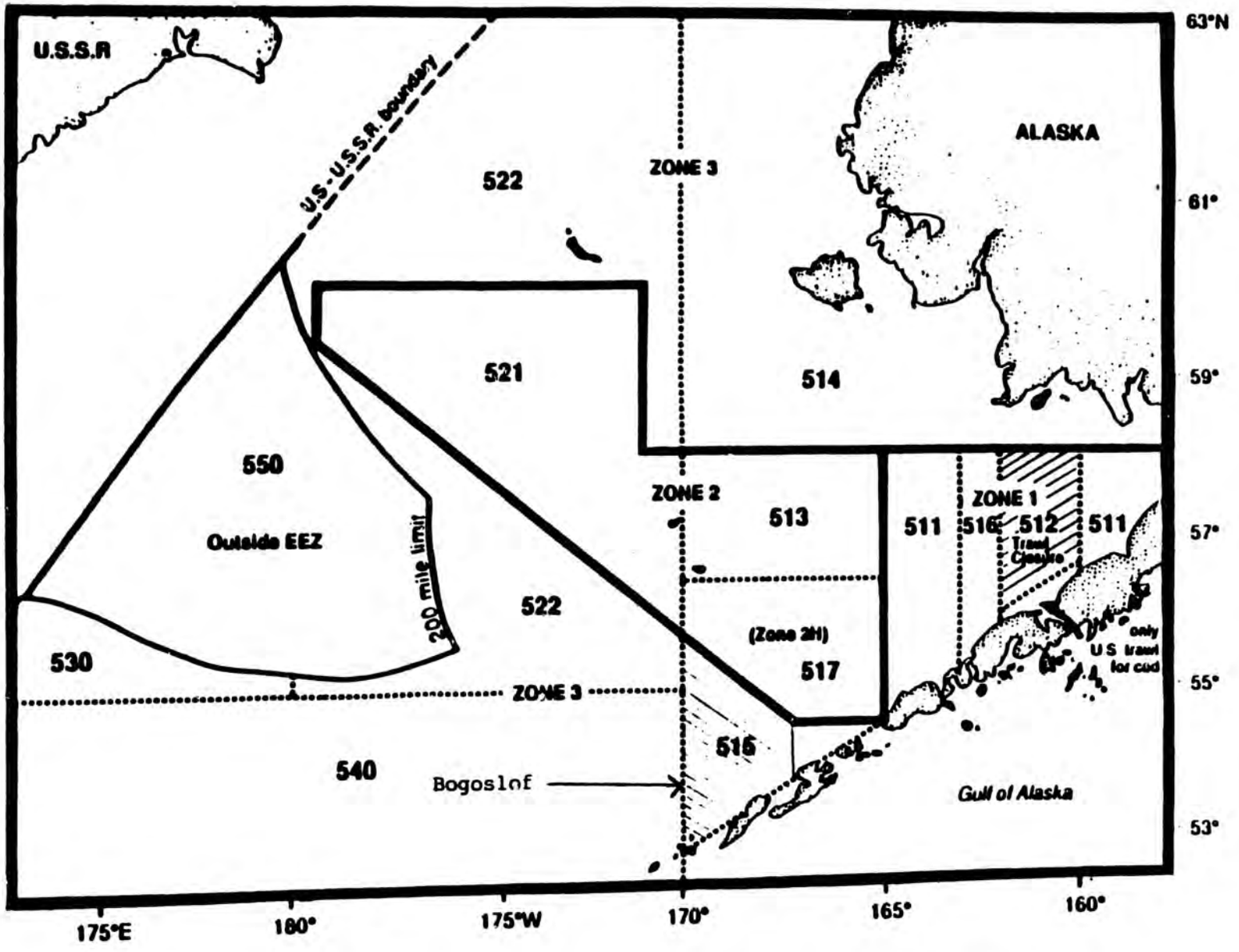


Figure 1a. Bering Sea federal statistical zones and areas (from: Guttormsen et.al.).

Figure 1. Cumulative numbers of chinook salmon caught incidentally in the groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands, 1990 and 1991.

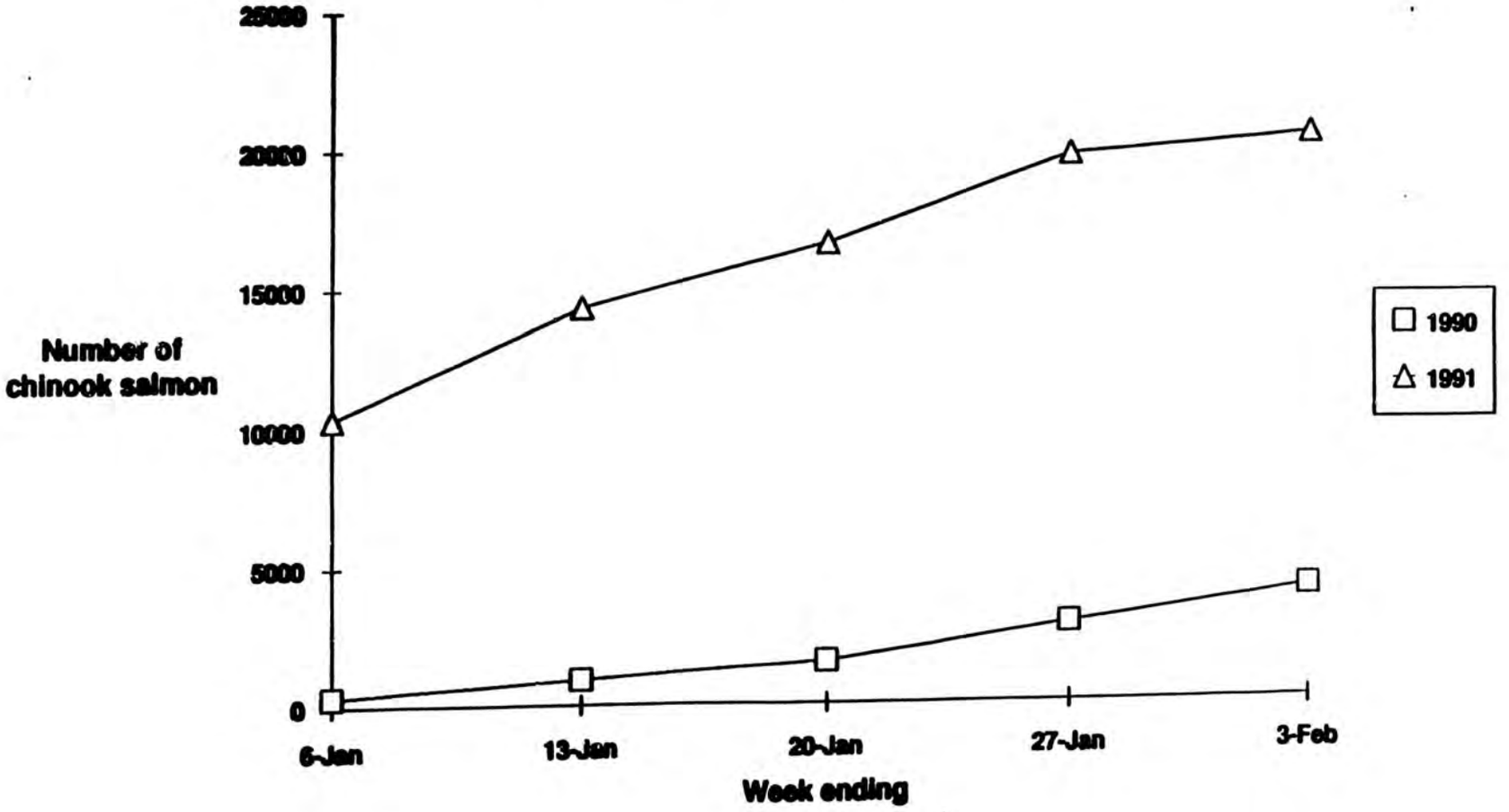


Figure 2. Catch of chinook salmon in directed commercial salmon fisheries and bycatch of chinook salmon in the groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska, 1980 - 1991.

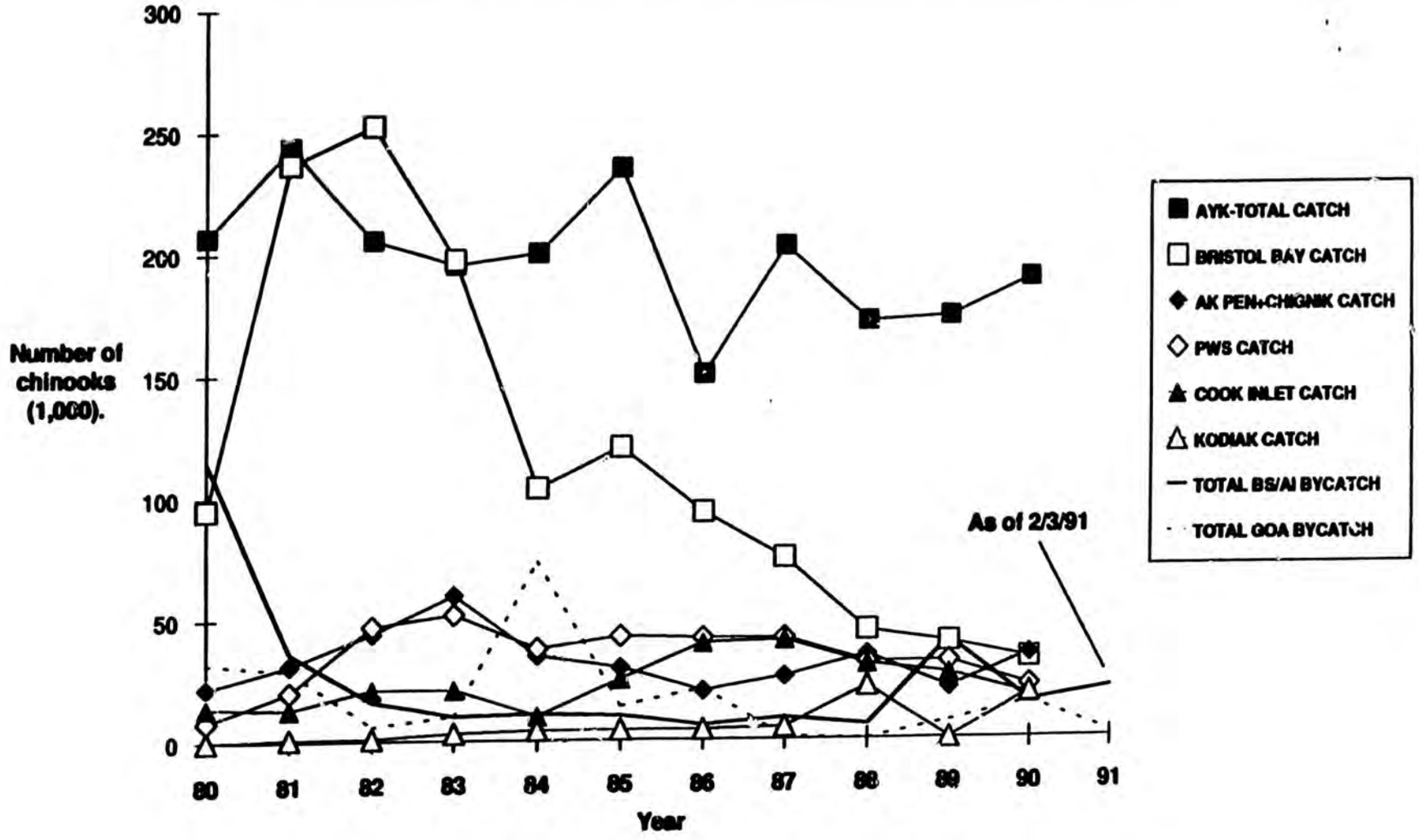


Figure 3. Bycatch of chinook salmon in foreign and joint venture groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands 1977 - 1990, and bycatch of chinook salmon in the domestic groundfish fisheries of the BS/AI, 1989 - 1991.

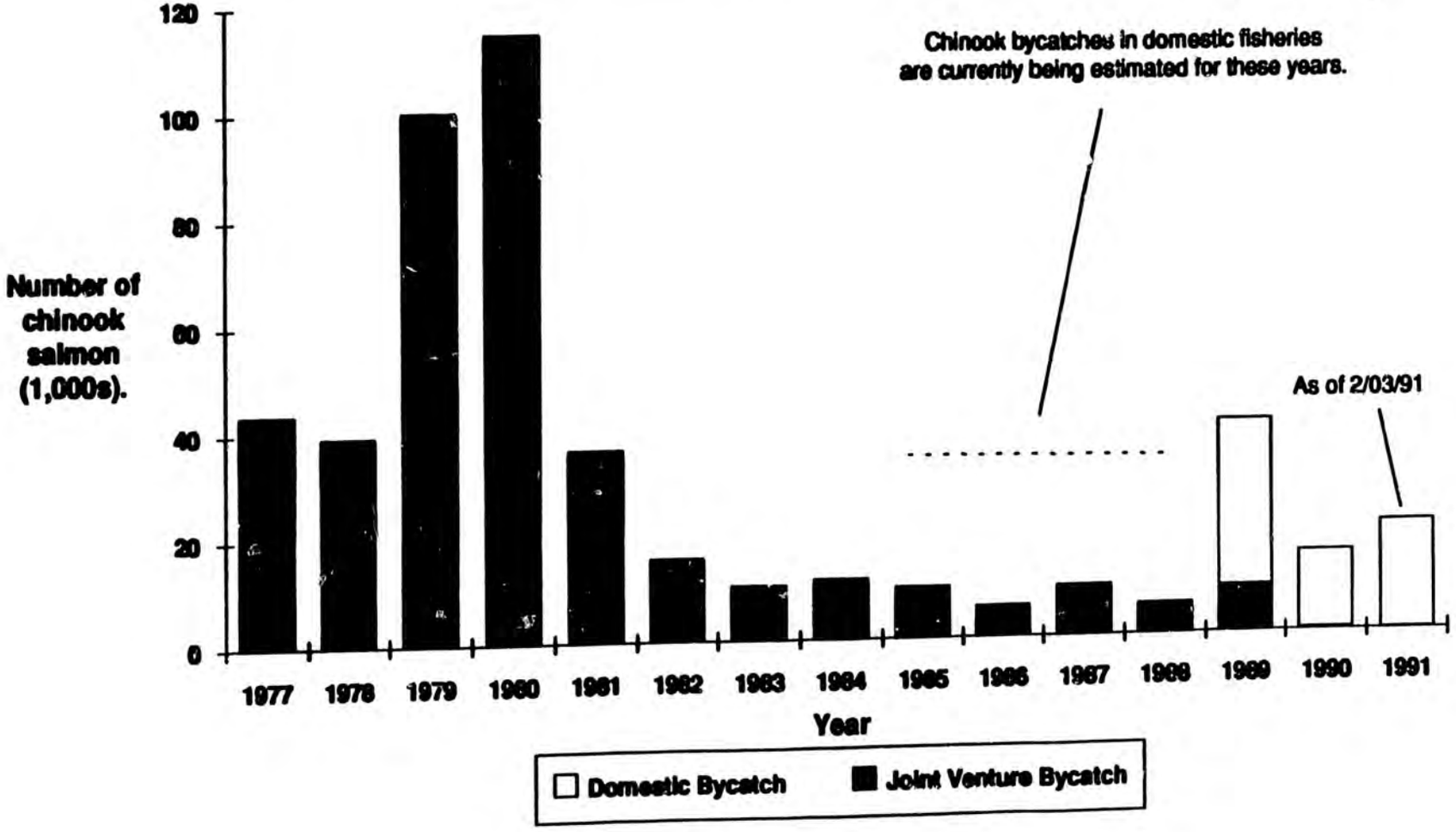
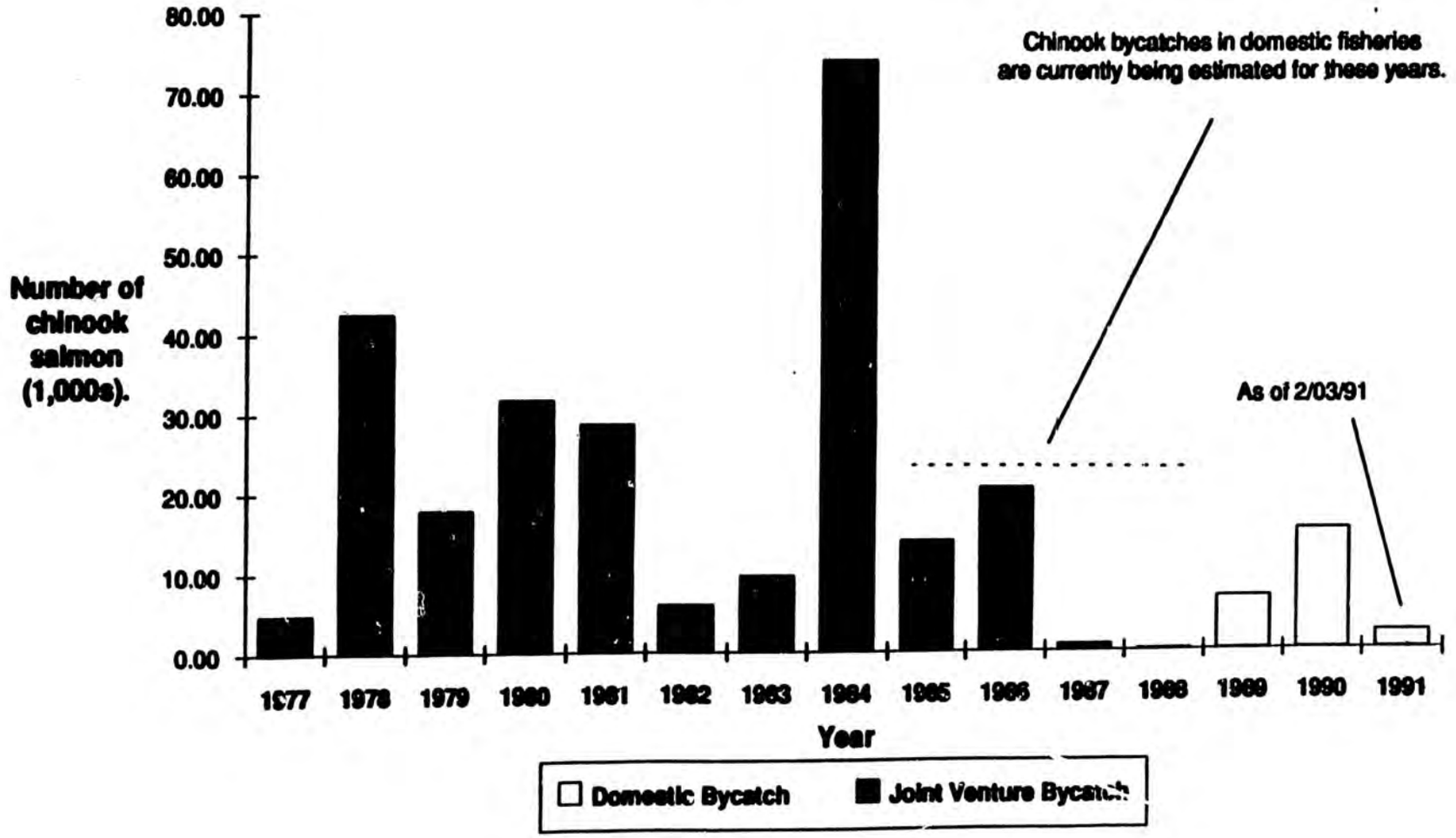


Figure 4. Bycatch of chinook salmon in foreign and joint venture groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska 1977 - 1988, and bycatch of chinook salmon in the domestic groundfish fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska, 1989 - 1991.



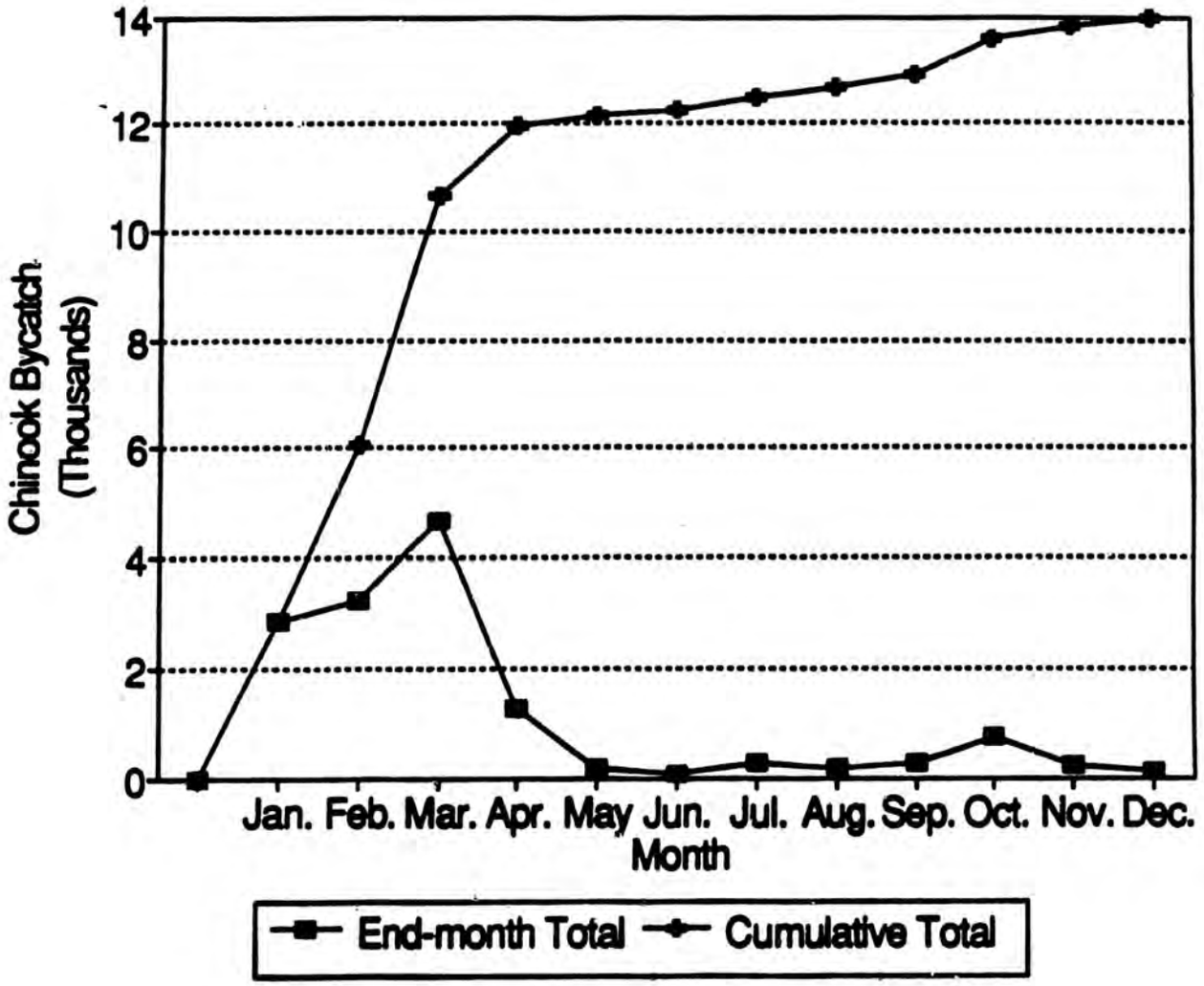


Figure 5. 1990 chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea.

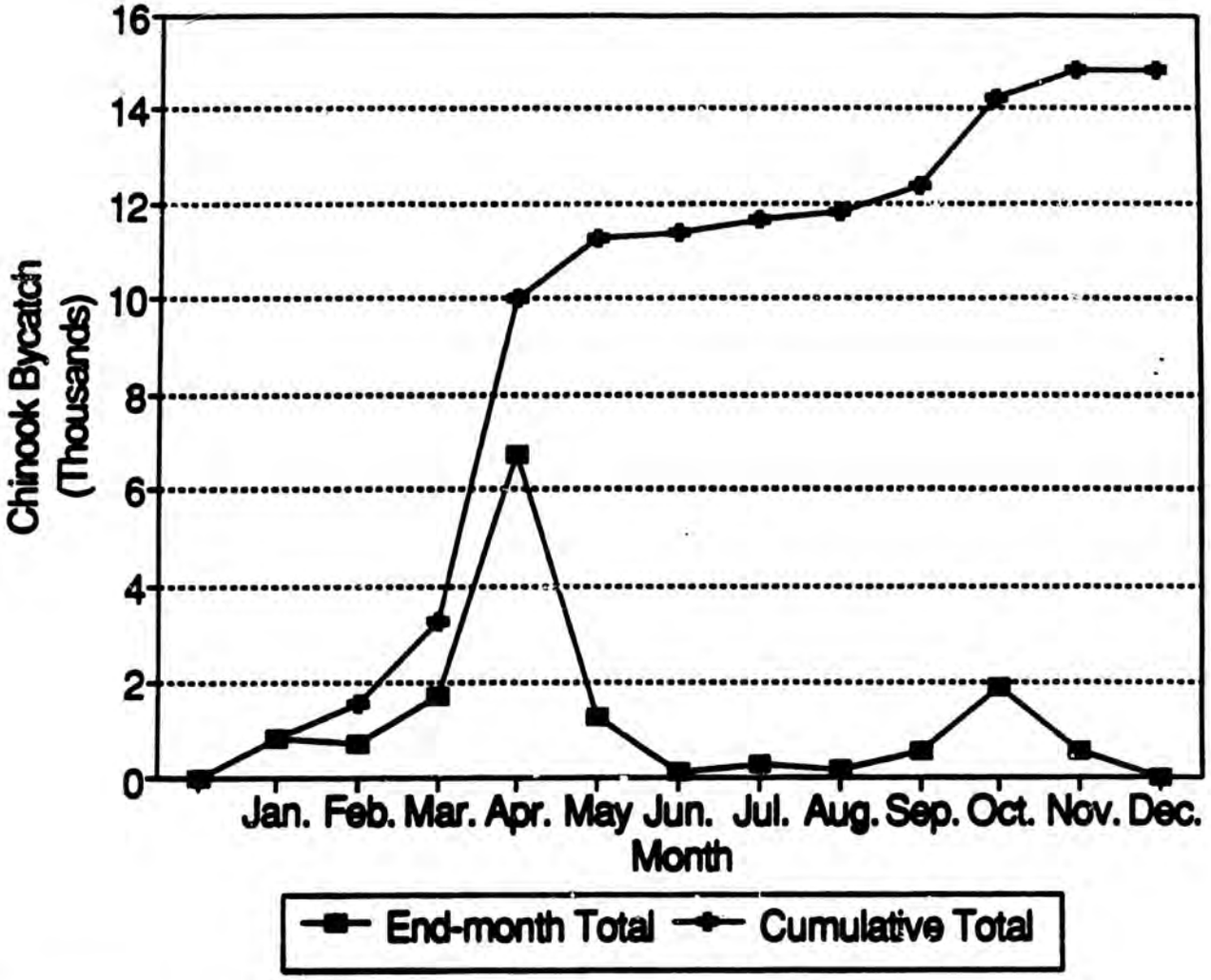


Figure 6. 1990 chinook salmon bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska.

Revised December 11, 1990

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF CHINOOK SALMON BYCATCH IN THE GROUNDFISH FISHERIES OF THE GULF OF ALASKA AND BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, 1989 & 1990

Prepared by

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

November 28, 1990

The primary purpose of this report is to present preliminary estimates of the number of chinook salmon caught incidentally in the domestic groundfish fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BS/AI) areas in 1989 and 1990. Estimated numbers of bycaught chinook are compared to the directed catch. Also included is information about the spatial distribution of chinook bycatch, the percent of 1990 groundfish catch sampled by observers, the distribution of groundfish catch among vessel size categories, and the historical bycatch of chinook salmon in the foreign and joint venture groundfish fisheries.

METHODS OF ESTIMATING CHINOOK BYCATCH

1989

Two different data sets were used to estimate chinook bycatch for 1989. As the first method, average chinook bycatch rates from 1985 through 1989, by target fishery and 1/2° latitude x 1° longitude blocks, were estimated using joint venture observer data. These rates were multiplied by the total 1989 domestic groundfish catch in the respective 1/2° x 1° blocks to yield estimates of the total number of chinook salmon caught incidentally in that block. Estimated bycatches from individual blocks were summed within each area to produce an overall estimate of the numbers of chinooks bycaught in the 1989 domestic groundfish fisheries. For those blocks with 1989 domestic groundfish catch, but lacking an actual bycatch rate estimate, a weighted average bycatch rate was used. Rates for such blocks were computed as the weighted average of the five closest rates, weighted by the inverse distance between the individual rate and the center of the block without a rate. The second method of estimating chinook bycatch used domestic observer data from 1989. These data were limited, and generated from observer efforts associated with a marine mammal observer program, the NPFMC pilot domestic observer program and a program funded, in part, by industry. The estimation method used to estimate bycatch rates based on the domestic observer data, and subsequent bycatch

totals was identical to that used with the the JV data. These methods were used for both the GOA and the BS/AI.

1990

The same average, JV-based bycatch rates applied to 1989 domestic groundfish catches to estimate the total numbers of chinook salmon bycaught in the 1989 domestic groundfish fisheries were applied to the 1990 domestic groundfish catch to estimate the total numbers of chinooks bycaught in the 1990 domestic groundfish fisheries. Alternative estimates of chinook bycatch were based on data from the current domestic observer program. The domestic-based estimates included here are the estimates included on the NMFS Alaska Region Bulletin Board through November 10 ("1990 Gulf of Alaska Fisheries Chinook & Other Salmon Bycatch", "1990 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Fisheries, Chinook & Other Salmon Bycatch"). These domestic-based bycatch rates and totals are based on management sub-area rather than the 1/2° x 1° blocks used with the JV-based estimates. As for 1989, these methods were used for both the GOA and the BS/AI in 1990.

RESULTS

1989 Chinook Bycatch

Based on the limited 1989 domestic observer data, an estimated 3,740 chinook salmon were caught in the domestic groundfish fisheries in the GOA in 1989 (Figure 1., Table 1.). When the average 1985-89, JV-based bycatch rates are applied to the 1989 domestic groundfish catch, an estimated 9,640 chinook salmon were taken incidentally in the GOA. The directed catch of chinook salmon in the 1989 salmon fisheries in the GOA was approximately 357,590. Of that number, 69,590 chinooks were taken in the directed fisheries in the Central and Western Gulf. Therefore, estimated bycatch of chinook salmon in the 1989 domestic groundfish fisheries was approximtely one to three percent of the total GOA directed chinook catch, and five to fourteen percent of the directed catches in the Central and Western GOA.

In the BS/AI, estimates of chinook bycatch ranged from 34,320, based on domestic observer data, to 29,210, based on JV data. The directed chinook catch in the BS/AI in 1989 was approximately 225,330. The estimated bycatch of chinook salmon was approximately 13 to 15 % of the directed catch in 1989.

1990 Chinook Bycatch

An estimated 16,020 chinook salmon were taken incidentally in the the GOA domestic groundfish fisheries through November 10, based on

domestic observer data. In comparison, the total bycatch of chinook estimated from JV data was 6,480. These estimates of incidental catch are compared to a directed catch of 413,890 chinooks in the GOA. Of the total directed catch, about 81,830 chinooks were caught in the Central and Western GOA. Thus, bycatch of chinooks was equivalent to approximately two to four percent of the directed catch in the entire GOA in 1990. The estimated bycatch of chinook salmon in the entire GOA was equivalent to approximately 8 to 20 % of the directed catch in the Central and Western GOA.

Based on domestic observer data, an estimated 13,750 chinooks were taken incidentally in the BS/AI domestic groundfish fisheries through November 11, 1990. Using JV-based bycatch rates, an estimated 10,290 chinooks were taken incidetally during this time period. The preliminary estimate of the number of chinook taken in the directed salmon fisheries in the BS/AI is 233,480. Using these estimates, the estimated bycatch of chinook in the domestic groundfish fisheries was approximately four to six percent of the directed harvest.

1990 Observer Coverage

Through October of 1990, approximately 49 % of the domestic groundfish catch in trawl fisheries in the GOA has been observed as part of the NMFS Domestic Observer Program (Fig. 7). In the BS/AI, approximately 72 % of the catch in trawl fisheries has been observed.

Distribution of Groundfish Catch Among Vessel Size Categories

Through July of 1990, approximately 260,000 mt, or 25 % of the total groundfish catch in the GOA and BS/AI was harvested by boats in the 60 to 124 feet size category (Fig. 9). Another 730,000 mt, or 71 % of the total, groundfish catch was taken by vessels in the 125+ feet size category. Thus, approximately 96 % of the groundfish catch through July of 1990 was taken by vessels requiring some level of observer coverage.

Historical Bycatch in Joint Venture and Foreign Fisheries

Historically, the estimated numbers of chinook caught as bycatch in the joint venture and foreign groundfish fisheries in the GOA ranged from a low of approximately 90 in 1988 to a high of almost 75,000 in 1984 (Fig 10.) In the BS/AI, estimates of chinook bycatch varied from lows of about 5,000 in 1986 and 1988, to a high of approximately 115,000 in 1980 (Fig. 11).

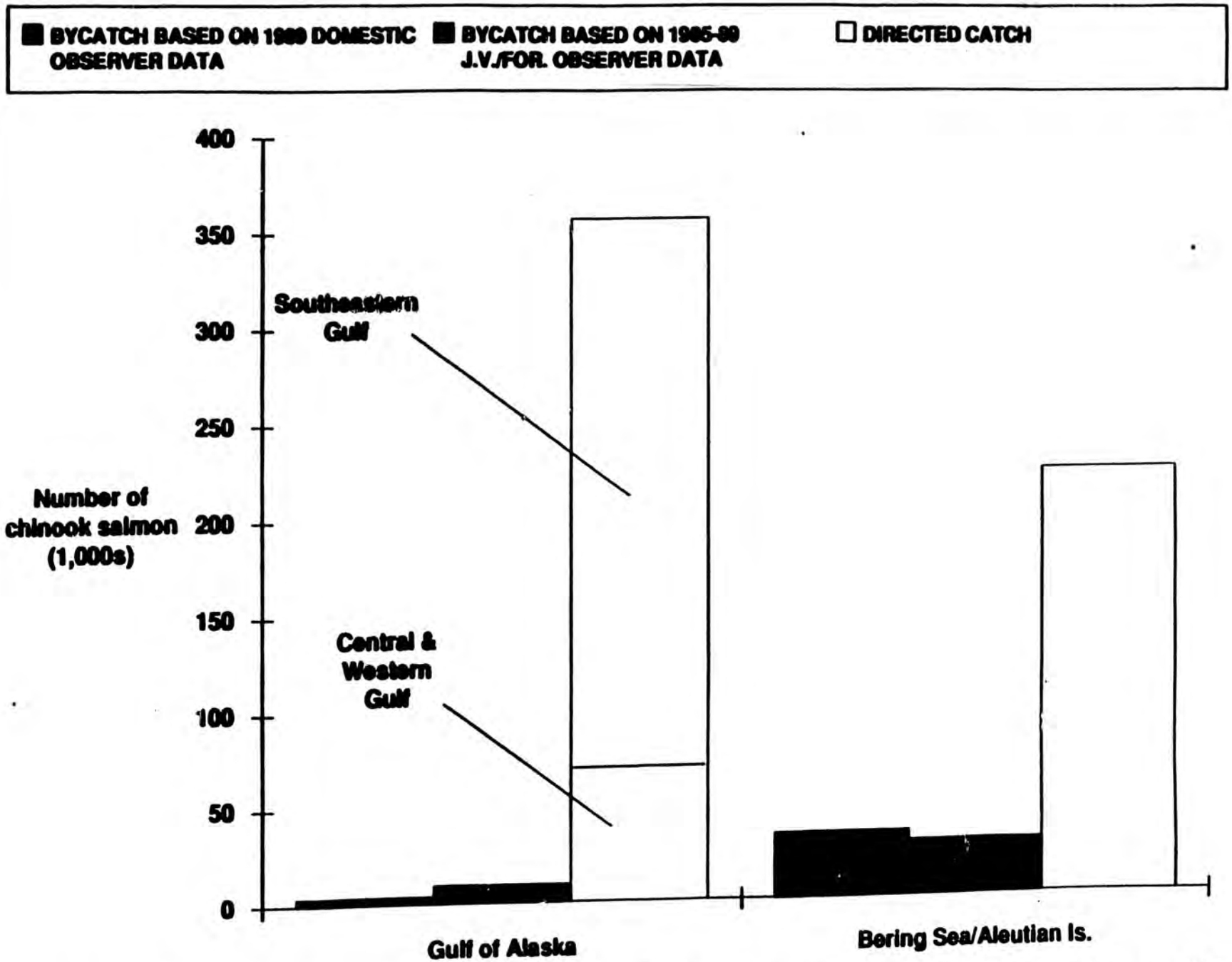


Figure /. Numbers of chinook salmon caught in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish fishery bycatch (2 estimates) and as directed salmon fishery catch. 1989.

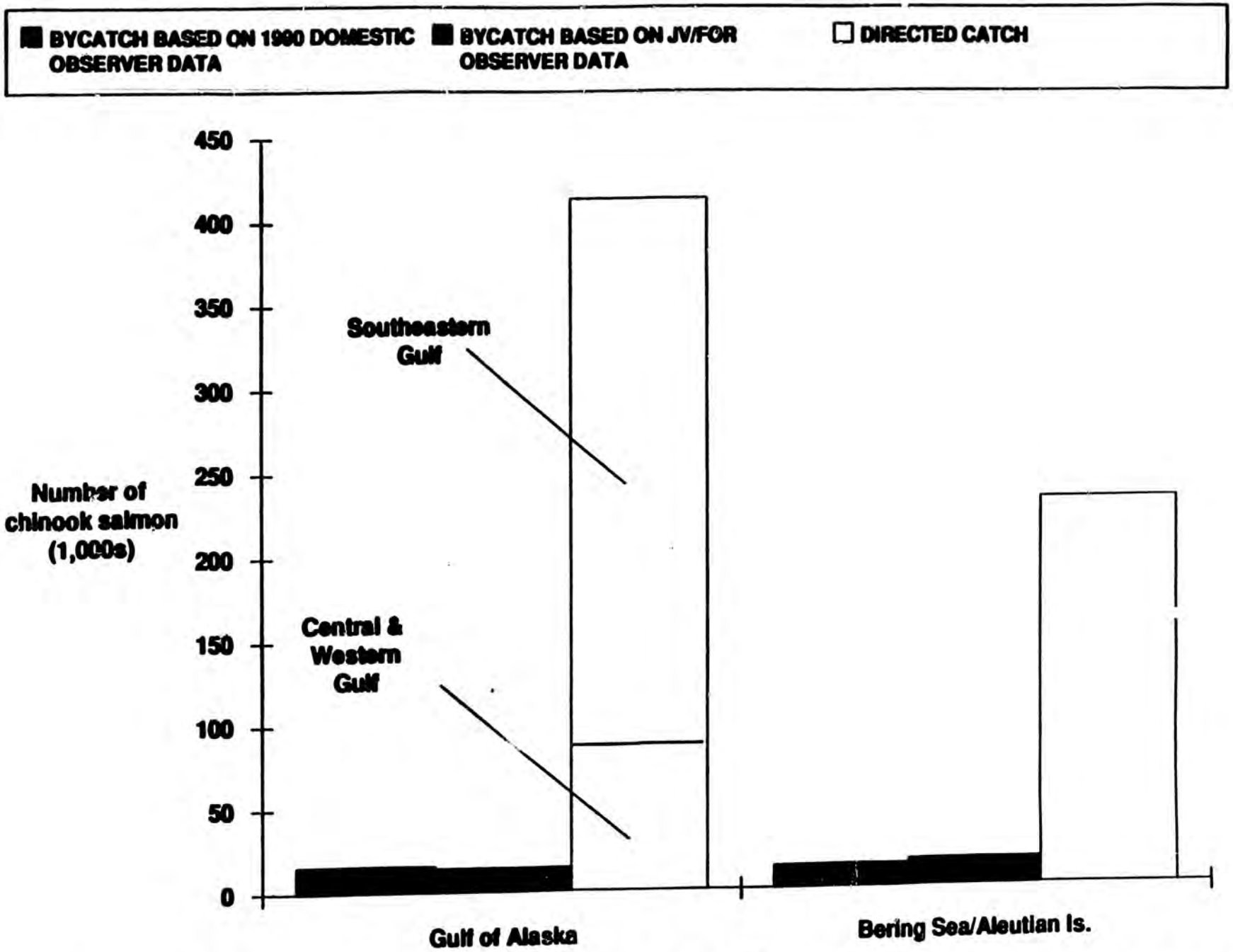


Figure 2. Numbers of chinook salmon caught in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish fishery bycatch (2 estimates) and as directed salmon fishery catch. 1990.

Table 1. Preliminary estimates of the numbers of chinook salmon (1,000s) caught as bycatch in the groundfish fisheries and as directed catch in salmon fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands in 1989 and 1990.

Year	Area	Bycatch based on domestic observer data.	Bycatch based on joint venture observer data	Directed catch
1989	Gulf of Alaska	3.74	9.64	357.59
	Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands	34.32	29.21	225.33
1990	Gulf of Alaska	16.02	14.5	413.89
	Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands	13.75	16.22	233.48

Note: Domestic observer data for 1989 were collected from three observer programs, including a marine mammal observer, program, the NPFMC pilot program, and a program supported, in part, by the fishing industry. Domestic observer data for 1990 were generated from the new NMFS domestic observer program. Average bycatch rates from the 1985-89 joint venture fisheries were applied to both 1989 and 1990 domestic groundfish catch to obtain JV-based estimates of chinook salmon bycatch.

Fig. 3. KING SALMON BYCATCH (NO) & TRAWL CATCH (1000 MT), 1989, GOA

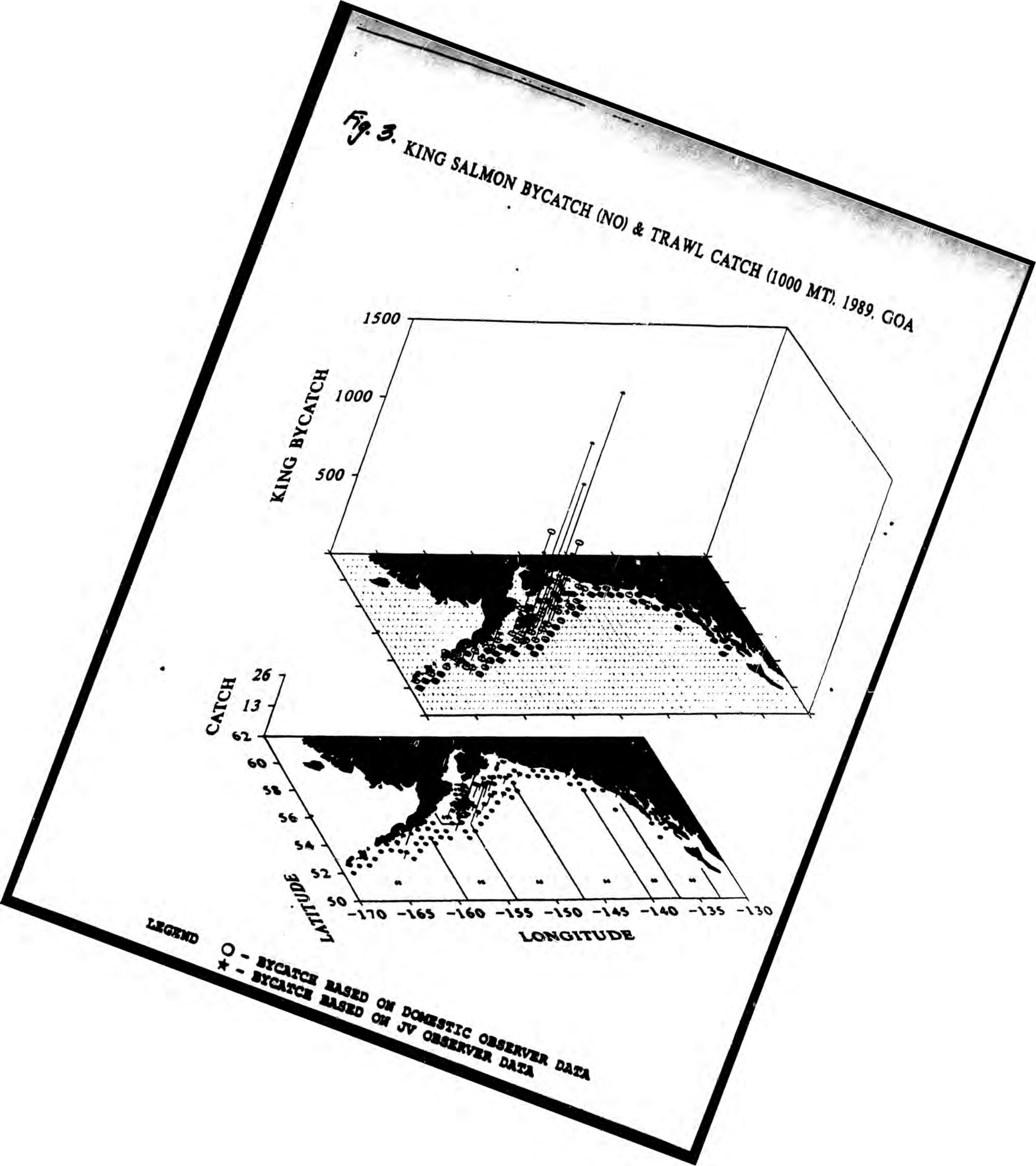


Fig. 4. KING SALMON BYCATCH (NO) & TRAWL CATCH (1000 MT). 1990. GOA

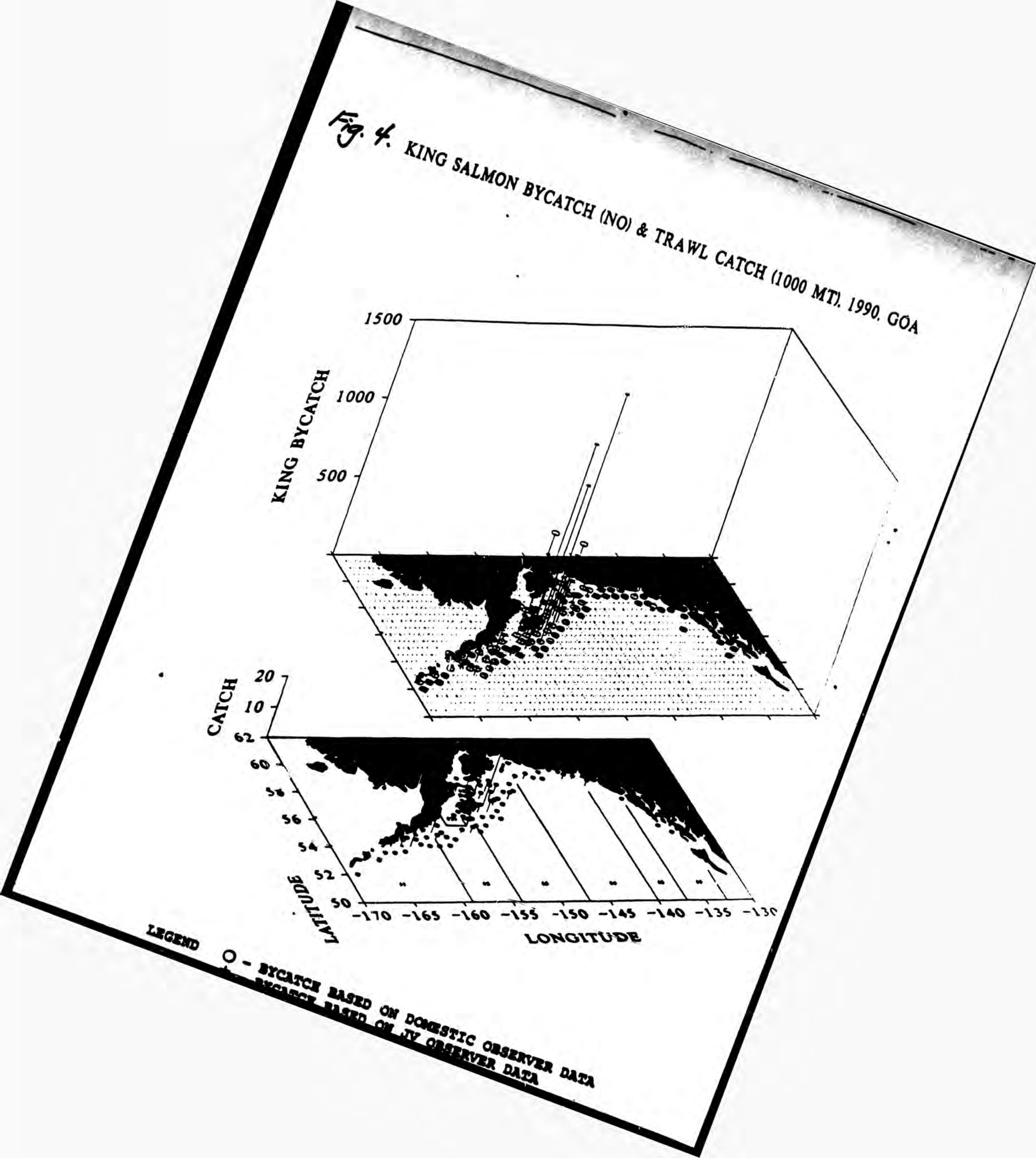


Fig. 5. KING SALMON BYCATCH (NO) & TRAWL CATCH (1000 MT), 1989, BS

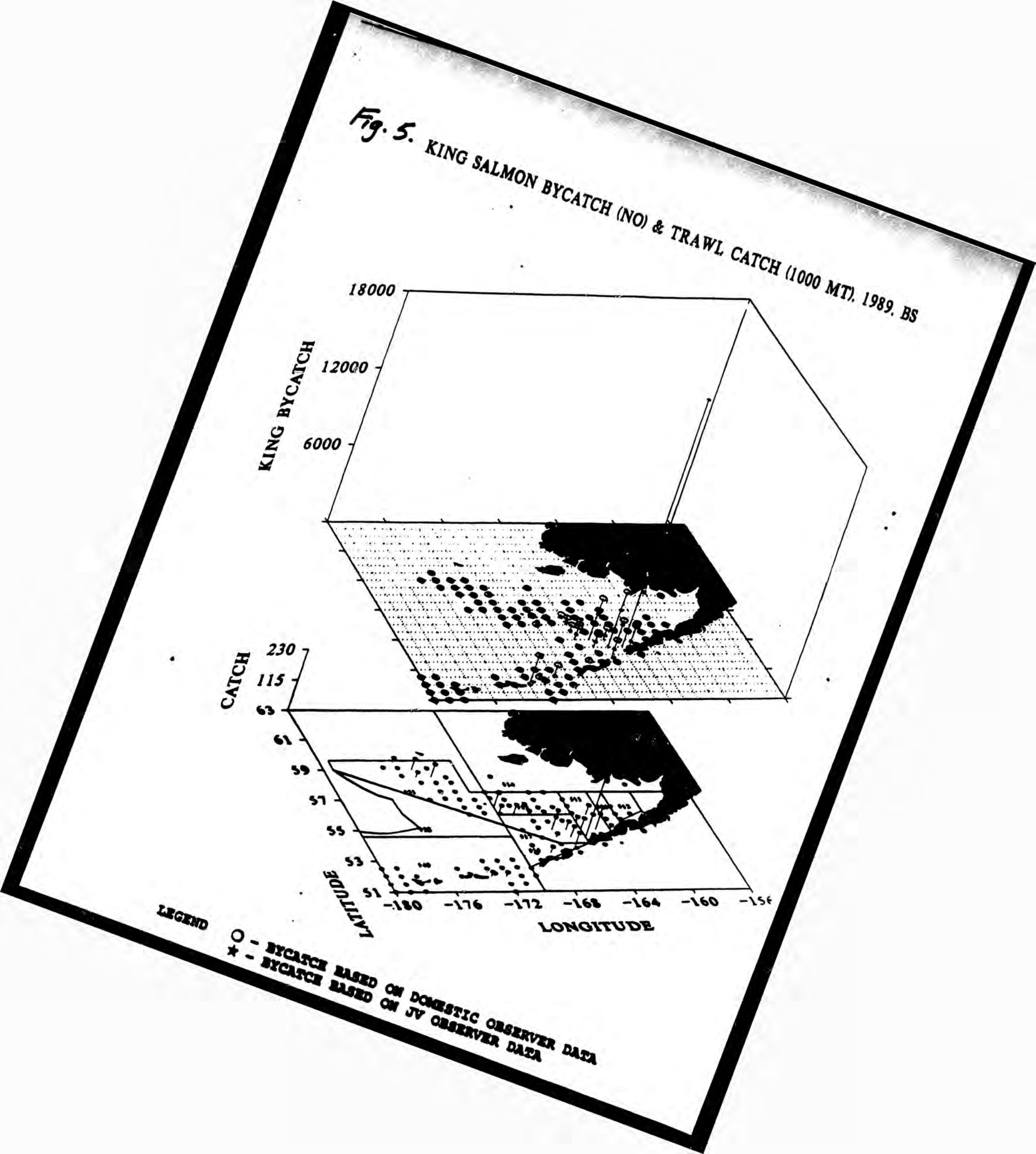
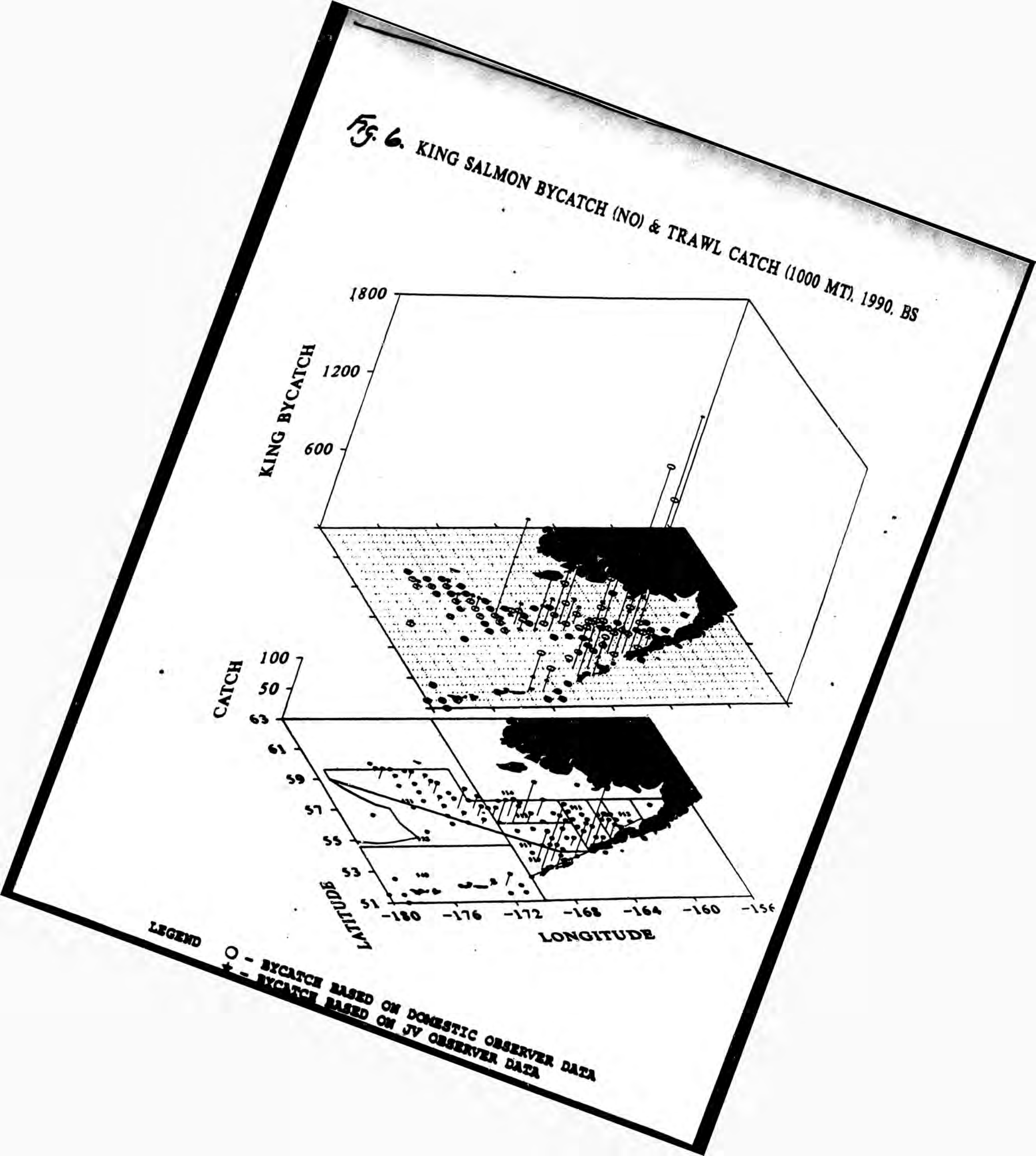


Fig. 6. KING SALMON BYCATCH (NO) & TRAWL CATCH (1000 MT), 1990, BS



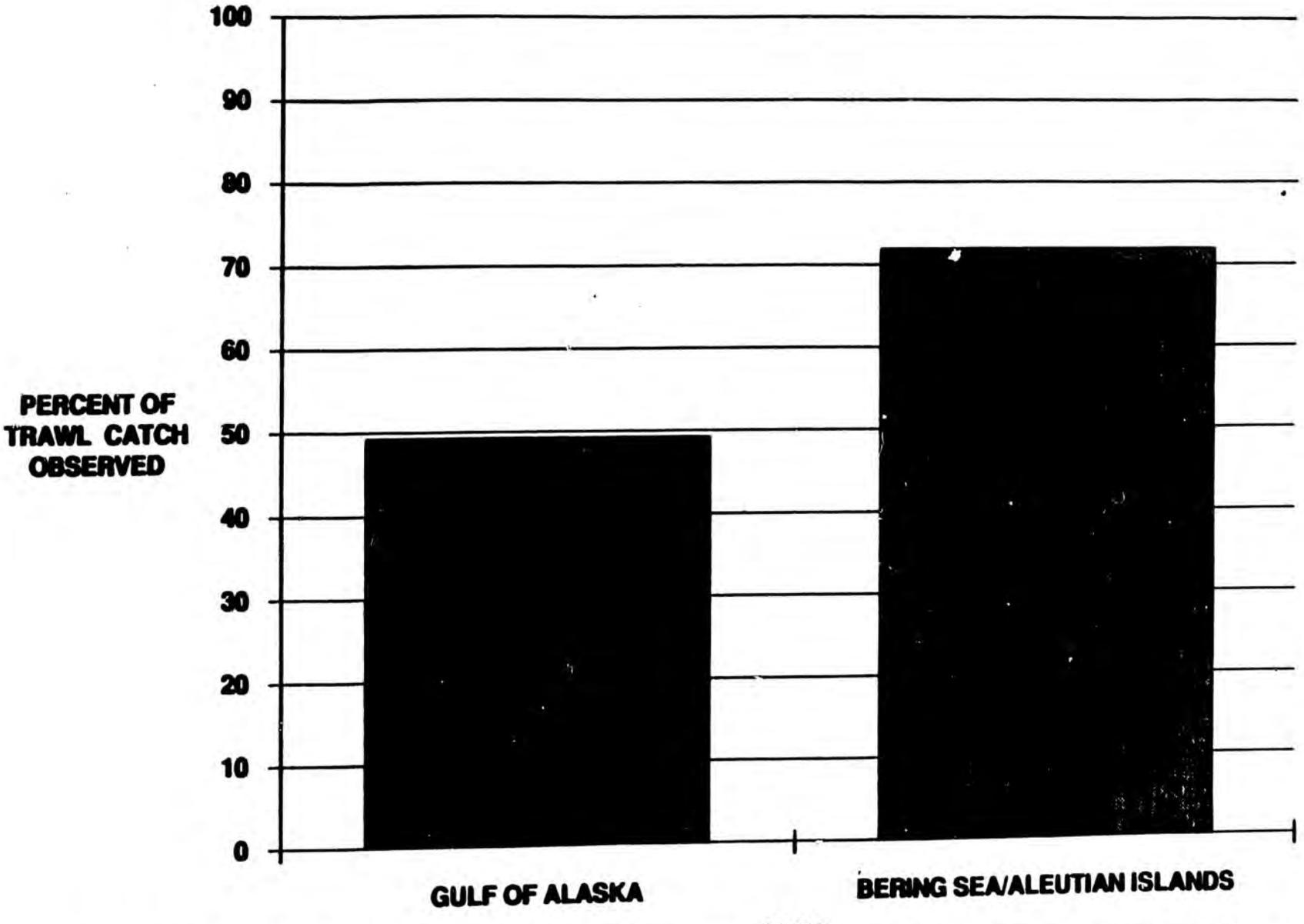


Figure 7. Percent of trawl groundfish catch observed through October 1990 in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands

FIGURE 8. **BSAI and GOA Groundfish Catch In Relation to Vessel Size for 1989**

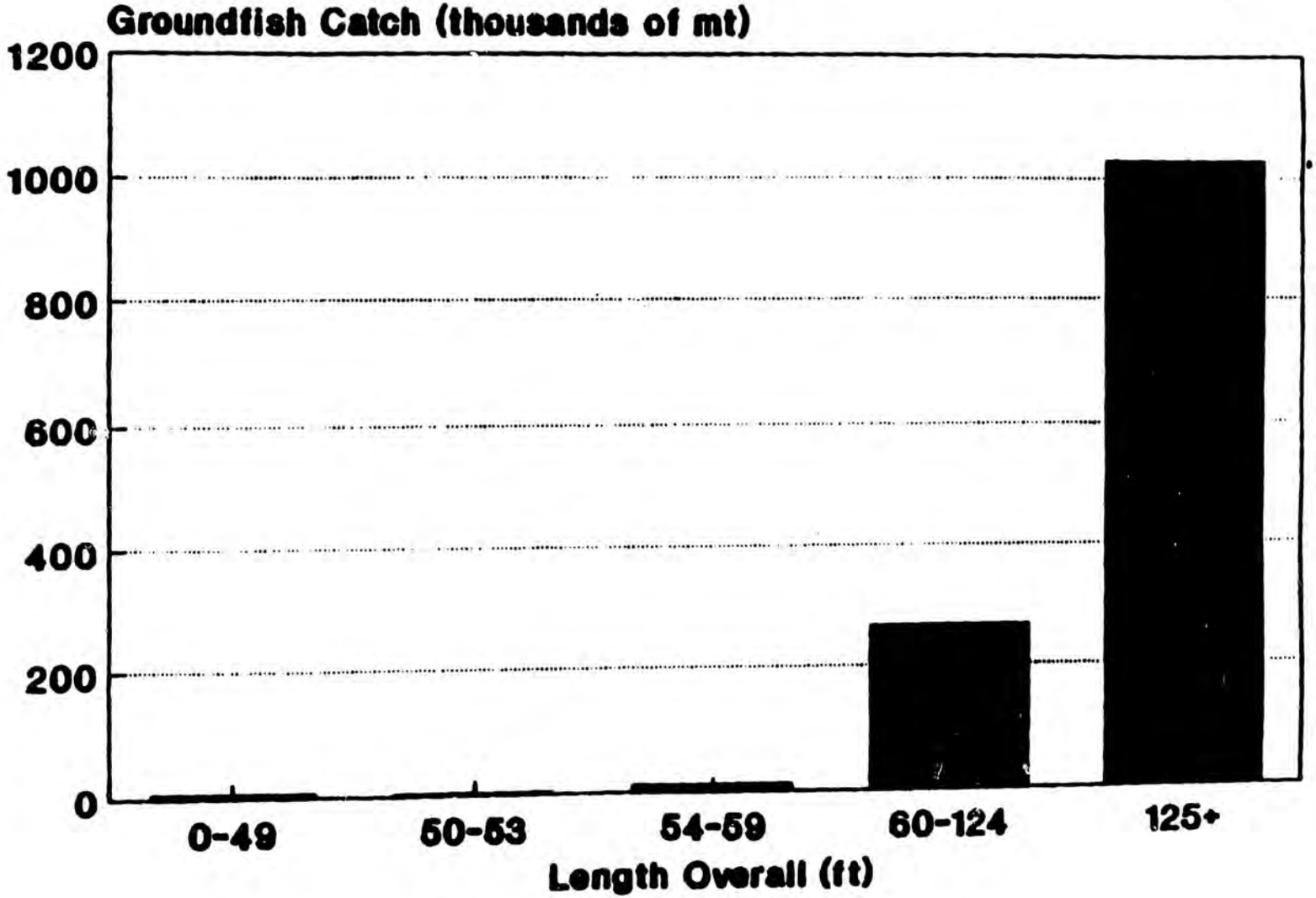
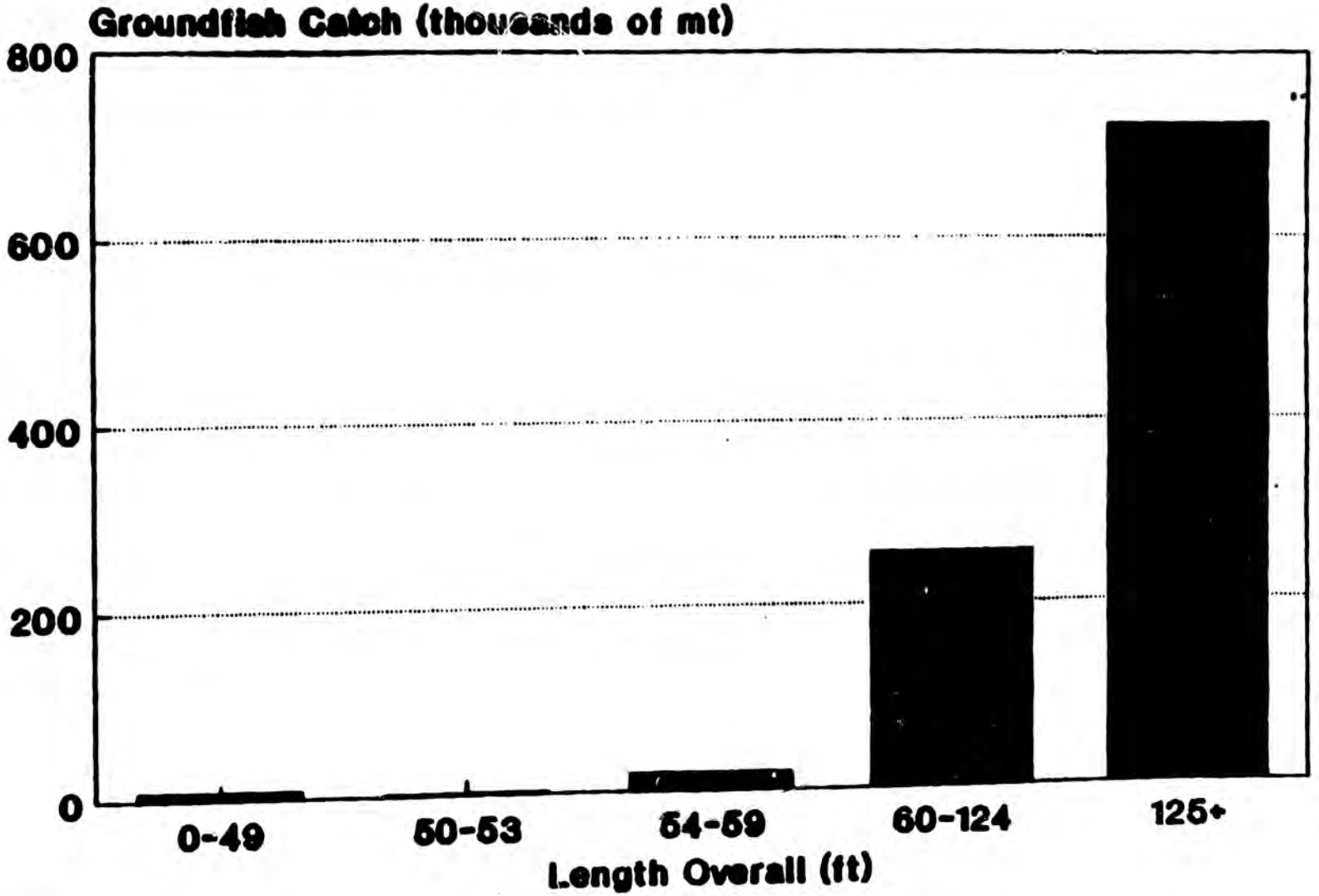


FIGURE 9. **BSAI and GOA Groundfish Catch In Relation to Vessel Size for 1990•**



•through July

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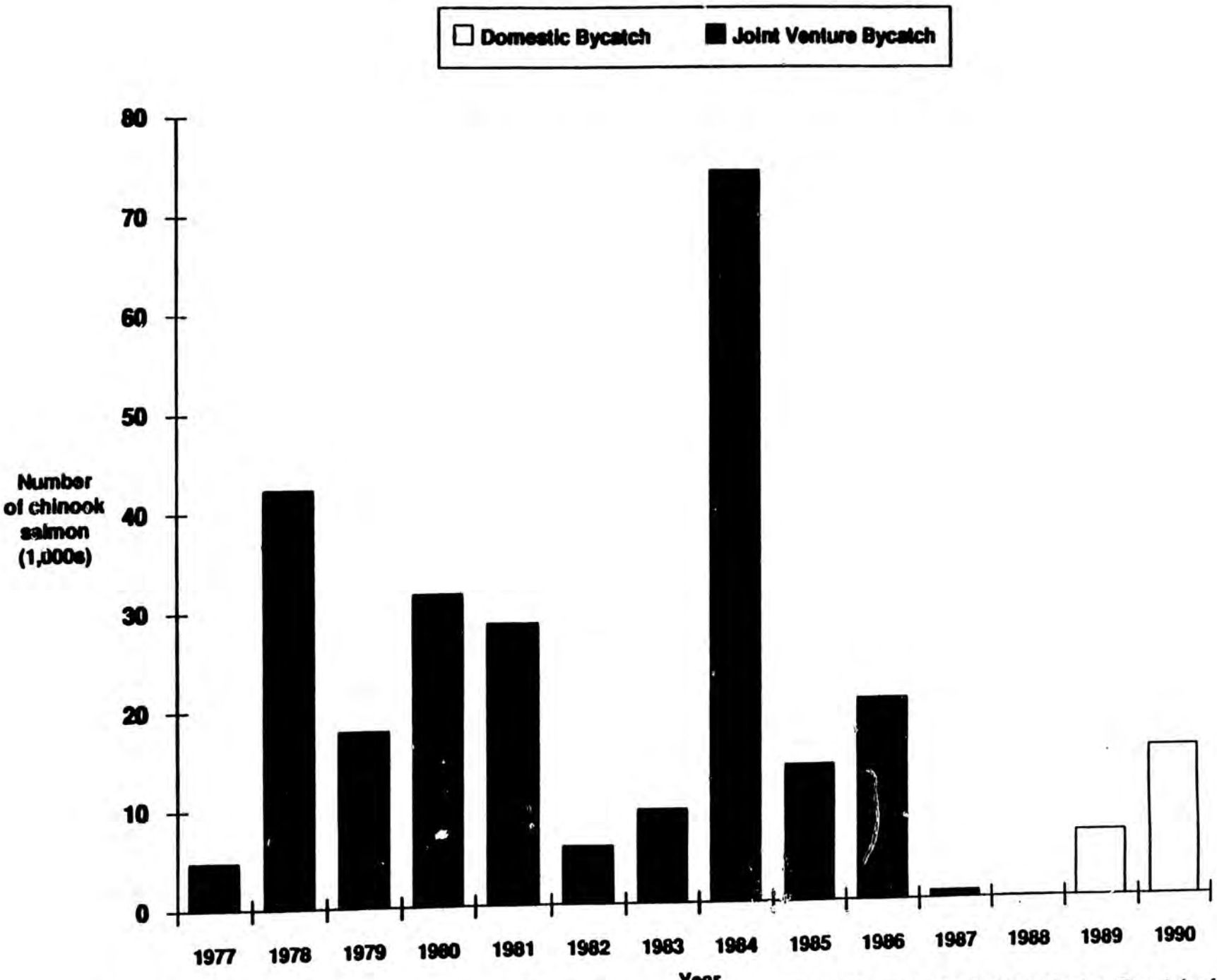


Figure 10. Bycatch of chinook salmon in foreign and joint venture groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska. Bycatch of chinook salmon in 1989 and 1990 domestic groundfish fisheries included.

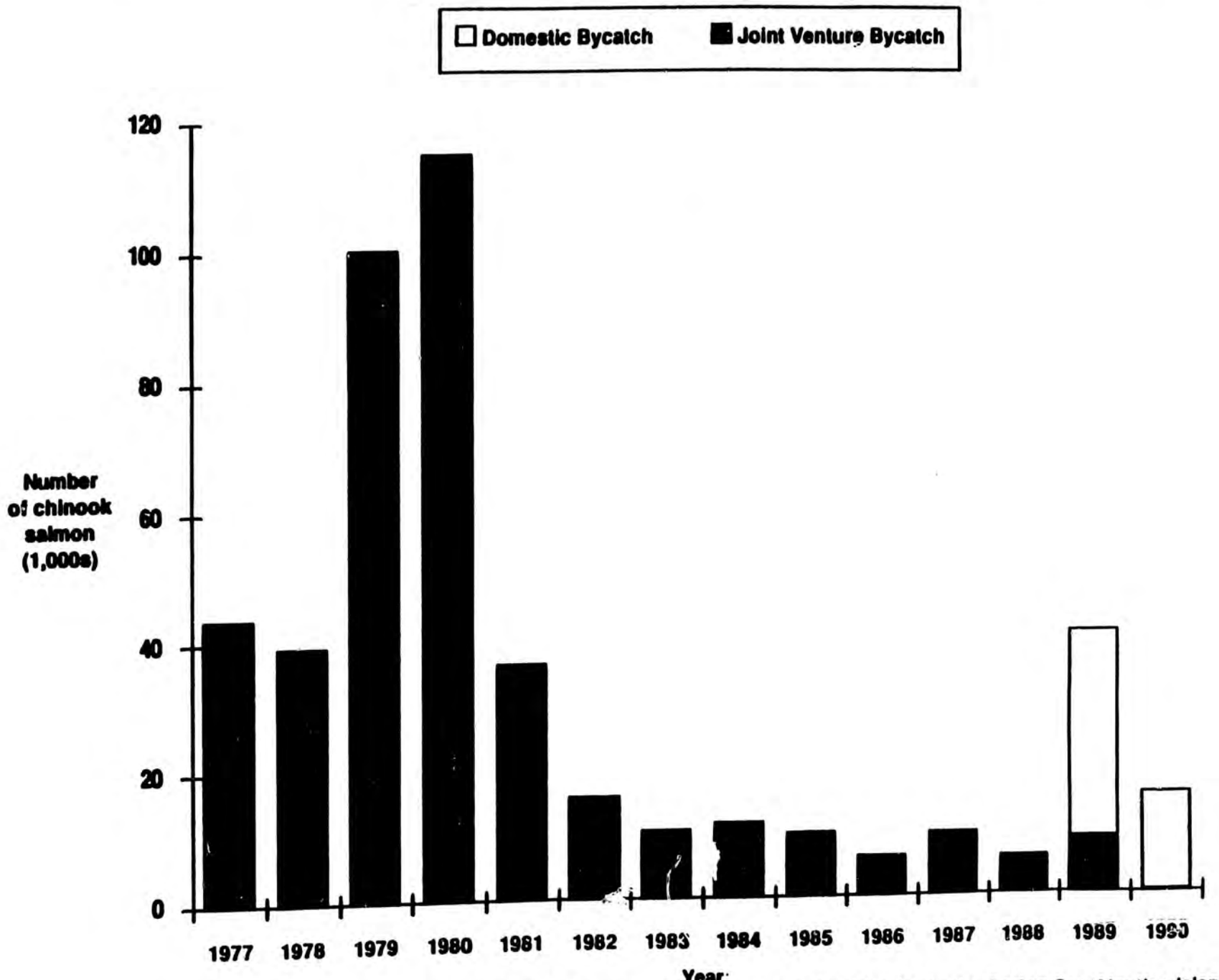


Figure 11. Bycatch of chinook salmon in foreign and joint venture groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands. Bycatch of chinook salmon in 1989 and 1990 domestic groundfish fisheries included.

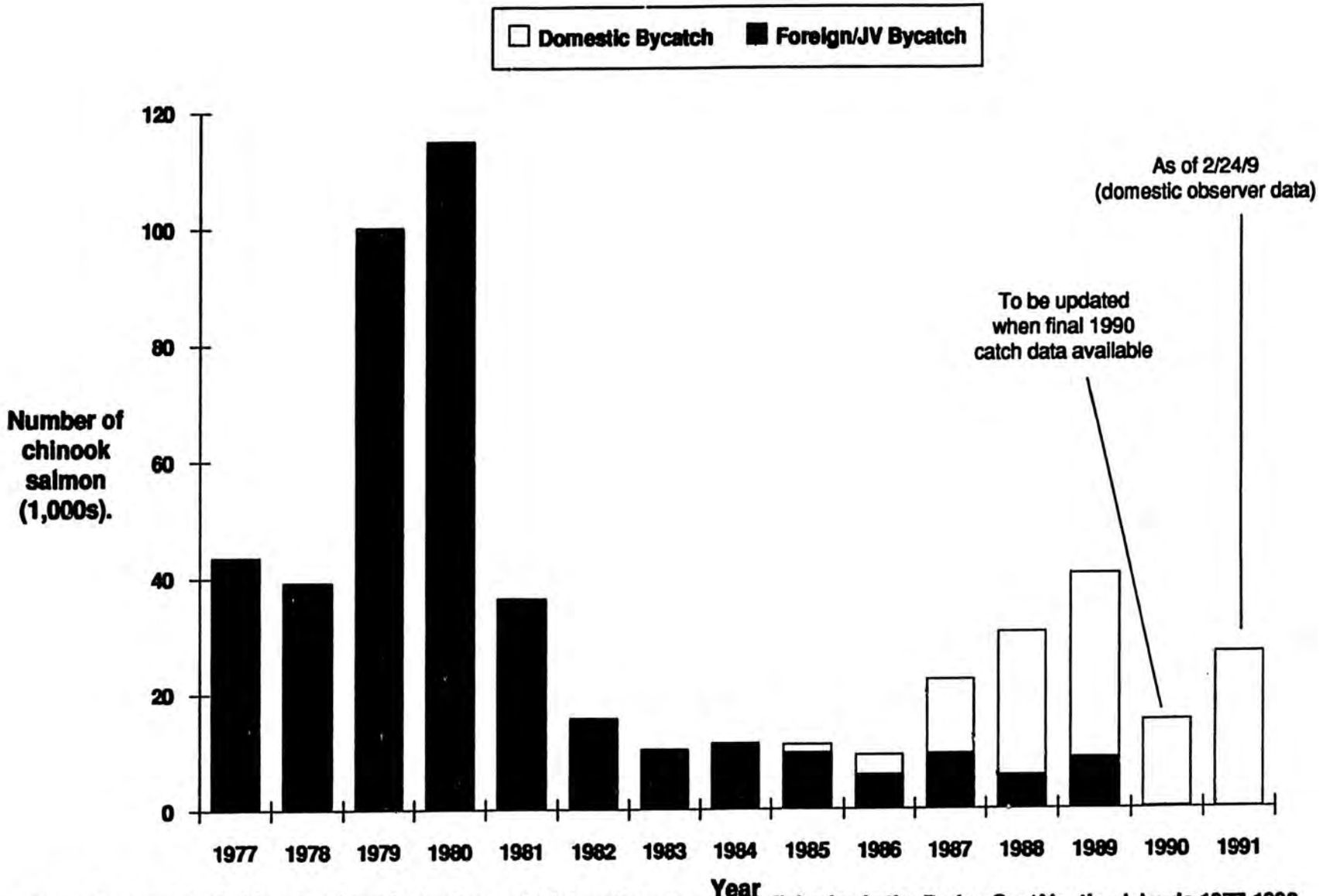


Figure 3. Bycatch of chinook salmon in foreign and joint venture groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands 1977-1990, and bycatch of chinook salmon in the domestic groundfish fisheries of the BS/AI, 1985-1991 (ADF&G, 2/28/91).

'NMFS/AKR
02/28/91

1991 GULF OF ALASKA FISHERIES
CHINOOK & OTHER SALMON BYCATCH

TRAWL GEAR

	CHINOOK SALMON		'OTHER' SALMON	
WEEK	WEEKLY NUMBER	CUMULATIVE NUMBER	WEEKLY NUMBER	CUMULATIVE NUMBER
01/06	200	200	0	0
01/13	906	1106	0	0
01/20	685	1790	0	0
01/27	618	2408	0	0
02/03	1022	3430	2	2
02/10	399	3829	3	6
02/17	211	4041	1	7
02/24	211	4251	9	16

NOTE: No PSC Limits apply to salmon.

Data based on observer reports, extrapolated to total groundfish harvest.

NMFS/AKR
02/28/91

1991 BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS FISHERIES
CHINOOK & OTHER SALMON BYCATCH

TRAWL GEAR

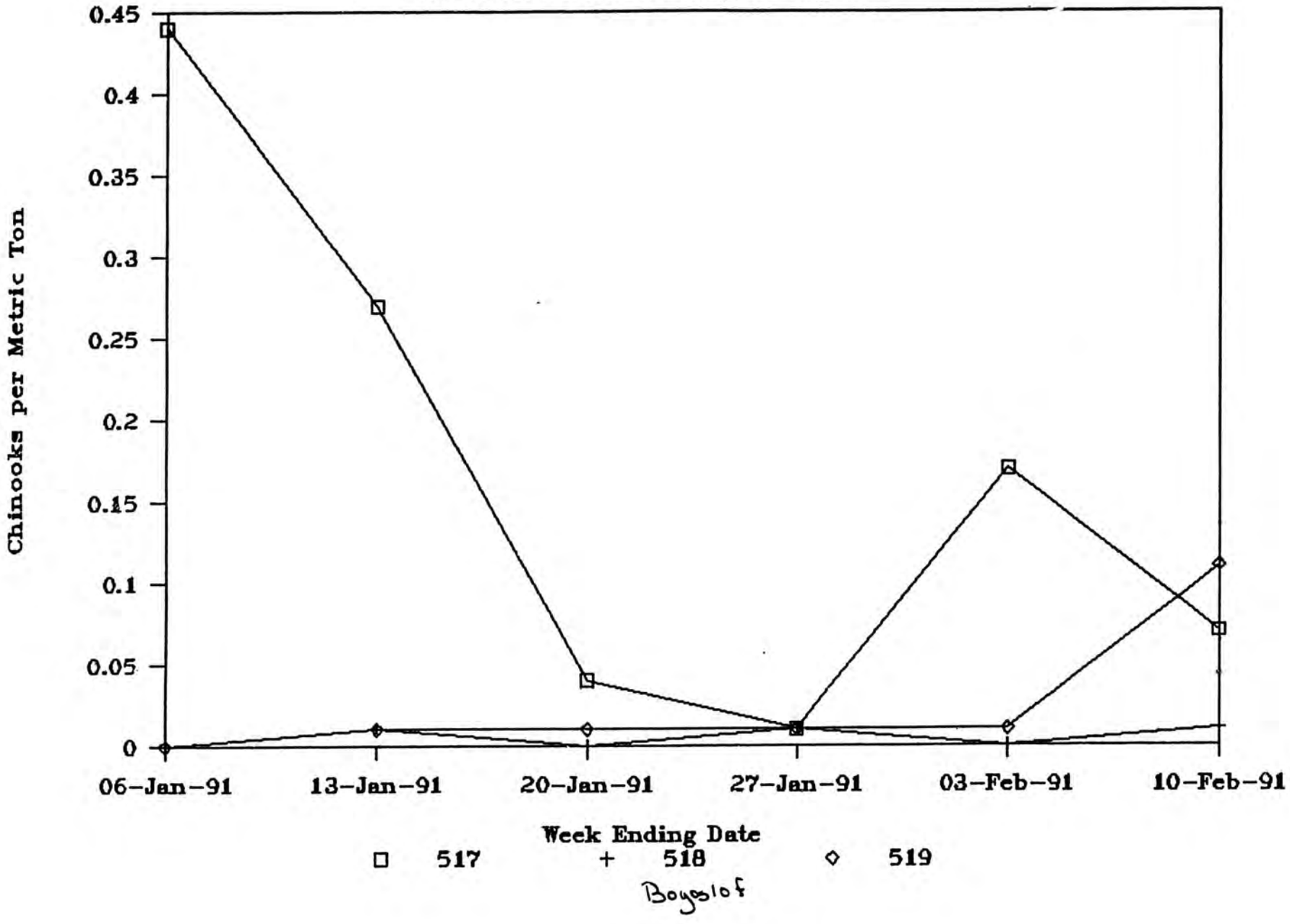
	CHINOOK SALMON		'OTHER' SALMON	
WEEK	WEEKLY NUMBER	CUMULATIVE NUMBER	WEEKLY NUMBER	CUMULATIVE NUMBER
01/06	13624	13624	806	806
01/13	4679	18303	296	1102
01/20	628	18931	8	1110
01/27	559	19491	19	1129
02/03	1954	21444	0	1129
02/10	1999	23444	1	1130
02/17	1202	24646	4	1134
02/24	2177	26823	0	1134

NOTE: No PSC Limits apply to salmon

Data based on observer reports, extrapolated to total groundfish harvest.

1991 Chinook Bycatch Rates

Midwater Pollock Fishery, Bering Sea



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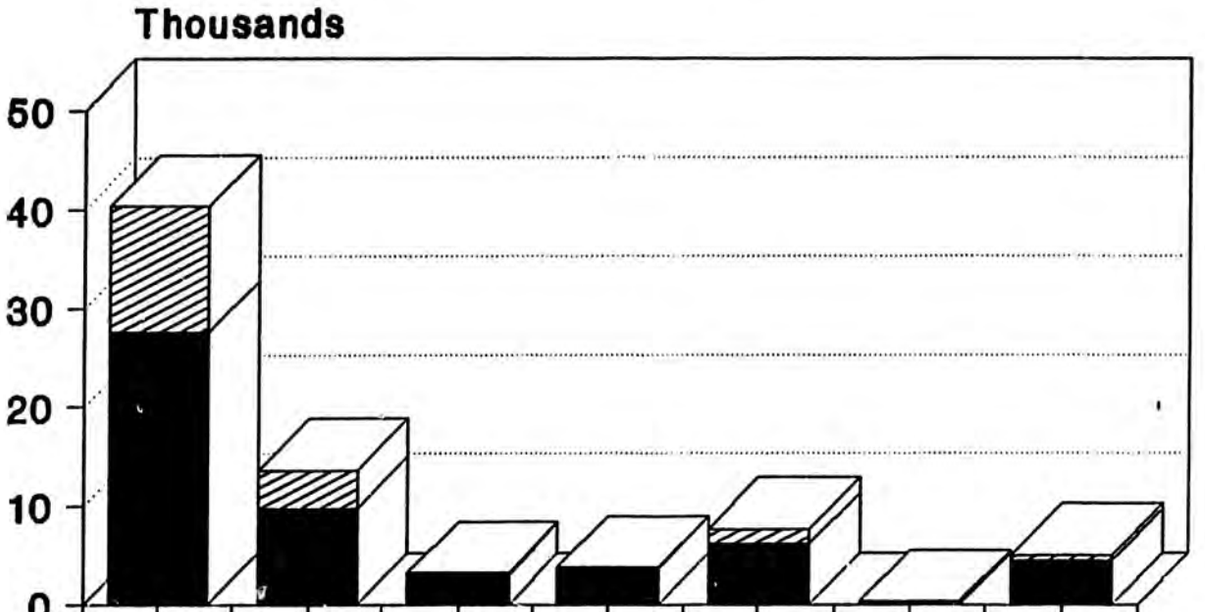
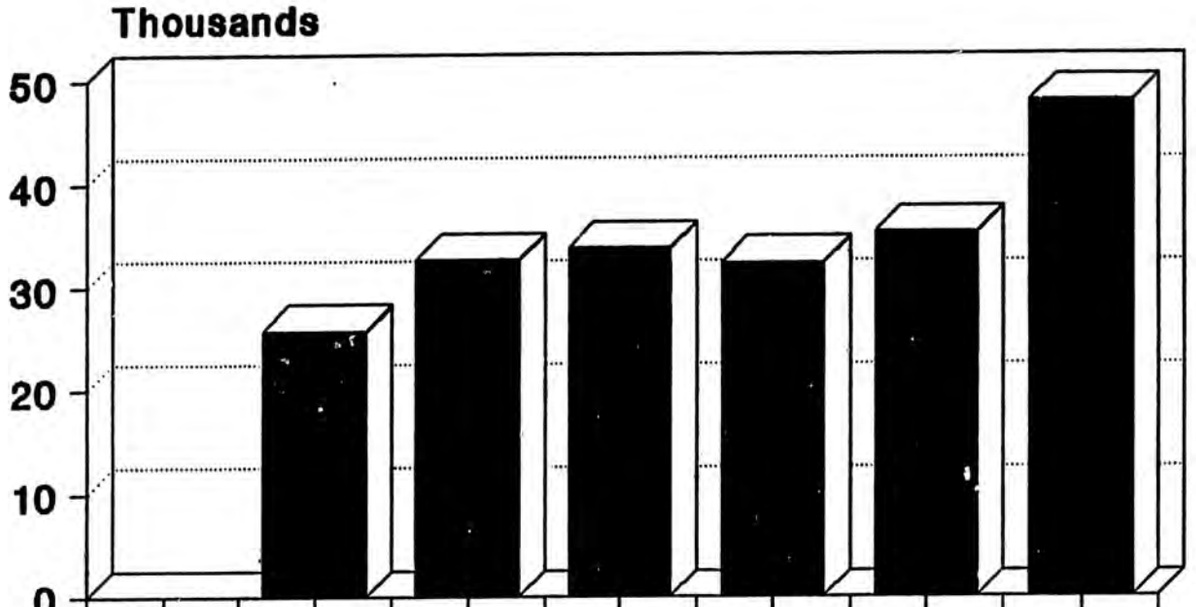
Area 517 Groundfish and Chinook Salmon Comparison



	1/6	1/13	1/20	1/27	2/3	2/10	2/17
Chinook Salmon	12.742	3.826	0.171	0.037	1.463	0.037	0.536
Groundfish	27.575	9.742	3.081	3.76	6.161	0.309	4.471

Groundfish Chinook Salmon

Area 518 Groundfish and Chinook Salmon Comparison

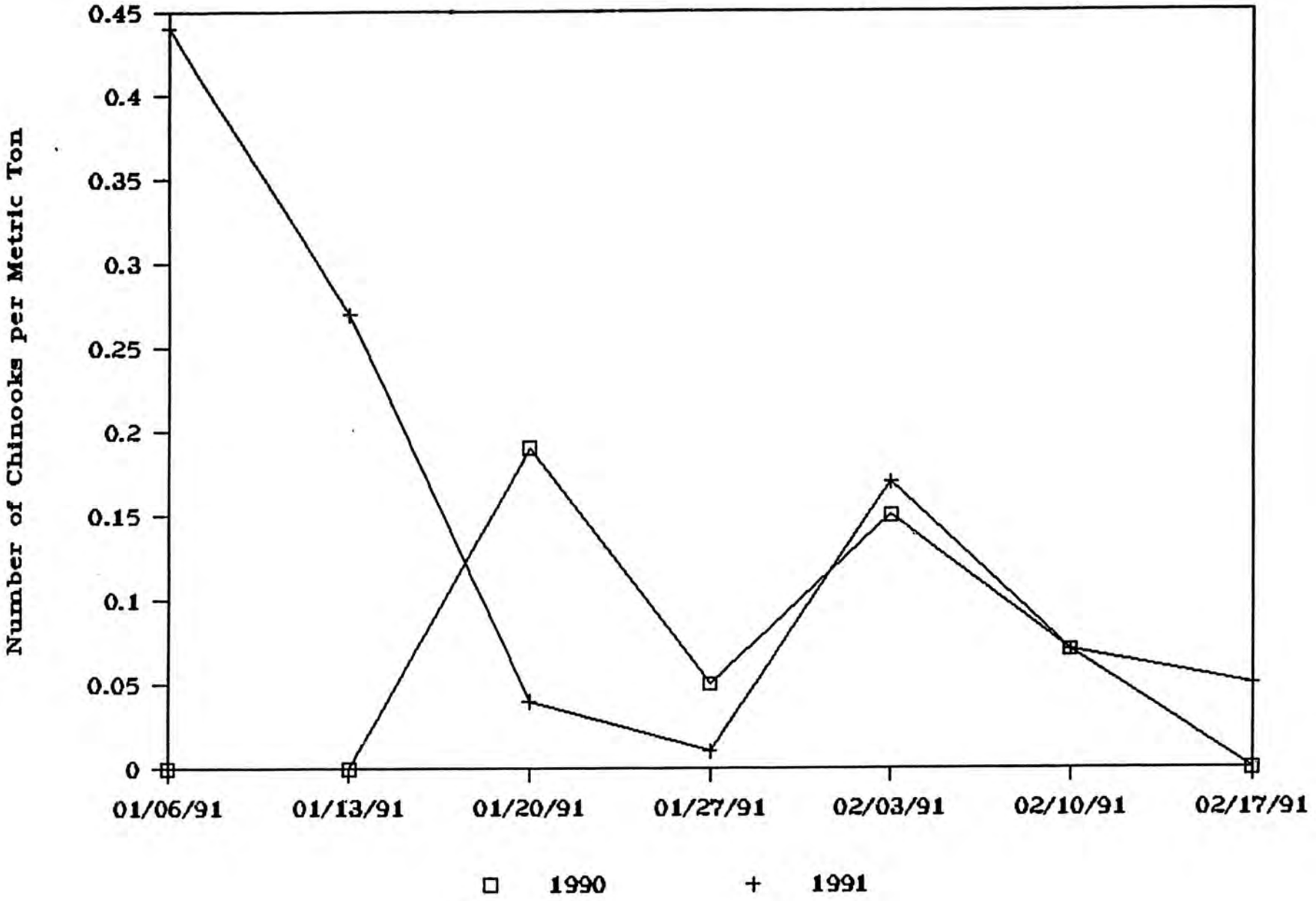


	1/6	1/13	1/20	1/27	2/3	2/10	2/17
Chinook Salmon	0	0.196	0.108	0.158	0.067	0.071	0
Groundfish	0	25.609	32.508	33.592	32.241	35.167	48.03

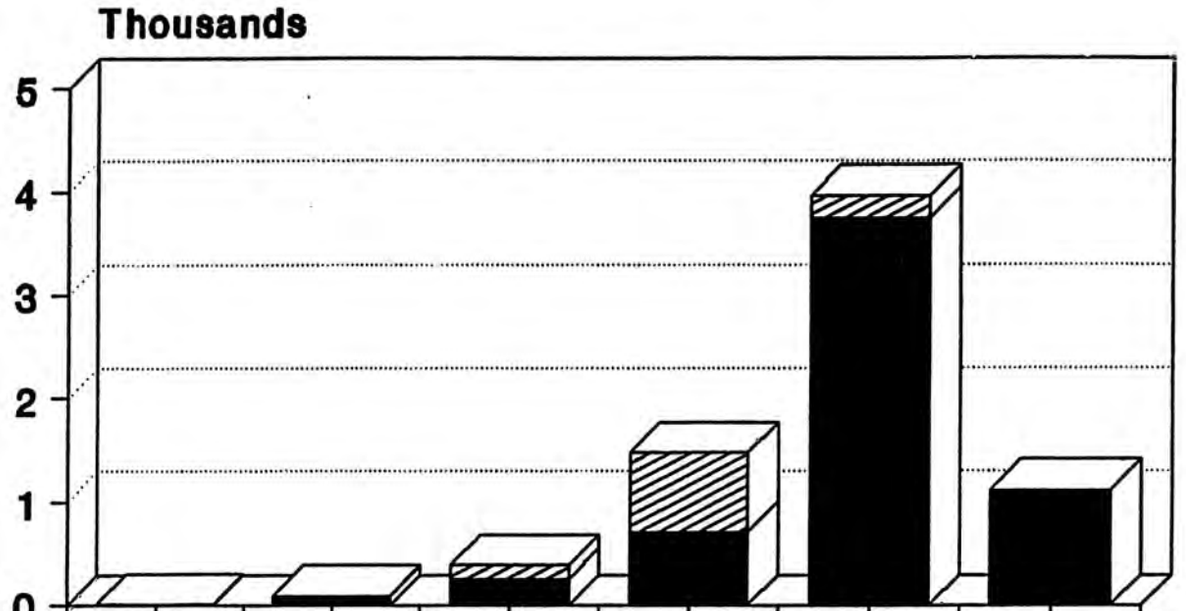
Groundfish Chinook Salmon

*Chinook in numbers; groundfish in mton

Zone 517 Chinook Bycatch Rates



Shelikof Groundfish and Chinook Salmon* Comparison (Area 621)

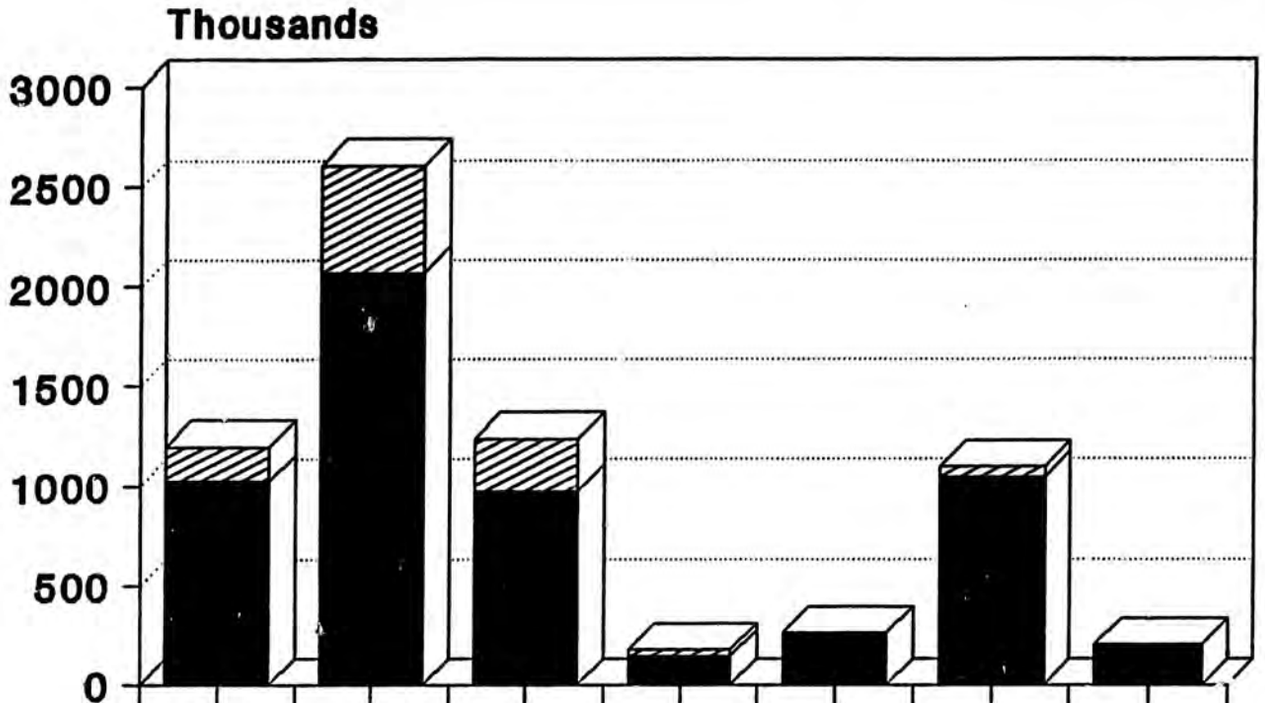


	1/6	1/13	1/20	1/27	2/3	2/10
Chinook Salmon	0.011	0.007	0.135	0.759	0.213	
Groundfish	0	0.089	0.253	0.712	3.747	1.11

Groundfish Chinook Salmon

*Chinook in numbers; groundfish in mton

Area 630 Groundfish and Chinook Salmon*



	1/6	1/13	1/20	1/27	2/3	2/10	2/17
Chinook Salmon	172	538	263	33	0	52	0
Groundfish	1025	2069	974	142	262	1042	205

Groundfish Chinook Salmon

*Chinook in numbers; groundfish in mton

4.9.91

Deep sea dilemma

File: Bycatch

LIKE PAUL Revere, Sen. Frank Murkowski traveled across the state during the last congressional recess to issue warnings about an impending crisis for Alaska's high seas fishery industry. But instead of Redcoats coming, it's Greenpeace.

In an address to the Legislature and in meetings with fishermen, the Alaska senator warned that unless the state and the fishing industry figure out how to eliminate the so-called bycatch, public pressure will soon be aroused to force federal action on the state's fishing industry — an industry that employs about 50,000 people.

The problem is serious. U.S. factory trawlers that use huge, bottom hugging nets to catch pollock and other bottomfish are also pulling up huge amounts of immature halibut, herring and salmon.

Trawlers are not permitted to keep the bycatch, because of the fear that if they were allowed to, fishermen would target more, because of their high value.

THAT'S SIMILAR to the situation the United States has faced for years with foreign fishing fleets that have been taking salmon on the high seas. The foreign boats fish for squid and other stocks and claim the salmon are an inadvertent catch.

That inadvertent catch became a multi-million dollar, black market business, one which results in limiting the return of king salmon to western Alaska, hurting Alaska's fisheries there.

U.S. trawlers have replaced much of the foreign fleet, but the problem remains — and not only for salmon.

Halibut taken as bycatch amounts to more than 20 percent of the total annual halibut quota along the Pacific coast. More than 8,000 metric tons are netted and discarded as bycatch. That's about $20 million worth of resource thrown overboard as waste.

Worse than the revenue loss is the decline in the halibut resource itself. Stocks of halibut are declining as a result of the substantial loss of small, immature halibut destroyed by bottomfish operations.

HERRING STOCKS are also declining in the Bering Sea as bycatch of herring has increased in recent years. Many Alaska villagers depend on herring for subsistence.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is studying gear and methods now used to harvest bottomfish to identify ways for selective fishing. Setting firm limits on the amount of bycatch would result in restricting the amount of bottomfish harvested. In other words, lowering the cap on bycatch could shut down the whole groundfish industry, valued at $600 million annually.

The fishery management council together with the state and the fishing industry must continue to address this issue on a priority basis, or — as Sen. Murkowski warns — a solution will be forced upon us. When Greenpeace arrives with its video cameras and tapes tons of fish being thrown over the side as wanton waste, Alaskans can expect a level of outrage not unlike the reaction to the recent video of Los Angeles police clubbing Rodney King.

STATUS OF THE PROPOSED LISTING OF COLUMBIA RIVER SALMON STOCKS

UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA)

summary by Earl E. Krygier ADF&G

In the spring of 1990, the Secretary of Commerce was petitioned to determine whether or not five separate runs of wild salmon in the Columbia River are distinct stocks which are in danger of becoming extinct, and therefore should be "listed" as either "threatened" or "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act. This petition initiated a two year process prior to a final listing. During this first year, the Secretary must preform a status review of the petitioned fish and decide if the petition is warranted. The end of that first year's review is nearing completion. The decision whether or not to propose placement of these salmon on a list of endangered or threatened species will occur soon. The Snake River sockeye salmon decision is due by April 2, 1991, and for the Snake River spring, summer and fall chinook and the lower Columbia River coho by the first week in June 1991. The Secretary will then come out with a proposed rule making defining which stocks may be proposed for listing. An additional year of review and comment will occur on the proposed rule. At the end of the second year, a final rule will be published. If any of these stocks are listed, the Secretary, through the National Marine Fishery Service, will develop a recovery plan describing how they plan to rehabilitate the species.

Aside from this, Senator Mark O. Hatfield has convened a "salmon summit" (made up of Pacific N.W. fishery and water user representatives), to develop an action plan to attempt to preclude the need for any listing. This group could agree on a recovery package to implement immediately which combines modifications in Columbia River Basin water management, dam passage operations and harvest. If this group can reach consensus, and NMFS agrees on the mitigation proposed, a listing might be curtailed.

Whether or not these stocks become listed, it does not appear that their listing will have an impact on the State of Alaska.

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13 (FSH)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Offered: 3/11/91
Referred: Resources

Sponsor(s): SENATOR HOFFMAN

A RESOLUTION

Relating to the bycatch of Alaska chinook salmon by United States and foreign trawl fisheries.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS salmon of Alaska origin are important to the people of Alaska for subsistence, sport, and commercial fisheries; and

WHEREAS chinook salmon are one of the most prized and valuable species of Alaska salmon; and

WHEREAS chinook salmon originating in Alaska range extensively along the Alaska coast and out into the North Pacific; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska has a vested interest in the conservation of chinook salmon populations originating within Alaska, and throughout western North America, due to its active involvement in numerous national and international salmon management bodies and treaties; and

WHEREAS new information from the National Marine Fisheries Service observer program reveals a significant bycatch of chinook salmon in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone that threatens the chinook salmon conservation programs of the State of Alaska and the Pacific Salmon Commission allocation of chinook salmon to the Southeast Alaska troll fishery; and

- CS for SCR 13 -

WHEREAS new information from domestic and federal observers also strongly indicates a significant bycatch of chinook salmon in the international waters of the central Bering Sea "donut hole"; and

WHEREAS biological information developed by the Fisheries Research Institute of the University of Washington and accepted by the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission has determined that the chinook salmon in the Bering Sea are primarily North American in origin and from streams in Southcentral, Southeast, and western Alaska as well as from British Columbia; and

WHEREAS bycatch occurs on a mixture of salmon stocks well before run strength can be assessed and thus reduces the number of fish available in inshore areas and increases the risk of overharvest; and

WHEREAS the chinook salmon fisheries on the Yukon River and in Southeast Alaska are transboundary river fisheries, and the lack of chinook salmon strains the relationship among Alaska, the other West Coast states, and Canada, including its provinces and territories;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor petition the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the United States Secretary of Commerce to be prepared to implement emergency regulations to limit the bycatch of chinook salmon in the 1991 trawl fisheries in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone, and to expedite a 1992 chinook salmon bycatch plan amendment to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island and Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plans; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor petition the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the United States Secretary of Commerce to implement emergency regulations limiting the bycatch of Alaska chinook salmon by domestic trawlers in the central Bering Sea "donut hole"; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor petition the United States Secretary of Commerce to identify the complete range of chinook salmon as defined in the 1990 revisions of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act and implement a rebuttable presumption for the interception of chinook salmon beyond the United States Exclusive Economic Zone; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor petition the United States Secretary of State, Secretary of Commerce, and Secretary of Transportation to immediately initiate international negotiations to end fishing within the "donut hole" in order to protect Alaska chinook salmon; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor request the United States Secretary of State, Secretary of Commerce, and Secretary of Transportation to authorize the United States Coast Guard to seize, under the authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act as well as other

treaties or bilateral agreements as might be appropriate, vessels discovered with contraband salmon on board, with such vessels to be sequestered in United States ports until disposition by the Federal Courts.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable James A. Baker, III, Secretary of the U.S. Department of State; to the Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher, Sr., Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; to the Honorable Samuel K. Skinner, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

Resources did a CS
taking Fish CS and
incorporating a concern
expressed by UFA