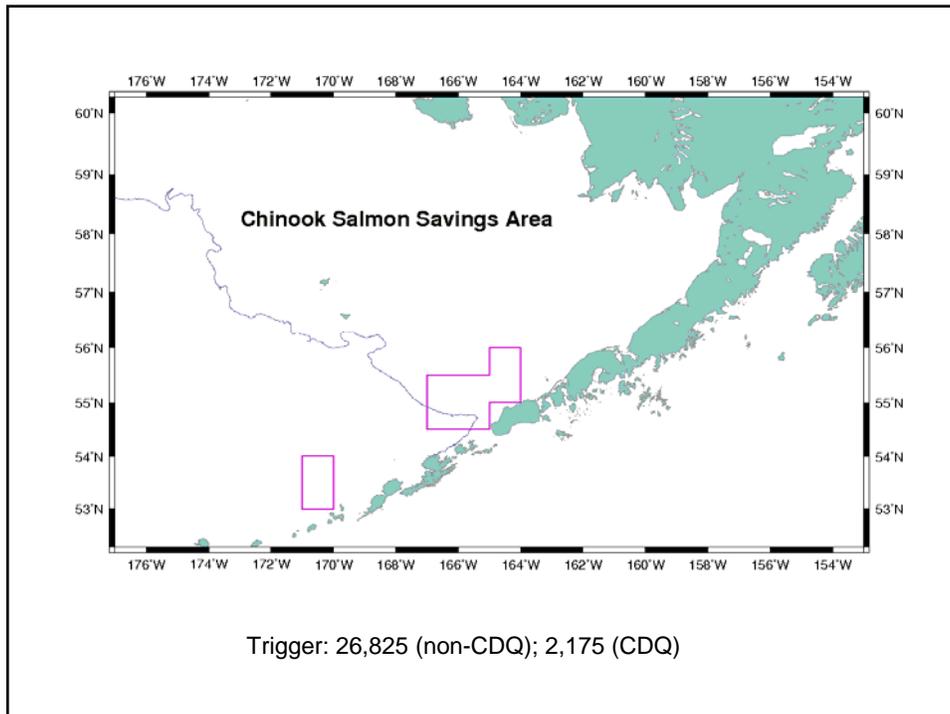


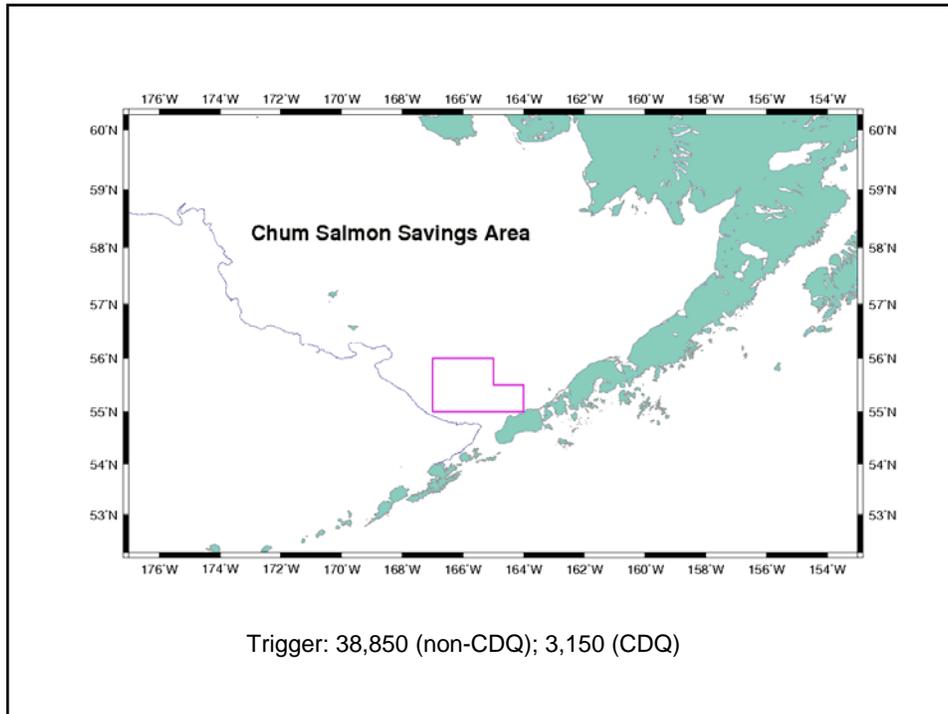
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**D-1c,d  
BSAI Salmon Bycatch**

**SSC Workshop on Salmon Bycatch  
Research**

**NPFMC April Meeting  
April 4, 2006**





## Amendment 84

- Vessels participating in Voluntary Rolling Hot Spot (VRHS) closure system (as part of the AFA intercooperative bycatch agreement) are exempt from savings area closures if triggered
- Chum Salmon Savings Area redefined to apply only to directed pollock trawl fishery
- Implementation of amendment 84 anticipated by August 1, 2006 (prior to annual closure of Chum Salmon Savings Area)
- IC must provide annual performance review report to the Council. Report will include:
  - Number of salmon taken by species and season
  - Estimate number of salmon avoided as demonstrated by the movement of fishing effort away from salmon hot-spots.
  - A compliance/enforcement report which will include the results of an internal compliance audit and an external compliance audit if one has been done.
  - List of each vessels number of appearances on the weekly dirty 20 lists for both salmon species
  - Acknowledgement that the Agreement term has been extended for another year (maintaining the 3 year lifespan) and report any changes to the Agreement that were made at the time of the renewal.

## 2006 A Season

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A season Chinook bycatch pollock pelagic trawl fishery

- March 18, 2006 = 59,512

For comparison:

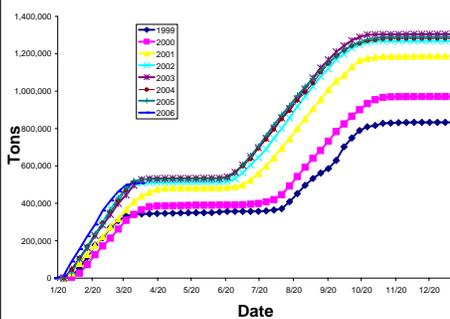
- March 26, 2005 = 25,400

- Total for 2005 = 76,269

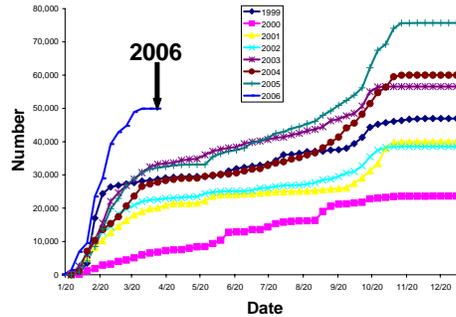


## 2006 A Season

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Cumulative pollock catch (obs.vessels)



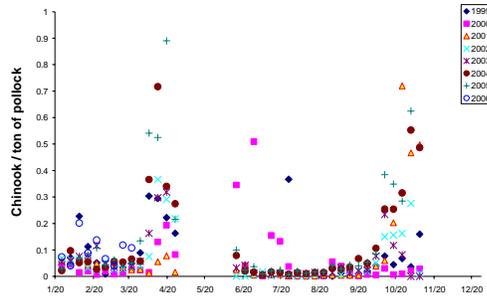
Cumulative Chinook catch (obs.vessels)

**Preliminary data for 2006 through March 25, 2006**

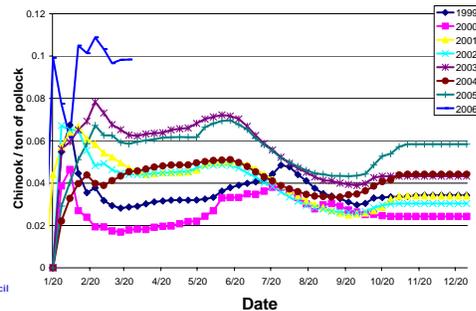


## 2006 A Season

Average bycatch  
Weekly intervals



Cumulative  
#/ton pollock



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## Changes to IC agreement in A Season 2006

**Measures included in revised agreement to provide better responsiveness to salmon bycatch:**

- Removal of stand-down period
- In-season Base Rate adjustment
- Continuation of hot spot closures following a regulatory closure

**These measures are intended to provide better management of salmon bycatch:**

- Why are salmon bycatch numbers still increasing?
- Is the VRHS system not working (in operation in absence of reg closures in A season since 2003)? Or...
- Is this an indication of higher abundance of salmon in the BSAI?
- How can we assess the relative impact of trawl fisheries on salmon stocks?

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## Amendment 84B

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- Split out from Amd 84 (February 2005) to facilitate expedited analysis
- Bifucated by Council in December 2005 into 2 amendment package (B-1, B-2).
- Problem statement applies to both amendment packages:

The Council and NMFS have initiated action to exempt AFA qualified and CDQ vessels participating in the intercooperative voluntary rolling hotspot system (VRHS) from regulatory Bering Sea salmon bycatch savings areas. Analysis and refinement of the current salmon savings areas may be necessary in the event pollock vessels either surrender or lose their exemption and return to fishing under the regulatory salmon bycatch program.

Further, alternatives to the VRHS system and/or the regulatory salmon bycatch program should be developed to assess whether they would be more effective in reducing salmon bycatch. The following amendment packages are not intended to preclude the intercooperative annual review as required under Amendment 84.



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## Amendment Package B-1

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- Establish new regulatory salmon savings systems taking into account the most recent available salmon bycatch data. In developing alternatives include an analysis of the need and implementation strategy for appropriate caps as bycatch control measures. This package should be completed first and implemented when ready so that salmon savings regulations are based on the best available information.
  - Option: Adjust the Chinook and non-Chinook regulatory closure areas periodically based on the most current bycatch data available, such as the 2-3 year rolling average of bycatch rates by species and area.



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## Amendment Package B-2

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Develop a regulatory individual vessel salmon bycatch accountability program.

- Option A: managed at the individual level
- Option B: managed at the co-op level
- Option C: Either Option A or Option B for each AFA pollock sector.
- Suboption 1: Implement the individual vessel salmon bycatch accountability program.
  - i) Immediately, if it was determined to be more effective in reducing salmon bycatch than the VRHS system.
  - ii) After 3 years if it is determined the VRHS system has failed to achieve the desired level of bycatch reduction.
- Suboption 2: Analyze the need and implementation strategy for appropriate caps as bycatch control measures.  
(note Suboptions 1 and 2 apply to Options A, B and C)



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## Workshop Objectives

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- Overview of availability of information
  - salmon bycatch patterns
  - Salmon abundance patterns across Pacific Rim
  - Genetic origin of salmon incidentally-caught in BSAI trawl fisheries
- Information needs for B-1 analysis
  - Biomass-based caps
  - Updated salmon savings areas
  - Analysis of current system under VRHS
    - How to evaluate efficacy of VRHS system, measure for evaluating alternative system?



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## Workshop Discussion Items

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- How to craft biomass-based caps?
- Innovative ideas for salmon savings system:
  - How to craft them to be more responsive to changing conditions?
- Milestones and standards for effective bycatch reduction

