

BSAI SALMON BYCATCH
Council Motion
October 2005

Amendment Package B

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.

Amendment Package B-1

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 A: Adjust the Chinook and non-Chinook regulatory closure areas annually based on the most current bycatch data available, such as the 2-3 year rolling average of bycatch rates by species and area.

Option B: Adjust the Chinook and non-Chinook regulatory closure areas at least once in-season based on the best bycatch information available.

Amendment Package B-2

Develop a regulatory individual vessel salmon bycatch accountability program.

Option A: managed at the individual level

Option B: managed at the co-op level

Suboption 1: Implement the individual vessel salmon bycatch accountability program if, after 3 years, it is determined the VRHS 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.