PLANS FOR U.S. OBSERVATIONS OF THE JAPANESE MOTHERSHIP SALMON FISHERY WITHIN THE U.S. FCZ DURING 1984

by

Michael L. Dahlberg
Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center Auke Bay Laboratory
National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA
P.O. Box 210155, Auke Bay, AK 99821

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U.S. SALMON OBSERVER PROGRAM WITHIN THE U.S. FCZ IN 1984

As part of the Annex [Paragraph 1(c)] to the amended International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean (INPFC), the Government of Japan may be required by the Government of the United States to accept scientific observers on board vessels fishing within the United States Fishery Conservation Zone (U.S. FCZ). The United States plans to place a salmon observer on board each of the Japanese salmon motherships operating within the U.S. FCZ in 1984.

Salmon observers will be placed aboard the motherships to collect data on total catch, fishing effort, and average weight of each species. The salmon observers' duties are:

1) Observe and record daily catch weights of salmon, by species, as the fish are transferred from each of the catcher boats to the mothership. Each day, the observer must obtain the following information in writing or tables from the fleet commander or Japan Fisheries Agency (JFA) inspector:

   a) the average weight of 30 fish of each salmon species, if available, from each of 5 catcher boats and the identification number of each of the 5 catcher boats;

   b) the catch weights of salmon, by species, for catcher boats not actually observed; the total effort and effective effort in tans of gillnet for each catcher boat in the fleet; and the geographical coordinates where each catcher boat sets its nets; and

   c) the latitude and longitude of the mothership at noon Japan Standard Time (JST).

   d) the daily catcher boat position diagram showing the relative positions of the catcher boats in the area fished along with environmental observations of weather and sea conditions at noon JST.

2) Record daily the catch weight of salmon, by species, from each of the scout boats in the mothership fleet. (Data obtained from the ship's log or from the JFA inspector.) Also record the total fishing effort and effective fishing effort in tans of gillnet and latitude and longitude of each set for each of the scout boats.

3) Summarize daily catcher-boat landings, by salmon species; summarize catch-effort data, by 1° x 1° INPFC statistical area; and prepare a radio message for transmission to the National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Regional Office, Juneau, Alaska.

4) Select one weighing container of each species each day and count the salmon within it to determine average weight of fish in the container and compare this figure with the average obtained by weighing groups of 30 fish.

5) Collect biological data including scales from chinook salmon, and from steelhead trout. The United States anticipates that steelhead taken by catcher boats will be landed on motherships and made available for sampling by observers in accordance with a request made at the 1983 INPFC annual meeting. Samples of whole steelhead will be frozen and returned to the United States for further examination in the Laboratory.

6) Observe and record the incidence of salmonids missing the adipose fin and sample the snouts from all salmonids missing the adipose fin.