

PLANS FOR
U.S. OBSERVATIONS OF THE JAPANESE MOTHERSHIP
SALMON FISHERY WITHIN THE U.S. EEZ DURING 1987

by

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U.S. SALMON OBSERVER PROGRAM IN 1987

The amended Annex (April 9, 1986) to the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean includes provisions for observer coverage of fisheries within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (U.S. EEZ). Section 1.(d)(3) of the Annex reads:

"Fishing vessels engaged in this fishery shall be required to have on board a registration permit which shall be issued by the Government of the United States. Such vessels may be required by the Government of the United States to accept on board scientific observers and to bear the expenses incurred in such boarding. Such vessels shall ... which is a requirement of the Government of the United States."

Vessels fishing for salmon are required to obtain permits from the U.S. Department of State. The permits read as follows:

"The Government of the United States of America, pursuant to Section 204(c) of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, as amended, and the North Pacific Fisheries Act of 1954, as amended (hereinafter the "Act"), hereby permits the vessel named here to fish for salmon over which the United States has sovereign rights to explore, exploit, conserve and manage. Such fishing shall be conducted in accordance with the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Oceans, including all annexes and amendments and any instructions and regulations issued pursuant thereto.

This permit shall not be used by any vessel other than the vessel named, shall be prominently displayed in the wheelhouse of the vessel at all times while the vessel is subject to the fishery management authority of the United States, and shall be shown upon request to any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of the Act."

It is the intent of the U.S. Section of the INPFC that the following measures shall apply to salmon fishery operations conducted by Japanese nationals and fishing vessels in the waters of the U.S. EEZ during 1987.

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

- 1) Observe and record daily catch weights of salmon, by species, as the fish are transferred from every catcher boat delivering to the mothership so that all offloadings of catcher boats within the EEZ are observed. Every day, the observers must obtain the following information in text or tables from the fleet commander or Japan Fisheries Agency (JFA) inspector:
 - a) one observer will collect 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, as reported by the staff of the mothership; the total fishing effort and effective fishing effort in tans of gillnet for every catcher boat in the fleet; and the geographical coordinates where each catcher boat sets its nets;
 - c) the latitude and longitude of the mothership at noon Japan Standard Time (JST) along with environmental observations of weather and sea conditions at noon.
 - d) the daily catcher boat position diagram showing the geographical coordinates of where the nets were set from every catcher boat.

- 2) Record daily the effective fishing effort and catch weight of salmon, by species, from each of the scout boats in the mothership fleet and the latitude and longitude of every scout boat set. (Data obtained from the fleet commander or from the JFA inspector.)
- 3) Summarize daily catcher-boat landings, by salmon species; summarize catch-effort data, by 1° x 1° INPFC statistical area; and prepare a radio telegram message for transmission to the Alaska Regional Office (NMFS), Juneau, Alaska.
- 4) Randomly select one weighing container of each species of salmon 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, coho and sockeye salmon and scales and otoliths from steelhead trout. The United States anticipates that all steelhead taken by catcher boats will be landed on motherships and made available for sampling by observers. Biological samples from up to 200 steelhead from each fleet will be collected and returned to the United States for further examination.
- 6) Observe and record the incidence of salmonids missing the adipose fin and sample the snouts from all salmonids missing the adipose fin for recovery of coded-wire tags.

Schedule for Observer Monitoring Salmon Landings Onboard Motherships in 1987

<u>Time of Day (JST)</u>	<u>Activity</u>
0700	Exercise on deck
0800 or 0900	Breakfast
0900 or 1000 until completed	Monitor all offloading of catcherboats at two stations in the presence of U.S. salmon observers. All deliveries will be observed.
1600	Bath
As Scheduled	Dinner

General Conditions Regarding U.S. Observers

1. Two U.S. salmon observers will validate catch statistics by visually monitoring in person all deliveries at the fore and aft weigh stations of each mothership within the U.S. EEZ. The two salmon observers will randomly switch weigh stations from time to time.
 - a. A salmon observer must be present every time a catcher or scout boat delivers salmon to a mothership - including the case when a scout boat delivers to a mothership after all catcher boat deliveries have been completed for the day.
 - b. All deliveries of salmon on days of transit must be validated by a salmon observer. All deliveries of salmon on the first and last day of the fishing season within U.S. EEZ must be completely observed.
 - c. Salmon observers are not required to participate in work breaks and tea service on board motherships.

2. The U.S. salmon observers must be allowed to visually verify the catcher boat name and number on the bow of each vessel every time the catcher boat delivers, and to confirm annually the registration number of every vessel delivering salmon to a weigh station of a mothership.
3. U.S. salmon observers will not board catcher boats operating in the U.S. EEZ.
4. Observers will be provided a written description and diagram of accessible and restricted areas of the mothership.