

PLANS FOR  
U.S. OBSERVATIONS OF THE JAPANESE MOTHERSHIP  
SALMON FISHERY WITHIN THE U.S. EEZ DURING 1988

by

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U.S. SALMON OBSERVER PROGRAM IN 1988

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. ... which is a requirement of the Government of the United States."

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 1988. The U.S. observers and Fleet Commanders will, after 1600 hours each day, randomly select from a table provided by the U.S. observers  $(35 \times X/43)$  catcher boats in each fleet which will be sampled the following day. [The value of X ( $43 \leq X \leq 65$ ) will be determined by the Japanese side and furnished to the U.S. side as soon as practical.] Scout vessels which do not deliver to the mothership daily will be identified by the Fleet Commander and substitute vessels will be selected randomly until a sample of  $(35 \times X/43)$  vessels delivering catches the following day is reached. The assignment of observers to the two weigh stations will be determined by the toss of a coin. Each observer will monitor  $1/2 (35 \times X/43)$  vessel landings. The details of monitoring should be pursuant to [Agreed plans between U.S. and Japan for U.S. observations of the Japanese Mothership salmon fishery within the U.S. EEZ during 1987] (INPFC Document 3144; Revision 1).

Two salmon observers will be placed on board each of the mother-ships 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 (43 ≤ X ≤ 65) catcher boats 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 may 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 potential recovery of coded-wire tags.

Schedule for Observer Monitoring Salmon Landings Onboard Motherships in 1988

<u>Time of Day (JST)</u>	<u>Activity</u>
0700	Exercise on deck
0800 or 0900	Breakfast
0900 or 1000 until completed	Monitor offloading of catcherboats at each weigh station.
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 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. Deliveries of salmon on days of transit must be validated by a salmon observer. Deliveries of salmon on the first and last day of the fishing season within the U.S. EEZ must be observed no differently than deliveries are observed on all other fishing days.
  - b. 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 is sampled, 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.
5. Any problems that arise in sampling will immediately be brought to the attention of the Fleet Commander and resolved, in writing, if necessary.

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