

**INCIDENCE OF CODED-WIRE TAGGED SALMONIDS IN  
COMMERCIAL CATCHES IN THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN AND  
BERING SEA,  
1997-1998**

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## ABSTRACT

Information on high seas recoveries of coded-wire tagged (CWT) salmonids has been reported annually to the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (1981-1992) and to the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (1993-present). In this document, previously unreported release and recovery data for 90 coded-wire tagged chinook salmon recovered in 1996 (21 recoveries), 1997 (57 recoveries), and 1998 (12 recoveries) are listed. All reported recoveries were from incidental catches of chinook salmon by U.S. commercial groundfish vessels operating in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in the Bering Sea (62 recoveries), Gulf of Alaska (2), and northeastern Pacific Ocean (22), and unknown locations (4). The fish originated from releases in the Yukon Territory (1 recovery), Alaska (27), British Columbia (40), Washington (11), Oregon (8), and California (3). Notable recoveries include: (1) the first information on summer (June) distribution of Yukon River chinook salmon in the offshore waters of the eastern Bering Sea shelf, (2) the second and third reported recoveries of Washington-origin chinook salmon in the Bering Sea, and (3) three recoveries off the Washington coast in 1996 of Snake River, Washington, hatchery fish, which are representatives of wild fall chinook salmon listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Recoveries of CWT salmonids from high seas research vessel operations in 1998 will be reported later.

## INTRODUCTION

The North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) coordinates the examination of high seas commercial and research catches for salmonids that might contain a coded-wire tag (CWT). Recoveries of coded-wire tagged salmonids in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea have been reported annually to the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (Dahlberg 1981-82; Wertheimer and Dahlberg 1983-84; Dahlberg and Fowler 1985; Dahlberg et al. 1986-92; Margolis 1985; Margolis et al. 1989; McKinnell et al. 1991) and to the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (Dahlberg et al. 1993-97). The Regional Mark Processing Center, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, incorporates the high seas CWT recovery data into their coastwide, on-line CWT recovery data set (Regional Mark Information System (RMIS); <http://www.psmfc.org/rmpc/>). In this document, we summarize previously unreported data for CWT salmonids recovered by U.S. observers on commercial groundfish vessels operating in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in 1996-98. Recoveries of CWT salmonids from high seas research vessel operations in 1998 will be reported later.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Previously unreported release and recovery data for 90 coded-wire tagged chinook salmon recovered in 1996 (21 recoveries), 1997 (57 recoveries), and 1998 (12 recoveries) are listed in Table 1. All reported recoveries were from incidental catches of chinook salmon by U.S. commercial groundfish vessels operating in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in the Bering Sea (62 recoveries), Gulf of Alaska (2), and northeastern Pacific Ocean (22), and unknown locations (4). Some CWT chinook salmon were recovered in processing plants from combined catches of several vessels; therefore, in those cases the recovery locations appear as National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) statistical areas

(Fig. 1). The CWT chinook salmon originated from releases in the Yukon Territory (1 recovery), Alaska (27), British Columbia (40), Washington (11), Oregon (8), and California (3). Notable recoveries include: (1) the first information on summer (June) distribution of Yukon River chinook salmon in the offshore waters of the eastern Bering Sea shelf, (2) the second and third reported recoveries of Washington-origin chinook salmon in the Bering Sea, and (3) three recoveries off the Washington coast in 1996 of Snake River, Washington, hatchery fish, which are representatives of wild fall chinook salmon listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Fishermen, processors, observers, and scientists who participated in the 1997-98 high-seas CWT recovery program are gratefully acknowledged. Nate Raring, North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program, Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC), NMFS, provided snout samples from salmonids lacking the adipose fin and recovery data collected by observers from the U.S. groundfish fishery. Ryan Scott dissected snouts and read CWTs. Saang-Yoon Hyun, Fisheries Research Institute (FRI), University of Washington, downloaded CWT release data from the on-line RMIS data set. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife provided release data on their CWT tag codes not currently listed in the RMIS CWT release data set. Auke Bay Laboratory, AFSC, NMFS, provided funding to FRI for compilation and reporting of CWT release and recovery data (NOAA contract No. 50ABNF700003).

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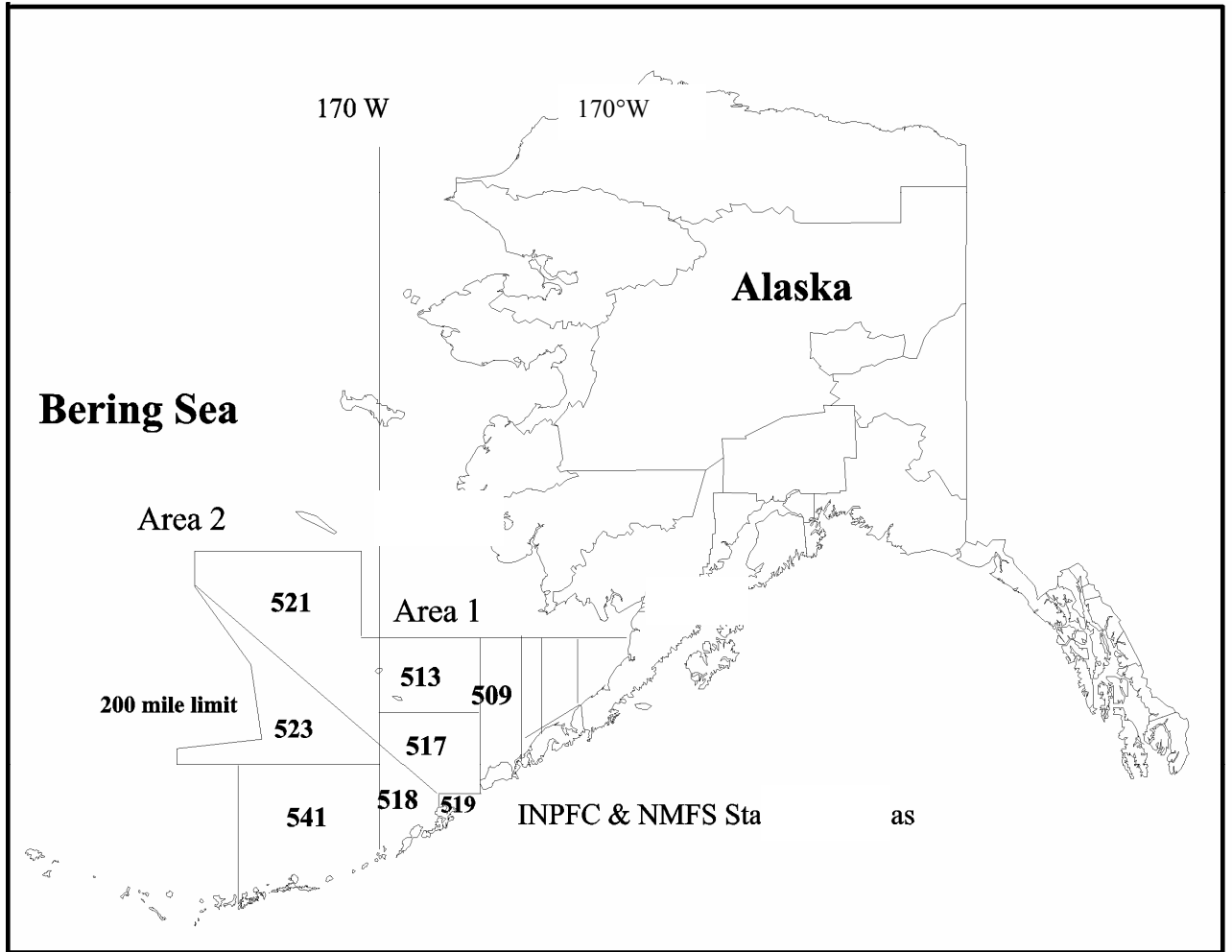


Figure 1. Locations of U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) statistical areas in the eastern Bering Sea portion of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Table 1. Release and recovery information for coded-wire tagged chinook salmon recovered from the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, 1 September 1997 through 31 August 1998. Locations of Bering Sea recovery areas are shown in Figure 1. TSFT = tip of snout to fork of tail. Agency codes: ADFG = Alaska Dept. Fish and Game, CDFG = California Department of Fish and Game, CDFO = Canada Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, COOP = Washington Dept. of Fisheries-Coop., MIC = Metlakatla Indian Community, MUCK = Muckleshoot Tribe, NSRA = Northern Southeast Reg. Aquaculture Assoc., ODFW = Oregon Dept. Fish and Wildlife, QDNR = Quinalt Dept. Natural Resources, SUQ = Suquamish Indian Tribe, WDFW = Washington Dept. Fish and Wildlife.

TAG CODE	BROOD YEAR	RELEASE SITE	STATE/ PROV	AGENCY	TOTAL		RECOVERY		SPECIES	OCEANIC REGION											
					NO. TAGGED	DATE	DATE	AREA			BODY SIZE	GONAD									
					Y	M	D	Y	M	D	D	M	D	M	WT	WT	WT				
021043	91	BABINE R. UPPER	BC	CDFO	15861	93	05	05	96	02	15	AREA_517	690	4000	M			TRAWL CHINOOK	BERING_SEA		
044133	92	TAIYA INLET 115-34	AK	NSRA	11818	94	05	20	96	04	11	54 52	158	14	W	635	3400	F		TRAWL CHINOOK	GULF_OF_ALASKA
062528	94	YUBA CITY	CA	CDFG	53486	95	05	18	96	07	23	48 22	124	53	W	440	1250	M		TRAWL CHINOOK	NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
070755	93	BIG CR - L COL. R	OR	ODFW	54731	94	08	04	96	07	23	48 17	125	02	W	530	1650	M		TRAWL CHINOOK	NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
180212	94	CHILLIWACK RIVER	BC	CDFO	24677	95	06	07	96	07	27	48 23	124	51	W	546	1020	M		TRAWL CHINOOK	NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
180213	94	STAVE RIVER	BC	CDFO	24930	95	05	29	96	07	29	48 22	125	01	W	450	1050	M		TRAWL CHINOOK	NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
180738	92	FEE CHANNEL	BC	CDFO	16900	94	04	15	96	02	19	54 48	165	37	W	620	2800	F		TRAWL CHINOOK	BERING_SEA
181040	93	CHUCKWALLA RIVER	BC	CDFO	29052	94	05	20	96	02	22	AREA_517								TRAWL CHINOOK	BERING_SEA
181233	93	CHEHALIS RIVER/BC	BC	CDFO	49158	94	04	18	96	07	23	48 17	125	02	W	640	3100	F		TRAWL CHINOOK	NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
181241	93	CAPILANO RIVER	BC	CDFO	74475	94	05	26	96	08	03	48 21	125	16	W	720	5100	M		TRAWL CHINOOK	NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
181241	93	CAPILANO RIVER	BC	CDFO	74475	94	05	26	96	07	23	48 22	124	53	W	630	2300	F		TRAWL CHINOOK	NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
181420	93	CHILLIWACK RIVER	BC	CDFO	48434	94	05	27	96	08	10	48 02	125	20	W	716	4100	M		TRAWL CHINOOK	NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
181945	94	CHEHALIS RIVER	BC	CDFO	49288	95	04	21	96	07	23	48 22	124	53	W	430	850	F		TRAWL CHINOOK	NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
181945	94	CHEHALIS RIVER	BC	CDFO	49288	95	04	21	96	08	01	48 17	125	05	W	445	1000	M		TRAWL CHINOOK	NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
212509	93	WHITE R 10.0031	WA	MUCK	48971	95	04	21	96	07	00	48 25	124	52	W	438	810	F		TRAWL CHINOOK	NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
634619	92	MINTER CR 15.0048	WA	WDFW	79637	94	05	02	96	08	03	48 21	125	16	W	610	2200	F		TRAWL CHINOOK	NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
635012	92	SNAKE RLOWR 33.0002	WA	WDFW	203177	93	06	24	96	08	11	48 10	125	12	W	540	2130	F		TRAWL CHINOOK	NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
635163	93	SNAKE RLOWR 33.0002	WA	WDFW	101161	95	04	17	96	08	08	48 04	125	18	W	470	1150	F		TRAWL CHINOOK	NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
635217	92	CAPITOL LAKE (13)	WA	COOP	62663	94	06	01	96	07	27	48 23	124	51	W	610	2200	M		TRAWL CHINOOK	NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
635624	94	WHATCOM CR 01.0566	WA	COOP	96211	95	05	25	96	07	30	48 24	124	52	W	360	5500	F		TRAWL CHINOOK	NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC

Table 1. Continued.

RELEASE										RECOVERY										
TAG CODE	BROOD YEAR	RELEASE SITE	STATE/ PROV	AGENCY	TAGGED NO.	DATE		LAT		LONG		BODY SIZE		GONAD		SPECIES	OCEANIC REGION			
						Y	M	D	D	M	D	M	W	WT	WT			WT		
635639	93	SNAKE R-LOWR 33.0002	WA	WDFW	82618	95	04	17	96	07	26	48	20	124	50	W	450	1200	F	TRAWL CHINOOK NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
044234	94	TAKU R 111-32	AK	ADFG	10224	96	05	22	97	10	07	55	10	164	47	W	500	1700	M	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
044533	94	BEAR COVE 113-41	AK	NSRA	21119	96	05	16	97	10	15	55	21	165	00	W	530	2166	F	0.1 TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
0601060103	95	FEATHER RIVER	CA	CDFG	100033	96	05	03	97	10	19	48	07	125	17	W	550	1500	F	TRAWL CHINOOK NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
0601140510	95	RODEO MINOR PORT	CA	CDFG	49410	96	07	24	97	10	19	48	07	125	16	W	450	950	M	TRAWL CHINOOK NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
070854	94	ELK RIVER	OR	ODFW	194243	95	10	11	97	10	04	54	58	165	06	W	580	1980	F	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
070951	95	ELK RIVER	OR	ODFW	174479	96	09	15	97	09	28	AREA_519					430	1300	M	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
070951	95	ELK RIVER	OR	ODFW	174479	96	09	15	97	10	17	AREA_517					470	1700	F	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
070962	94	SALMON RIOR - COAST	OR	ODFW	172256	95	08	15	97	09	30	55	10	165	10	W	520	1760	M	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
071252	95	SALMON RIOR - COAST	OR	ODFW	23938	96	06		97	09	30	55	10	165	10	W	430	1120	F	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
075418	94	TRASK R	OR	ODFW	24881	95	08	20	97	10	15	55	18	164	14	W	630	3400	F	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
180212	94	CHILLIWACK RIVER	BC	CDFO	24677	95	06	07	97	10	18	48	09	125	13	W	790	7800	F	TRAWL CHINOOK NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
180640	94	KITSUMKALUM R	BC	CDFO	30009	95	06	21	97	09	28	54	42	165	41	W	690	3400	M	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
180642	94	KITSUMKALUM R	BC	CDFO	30865	95	06	21	97	10	10	AREA_509_517_519					640	3900	F	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
181216	92	YUKON RIVER	YK	CDFO	49957	93	06	15	97	06	02	59	29	167	49	W	833	7500	M	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
181316	93	BABINE R. UPPER	BC	CDFO	29432	95	04	30	97	10	04	AREA_517_519					750	6250	M	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
181346	95	NITNAT LAKE	BC	CDFO	27741	96	05	04	97	10	07	55	10	164	47	W	490	1700	M	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
181347	95	NITNAT LAKE	BC	CDFO	28070	96	06	02	97	10	10	55	38	164	57	W	480	1700	M	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
181432	93	DOME CREEK	BC	CDFO	50396	95	04	10	97	10	03	56	03	166	08	W	710	5700	F	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
181442	93	BULKLEY R UPPER	BC	CDFO	83981	95	04	21	97	10	08	55	05	164	51	W	750	5700	M	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
181504	94	DOME CREEK	BC	CDFO	83981	95	04	21	97	10	15	54	16	166	02	W	3600	F	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA	
181525	94	COLDWATER RIVER	BC	CDFO	25115	96	04	10	97	10	10	AREA_509_517_519					510	1900	M	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
181641	94	SHUSWAP R LOWER	BC	CDFO	20826	96	05	02	97	09	29	54	42	165	42	W	500	1600	F	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
181805	94	SARITAR	BC	CDFO	75085	95	05	21	97	10	05	54	41	165	34	W	640	3700	F	30.0 TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
181805	94	SARITAR	BC	CDFO	22306	95	05	15	97	10	02	AREA_517					530	2200	F	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA
181805	94	SARITAR	BC	CDFO	22306	95	05	15	97	10	17	AREA_509_517					610	3500	F	TRAWL CHINOOK BERING_SEA



Table 1. Continued.

RELEASE										RECOVERY											
TAG CODE	BROOD YEAR	RELEASE SITE	STATE/ PROV	AGENCY	NO. TAGGED	DATE		LAT		LONG		BODY SIZE		GONAD		SPECIES	OCEANIC REGION				
						Y	M	D	D	M	D	M	WT	WT	WT			WT			
181832	94	NITINAT RIVER	BC	CDFO	36427	95	05	26	97	09	30	55	10	165	10	W	690	5140	F	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
182125	94	STAVE RIVER	BC	CDFO	24708	95	05	29	97	10	19	48	07	125	17	W	690	4300	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
182155	94	KITSUMKALUM R	BC	CDFO	29252	95	06	21	97	10	15	55	18	164	14	W	700	4900	F	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
182224	94	ROBERTSON CREEK	BC	CDFO	27873	95	06	14	97	09	30	54	50	165	03	W	630	3320	F	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
182462	95	SHUSWAP R LOWER	BC	CDFO	74531	96	05	19	97	10	04	55	10	164	59	W	430	1220	F	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
183148	95	ATMARKO SPAWN CH	BC	CDFO	87497	96	06	07	97	10	08	AREA_509					450	1200	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
212452	93	SALMON R 21.0139	WA	QDNR	170604	94	08	12	97	10	17	AREA_517					760	6200	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
212740	94	GROVERS CR 15.0299	WA	SUQ	3898	95	06	09	97	10	19	48	07	125	17	W	700	4500	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	NORTHEASTERN_PACIFIC
212920	94	QUINAULT LAKE (21)	WA	QDNR	73642	95	06	29	97	10	11	55	38	164	31	W	540	2220	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
312235	93	DEEP CR 244-20	AK	ADFG	5719	95	07	21	97	10	08	AREAS_509_517_519					630	3300	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
312427	94	CROOKED CR 244-30	AK	ADFG	38408	95	06	06	97	10	17	AREAS_517_519					580	2700	F	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
312427	94	CROOKED CR 244-30	AK	ADFG	38408	95	06	06	97	10	03	54	38	165	35	W	569	2800	F	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
312429	94	SELDOVIA HBR 241-11	AK	ADFG	38408	95	06	06	97	09	12	54	42	165	28	W	600	2900	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
312430	94	HALIBUT CV LAG241-15	AK	ADFG	40694	95	06	02	97	09	12	54	43	165	24	W	600	2700	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
312430	94	HALIBUT CV LAG241-15	AK	ADFG	36685	95	06	13	97	09	18	54	04	166	36	W	590	3400	F	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
312430	94	HALIBUT CV LAG241-15	AK	ADFG	36685	95	06	13	97	09	28	54	30	165	36	W	680	4450	F	50.0 TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
312431	94	BUSKIN R 259-21	AK	ADFG	38455	95	05	27	97	08	02	54	46	165	50	W	570	2500	F	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
312433	94	HOMER SPIT 241-13	AK	ADFG	40479	95	06	15	97	09	08	54	46	165	42	W	610	2720	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
312434	94	DECEPTION CR 247-41	AK	ADFG	41965	95	05	25	97	10	01	54	43	165	42	W	590	1900	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
312435	94	NINILCHIK R 244-20	AK	ADFG	41965	95	05	25	97	09		54	48	165	25	W	650	3400	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
312435	94	NINILCHIK R 244-20	AK	ADFG	54353	95	05	31	97			NO_DATA								TRAWLCHINOOK	
312435	94	NINILCHIK R 244-20	AK	ADFG	54353	95	05	31	97	10	17	AREAS_517_519					630	3600	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
312507	95	HOMER SPIT 241-13	AK	ADFG	39070	96	06	05	97	09	19	54	45	165	54	W	485	1900	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
312508	95	SHIP CR 247-50	AK	ADFG	40108	96	06	07	97	10	11	55	57	165	31	W	450	1300	F	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
312509	95	BUSKIN R 259-21	AK	ADFG	40681	96	05	23	97	09	15	54	48	165	43	W	450	1150	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
312513	95	HOMER SPIT 241-13	AK	ADFG	38787	96	06	14	97	10	06	AREAS_509_517_519					430	1200	F	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA

Table 1. Continued.

RELEASE										RECOVERY												
TAG CODE	BROOD YEAR	RELEASE SITE	STATE/ PROV	AGENCY	TAGGED NO.	DATE		LAT		LONG		BODY SIZE		GONAD		SEX (g)	GEAR	SPECIES	OCEANIC REGION			
						Y	M	D	D	M	D	M	D	M	TSFT					WT	WT	
312513	95	HOMER SPT 241-13	AK	ADFG	38787	96	06	14	97	10	05	57	37	165	33	W	510	1800	F	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA	
312514	95	DECEPTION CR 247-41	AK	ADFG	42595	96	06	18	97	10	01	54	40	165	35	W	500	1540	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA	
312514	95	DECEPTION CR 247-41	AK	ADFG	42595	96	06	18	97	09	27	AREA_517					540	2000	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA	
312514	95	DECEPTION CR 247-41	AK	ADFG	42595	96	06	18	97	10	15	55	25	164	10	W	480	1700	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA	
312514	95	DECEPTION CR 247-41	AK	ADFG	42595	96	06	18	97	09	28	54	43	166	00	W	470	1800	F	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA	
312515	95	NINILCHIK R 244-20	AK	ADFG	50962	96	06	13	97	09	23	54	40	165	35	W	470	1400	F	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA	
071118	95	UMPQUA R	OR	ODFW	48758	96	06	29	98	04	14	58	22	149	17	W	580	2760	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	GULF_OF_ALASKA	
180220	95	SALMON R/PR GEORGE	BC	CDFO	27656	96	05	12	98	01	21-22	NO_DATA					530	2000	M	TRAWLCHINOOK		
180608	94	KITSUMKALUM R	BC	CDFO	10526	95	06	21	98	01	28	55	10	165	15	W	630	5200	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA	
181229	94	ATNARKO SPAWN CH	BC	CDFO	58670	95	06	07	98	02	14	55	10	164	40	W	700	4300	F	20.0	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
181859	94	NITINAT LAKE	BC	CDFO	21056	95	05	12	98	02	07	55	22	164	05	W	750	5900	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA	
181954	94	CONUMA R	BC	CDFO	39203	95	05	24	98	03	11	54	53	164	49	W	660		F	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA	
182156	94	KITSUMKALUM R	BC	CDFO	30170	95	06	21	98	03	11	54	51	164	57	W	640	3100	F	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA	
182251	95	TRANQUILLE EST	BC	CDFO	50229	96	06	19	98	02	19	55	27	164	06	W	460	1150	F	2.5	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
183147	95	ATNARKO R UPPER	BC	CDFO	88051	96	06	11	98	02	07	NO_DATA					450	1120	F	20.0	TRAWLCHINOOK	
183148	95	ATNARKO SPAWN CH	BC	CDFO	87497	96	06	07	98	02	16	55	10	164	20	W	530	2050	F	5.0	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA
471705	93	TAMGAS CR	AK	MIC	47627	95	05	22	98	02	20	54	34	165	10	W	770	5500	M	TRAWLCHINOOK	BERING_SEA	
635762	94	SIMILKAMEEN R	WA	WDFW	212446	96	04	23	98	02	07	NO_DATA					560	2100	F	20.0	TRAWLCHINOOK	