# Genetic Stock Composition Analysis of the Chinook Salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) Bycatch from the 2019 Bering Sea Pollock Trawl Fishery 

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# Genetic Stock Composition Analysis of Chinook Salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) Bycatch Samples from the 2019 Bering Sea Pollock Trawl Fishery 

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#### Abstract

A genetic analysis of samples from the Chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) bycatch of the 2019 Bering Sea-Aleutian Island (BSAI) trawl fishery for walleye pollock (Gadus chalcogrammus) was undertaken to determine the overall stock composition of the bycatch and examine temporal changes in stock composition across seasons. Samples were genotyped for 43 single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) DNA markers and results were estimated using the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF\&G) SNP baseline. In 2019, genetic samples were collected using a systematic random sampling protocol where one out of every 10 Chinook salmon encountered was sampled. Based on analysis of 2,310 Chinook salmon bycatch samples, Coastal Western Alaska and British Columbia regions (40\% and 25\%, respectively) dominated the sample set with smaller contributions from North Alaska Peninsula (15\%) and West Coast US (14\%) regions. Temporal groupings within the pollock "A" and "B" seasons revealed changes in stock composition over the course of the year. The relative percentages by region were greater during the A season than during the B season for Coast Western Alaska ( $45 \%$ and $30 \%$, respectively) and North Alaska Peninsula ( $22 \%$ and $<1 \%$, respectively) while the relative percentages by stock were less during the A season than during the B season for West Coast US stocks (7\% and 27\%), respectively. British Columbia stocks had roughly similar proportions across seasons ( $24 \%$ and $26 \%$ ), respectively. Spatial analysis showed that the stock compositions varied within season depending upon where the salmon were caught. For example, during the "B" season a higher proportion of Coastal Western Alaska Chinook salmon were intercepted in the northwestern area of the Bering Sea, and a higher proportion of southern origin Chinook salmon were intercepted in the southeastern area of the Bering Sea.


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## INTRODUCTION

Pacific salmon (Oncorhynchus spp.) are prohibited species in the federally managed Bering Sea groundfish fisheries, which are subject to complex management rules (NPMFC 2017a) that are in part designed to reduce prohibited species catch, hereafter referred to as "bycatch". It is important to understand the stock composition of Pacific salmon caught in these fisheries, which take place in areas that are known feeding habitat for multiple brood years of Chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) from many different localities in North America and Asia (Myers et al. 2007, Davis et al. 2009). Chinook salmon are economically valuable and highly prized in commercial, subsistence, and sport fisheries. Determining the geographic origin of salmon caught in federally managed fisheries is essential to understanding the effects that fishing has on Chinook salmon stocks, especially those with conservation concerns (NPFMC 2017a). This report provides genetic stock identification results for the Chinook salmon bycatch samples collected from the Bering Sea walleye pollock (pollock) (Gadus chalcogrammus) trawl fishery. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) geographical statistical areas (NMFS area) associated with the Bering Sea groundfish fishery (NMFS areas 509-524) and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF\&G) statistical areas grids ${ }^{1}$ are shown in Figure 1 and are used to describe the spatial distribution of the Chinook salmon bycatch and genetic samples.

Amendment 91 to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for groundfish of the BSAI Management Area was enacted in 2010 and included retention of all salmon caught in the pollock fishery. In 2011, a systematic random sampling design recommended by Pella and Geiger (2009) was implemented by the Alaska

[^0]Fisheries Science Center's (AFSC) Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division's (FMA) North Pacific Groundfish and Halibut Observer Program (Observer Program) to collect genetic samples from one out of every 10 Chinook salmon encountered as bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery.

In 2019, genetic samples were collected by the Observer Program from the Chinook salmon bycatch of the Bering Sea pollock fishery by using the systematic sampling protocols recommended previously (Pella and Geiger 2009). The number of available samples and the unbiased sampling methodology facilitated the extrapolation of the sample stock composition to the overall Chinook bycatch from the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery in 2019. Samples were collected from both the Bering Sea "A" season which started 01/01/2019 and ended 06/09/2021, and the Bering Sea "B" season which started 6/10/2021 and ended 12/31/2019. Stock composition analyses were performed using the single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) baseline provided by the ADF\&G (Templin et al. 2011), the same baseline that was used previously to estimate stock composition of samples from the 2005-2018 Chinook salmon bycatch (NMFS 2009; Guyon et al. 2010a,b; Guthrie et al. 2012-2020; Larson et al. 2013).


Figure 1. -- NMFS (outlined in black) and ADF\&G (outlined in light gray) statistical areas associated with the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries.

## SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION

Samples were collected from the Chinook salmon bycatch by the Observer Program for analysis at AFSC's Auke Bay Laboratories (ABL). Samples of axillary process tissue and scales were collected from the Chinook salmon bycatch throughout 2019. Axillary process tissues were stored in coin envelopes which were labeled, frozen, and shipped to ABL for analysis. Scales were collected as an additional source for genetic analysis and ageing.

In 2019, 24,984 Chinook salmon were taken in the bycatch of BSAI pollock trawl fisheries (NMFS 2020). The Chinook salmon bycatch estimate is $28 \%$ below the historical
average $(34,589)$ between 1991 and 2018, and far below the highest overall Chinook bycatch in 2007 when an estimated 122,195 fish were taken (Fig. 2; Table 1). Of the total 2019 bycatch, 15,781 were from the trawl " A " season $(01 / 01 / 19$ to $6 / 09 / 19)$ and 9,203 were from the " B " season (6/10/19 to 12/31/19). For the genetic analysis, the "B" season started 6/01/19 (Statistical Week 23) because all but 2 of the " $A$ " season samples were collected by $4 / 12 / 19$. This difference is reflected in Table 1 and Appendix 2.


Figure 2. -- Annual "A" and "B" season estimates for the Chinook salmon bycatch from the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery (NMFS 2021).

In 2019, there were 2,404 genetic samples received from the Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch collected by the Observer Program; of those samples, 2,310 were successfully genotyped for an overall genotyped sampling rate of $9.25 \%$ ("A" season $\mathrm{N}=1,499$ fish, $9.5 \%$ sampling rate; " B " season $\mathrm{N}=811$ fish, $8.8 \%$ sampling rate).

Table 1. ---Annual "A" and "B" season estimates for the Chinook salmon bycatch from the Bering Sea-Aleutian Island pollock trawl fishery, 1991-2019 (NMFS 2021).

| Year | Total | "A" Season | "B" Season |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 1991 | 40,906 | 38,791 | 2,114 |
| 1992 | 35,950 | 25,691 | 10,259 |
| 1993 | 38,516 | 17,264 | 21,252 |
| 1994 | 33,136 | 28,451 | 4,686 |
| 1995 | 14,984 | 10,579 | 4,405 |
| 1996 | 55,623 | 36,068 | 19,554 |
| 1997 | 44,909 | 10,935 | 33,973 |
| 1998 | 56,440 | 15,193 | 36,130 |
| 1999 | 11,978 | 6,352 | 5,627 |
| 2000 | 4,961 | 3,422 | 1,539 |
| 2001 | 33,444 | 18,484 | 14,961 |
| 2002 | 34,495 | 21,794 | 12,701 |
| 2003 | 45,661 | 32,609 | 12,977 |
| 2004 | 51,762 | 23,093 | 28,603 |
| 2005 | 68,184 | 27,331 | 40,030 |
| 2006 | 82,752 | 58,391 | 24,304 |
| 2007 | 122,195 | 72,943 | 51,780 |
| 2008 | 21,307 | 16,495 | 4,811 |
| 2009 | 12,579 | 9,882 | 2,697 |
| 2010 | 9,736 | 7,649 | 2,071 |
| 2011 | 25,499 | 7,137 | 18,362 |
| 2012 | 11,343 | 7,765 | 3,579 |
| 2013 | 13,016 | 8,237 | 4,797 |
| 2014 | 15,037 | 11,539 | 3,492 |
| 2015 | 18,329 | 12,304 | 6,025 |
| 2016 | 21,926 | 16,828 | 5,098 |
| 2017 | 30,076 | 21,828 | 8,248 |
| 2018 | 13,740 | 8,631 | 5,095 |
| 2019 | 24,984 | 15,781 | 9,203 |
|  |  |  |  |

Potential biases primarily introduced through spatial and temporal aspects of genetic sample collection from the bycatch are well documented and have the potential to affect resulting stock composition estimates (Pella and Geiger 2009). The distributions of 2019 Chinook salmon bycatch genetic samples were evaluated by comparing the collection of genetic samples with the overall bycatch distribution (Figs. 3 and 4). The temporal distribution of samples collected and
successfully genotyped was evaluated across the two fishing seasons (Fig. 3). The sample spatial distribution was compared with the total bycatch by NMFS statistical area (NMFS area) over time (Fig. 4). 2019 was the ninth year that systematic random sampling was employed for collecting genetic tissue from the Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch and Figure 4 shows that the resulting genetic samples were spatially and temporally representative of the total Chinook bycatch (i.e., those fish not sampled from the bycatch). The 2019 sample spatial and temporal distributions were similarly representative to those from 2011 to 2018 (Guthrie et al. 2012-2020).


Figure 3. -- Number of Chinook salmon bycatch and genetic samples by statistical week. Weeks 3-16 correspond to the groundfish "A" season, whereas weeks 22-40 correspond to the "B" season. The black line delineates the " A " and " B " seasons.


Figure 4. -- Comparison of the Chinook salmon bycatch by time and area with the distribution of available genetic samples. Top panel: Distribution of the 2,407 samples from the 2019 bycatch. Not graphed were 7 fish from NMFS area 523 and 5 fish from NMFS area 524 due to small sample size. Bottom panel: Distribution of the Chinook salmon caught in the 2019 Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery. Not graphed were 77 fish from NMFS area 523, and 58 fish from NMFS area 524 due to small numbers. Weeks 3-16 correspond to the groundfish "A" season, whereas weeks 2344 correspond to the "B" season. The black line delineates the "A" and "B" seasons.

## GENETIC STOCK COMPOSITION - PROCEDURE

DNA was extracted from axillary process tissue. Genotyping was performed by using Taqman ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ chemistries from Applied Biosystems Inc. on a Life Technologies QuantStudio ${ }^{\mathrm{TM}}$ or
by matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization - time of flight (MALDI-TOF) (Guyon et al. 2010a) on a Sequenom MassARRAY iPLEX platform (Gabriel et al. 2009) for the 43 SNP DNA markers represented in the Chinook salmon baseline (Templin et al. 2011). The SNP baseline contains genetic information for 172 populations of Chinook salmon grouped into 11 geographic regions (also known as stock groups or reporting groups) (Appendix 1). Proof tests performed previously have shown the baseline to be suitable for stock composition analysis (Templin et al. 2011). Replicate samples using 384-well format Taqman ${ }^{\mathrm{TM}}$ assays were compared with MALDITOF assays, with a concordance rate of $99.99 \%$. In addition to internal MALDI-TOF chip controls, 10 (out of 384 on a chip) previously genotyped samples from ADF\&G, which used TaqMan ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ chemistries, were included on each chip during the analyses and resulting genotypes were compared. Concordance rates of $99.9 \%$ between the two chemistries for the 2019 controls confirmed the utility and compatibility of both genotyping methods.

From the 2019 Chinook salmon bycatch from the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery, a total of 2,404 samples were analyzed of which 2,310 samples were successfully genotyped for 35 or more of the 43 SNP loci, a successful genotyping rate of $95 \%$. The successfully genotyped samples had genetic information for an average of 42 of 43 markers from both the " A " ( $\mathrm{n}=$ $1,499)$ and " B " $(\mathrm{n}=811)$ seasons.

Stock composition estimates were derived from BAYES software which uses a Bayesian algorithm to produce stock composition estimates (Pella and Masuda 2001). For each BAYES analysis, 11 Monte Carlo chains starting at disparate values of stock proportions were configured such that for each chain $95 \%$ of the stocks came from a single designated region with weights equally distributed among the stocks of that region. The designated region was unique in each chain. The remaining $5 \%$ was equally distributed among remaining stocks from all other regions.

For all estimates, a flat prior of 0.005814 (calculated as $1 / 172$ ) was used for all 172 baseline populations. The analyses were completed for a chain length of 10,000 with the first 5,000 deleted during the burn-in phase when determining overall stock compositions. Convergence of the chains to posterior distributions of stock proportions was determined with Gelman and Rubin shrink statistics (Gelman and Rubin 1992), which were 1.02 or less for all the estimates, conveying strong convergence to a single posterior distribution (Pella and Masuda 2001).

## GENETIC STOCK COMPOSITION - RESULTS

The stock composition results indicate that $67 \%$ of the 1,499 Chinook salmon samples from the "A" season originated from Alaska river systems flowing into the Bering Sea with the largest contributions from Coastal Western Alaska region (45\%) and the North Alaska Peninsula (22\%). The remaining $33 \%$ were from southern regions with British Columbia ( $24 \%$ ) contributing the most, followed by the West Coast US (7\%) (Appendix 2). In contrast to the "A" season, $67 \%$ of the 811 " B " season samples originated from southern regions; West Coast US (27\%), British Columbia (26\%) and Northwest GOA (11\%) regions contributed the most (Appendix 2). The Coastal Western Alaska (30\%) region was the largest contributor during the " $B$ " season.

For "A" and "B" seasons combined, $55 \%$ of the bycatch samples were estimated to be from Alaska river systems flowing into the Bering Sea with the Coastal Western Alaska region contributing the most (40\%), followed by the North Alaska Peninsula (14\%). Forty-five percent of all of the samples were from the southern regions, with the British Columbia (25\%) region contributing the most, followed by the West Coast US (14\%) region (Appendix 2).

Using information from the ANSWERS tool provided by AKFIN (NMFS 2020), geographical (ADF\&G statistical areas) aggregations were developed to investigate how stock
compositions might vary among smaller areas of interest to the NPFMC. It should be noted that some of these strata overlap, with some samples being used in multiple analyses.

The "A" season estimates were developed for overlapping strata with sufficient numbers of samples (Appendix 2; Figs. 1, 5, 6, 7); Catcher Vessel Operation Area (CVOA) (1,159 samples, Fig. 5), and NMFS Statistical Area 509 (1,332 samples; Figs. 1, 7). For the CVOA and NMFS Area 509 strata, $61 \%$ and $65 \%$ of the samples, respectively, were from Alaska river systems flowing into the Bering Sea during the "A" season. Most were from Coastal Western Alaska (43\% and 44\%) followed by North Alaska Peninsula at (18\% and 21\%) for CVOA and for NMFS area 509, respectively. The largest southern components for CVOA and NMFS Area 509 were British Columbia ( $28 \%$ and $25 \%$, respectively) and West Coast US ( $8 \%$ and $7 \%$, respectively).


Figure 5. -- Location of Catcher Vessel Operational Area (CVOA) stratum used in comparative stock composition estimates from the 2019 Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch for "A" and "B" seasons (NMFS 2020).


Bering Sea "B"


## Bering Sea



Figure 6. -- Stock composition estimates with BAYES 95\% credible intervals of the 2019 Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch for "A" season (top): overall ( 1,499 samples), CVOA ( 1,159 samples, Fig. 9), and NMFS area 509 ( 1,332 samples, Fig. 8); "B" season (middle): overall (811 samples), CVOA ( 470 samples), Southeast Bering ( 439 samples) and Northwest Bering (372 samples), and Bering overall: (bottom) 2019 ( 2,310 ) and CVOA ( 1,629 samples).


Figure 7. -- Location of samples from NMFS Statistical Area 509 (outlined in red ) used in comparative stock composition estimates from the 2019 Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch for "A" season (NMFS 2020). 377 of the samples are in the CVOA.


Figure 8. -- Location of Northwest Bering and Southeast Bering strata used in comparative stock composition estimates from the 2019 Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch for "B" season (NMFS 2020).

For the "B" season, stock composition estimates were developed for CVOA (470 samples, Fig. 5), Southeast Bering (439 samples, Fig. 8), and Northwest Bering (372 samples Fig. 8) (NMFS 2020). The Northwest and Southeast strata overlap with the CVOA stratum; 31 of the NW Bering and all of the SE Bering samples are from the CVOA. For the Northwest Bering "B" season stratum, $61 \%$ of the stock composition was estimated to be from Alaska river systems flowing into the Bering Sea, which includes the largest contributor Coastal Western Alaska (57\%). Thirty-eight percent of the stock composition was estimated to be from southern regions, where the largest contributors were British Columbia (16\%), Northwest GOA (13\%) and West Coast US (7\%).

Approximately $90 \%$ of the "B" season stock composition estimates for the CVOA (90\%) and Southeast Bering (91\%) were from southern regions (Fig. 6, Appendix 2). The largest contributors were West Coast US ( $42 \%$ for CVOA, $43 \%$ for Southeast Bering), British Columbia ( $34 \%$ for CVOA, $35 \%$ for Southeast Bering), and Northwest GOA (10\%). The only significant contributor from the Bering Sea was Coastal Western Alaska at $10 \%$ for CVOA, and $8 \%$ for Southeast Bering.

The CVOA "B" season had a higher proportion of fish from southern regions ( $89 \%$ ) than the "B" season overall ( $67 \%$ ). The CVOA is the only stratum which had sufficient sample sizes to generate estimates for both the "A" and "B" seasons. The stock compositions were highly variable in the CVOA across the seasons. It is notable that while the contribution from the West Coast US region increased from $8 \%$ to $42 \%$ between the CVOA "A" and "B" seasons, the contribution from the Northern Alaska Peninsula region decreased from $18 \%$ to almost zero. The Coastal Western Alaska region also decreased from $43 \%$ to $10 \%$, whereas the British Columbia region increased from $28 \%$ to $34 \%$ (Fig. 6). The Northwest GOA region increased from almost zero to $10 \%$ between the CVOA " $A$ " and " $B$ " seasons, showing a greater proportion than previous years. The contributions in the CVOA from the southern regions is significantly higher in the B season (89\%) than the A season (40\%) (Fig. 6).

## COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS ESTIMATES

Most of the Chinook salmon bycatch occurred in 2019 during the "A" season (Fig. 2), which is similar to most previous years since 2011. As in most previous years (with the exception of 2017) stock compositions from the analysis of the 2019 "A" season Chinook salmon bycatch showed more samples originated from river systems flowing into the Bering Sea
(67\%) than those from southern regions (Fig. 9). With the exception of 2017, the Coastal Western Alaska region has been the largest contributor in the "A" season. The 2019 " B " season stock composition estimates from Coastal Western Alaska were similar to 2018 which increased relative to 2016 and 2017 (Fig. 9, Appendix 3). The 2019 "B" season estimates were similar to 2018 which reversed a pattern of increased contributions from British Columbia, West Coast US, and Coastal Southeast Alaska regions. The estimated relative contributions from these more southern regions previously increased from a low of $20 \%$ in 2011 to a high of $86 \%$ in 2017, declining to $63 \%$ in 2018, and bumping up slightly to $67 \%$ in 2019 (Fig. 9, Appendix 3).


Figure 9. -- Annual "A" season (left) and "B" season (right) genetic stock composition estimates for 2011-2019 from the Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch. The same genetic baseline and regional groupings were used in all analyses.

Changes to sampling protocols necessitate caution in comparing analyses across time periods pre-dating 2011. However, when the stock compositions were analyzed on a yearly basis, the Coastal Western Alaska region shows variable contributions over time but generally trending downward since 2011 until 2018 and 2019 where it trends a bit upwards (Fig. 10). The 2019 North Alaska Peninsula region contribution of $15 \%$ was about average compared to previous
years (Fig. 10). The upper and middle Yukon River, GOA, and Coastal Southeast Alaska contributions continued to be low in 2019, while contributions from the British Columbia and West Coast US regions in 2018 and 2019 reversed an upward trend before this (Fig. 10).

## BSAI Chinook Bycatch by Year



Figure 10. -- Annual (2008-2019) stock composition estimates with BAYES 95\% credible intervals from the Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch. Estimates from 2011 to 2019 are overall bycatch estimates, whereas earlier estimates are of available sample sets. The same genetic baseline and general regional groupings were used in all analyses. Gulf of Alaska (GOA) group consists of combined values from the Northwest GOA, Copper, and Northeast GOA regions.

The estimated numbers of fish (shown here with $95 \%$ Credible Intervals) from the Coastal Western Alaska and North Alaska Peninsula regions have been relatively consistent between 2011 and 2019 (Fig. 11, Appendices 2-3). Coastal Western Alaska had a high of 17,421 $(16,832-17,992)$ in 2011 and a low of $4,635(4,197-5,080)$ in 2018, and from 2012 through 2017 it ranged from $6,530(6,087-6,097)$ to $7,372(6,832-7,928$. $)$ fish, with an average of 7,123 fish. 2019 was higher than the 2012-17 average at 9,901 (9,254-10,548). The number of fish from North Alaska Peninsula ranged from 1,227 (943-1,543) to 2,927 (2,519-3,341); excluding the high of 4,490 (3,985-5,014) in 2017; averaging 2,173 during 2011-16 and 2018, with 2019
numbers also higher than that average at $3,365(3,101-4,202)$. However, one must remember these numbers represent the removals by region in each year but they cannot be used as is, to represent any trends in the impact rates of particular regions over time, because the amount of bycatch and areas fished vary each year.

BSAI Chinook Bycatch Estimated Catch


Figure 11. -- Annual (2011-2019) catch estimates with BAYES 95\% credible intervals from the Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch. Russia (Avg. $\mathrm{N}=100$ ) Copper (Avg. $\mathrm{N}=24$ ), and Northeast GOA (Avg. $\mathrm{N}=5$ ) regions were omitted from graph due to low catch.

## SUMMARY

Stock composition estimates of the Chinook salmon bycatch inform pollock and salmon fishery managers of the biological effects of the incidental take of salmon in the trawl fishery (Ianelli and Stram 2015). The incidental harvest of Chinook salmon in the Bering Sea pollock fishery averaged 34,589 salmon per year between 1991 and 2018 (28-year average), with a peak of 121,195 in 2007 and a low of 4,961 in 2000 (Table 1; NMFS 2021). The Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch has abated in more recent years; in 2019, a total of 24,984 Chinook salmon were
caught, below the 28-year average. The incidental harvest between 1991 and 2010 averaged 40,976 and after the implementation Amendment 91 between 2011 and 2019 the average dropped to 19,328 (Table 1; NMFS 2020).

## Sampling Issues

With the implementation of systematic random sampling, 2019 is the ninth year from which representative samples have been collected from the Chinook salmon bycatch. Data prior to 2011 should be used with caution because the samples were not systematically collected. Systematic random sampling represents a significant effort on the part of the Observer Program to develop standardized protocols for collecting sets of samples from numerous observers both at sea and in shore-based processing plants, the results of which are clearly apparent in the representative nature of the sample sets (Figs. 3 and 4). The number of successfully genotyped Chinook salmon from the Bering Sea bycatch samples was 2,310 corresponding to an effective overall sampling rate in 2019 of $9.3 \%$.

## Stock Composition Estimates

The proportions of Chinook salmon originating from Alaska Rivers accounted for most of the catches in early years, but southern regions have accounted for larger and larger proportions in more recent years culminating in 2017, where southern stocks accounted for more than half the bycatch. The 2018 and 2019 data may continue to signal a change to this pattern, with Chinook salmon originating from streams that drain into the Bering Sea accounting for more than half the bycatch. The stock composition of the Chinook salmon bycatch from the 2019 "A" season differed from the "B" season, demonstrating temporal changes (Appendix 2; Figs. 6 and 9). This was especially apparent in the North Alaska Peninsula ( $22 \%$ and $.4 \%$ ) and West

Coast US (7\% and 27\%) regions. The largest contributor to both "A" and "B" season fisheries was the Coastal Western Alaska region which declined from "A" to "B" ( $45 \%$ to $30 \%$ ). This seasonal pattern was also evident for North Alaska Peninsula (18\% vs. 0.1\%), and West Coast US ( $8 \%$ vs. $42 \%$ ) regions in the CVOA, a smaller area stratum of the Bering Sea (Fig. 9). Spatial analysis showed that the stock compositions varied within season depending upon where the salmon were caught. For example, during the "B" season a higher proportion of Coastal Western Alaska Chinook salmon were intercepted in the northwestern area of the Bering Sea, and a higher proportion of southern origin Chinook salmon were intercepted in the southeastern area of the Bering Sea (Fig. 9). Chinook salmon bycatch numbers in the northwestern Bering Sea are about $80 \%$ of those in the southeastern Bering Sea during the "B" season. Nonetheless, the total number of estimated Chinook salmon bycatch from rivers flowing into the Bering Sea is higher in the northwestern Bering Sea $(2,307\{2,064-2,543\}$ fish $)$ than in the southeastern Bering Sea (424 \{279-590 $\}$ fish). One must also consider that the bycatch in the "A" season is more than 1.7 times more abundant than in the " B " season, and that the seasonal stock composition differences may be due to relative abundance of stocks, seasonal migration of stocks, or avoidance behaviors by the fleet. Anomalous ocean conditions may have changed migration patterns in recent years, which has also been observed in the Southeast Alaska troll and sport fisheries (Gilk-Baumer et al. 2017).

## Application of Estimates

Stock composition estimates for the 2019 Bering Sea Chinook salmon bycatch were fairly representative of the overall bycatch for this year and are presented in relative contributions as well as estimated numbers of fish. The extent to which any salmon stock is
impacted by the bycatch of the Bering Sea trawl fishery is dependent on many stock-specific factors including 1) the overall numbers of the stock in the bycatch, 2) the ages of the salmon caught in the bycatch by stock, 3) the ages of the returning salmon by stock, and 4) the total annual run-size of the affected stocks. Because the effect of stock-specific numbers of Chinook salmon in the bycatch is moderated by several factors, a higher contribution of a particular stock in one year does not necessarily imply greater impact than a smaller estimate the next.

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## APPENDICES

Appendix 1. -- Chinook salmon populations in the ADF\&G SNP baseline with the regional designations used in the analyses of this report. S. = South, R. = River, H. = Hatchery, and L. = Lake.

| Population name | Reg |  | Population name | Reg |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Num. | Region |  | Num. | Region |
| Bistraya River | 1 | Russia | Henshaw Creek | 3 | Mid Yukon |
| Bolshaya River | 1 | Russia | Kantishna River | 3 | Mid Yukon |
| Kamchatka River late | 1 | Russia | Salcha River | 3 | Mid Yukon |
| Pakhatcha River | 1 | Russia | Sheenjek River | 3 | Mid Yukon |
| Andreafsky River | 2 | Coast W AK | S. Fork Koyukuk River | 3 | Mid Yukon |
| Aniak River | 2 | Coast W AK | Big Salmon River | 4 | Up Yukon |
| Anvik River | 2 | Coast W AK | Blind River | 4 | Up Yukon |
| Arolik River | 2 | Coast W AK | Chandindu River | 4 | Up Yukon |
| Big Creek | 2 | Coast W AK | Klondike River | 4 | Up Yukon |
| Cheeneetnuk River | 2 | Coast W AK | Little Salmon River | 4 | Up Yukon |
| Eek River | 2 | Coast W AK | Mayo River | 4 | Up Yukon |
| Gagaryah River | 2 | Coast W AK | Nisutlin River | 4 | Up Yukon |
| George River | 2 | Coast W AK | Nordenskiold River | 4 | Up Yukon |
| Gisasa River | 2 | Coast W AK | Pelly River | 4 | Up Yukon |
| Golsovia River | 2 | Coast W AK | Stewart River | 4 | Up Yukon |
| Goodnews River | 2 | Coast W AK | Takhini River | 4 | Up Yukon |
| Kanektok River | 2 | Coast W AK | Tatchun Creek | 4 | Up Yukon |
| Kisaralik River | 2 | Coast W AK | Whitehorse Hatchery | 4 | Up Yukon |
| Kogrukluk River | 2 | Coast W AK | Black Hills Creek | 5 | N AK Pen |
| Kwethluk River | 2 | Coast W AK | King Salmon River | 5 | N AK Pen |
| Mulchatna River | 2 | Coast W AK | Meshik River | 5 | N AK Pen |
| Naknek River | 2 | Coast W AK | Milky River | 5 | N AK Pen |
| Nushagak River | 2 | Coast W AK | Nelson River | 5 | N AK Pen |
| Pilgrim River | 2 | Coast W AK | Steelhead Creek | 5 | N AK Pen |
| Salmon R. -Pitka Fork | 2 | Coast W AK | Anchor River | 6 | NW GOA |
| Stony River | 2 | Coast W AK | Ayakulik River | 6 | NW GOA |
| Stuyahok River | 2 | Coast W AK | Benjamin Creek | 6 | NW GOA |
| Takotna River | 2 | Coast W AK | Chignik River | 6 | NW GOA |
| Tatlawiksuk River | 2 | Coast W AK | Crescent Creek | 6 | NW GOA |
| Togiak River | 2 | Coast W AK | Crooked Creek | 6 | NW GOA |
| Tozitna River | 2 | Coast W AK | Deception Creek | 6 | NW GOA |
| Tuluksak River | 2 | Coast W AK | Deshka River | 6 | NW GOA |
| Unalakleet River | 2 | Coast W AK | Funny River | 6 | NW GOA |
| Beaver Creek | 3 | Mid Yukon | Juneau Creek | 6 | NW GOA |
| Chandalar River | 3 | Mid Yukon | Karluk River | 6 | NW GOA |
| Chena River | 3 | Mid Yukon | Kasilof River mainstem | 6 | NW GOA |


| Population name | Reg |  | Reg |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Num. | Region | Population name | Num. | Region |
| Kenai River mainstem | 6 | NW GOA | Kowatua River | 9 | Coast SE AK |
| Killey Creek | 6 | NW GOA | Little Tatsemenie River | 9 | Coast SE AK |
| Ninilchik River | 6 | NW GOA | Macaulay Hatchery | 9 | Coast SE AK |
| Prairie Creek | 6 | NW GOA | Medvejie Hatchery | 9 | Coast SE AK |
| Slikok Creek | 6 | NW GOA | Nakina River | 9 | Coast SE AK |
| Talachulitna River | 6 | NW GOA | Tahltan River | 9 | Coast SE AK |
| Willow Creek | 6 | NW GOA | Unuk R.-Deer Mountain H. | 9 | Coast SE AK |
| Bone Creek | 7 | Copper | Unuk River - LPW | 9 | Coast SE AK |
| E. Fork Chistochina River | 7 | Copper | Upper Nahlin River | 9 | Coast SE AK |
| Gulkana River | 7 | Copper | Big Qualicum River | 10 | BC |
| Indian River | 7 | Copper | Birkenhead River spring | 10 | BC |
| Kiana Creek | 7 | Copper | Bulkley River | 10 | BC |
| Manker Creek | 7 | Copper | Chilko River summer | 10 | BC |
| Mendeltna Creek | 7 | Copper | Clearwater River summer | 10 | BC |
| Otter Creek | 7 | Copper | Conuma River | 10 | BC |
| Sinona Creek | 7 | Copper | Damdochax Creek | 10 | BC |
| Tebay River | 7 | Copper | Ecstall River | 10 | BC |
| Tonsina River | 7 | Copper | Harrison River | 10 | BC |
| Big Boulder Creek | 8 | NE GOA | Kateen River | 10 | BC |
| Kelsall River | 8 | NE GOA | Kincolith Creek | 10 | BC |
| King Salmon River | 8 | NE GOA | Kitimat River | 10 | BC |
| Klukshu River | 8 | NE GOA | Klinaklini River | 10 | BC |
| Situk River | 8 | NE GOA | Kwinageese Creek | 10 | BC |
| Tahini River | 8 | NE GOA | Louis River spring | 10 | BC |
| Tahini River - Pullen Creek H. | 8 | NE GOA | Lower Adams River fall | 10 | BC |
| Andrews Creek | 9 | Coast SE AK | Lower Atnarko River | 10 | BC |
| Blossom River | 9 | Coast SE AK | Lower Kalum River | 10 | BC |
| Butler Creek | 9 | Coast SE AK | Lower Thompson River fall | 10 | BC |
| Chickamin River | 9 | Coast SE AK | Marble Creek | 10 | BC |
| Chickamin River-LPW | 9 | Coast SE AK | Middle Shuswap R. summer | 10 | BC |
| Chickamin R.Whitman L. H. | 9 | Coast SE AK | Morkill River summer | 10 | BC |
| Clear Creek | 9 | Coast SE AK | Nanaimo River | 10 | BC |
| Cripple Creek | 9 | Coast SE AK | Nechako River summer | 10 | BC |
| Crystal Lake Hatchery | 9 | Coast SE AK | Nitinat River | 10 | BC |
| Dudidontu River | 9 | Coast SE AK | Oweegee Creek | 10 | BC |
| Genes Creek | 9 | Coast SE AK | Porteau Cove | 10 | BC |
| Hidden Falls Hatchery | 9 | Coast SE AK | Quesnel River summer | 10 | BC |
| Humpy Creek | 9 | Coast SE AK | Quinsam River | 10 | BC |
| Kerr Creek | 9 | Coast SE AK | Robertson Creek | 10 | BC |
| Keta River | 9 | Coast SE AK | Salmon River summer | 10 | BC |
| King Creek | 9 | Coast SE AK | Sarita River | 10 | BC |


|  | Reg |  |  | Reg |  |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Population name | Num. | Region | Population name | Num. | Region |
| Stuart River summer | 10 | BC | Lower Deschutes R. fall | 11 | West Coast US |
| Sustut River | 10 | BC | Lyons Ferry H. summer/fall | 11 | West Coast US |
| Torpy River summer | 10 | BC | Makah National Fish H. fall | 11 | West Coast US |
| Wannock River | 10 | BC | McKenzie River spring | 11 | West Coast US |
| Alsea River fall | 11 | West Coast US | Sacramento River winter | 11 | West Coast US |
| Carson Hatchery spring | 11 | West Coast US | Siuslaw River fall | 11 | West Coast US |
| Eel River fall | 11 | West Coast US | Soos Creek Hatchery fall | 11 | West Coast US |
| Forks Creek fall | 11 | West Coast US | Upper Skagit River summer | 11 | West Coast US |
| Hanford Reach | 11 | West Coast US |  |  |  |
| Klamath River | 11 | West Coast US |  |  |  |


| Region | "A" Season (N=1499) |  |  |  | "B" Season (N=811) |  |  |  | Bering Sea all ( $\mathrm{N}=2,310$ ) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Est. \# | Mean | SD | 95\% CI | Est. \# | Mean | SD | 95\% CI | Est. \# | Mean | SD | 95\% CI |
| Russia | 8 | 0.1 | 0.09 | (0.0,0.3) | 47 | 0.5 | 0.27 | $(0.1,1.1)$ | 60 | 0.2 | 0.13 | (0.1,0.6) |
| Coast W AK | 7,055 | 44.8 | 1.67 | $(41.5,48.1)$ | 2,812 | 30.4 | 1.88 | (26.8,34.1) | 9,901 | 39.6 | 1.32 | (37.0,42.2) |
| Mid Yukon | 6 | 0.0 | 0.11 | $(0.0,0.4)$ | 126 | 1.4 | 0.57 | $(0.5,2.6)$ | 122 | 0.5 | 0.21 | $(0.2,1.0)$ |
| Up Yukon | 39 | 0.3 | 0.20 | $(0.0,0.7)$ | 55 | 0.6 | 0.35 | $(0.0,1.4)$ | 105 | 0.4 | 0.18 | $(0.1,0.8)$ |
| N AK Pen | 3,420 | 21.7 | 1.50 | (18.8,24.7) | 32 | 0.4 | 0.48 | (0.0,1.6) | 3,635 | 14.6 | 1.12 | $(12.4,16.8)$ |
| NW GOA | 36 | 0.2 | 0.37 | $(0.0,1.3)$ | 1,036 | 11.2 | 1.43 | $(8.5,14.1)$ | 964 | 3.9 | 0.73 | $(2.5,5.4)$ |
| Copper | 3 | 0.0 | 0.07 | $(0.0,0.2)$ | 17 | 0.2 | 0.25 | $(0.0,0.9)$ | 10 | 0.0 | 0.09 | $(0.0,0.3)$ |
| NE GOA | 2 | 0.0 | 0.05 | $(0.0,0.1)$ | 6 | 0.1 | 0.21 | $(0.0,0.7)$ | 5 | 0.0 | 0.07 | $(0.0,0.2)$ |
| Coast SE AK | 318 | 2.0 | 0.55 | (1.0,3.2) | 264 | 2.9 | 0.75 | $(1.5,4.4)$ | 550 | 2.2 | 0.43 | (1.4,3.1) |
| BC | 3,827 | 24.3 | 1.18 | (22.0,26.7) | 2,392 | 25.9 | 1.60 | (22.8,29.1) | 6,236 | 25.0 | 0.96 | $(23.1,26.9)$ |
| West Coast US | 1,025 | 6.5 | 0.67 | $(5.3,7.9)$ | 2,461 | 26.6 | 1.59 | $(23.5,29.8)$ | 3,395 | 13.6 | 0.74 | (12.2,15.1) |
| Total Catch | 15,738 |  |  |  | 9,246 |  |  |  | 24,984 |  |  |  |
| Region | CVOA "A" (N=1,159) |  |  |  | CVOA "B" (N=470) |  |  |  | CVOA ( $\mathrm{N}=1,629$ ) |  |  |  |
|  | Est. \# | Mean | SD | 95\% CI | Est. \# | Mean | SD | 95\% CI | Est. \# | Mean | SD | 95\% CI |
| Russia | 10 | 0.1 | 0.13 | $(0.0,0.4)$ | 22 | 0.4 | 0.30 | (0.0,1.2) | 32 | 0.2 | 0.11 | (0.0,0.5) |
| Coast W AK | 5,210 | 42.8 | 1.81 | $(39.3,46.4)$ | 551 | 10.0 | 1.59 | (7.1,13.3) | 5,913 | 33.5 | 1.46 | $(30.6,36.3)$ |
| Mid Yukon | 6 | 0.1 | 0.13 | $(0.0,0.5)$ | 14 | 0.3 | 0.32 | $(0.0,1.1)$ | 23 | 0.1 | 0.17 | $(0.0,0.6)$ |
| Up Yukon | 10 | 0.1 | 0.13 | $(0.0,0.5)$ | 4 | 0.1 | 0.18 | $(0.0,0.6)$ | 19 | 0.1 | 0.14 | $(0.0,0.5)$ |
| N AK Pen | 2,149 | 17.7 | 1.54 | (14.7,20.8) | 7 | 0.1 | 0.32 | $(0.0,1.2)$ | 2,291 | 13.0 | 1.21 | $(10.7,15.4)$ |
| NW GOA | 77 | 0.6 | 0.59 | $(0.0,2.0)$ | 547 | 9.9 | 1.60 | $(7.0,13.3)$ | 497 | 2.8 | 0.76 | $(1.5,4.4)$ |
| Copper | 2 | 0.0 | 0.06 | $(0.0,0.2)$ | 20 | 0.4 | 0.44 | $(0.0,1.5)$ | 7 | 0.0 | 0.09 | $(0.0,0.3)$ |
| NE GOA | 1 | 0.0 | 0.06 | $(0.0,0.2)$ | 12 | 0.2 | 0.46 | $(0.0,1.6)$ | 5 | 0.0 | 0.12 | $(0.0,0.4)$ |
| Coast SE AK | 289 | 2.4 | 0.61 | $(1.3,3.7)$ | 137 | 2.5 | 1.11 | $(0.6,4.8)$ | 403 | 2.3 | 0.51 | (1.4,3.4) |
| BC | 3,438 | 28.2 | 1.39 | (25.6,31.0) | 1,879 | 34.1 | 2.33 | (29.6,38.8) | 5,314 | 30.1 | 1.20 | (27.7,32.4) |
| West Coast US | 12,174 |  |  |  |  | 42.0 | 2.33 | (37.5,46.6) | 3,173 | 18.0 | 0.99 | $(16.0,19.9)$ |
| Total Catch |  |  |  |  | 5,505 |  |  |  | 17,678 |  |  |  |
| Region | NW Bering S. "B" (N=372) |  |  |  | SE Bering S. "B" ( $\mathrm{N}=439$ ) |  |  |  | Area 509 "A" (N=1,332) |  |  |  |
|  | Est. \# | Mean | SD | 95\% CI | Est. \# | Mean | SD | 95\% CI | Est. \# | Mean | SD | 95\% CI |
| Russia | 26 | 0.7 | 0.49 | $(0.1,1.9)$ | 22 | 0.4 | 0.32 | $(0.0,1.3)$ | 7 | 0.1 | 0.10 | $(0.0,0.4)$ |
| Coast W AK | 2,307 | 57.0 | 3.02 | $(51.0,62.8)$ | 424 | 8.2 | 1.54 | $(5.4,11.5)$ | 6,103 | 43.7 | 1.70 | (40.4,47.1) |
| Mid Yukon | 90 | 2.2 | 1.05 | $(0.6,4.7)$ | 14 | 0.3 | 0.34 | $(0.0,1.2)$ | 6 | 0.0 | 0.10 | $(0.0,0.4)$ |
| Up Yukon | 54 | 1.3 | 0.68 | $(0.2,2.9)$ | 5 | 0.1 | 0.21 | $(0.0,0.7)$ | 8 | 0.1 | 0.10 | $(0.0,0.4)$ |
| N AK Pen | 24 | 0.6 | 0.91 | (0.0,3.1) | 6 | 0.1 | 0.30 | $(0.0,1.1)$ | 2,991 | 21.4 | 1.52 | $(18.5,24.5)$ |
| NW GOA | 525 | 13.0 | 2.34 | $(8.6,17.8)$ | 511 | 9.9 | 1.64 | $(6.9,13.3)$ | 47 | 0.3 | 0.47 | $(0.0,1.6)$ |
| Copper | 4 | 0.1 | 0.25 | $(0.0,0.9)$ | 14 | 0.3 | 0.38 | $(0.0,1.3)$ | 1 | 0.0 | 0.04 | $(0.0,0.1)$ |
| NE GOA | 25 | 0.6 | 0.99 | (0.0,3.5) | 11 | 0.2 | 0.48 | (0.0,1.6) | 1 | 0.0 | 0.04 | $(0.0,0.1)$ |
| Coast SE AK | 68 | 1.7 | 1.26 | $(0.0,4.4)$ | 131 | 2.6 | 1.18 | $(0.5,5.1)$ | 322 | 2.3 | 0.59 | (1.3,3.6) |
| BC | 649 | 16.0 | 1.96 | (12.3,20.0) | 1,774 | 34.5 | 2.44 | (29.8,39.3) | 3,537 | 25.4 | 1.26 | $(22.9,27.8)$ |
| West Coast US | 275 | 6.8 | 1.32 | (4.4,9.6) | 2,236 | 43.4 | 2.45 | (38.7,48.3) | 929 | 6.7 | 0.71 | $(5.3,8.1)$ |
| Total Catch | 4,048 |  |  |  | 5,149 |  |  |  | 13,953 |  |  |  |

Appendix 3. -- Regional BAYES stock composition percentage estimates and estimated numbers of previous years of Chinook salmon from the Bering Sea pollock trawl fisheries. The BAYES mean estimates are also provided with standard deviations (SD), and the $95 \%$ credible intervals (CI). Sample sizes are adjacent to stratum designation. Total catch is the actual catch for that year.


Appendix 3. -- Continued

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo

Performing the duties of
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere Benjamin Friedman

Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
Paul Doremus

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