

Council limits SE trolling

The Alaska Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council voted to limit the catch of chinook salmon in the Alaska troll fishery at a recent meeting in Anchorage. The limitation will ensure that the total Southeast Alaskan chinook catch falls within a range of 286,000 to 320,000 fish.

The "optimum yield" range is from the troll salmon plan of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council prior to the 1979 season and applies to both offshore and Southeastern waters.

The Board and the Council directed the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner and the National Marine Fisheries Service regional director the chinook catch in the Southeastern Alaska fisheries stays within the range through monitoring and the use of time and area closures.

The Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Management Council also reviewed the salmon status on the West Coast. The Board and Council members concluded that natural stocks of chinook salmon on the West Coast (including Alaska) are below past levels and certain stocks are extremely depressed.

Several measures, including limitations on the amount of legal gear, a mid-July ten-day closure option, other time and area closures, and a ban on hand trolling in outside waters were previously adopted by the Board and recommended by the Council as a means of protecting both coho and chinook stocks in the face of expanding troll harvests and effort. There is some indication that early chinook fishing effort this season has already increased.

phasized the need for more mulating management strategy research and cooperation in for- of the chinook troll fishery.

The Board and Council em-