

# Establishing Bycatch Limits for Chinook Salmon in the Gulf of Alaska



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## Region

North Pacific

## Timeframe

2008 to present

## Fisheries Affected

Federal groundfish trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska

## Target Species

Pollock, rockfish, Pacific cod, flatfish

## Gear Type

Trawl

Oceana successfully campaigned for a bycatch limit for Chinook salmon in federal groundfish trawl fisheries that will close fisheries when the limit is reached. The abundance of Chinook salmon in Alaska has been declining for decades. Given the troubling status of Chinook salmon populations and the uncertainty associated with their declines, it is even more critical to ensure that salmon have a chance to return to rivers to spawn. Alaska is one of the world's last salmon strongholds, and reducing bycatch of salmon in Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries is paramount to their survival. Coastal communities and subsistence fishers also rely on these salmon for food security. Amendments 93 and 97, recommended by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, established Chinook salmon prohibited species catch limits for the directed pollock trawl fishers and non-pollock trawl fisheries in the Central Gulf of Alaska and Western Gulf of Alaska. The National Marine Fisheries Service implemented Amendment 93 in August 2012 and Amendment 97 in January 2015.