AK Cook Inlet Salmon Purse Seine Fishery

Fishing gear type: Purse Seine

Current category: Category II*

Basis for current classification on the LOF: The total annual mortality and serious injury of humpback whales (Central North Pacific stock) in this fishery is greater than 1% and less than 50% of the stock’s Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level.

Current list of marine mammal species/stocks injured/killed (a (I) indicates those stocks driving the fishery’s classification): Humpback whale, Central North Pacific (I).

Estimated number of current participants: 82

Take Reduction Teams/Plans that affect this fishery: None.

Year added to the LOF: 2007

Category when originally listed: Category II

Basis for original classification on the LOF: This fishery was categorized as a Category II based on a single, documented mortality of a humpback whale (Central North Pacific stock), in 2005. This single event translated to an annual average mortality of 0.2 animals/year, or 1.55% of PBR (PBR=12.9).

Estimated number of participants when originally listed: 82

Past names, if any: None.

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Gear description/method for fishing: This fishery uses purse seine gear between 90 fathoms (540 ft; 165 m) and 250 fathoms (1,500 ft; 457 m) in length, and between 100 meshes and 325 meshes deep. Detachable or loose leads are prohibited.

Target species: Salmon.

Spatial/temporal distribution of effort: The fishery occurs in Cook Inlet from June 1 to October 31. In Cook Inlet, purse seines may be used in the Southern District, Kamishak Bay District, Outer District, Eastern District, and Chinitna Bay Subdistrict east of a line from the crane on the south shore to the largest boulder on the landward end of Glacier Spit.

Levels of observer coverage each year†: This fishery has not been observed by the Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program.

Management and regulations: This purse seine fishery is managed by the AK Department of Fish and Game as a limited entry fishery with gear restrictions on the mesh and net size, and area closures.

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*The fishery is classified based on mortalities and serious injuries of a marine mammal stock greater than 1% and less than 50% (Category II) of the stock’s Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level.
† Observer coverage levels include the latest information reported in the most current final Stock Assessment Reports (SAR).
History of Changes on the LOF

2006 LOF: Added a superscript “1” in Table 1 after humpback whale (Central North Pacific), indicating that takes of this stock are driving the classification of the fishery.