

NMFS
P.O.Box 21669
Juneau AK. 99802
Comments on the Bering Sea chinook bycatch management
draft EIS/RIR/IRFA

s Salmon dependent communities are being harmed by the current management plan and will be harmed more with the Preferred Alternative. This isn't just a west coast of Alaska issue it affects coastal communities and ecosystems all the way to the west coast of the United States, then up the rivers to our great neighbors in Canada. Sadly our western Alaska communities take the biggest hit. They can least afford the lost of income and food source that's offered by our river and ocean friends. The Preferred Alternative with a high cap of 68,393 Chinook is a long ways over the bycatch average page 244--49,600 Chinook. Then add in the Chum bycatch, you end up with loss of great important. The average bycatch numbers aren't acceptable, nor is the Preferred Alternative. When you add the Chinook bycatch in the BSAI with the unknown amount in other fisheries such as the smaller Aluetian chain druggers (under 65 ft. unobserved). You end up with destruction on a level not known since the foreign fleets tore thru our waters. The incentive of hard caps will bring down the bycatch. Look what has happened in British Columbia. The owners will fish cleaner with a hard cap. I'd recommend a cap of between 27 and 35 thousand.
Sincerely John Murray 224 Observatory
st. Sitka Alaska 99835