

*This is a new version of this section. It begins on page 40 in the Russian version, and on page 33 in Chet's report "Annual Total Allowable Catch"*

### ***Allocation of Total Allowable Catch (TAC)***

In organizing the pacific salmon fishery, the Government of the Russian Federation passed an order approving the **Regulations #316 of May 20, 2005, on organizing the pacific salmon fishery**, which remained in effect until 2009.

These regulations established the following:

- a) procedures and time-frames for determining and approving Total Allowable Catches for pacific salmon, as well as the procedures for changing them;
- b) procedures for allocating Total Allowable Catches of pacific salmon on the basis of their harvest (catch) quota type;
- c) procedures for allocating coastal harvest (catch) quotas of pacific salmon in the internal waters of the Russian Federation, including the internal seas of the Russian Federation and the territorial waters of the Russian Federation, among the coastal subjects of the Russian Federation;
- d) procedures for allocating scientific quotas, harvest (catch) quotas of pacific salmon for fisheries conducted for purposes of aquaculture, enhancement and acclimatization of pacific salmon, and harvest (catch) quotas of pacific salmon for fisheries conducted for training and cultural/educational purposes among the users.

This was done as follows:

**The regional scientific organization (SakhNIRO)** undertakes expeditionary work during the fishing season preceding the forecast year to gather biological data and quantitative characteristics of the chum and pink salmon populations (Chupakhin V.M.). On the basis of the expeditionary data obtained, as well as monitoring data from previous years, it compiles a Forecast of the anticipated population numbers and issues recommendations for the total volume of pacific salmon that could be harvested without impacting natural replenishment.

This Forecast is then sent to **TINRO** (in the city of Vladivostok) to be used for compiling a report covering the entire Far East basin (including the Sakhalin Oblast). There is a public council – the Far East Basin Scientific and Commercial Fisheries Council (**FEBSFC**) – which reviews the Forecast and develops proposals for the rational harvesting of quotas of aquatic biological resources in the Far East Fisheries Basin. Decisions of the Council are of a recommendatory nature (Point 15 of the Procedure for Operations of the Basin-wide Scientific and Commercial Fisheries Council, approved by State Fisheries Committee Order #318 of 17 APR 2008); however, the majority of its decisions are taken into consideration by government structures in approving final documents, and the Anadromous Fish Harvest (Catch) Regulatory Commission adopts its decisions with consideration given to FEBSFC decisions (Point 3 of the Procedure for Operations of the Harvest Regulatory Commission .....).

Then the scientific materials that justify the Total Allowable Catches of pacific salmon are sent to the head industry institute (**VNIRO**), which is subordinate directly to the Federal Fisheries Agency (FFA). On the basis of materials obtained, VNIRO develops documentation for submission to government ecological expert review. Public hearings are also held at this stage.

**The Federal Fisheries Agency** presents documentation to the **Federal Service for Supervision over the Utilization of Natural Resources** no later than January 15 of the current year for government **ecological expert review**. Following completion of this expert review, the above-named service sends the corresponding **conclusion** to the Federal Fisheries Agency.

After receiving the conclusions of the ecological expert review, the Federal Fisheries Agency would approve Total Allowable Catches for pacific salmon on the basis of their harvest (catch) quota type for each commercial fisheries basin (State Fisheries Committee Order #375 of 30 APR 2008). Any changes to previously approved Total Allowable Catches of pacific salmon would be made by the Federal Fisheries Agency in the same manner, **with reference to the conclusions of the government ecological expert review** that justified the indicated changes.

Then, quotas for specific users would be allocated:

1. By the State Fisheries Committee

1.1. for purposes of aquaculture, enhancement and acclimatization (Order #444 of May 19, 2008);

1.2. for fisheries conducted for purposes of scientific research and control (Order #435 of May 16, 2008).

2. By the Anadromous Fish Harvest (Catch) Regulatory Commission of the Sakhalin Oblast

2.1. for conducting coastal fisheries ;

2.2. for purposes of maintaining traditional ways of life and conducting traditional commercial activity by the native minorities of the North, Siberia and the RF Far East.;

2.3. for the organization of amateur and sports fisheries.

Following this, the company receives a pacific salmon harvest (catch) permit ticket indicating the purposes for which the quota was issued, the harvest (catch) area, type of aquatic biological resource, quota volume, time frame for harvest (catch) and type of gear.

**The Anadromous Fish Harvest (Catch) Regulatory Commission of the Sakhalin Oblast** performs its work in accordance with procedures approved in the State Fisheries Committee Order #391 of May 06, 2008. The preliminary decisions of the Commission are prepared by the Working Group, which considers in its work the materials prepared by the Fisheries Department of the Sakhalin Oblast.

**The Company** compiles an application for quotas and sends it to the Fisheries Department of the Sakhalin Oblast (hereinafter, the Department).

**The Department** formulates proposals for allocating quotas among the individual companies of the Sakhalin Oblast, and based on the applications from the Companies and the observance by these companies of the conditions established in Russian law (lack of tax indebtedness, etc.). These proposals are developed within the framework of the Department providing the organizational and technical support for the work of the Anadromous Fish Harvest (Catch) Regulatory Commission of the Sakhalin Oblast and its working group (Point 3.29 of the Regulations of the Department of Fisheries of the Sakhalin Oblast, approved by Decree #133-pa of the territorial Administration of the Sakhalin Oblast of May 19, 2008).

Thus, the interests of individual companies and the recommendations of the scientists and the regional authorities converge and are taken into consideration.

There is also a separate process for allocating commercial fishing sections. The sections are assigned to companies on a contract basis. Previously, the commercial sections were assigned for an indefinite time, but since 2008 have been allocated only for 20-year periods. Unoccupied commercial fishing sections are allocated to fishers on a competitive basis, in consideration of such criteria as production capacity, numbers of workers in the companies, absence of tax indebtedness, etc.. A policy has been developed aimed at enhancing the growth of the commercial fisheries companies. The intent was to have larger and better managed companies, although fewer in number, replacing certain other companies as they leave the market. Such a system has already been widely applied in coastal fisheries (at a distance of up to 3 km from shore).

By the beginning of 2009, the above-described procedure for obtaining permits to harvest Far East salmon underwent certain changes.

After Federal Fisheries Agency Order #219 of 02 OCT 2008 "Approval of the species list of aquatic biological resources for which Total Allowable Catches are established" came into effect, there was no TAC established for such species as chum and pink salmon fished in the internal waters of the RF. Accordingly, the procedure of government ecological expert review of the scientific materials was no longer required. However, the mechanism itself and the chain of preparation of such materials remain in place, including expeditionary operations conducted by scientific workers.

In its Decree #765 of 15 OCT 2008, the Government of the RF approved the Rules for preparing and adopting decisions on allocating aquatic biological resources designated as target species for fisheries, for three types of user of aquatic biological resources:

- a) fisheries for purposes of scientific research and control ;
  - b) fisheries for training and cultural/educational purposes ;
  - c) fisheries for purposes of aquaculture, enhancement and acclimatization,
- and in Order #887 of 26 NOV 2008 pronounced RF Government Order #316 of May 20, 2005, invalid.

In developing the above-listed documents and for the purpose of effectively implementing measures during the 2009 salmon season, the Federal Fisheries Agency adopted Order #238 of 26 MAR 2009 "Organization of the 2009 salmon season in the Far East Commercial Fisheries Basin". Under this Order, the scientific organizations headed by the Department of Science and Education of the Russian Fisheries Committee are to prepare their proposals by 30 MAR 2009 on **recommended** volumes of harvest of pacific salmon in the waters of the Far East Commercial Fisheries basin.

Then the individual Departments of the Russian Fisheries Committee prepare their decisions on the release of pacific salmon for utilization, specifically:

1. Department of Science and Education (V.A. Belyaev) – by 10 APR 2009 – for fisheries conducted for purposes of scientific research and control, for training and cultural/educational purposes.

2. Department of Control, Supervision, Fish Conservation and Enhancement (M.I. Kumantsov) – by 10 APR 2009 – for fisheries conducted for purposes of aquaculture, enhancement and acclimatization.

3. Sakhalin-Kuril Territorial Department (O.V. Bendenko) – by 12 APR 2009 – for purposes of preserving traditional ways of life and conducting traditional commercial activity by the native minorities of the North, Siberia and the RF Far East.

Following adoption of a decision in the above-listed matters, the amounts remaining will be reported to the head of the Anadromous Fish Harvest (Catch) Regulatory Commission of the Sakhalin Oblast to be allocated for the following purposes:

1. commercial fisheries;
2. amateur and sports fisheries.

Then the procedures repeat (as in 2008).