

*Category III*

*Alaska Kuskokwim, Yukon, Norton Sound, Kotzebue salmon set/drift gillnet.* The name of this fishery has been changed from the 1994 LOF designation "Alaska Kuskokwim/Yukon/Norton Sound/Kotzebue salmon gillnets" to specify that both set and drift gillnets are used in this fishery. Although this fishery is expected to have occasional interactions with marine mammals, interactions usually result in directed takes for subsistence purposes. Therefore, this fishery is proposed to remain in Category III.

*Alaska state waters sablefish longline/set line.* This fishery is classified based on logbook data from the Alaska Prince William Sound longline/set line fishery. The fishery description has been expanded from the 1994 LOF to include all sablefish longline/set line fisheries in Alaska state waters. There were no records of incidental takes in logbook reports from this fishery. This fishery is proposed to be reclassified into Category III from Category II based on the prohibition of intentional lethal takes.

*Alaska Prince William Sound set gill net.* Categorization of this fishery is based on observer data. Because marine mammal mortality and serious injury levels approaching 1 percent of any stocks' PBR are not expected, this fishery is proposed to be reclassified from Category II to Category III.

*Washington Willapa Bay salmon drift gillnet.* This fishery is classified based on observer data extrapolated to estimate the total annual kill. There were no incidental serious injuries or mortalities in the Willapa Bay fishery in 1991 or 1992; thus, the fishery is proposed to remain in Category III.

*Washington Grays Harbor (includes rivers, estuaries, etc.) drift gillnet.* This fishery is classified based on observer data extrapolated to estimate the total annual kill. There is a low level of incidental mortality and serious injury of harbor seals in this fishery (under 1 percent of PBR). This fishery is proposed to be placed in Category III.

*Washington, Oregon lower Columbia River (includes tributaries) drift gillnet.* Categorization of this fishery is based on data from observer programs and current and anticipated future low fishing effort in the winter fishing season. During 3 years of observations in this fishery with observer coverage averaging from 3.0 percent to 9.5 percent each year, all but one of the observed harbor seal mortalities were documented in the winter season. The extrapolated annual mortality of harbor seals in this fishery from 1991 to 1993 was 233 seals in 1991 (all during the

winter season), 192 seals in 1992 (180 in the winter season and 12 in the fall), and 11 seals in 1993 (all during the winter season). Although the estimated annual takes of harbor seals in 1991 and 1992 could justify placing this fishery in Category II, reduced fishing seasons in recent years and reduced fishing effort (due to restrictions on the fishery to minimize impacts on ESA listed Snake River chinook salmon) are unlikely to result in the levels of harbor seal mortality observed in 1991 and 1992. The winter season of 1993, when an estimated total of only 11 harbor seals were taken, was restricted due to ESA considerations and resulted in chinook landings of 446 fish in 1993 in contrast with landings of 2,692 fish in 1991 and 1,537 landings in 1992. The winter season was closed in 1994. Therefore, this fishery is proposed to be placed in Category III.

*Alaska miscellaneous finfish set gillnet.* This fishery description has been changed from the definition "Alaska gillnet (except salmon, herring, and sunken gill nets for groundfish)" used under the 1994 LOF to correlate with the State of Alaska name for this fishery. This fishery is categorized based on logbook data. This fishery is proposed to be moved from Category II to Category III based on an infrequent take of marine mammals (under two unidentified pinnipeds and unidentified species are taken per year).

*Alaska salmon purse seine.* This fishery used to be called the "Alaska salmon/herring beach and purse seine" fishery and the "Alaska South Unimak (False Pass and Unimak Pass) salmon purse seine" fishery under the 1994 LOF. This proposed fishery description includes all salmon purse seine fisheries in Alaska except for the Alaska Southeast salmon purse seine fishery. Because mortality and serious injuries of marine mammals are not expected for this fishery, it is proposed to be placed in Category III.

*California/Oregon/Washington salmon troll.* The name of this fishery has been changed from that used in the 1994 LOF, because it is managed as one fishery and the intentional lethal take prohibition will reduce the level of take to very low levels. The previous division of the fishery into the "Washington, Oregon north of 45°46' (Cape Falcon) salmon troll" and the "California, Oregon south of 45°46' (Cape Falcon) salmon troll" was based on differences in intentional lethal take rates between the northern and southern portions of the fishery. In this fishery, lethal deterrence, which is now prohibited, was the predominant source of mortality to marine mammals. As

lethal deterrence is illegal and expected to no longer be a source of mortality for marine mammals, it is proposed to reclassify this fishery from Category II to Category III.

*Alaska salmon troll.* Categorization of this fishery is based on logbook data from 1990. Known Steller sea lion mortalities and serious injuries for this fishery do not exceed 1 percent of the stock's PBR and current information does not indicate that this level is likely to exceed 1 percent. Thus, this fishery is proposed to be placed in Category III.

*California herring purse seine.* This fishery is categorized based on logbook data. This fishery is proposed to be placed in Category III due to an infrequent take of marine mammals (all marine mammal takes are at a level less than 1 percent of PBR).

*California sardine purse seine.* This fishery is categorized based on logbook data. This fishery is proposed to be placed in Category III due to an infrequent take of marine mammals (no marine mammal takes have been recorded in logbooks).

*California squid purse seine.* This fishery is categorized based on logbook data. This fishery is proposed to be placed in Category III due to an infrequent take of marine mammals (California sea lion takes are at a level less than 1 percent of PBR).

*Alaska Metlakatla fish trap.* No marine mammal mortalities or serious injuries have been recorded for this fishery. Therefore, this fishery is proposed to be placed in Category III. *California squid dip net.* This fishery is categorized based on logbook data. This fishery is proposed to be placed in Category III due to an infrequent take of marine mammals (no marine mammal takes have been recorded in logbooks).

*Washington, Oregon salmon net pens.* This fishery is categorized based on logbook data. This fishery is proposed to be placed in Category III due to an infrequent take of marine mammals (California sea lion takes are at a level less than 1 percent of the PBR).

*Oregon salmon ranch.* This fishery is categorized based on logbook data. This fishery is proposed to be placed in Category III due to an infrequent take of marine mammals (no marine mammal takes have been recorded in logbooks).

*Miscellaneous finfish/groundfish longline/set line.* This fishery is renamed from the 1994 LOF designation "Alaska groundfish long line/set line (except sablefish in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands/Gulf of Alaska)" to correspond with the fishery name as specified in the State of Alaska records and to include both miscellaneous finfish and groundfish (rockfish). This