

**EXCERPTS FROM THE 2006 BIOLOGICAL OPINION ON SALMON
 REGARDING THE PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL'S
 GROUND FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultation – Supplemental Biological Opinion
 Consultation Number: 2006/00754

. . . .Another pattern that is apparent from recent observation is that bycatch rates [in the whiting fishery] tend to be highest early in the season. The at-sea portion of the fishery starts on May 15. Chinook bycatch rates were highest in May, declined in the month of June, and remained at low levels through the remainder of the season (Table 6). The main portion of the shoreside fishery in the area north of 42E00' N. lat. begins on June 15. Chinook bycatch rates declined through the first three weeks of the 2005 fishery and stabilized at lower levels thereafter (Table 7). Note that the overall bycatch rates in the shoreside fishery were higher than for the at-sea fishery in 2005. As discussed above, the shoreside fishery tends to fish closer to shore to reduce operating costs. But as a consequence, bycatch rates in the shoreside fishery tend to be higher overall. [p. 18]

Table 6. Bycatch rate of Chinook salmon (Chinook/metric ton whiting) in the mothership and catcher/processor sectors by month.

Month	2001-2005 Average	2005
May	0.047	0.068
June	0.026	0.022
July	0.007	0.001
August	0.001	0.000
September	0.001	0.000
October	0.004	0.001
November	0.007	0.011

Table 7. Bycatch rate of Chinook salmon (Chinook/metric ton whiting) in the shoreside sector by week.

Week	Chinook Salmon Bycatch (Chinook/metric ton whiting)
6/12 to 6/18	0.192
6/19 to 6/25	0.104
6/26 to 7/2	0.045
7/3 to 7/9	0.017
7/10 to 7/16	0.035
7/17 to 7/23	0.021
7/24 to 7/30	0.022
7/31 to 8/6	0.010
8/7 to 8/13	0.024
8/14 to 8/20	0.016