

Okha Comprehensive FIP Workplan – Action 9: Demonstrate that the Fishery Management System includes an effective decision-making process.

PI 3.2.2

Update Information December 2021

In 2021, the Anadromous Fish Commission (Commission) in the Sakhalin Region, when making decisions on the organization of salmon harvesting, as in previous years, was guided by the relevant articles of Federal Law No. 166-FZ of December 20, 2004 "On Fisheries and Conservation of Aquatic Biological Resources", the "Far Eastern Fisheries Basin Fishing Regulations" and the "Pacific Salmon Fishery Strategy in the Sakhalin Region in 2021".

After agreeing on the amendments and additions made, the "Pacific Salmon Fishery Strategy in the Sakhalin Region in 2021" (Strategy) was approved at a meeting of the Far Eastern Scientific & Fishery Council (DVNPS) on April 15, 2021 (see the minutes: http://fish.gov.ru/files/documents/otraslevaya_deyatelnost/organizaciya_rybolovstva/protokoly_ko_missij_sovetov/protokol_dvnps_150421.pdf)

The Strategy included measures aimed at a precautionary approach in the Salmon Fishery Management and measures to reduce the fishing pressure on the Pink and Chum Salmon populations.

This year, the work of the Commission began on January 14, during the period from January to May, seven meetings were held, at which issues of smelt fishing were considered.

Only in May, the Commission held a meeting on Pacific salmon. By **Minutes # 8 dated May 12, 2021** (can be found here: https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/Komissiya/2021/Protocol_8.pdf), the initial decisions were made on the organization of salmon fishing. Paragraph 1 of the Minutes establishes the total volume of Pacific salmon harvesting for commercial and amateur fishing, and fishing in order to ensure the traditional way of life of indigenous peoples in the North, Siberia and the Russian Far East). For the Sakhalin Region, the total volume of Pacific salmon allowable catch was approved at 45,002 tons, including the catch of Pink Salmon – 9,728 tons, Chum Salmon – 33,378 tons, Sockeye Salmon – 1,430 tons, Coho Salmon – 450 tons, and Masu Salmon – 16 tons.

The recommended catch for the areas where Okha Ltd. and Rybnovskii Losos Ltd. carry out their fishing was:

- for northwestern Sakhalin - 310.5 tons of Pink Salmon and 2345.8 tons of Chum Salmon;
- for the East Sakhalin subzone (which includes the northeast of Sakhalin) - 1246.922 tons of Pink Salmon, 12209.048 tons of Chum Salmon, 43.708 tons of Coho Salmon and 5.235 tons of Masu Salmon.

At the meeting of the Anadromous Fish Commission on May 27 (the **Minutes # 8** can be found here: https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/protokol_1_0.pdf), paragraph 1 defined the terms of Pink and Chum Salmon harvesting for the western coast of Sakhalin, including for northwestern Sakhalin, where fishing was allowed from July 01 to August 31. It was noted that the timing of the end of fishing may be adjusted, depending on the actual Pacific salmon returns.

At the next meeting of the Anadromous Fish Commission on June 11 (the **Minutes # 12** can be found here: <https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Protokol-12.pdf>), paragraph 2 defined the places of fishing and the places where the Pacific salmon trap fishing gear should be installed this year on the northwest coast of Sakhalin (Appendix No. 1).

In particular, for the Okha Ltd., 8 fishing parcels and 14 places for setting trap nets were determined, for Rybnovskii Losos Ltd. - 7 fishing parcels for setting 22 trap nets:

North-West Sakhalin			
Okha Ltd.		Rybnovskii Losos Ltd.	
Harvesting place (fishing parcel number) Total: 8 fishing parcels	Number of places for setting fishing gear – 14	Harvesting place (fishing parcel number) Total: 7 fishing parcels	Number of places for setting fishing gear – 22
Amur Estuary			
65-06-22	1	65-06-21	3
Sakhalin Gulf			
65-06-35	2	65-06-25	1
65-06-38	3	65-06-28	3
65-06-38-1	3	65-06-36	1
65-06-39	1	65-06-37	8
65-06-31-1	1		
65-06-86	2		
Severny Bay			
65-06-49	1	65-06-46	5
		65-06-48	1

Also, paragraph 2 of the Minutes defined additional fishing sites for Pacific salmon using set gillnets for the north-western fishing area of Sakhalin (Appendix No. 2), including 15 fishing parcels for the Okha company and 3 fishing parcels for the Rybnovskii Losos company:

North-West Sakhalin	
User	Harvesting place (fishing parcel number)
Okha Ltd.	65-06-56, 65-06-11, 65-06-13, 65-06-33, 65-06-32, 65-06-10, 65-06-9, 65-06-03-1, 65-06-03-2, 65-06-03-3, 65-06-03-04, 65-06-08, 65-06-05, 65-06-07, 65-06-12
Rybnovskii Losos Ltd.	65-06-83, 65-06-55, 65-06-52

Paragraph 3 of the Minutes defined the Pacific salmon harvest volumes for industrial companies of the north-western fishing area (Appendix No. 3), including:

Company	Pink Salmon, tons	Chum Salmon, tons
Okha Ltd.	310.5	2345.8
Rybnovskii Losos Ltd.	310.5	2345.8

Note: this year, as well as in previous years, the practice of providing companies with catch volumes on the basis of the application principle was continued (an explanation is given here <https://sakhalin.info/fishing/208294>).

At the meeting of the Anadromous Fish Commission on July 1 (the **Minutes # 15** can be found here: <https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Protokol-15.pdf>) in paragraph 4, based on the recommendations of SakhNIRO, and the Sakhalin branch of Glavrybvod (page 29 of the Minutes), as well as in order to reduce the fishing pressure on populations and achieve escapement to natural spawning grounds (including Pink Salmon and Chum Salmon spawners of transit Amur schools), the periods of Pacific salmon escapements for commercial and traditional fishing in northwestern Sakhalin, in the area from Cape Elizabeth to Cape Pogibi were set: from 00 AM on July 5, 2021, observing the interval: two passing days - five fishing days. On passing days, the fishing companies were ordered to sew up the traps of nets and were forbidden to fish with other fishing gear.

At the meeting of the Anadromous Fish Commission on July 7 (the **Minutes # 16** can be found here: <https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Protokol-16.pdf>), paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, respectively, defined the timing, location and volume of **Pink Salmon catch for amateur fishing** in the East Sakhalin subzone, on the northeast coast, where the Okhinskii District is located.

The operator of amateur fishing was the Federal State Budgetary Institution Glavrybvod (Sakhalinrybvod). Amateur fishing is allowed in the period from July 15 to August 31, 2021 at the fishing parcel No. 65-06-84, within the geographical boundaries of the Khanguza Bay - Ketu Bay. The allowable catch volume was 10 tons of Pink Salmon (Appendix No. 1).

Further, paragraph 6 **reversed** the decision taken at the previous meeting of the Commission (Minutes # 15) on the escapement period for Pacific salmon in northwestern Sakhalin, in the area from Cape Elizabeth to Cape Pogibi, during commercial and traditional fishing. Based on the recommendations of SKTU, FSBI "Glavrybvod" (Sakhalinrybvod) and SakhNIRO, a **new passing period** for commercial and traditional fishing in the above area (**from Cape Elizabeth to Cape Pogibi**) was determined, which included the following dates for the escapements of Pacific salmon: July 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30 and August 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30 (2021).

Fishing on these dates was prohibited during the day, from 00 AM to 12 PM, by any fishing gear. The traps of the trap nets must be sewn up.

The decision was made based on the opinion of the representative of SakhNIRO on the need to ensure a more uniform, close to natural, sex ratio of Pacific salmon spawners allowed to spawn (including spawners of transit schools of Amur Chum and Pink).

At the meeting of the Anadromous Fish Commission on July 14 (the **Minutes # 18** can be found here: https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/Komissiya/2021/Protocol_18.pdf) the organization of escapement periods for the East Sakhalin subzone was discussed. After hearing the speeches of representatives from the ARSO public organization (Kozlov M.), SakhNIRO (Kolpakov N.), the Federal Agency for Fishery - Rosrybolovstvo (Radchenko I.), this issue was considered premature and removed from the agenda. Of the 12 people present at the meeting of the Commission, 11 members voted "for" and one voted "against".

Paragraph 1 of the Minutes defined the terms of commercial and traditional **Pink Salmon** fishing in the East Sakhalin subzone, including in the water area from Cape Elizabeth to the point "2 kilometers north of the Piltun Bay Channel", where the fishing parcels of the Okha company were located. **Pink Salmon fishing** was allowed there from July 25 to August 31, 2021, with the possibility of adjusting the timing, taking into account the actual fishing situation. Earlier, this issue was discussed in Rosrybolovstvo, at a meeting of the Salmon Fishing Season Headquarters, additional information can be found here: <https://sakhalin.info/fishing/209327>.

Further, paragraph 2 of the Minutes established the volumes of Pink Salmon harvest for commercial fishing in the East Sakhalin subzone, including 1246.922 tons for Okha Ltd. (Appendix No. 1).

At the meeting of the Anadromous Fish Commission on July 21 (the **Minutes # 21** can be found here: https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/Komissiya/2021/Protocol_21.pdf), paragraph 1 defined the places of harvesting and the places of installation of trap fishing gear for catching Pacific salmon in the East Sakhalin subzone. Including the Okha company was allowed to set 31 trap nets at 10 fishing parcels (Appendix No. 1):

East Sakhalin subzone, Northeast coast, Okha Ltd.	
Harvesting place (fishing parcel number)	The number of places for the installation of trap fishing gear. The total number of trap nets is 31
Total: 10 fishing parcels	
65-06-57-2	4
65-06-57-3	1
65-06-57-4	1
65-06-57-5	3

65-06-57-6	3
65-06-59-1	4
65-06-59-2	3
65-06-61	4
65-06-62-1	6
65-06-62-2	2

At the meeting of the Anadromous Fish Commission on July 30 (the **Minutes # 25** can be found here: https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/Komissiya/2021/Protocol_25.pdf), paragraph 4 established the volumes of **Chum Salmon** harvest for commercial fishing in the East Sakhalin subzone, including the Okha company allowed to catch 12209.048 tons of Chum (Appendix No. 1).

At the meeting of the Anadromous Fish Commission on August 5 (see the **Minutes # 26** here https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/Komissiya/2021/Protocol_26.pdf), issues of applying escapement periods for Pacific salmon in the East Sakhalin subzone, including in the northeast of Sakhalin, in the area **from Cape Elizabeth to the point "2 kilometers north of the Piltun Bay Channel"** were discussed. Paragraph 1 of the Minutes, based on the recommendations of SakhNIRO in order to reduce the fishing pressure and ensure the escapement to spawning areas with **Pink Salmon** spawners, defined an **escapement period** for the specified area **from 00 AM on August 7, 2021 to 12 PM on August 10, 2021**, when conducting commercial, amateur and traditional fishing. During this period, it was prescribed to sew up the traps of the trap nets, and the use of other fishing gear was prohibited.

At the next meeting of the Anadromous Fish Commission on August 6 (see the **Minutes # 27** - https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/Komissiya/2021/Protocol_27.pdf), taking into account the recommendations of SakhNIRO, the issues of organizing **Chum Salmon** amateur fishing on the territory of the Okhinskii District, at fishing parcel No. 65-06-84, were discussed. During the discussion, weak returns of Chum Salmon to the northeast coast of Sakhalin and insufficient river escapement to natural spawning grounds were noted. Based on the results of the speeches, decisions on the organization of Chum Salmon amateur fishing were not taken, since all members of the Commission voted "against". Additional information can be found here: <https://sakhalin.info/fishing/210458> .

At the meeting of the Anadromous Fish Commission on August 10 (the **Minutes # 28** can be found here https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/Komissiya/2021/Protocol_28.pdf), paragraph 2 defined the day for the escapement of Pacific salmon during commercial, amateur and traditional fishing in the area from Cape Elizabeth to Cape Terpeniya, where the described area is located, from 00 AM to 12 PM on August 11, 2021. During this period, it was prescribed to sew up the traps of the trap nets, and the use of other fishing gear was prohibited. This decision was made based on the recommendations of SakhNIRO **to** reduce the fishing pressure on the Pink Salmon population.

At the next meeting of the Anadromous Fish Commission on August 11 (see the **Minutes # 29** - https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/Komissiya/2021/Protocol_29.pdf), according to paragraph 1, for the East Sakhalin subzone, the initial volume of Pink Salmon harvest (1246.922 tons) was significantly increased by 1356.0 tons. Thus, for this subzone the volume of **Pink Salmon** harvests then amounted to **2602.922 tons** (Appendix No. 1).

Further, the Commission considered the issues of organizing escapement periods for Pacific salmon on the northeast coast of Sakhalin, due to the fact that with the positive dynamics of fishing, the escapement to natural spawning grounds in the rivers remained insufficient for reproduction.

Based on the relevant recommendations of SakhNIRO, paragraph 2 of the Minutes established a **new** escapement period for **commercial** fishing carried out on the coastal section **from the Langeri River to Cape Elizabeth**, where the described area is located. This period began

at 00 AM on August 12, 2021 and ended at 12 PM on August 31, 2021. During this period, it was prescribed to sew up the traps of the trap nets, and the use of other fishing gear was prohibited. The decision taken at the previous meeting of the Commission (Minutes # 28 of August 10, 2021) on the escapement period during the day on August 11, 2021 for the Cape Elizabeth - Cape Terpeniya area **was reversed**.

For the Pacific salmon traditional fishing in the area from Cape Elizabeth to Cape Terpeniya, as well as for amateur fishing permitted in the Okhinskii District on fishing parcel No. 65-06-84, the following restriction was defined:

- starting from 00 AM on August 17, 2021, fishing was allowed with an interval of two passing days – five fishing days.

Such rather harsh restrictive measures were taken under the influence of the Sakhalin Environment Watch public organization, whose representative announced at the meeting data on the extremely low escapement to natural spawning grounds in northeastern Sakhalin with Pink Salmon spawners.

Additional information on this meeting of the Commission can be found here <https://sakhalin.info/news/210599>.

At the meeting of the Anadromous Fish Commission on August 13 (the Minutes # 31 can be found here https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/Komissiya/2021/Protocol_31.pdf), it was supposed to consider the issue of determining the period for the Pacific salmon escapement to the spawning grounds in northwestern Sakhalin. The issue was removed from the agenda, as the fishing situation in the area has not changed.

Further, in paragraph 1 (Appendix No. 1), on the basis of Minutes # 35 of the Bureau of the Industry Council for Fisheries Forecasting under the Federal Agency for Fisheries dated August 12, 2021, the **volumes of Pink Salmon harvest** for commercial, recreational and traditional fishing were changed upward:

- taking into account an increase of 1600.0 tons, in northwestern Sakhalin, the harvest volume amounted to **1910.5 tons**;

- taking into account an increase of 4000.0 tons, in the East Sakhalin subzone, the harvest volume amounted to **6602.922 tons**.

Paragraph 2 changed the decisions previously adopted by the Commission on the Pacific salmon escapement period to the places of reproduction in the East Sakhalin subzone.

The new escapement period for the coastal section **from Cape Elizabeth to the Piltun Bay Channel** should have been the same for commercial, amateur and traditional fishing, and started **at 00 AM on August 17, 2021** in the following mode: **two passing days - five fishing days**. On passing days, it was prescribed to sew up the traps of the trap nets, and the use of other fishing gear was prohibited.

This decision was made in accordance with the recommendations of specialists of the Sakhalin-Kuril Territorial Administration, Sakhalinrybvod and SakhNIRO, taking into account the intensity of entry of Pink Salmon spawners into the rivers and new data on a more successful (by 50%) escapement to natural spawning grounds in the rivers, as well as data on the actual fishing situation in the Poronaisky and Smirnykhovsky districts.

At the meeting of the Anadromous Fish Commission on August 16 (the Minutes # 32 can be found here https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/Komissiya/2021/Protocol_32.pdf), the issues of organizing the Chum Salmon fishing were discussed. Paragraph 1 of the Minutes set the catch dates for **Chum Salmon commercial** and traditional fishing in the fishing areas of the Sakhalin Region, including those for the Okhinskii District:

- on the coast of northwestern Sakhalin, in the area **from Cape Elizabeth to Cape Pogibi**, **Chum Salmon fishing** was allowed **from 1 to 30 September 2021**;

- on the northeastern coast, **from Cape Elizabeth to the Dagi Strait**, fishing for **Chum Salmon** was permitted **from 21 to 30 September 2021**.

Paragraph 2 of the Minutes defined the place and timing of the Chum Salmon amateur fishing in the Okhinskii District, organized by Sakhalinrybvod. Chum Salmon amateur fishing was allowed at fishing parcel No. 65-06-84, in the period from August 17 to August 31, 2021.

Further, in paragraph 3 of the Minutes, based on the recommendations of the Sakhalin-Kuril Territorial Administration, Sakhalinrybvod and SakhNIRO, the places of Chum Salmon harvesting in the East Sakhalin subzone, including for the northeast coast of Sakhalin, on which part of the described area is located, were determined. The Okha company was given the right to catch Chum at 15 coastal fishing parcels, with a total length of 181.8 kilometers, at a distance of no more than 2 kilometers deep into the sea (Appendix No. 1):

Northeast of Sakhalin: the section from Cape Elizabeth to the Dagi Strait. User: Okha Ltd.			
Fishing parcel number	Length along the coast / deep into the sea, km	Fishing parcel number	Length along the coast / deep into the sea, km
65-06-57-1	9.3 / 2	65-06-61	8.9 / 2
65-06-57-2	13.5 / 2	65-06-62-1	13.3 / 2
65-06-57-3	12.6 / 2	65-06-62-2	13.6 / 2
65-06-57-4	9.7 / 2	65-06-62-3	12.4 / 2
65-06-57-5	16.5 / 2	65-06-62-4	15.0 / 2
65-06-57-6	9.3 / 2	65-06-62-5	15.1 / 2
65-06-59-1	9.5 / 2	65-06-62-6	13.2 / 2
65-06-52-2	9.9 / 2		

At the next meeting of the Anadromous Fish Commission on August 17 (the Minutes # 33 can be found here: <https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Protokol-33-1.pdf>), paragraph 1 amended paragraph 1 of the previous meeting (Minutes # 32 of August 16, 2021), in particular: **during the Chum Salmon harvesting, it was allowed to catch Pink Salmon**, including in the Okhinskii District.

Paragraph 8 of the Minutes allocated additional volumes of **Pink Salmon** harvest for companies fishing in the East Sakhalin subzone, as well as for the **Rybnovskii Losos** company operating in the north-west of Sakhalin, in the amount of **1349.0 tons of Pink Salmon** (Appendix No. 2).

At the meeting of the Anadromous Fish Commission on August 18 (see the Minutes # 34 here: <https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Protokol-34.pdf-2021.pdf>), paragraph 1 changed the start date of commercial and traditional Chum Salmon fishing on the northeastern coast of Sakhalin, in the area **from Cape Elizabeth to the Dagi Strait**, determined by paragraph 1 of Minutes # 32 of August 16, 2021. A new (earlier) date was set: **Chum Salmon fishing was allowed there from August 21, 2021**.

At the meeting of the Anadromous Fish Commission on August 24 (see the Minutes # 39 here: <https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Protokol-39-2021pdf.pdf>), paragraph 1 changed the volume of Pacific salmon harvest in the fishing areas of the Sakhalin Region, including in the East Sakhalin subzone, where part of the described area is located; the **Pink Salmon** allowable catch volume increased by 4000.0 tons and amounted to **10602.922 tons** to date (Appendix No. 1). This decision was made in connection with the unexpectedly high returns of the Pink Salmon to the coast of the Poronaisky and Smirnykhovsky districts.

At the meeting of the Anadromous Fish Commission on August 30 (the Minutes # 42 can be found here: <https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Protokol-42-1.pdf>), paragraph 6 extended the Chum Salmon amateur fishing in the Okhinskii District at fishing parcel No. 65-06-84, and additional fishing dates were set – from September 1 to September 30, 2021. Amateur fishing was organized by the Federal State Budgetary Institution "Glavrybvod" (Sakhalinrybvod).

At the meeting of the Anadromous Fish Commission on September 6 (the Minutes # 46 can be found here: <https://fish.sakhalin.gov.ru/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Protokol-46.pdf>), the volume of Pink Salmon harvest in the East Sakhalin subzone, where part of the Okhinskii District is located, was increased. It was allowed to harvest another 2000.0 tons of Pink Salmon there. The total Pink Salmon catch volume as of today amounted **12 602.922 tons** (Paragraph 1 of the Minutes, Appendix No. 1). This decision was made on the basis of information about the active Pink Salmon fishing in the Poronaisky, Smirnykhovsky and Noglikisky districts.

At subsequent meetings of the Commission (Minutes No. 47-63), no decisions were taken regarding the Okhinskii District.

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