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Dear Editor:

Enclosed is a paper, titled “**Comprehensive Incentives for Reducing Chinook Salmon Bycatch in the Bering Sea Walleye Pollock Fleet: Individual Tradable Encounter Credits**”. Please accept it for consideration for an upcoming issue of the North American Journal of Fisheries Management.

In this paper, we present a comprehensive incentive plan to manage the problem of Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) bycatch in the Eastern Bering Sea walleye pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*) fishery. Our proposed plan and analysis is particularly timely, as the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is currently implementing a hard cap on Chinook salmon bycatch for the 2011 fishing season along with two incentive plans. The most widely adopted of these plans “Salmon Savings Incentive Plan” arose as a consequence of the comprehensive incentive plan described here (“dynamic salmon savings”, solicited from Dr. Sugihara by the walleye pollock industry in 2009). Of special note, in this paper we are able to use historical landings data to show how market forces can be brought to bear to reduce potential revenue loss due to a hard cap on bycatch and how effectively these incentives can protect Chinook salmon even when the hard cap is not binding. This plan is flexible and can be adjusted to meet changing performance targets in addition to being extended to other bycatch species in the same fishery and/or other fisheries.

Please don't hesitate to e-mail or call if you have any questions or comments.

This paper is our original unpublished work, and has not been submitted for consideration to any other journal.

We look forward to your favorable response.

Sincerely,  
Hao Ye

Cc: Keith Criddle, George Sugihara