

Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985

Agencies: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S. Coast Guard

Citation: [16 U.S.C. §§ 3631 et seq.](#)

Enacted as: the “Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985”, on March 15, 1985

Summary:

The [Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985 \(the Act\)](#) implements the Pacific Salmon Treaty between the U.S. and Canada, which was signed January 28, 1985. It establishes a Commission, and regional panels, comprised of members from the U.S. and Canada. In the U.S., there is a very strong participation in the process by the States of Washington, Oregon, Alaska, and Idaho, and the Northwest Treaty Indian tribes. The Commission recommends to the two countries salmon fishery management regimes for the stocks of common interest, and the two countries must manage their fisheries consistent with any regimes recommended by the Commission and approved by the U.S. and Canada. Many of the fishery management regimes are implemented by States and tribes.

The Secretary of Commerce consults with the Secretaries of State and the Interior regarding the U.S. Department of State’s appointment of alternate commissioners; and the Secretary of Commerce appoints some Panel members. Often a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) employee is a member of the Commission or a regional Panel (16 U.S.C. § 3632).

The Secretary of Commerce consults with the Secretaries of State and Interior regarding State’s approval of Commission recommendations. NOAA, in cooperation with the appropriate Fishery Management Councils, the States and tribes, prepares all necessary reports and information for transmission by the Secretary of State to the Commission (16 U.S.C. § 3633).

The Secretary of Commerce may arrange for cooperation with agencies and private organizations (16 U.S.C. § 3634).

The Secretary of Commerce shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the United States international obligations under the Treaty and the Act, which may include preempting regulations of a State or Treaty Indian tribe that puts the U.S. in jeopardy of not fulfilling its international obligations (16 U.S.C. §§ 3635, 3636).

Source: [16 U.S.C. §§ 3631 et seq.](#)

Information last updated: September 20, 2012