

PROPOSAL 178

5 AAC 29.080. Management of the winter salmon troll fishery.

Restrict fishing area in Sitka Sound when harvest of non-Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon reaches 30,000 fish by March 1, as follows:

(b) In years when the harvest of non-Alaska hatchery-produced fish reaches 30,000 before the first of March, the department shall by emergency order, move winter fishing line at Cape Edgecumbe light to the Southernmost tip of Point Woodhouse in to: the Southern tip of Shoals Point to the Northern tip of Biorika Island to the Southernmost tip of Point Woodhouse until the first of April.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The winter fishery closed before April 1, in 2015 and 2016. This caused serious financial hardship on the fishermen who do not fish the Sitka area in the winter. It is unfair to the rest of the Southeast communities to suffer the winter troll season closing so early due to extreme high harvest rates occurring in the Sitka winter fishery.

The best month for access to winter kings is April for the fisherman who live South of Sitka. The weather is better at that time and many of the smaller boats will have a fair chance at getting their share of the winter fishery at that time. Fish are just starting to show up in the areas South of Sitka in April. This proposal at a minimum should allow the winter troll fishery to reach the 15th of April and would give the rest of Southeast fisherman the access to winter kings that they have come to depend upon.

PROPOSED BY: Randy Ferdinand

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