

Kodiak as per 5 AAC 18.350 (8) Closed Waters, these streams listed below would remain open to commercial salmon fishing by drift gillnet gear up to a straight line between the seaward extremities of the exposed tideland banks of the streams and creeks. This will help clarify that within the terminal harvest areas some of which are extremely small that Enforcement can not give a ticket for being close to a stream mouth, as these streams are not important for the spawning or rearing of any salmon species and the conduct of gillnet fisheries in these areas has not harmed any wild stocks within the THA.

When 5 AAC 39.290 was changed several cycles ago, it has become very difficult to determine the closed areas that the 500 yards pertains to, particularly section (3) which states “over the beds or channels of fresh water of streams or rivers of this state”.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Fishermen’s Alliance & United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
(HQ-F17-069)

PROPOSAL 161

5 AAC 33.350. Closed Waters.

Update commercial salmon fishery closed waters coordinates in Whitewater Bay, as follows:

5 AAC 33.350(m)(13) is amended to read:

(13) Whitewater Bay: waters within a line from Point Caution to 57°[50°] 15.62’ N. lat., 134° 36.79’ [.42] W long.;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The closed waters description for Whitewater Bay in regulation is in error.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-118)

PROPOSAL 162

5 AAC 30.310. Fishing seasons and periods for net gear.

Open additional fishing area in the remainder of the Yakutat District as mitigation for king salmon conservation closures around the Situk and Lost Rivers, as follows:

We recommend that before any further restrictions in the estuary be implemented, proper consideration of the repercussions on both the economy of Yakutat, and even the health of the Situk itself be considered. Too many Sockeye in the system is in itself unhealthy.

Therefore, we ask that if the estuary is to be closed from the confluence of the Lost River to the mouth of the estuary, and thereby displacing a large portion of the commercial sockeye gillnet fleet, another area be opened, so that harvest of Sockeye can continue.

Our recommendation for this would be to expand the fishery in the area known as the "remainder of the district" currently limited to a 15 fathom net. Expansion would increase the legal net length from 15 fathoms to 75 fathoms. The area would be limited from Ocean Cape Eastward to a one mile limit from the mouth of estuary, and up to one mile offshore. Currently, 75 fathom nets are allowed for a sockeye season that coincides with openings in the estuary inside Yakutat bay, limited to a line from Ocean Cape to point Mamby. This action would allow these nets to proceed around the corner, and down the beach.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Situk River Chinook count has fallen below minimum escapement for 4 of the last 5 years. The forecasted 2017 run looks to be below minimum too, which will make 3 years in a row. Efforts have been made to increase the number of spawners by the Department. Sport retention has been closed. A no fishing corridor for commercial gillnetting around where the Situk flows into the Situk/Ahklen estuary has been increased. All have failed to have the desired affect.

The Lost River Sockeye count has fallen below minimum escapement for 6 years in a row. A no commercial gillnetting corridor around where the Lost flows into the Situk/Ahklen estuary has also been increased. It also, has failed to have the desired affect.

In 2015 a banner run of sockeye moved thru the Situk weir. Over and above the upper level escapement goal. Sport bag limit was doubled from 3 fish to 6 per day, and still they kept coming. Typically, the commercial setnet opening posted as 2.5 days per week would be extended to absorb the influx, but the estuary and Yakutat bay net fisheries received no extensions, because we were concerned about the chronically low Chinook count. This amounted to an approximate ex-vessel loss in excess of 500,000 dollars in a community that is in dire straits economically.

A cost analysis from Yakutat's only processor indicates that without a commercial sockeye fishery, they won't be able to remain in business to purchase other species. Without a processor, Yakutat will not survive economically. Even entities unaffiliated with commercial fishing will be impacted by the domino affect of losing the processor. Without production from the processor, it is questionable whether daily jet service would be warranted. This would impact lodges and sport anglers tremendously.

No one blames the Department for taking the steps it has to date, but it is felt that much more serious closures to the current commercial fishery structure, above, and below, the confluences of both the Situk and Lost rivers into the estuary are imminent. A plan needs to be in place to allow for a viable commercial Sockeye setnet fishery to take place that can harvest Situk bound Sockeye, while having a minimal effect on Situk bound Chinook, and Lost River bound Sockeye.

Catch records indicate an extremely low harvest of Chinook in the nets that fish near Ocean Cape. There are higher numbers of Chinook harvested in the waters of Monti Bay, but has everything to do with proximity to the bottom and the beach. Nets on Ocean Cape, and if allowed, down the beach as described, have to be outside of the surf line to be accessible, and therefore are well off of the bottom. It is our belief that this fishery would have a much lower impact on migrating Chinook. We also feel that if closing commercial gillnetting from the confluence of the Lost river

all the way down the estuary and in the ocean in a one mile radius around the mouth is warranted, than the proposed fishery would have less of an impact on this stock by way of reducing proximity.

The weir on the Situk would still be in place, and management of the commercial openings length would still be regulated by the Department as needed.

Other solutions we considered- The current Yakutat Bay setnet fishery openings for Sockeye is managed in accordance to Situk estuary openings. The basis for this is genetic tissue sampling that indicates as much as 70% of the catch was destined for the Situk River. As stated, the fishery inside Monti Bay has a fairly substantial harvest of Chinook. Though there is no genetic data to make determination from, we felt it fair to assume a high percentage of local Chinook are harvested, given the 70% Situk Sockeye data from the same harvest time. Retention of Chinook for sale is forbidden in the estuary, but is allowed in Yakutat Bay. We considered asking for retention to be closed, but given the fairly high mortality rate of salmon released from a net, we decided this would do little good. We considered closing the areas of high abundance, (namely Monti Bay), but decided that though this would likely aid in increasing numbers of Chinook reaching the Situk, what we as the Yakutat Advisory Committee are charged with is the overall health of the Yakutat area. We decided that this action would do nothing to help the chronically low numbers of Lost River Sockeye, that will inevitably cause the displacement of a large amount of commercial fishermen. We decided to focus on more places for fishermen to fish, rather than less.

Another solution we considered that was deemed too hard to put into proposal form, but does need to be said is, we would like the Department to consider changing the hands off policy towards helping nature out with chronically failing stocks. We are facing the economic ruin of our community and ways of life that has been handed down for generations do a couple of stocks that never were that strong to begin with. The Lost river Sockeye numbers are so low, it is doubtful they would ever recover no matter what you close. Why is it that determination can't be made, and then a recovery program implemented? The lake they spawn in has become so over grown you can walk on most of it. It's more muskeg than lake. A habit restoration that allows fish to reach gravel would help. Incubator boxes and egg guns to allow for eggs to hatch without predation would help. Some of our runs our endangered, make some of us endangered too, is not the solution to this. Fixing the runs is.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F17-039)

PROPOSAL 163

5 AAC 30.345. Requirements and specifications for operation of two units of set gillnet gear in Yakutat Area.

Continue to allow set gillnet gear permit stacking in the Yakutat Area, by removing the sunset provision, as follows:

(e) We ask that the sunset clause be removed, and this proposal become permanent.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Gillnetting in the Yakutat area is currently operating under a Board generated proposal with a sunset clause that allows for a

person who holds two Yakutat area limited entry gillnet permits to operate two nets in the Situk, Khaliak, or Yakutat bay during the fall season, or for sockeye if the projected Chinook run strength for the Situk River is greater than 1000 fish.

We reviewed implementation of this proposal during the last 5 years that it has been in effect. We found there to be very few who have actually utilized it, and no adverse affects. We feel it provides opportunity for those who wish to work harder to try to better themselves.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F17-041)

PROPOSAL 164

5 AAC 30.350. Closed waters.

Update commercial salmon fishery closed waters description at the mouth of the Situk River to provide a more accurate description of current closed waters, as follows:

5 AAC 30.350(a)(2) is amended to read:

(2) Situk River: upstream of a line from the ADF&G regulatory marker [LOCATED ON HOGGISH POINT SOUTHEAST TO AN ADF&G REGULATORY MARKER ON THE OPPOSITE BANK OF THE SITUK RIVER CHANNEL] **located on the western bank of the Situk River mouth near the Yakutat Seafoods buying station, to an ADF&G regulatory marker buoy anchored in the channel directly off the mouth of the Situk River, and** to an ADF&G regulatory marker on the cut bank on the eastern side of the mouth of Johnson Slough:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The area description in regulation is inconsistent with current commercial salmon markers. Hoggish Point no longer exists and the proposed language will provide a better description of the waters closed to commercial fishing near the mouth of the Situk River.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-115)

PROPOSAL 165

5 AAC 30.350. Closed waters.

Change commercial salmon fishery closed waters description for Tsiu and Tsiyat Rivers to more accurately reflect current stream mouth location, as follows:

5 AAC 30.350 (a)(12) is amended to read:

(2) Tsiu/**Tsiyat** [R]ivers: upstream of ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately [ONE-HALF] **three-quarters of a** mile downstream from Duck Camp Island, **and upstream of ADF&G regulatory markers located approximately one-half mile upstream from the confluence of the Tsiu/Tsiyat rivers.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The area description for closed waters on the Tsiu River is no longer applicable due to geophysical changes in the river channel. One major and two minor overflow channels from the Tsivat River have cut across the sand flats inland of the Tsiu River and the major overflow channel is the new migration route for coho salmon. This new confluence of the Tsiu and Tsivat rivers is approximately one mile downstream of Duck Camp Island. Salmon are no longer migrating up the Tsiu River, instead entering the Tsivat River well before they reach the current upper markers. This proposal will provide a more accurate description of closed waters that describes the current situation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-117)

PROPOSAL 166

5 AAC. 33.366. Northern Southeast seine salmon fishery management plans.

Allow a weekly commercial fishery targeting pink salmon with purse seine gear in District 12, as follows:

To allow a index fishery similar to the pt. Augusta index fishery, to occur weekly. This fishery needs to occur at the north eastern portion of stat area 112-16, with 1/2 mile stretch of beach up to 1/2 mile offshore off beach.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow better access to fish data for north bound pink salmon in northern southeast, stat area 112-16.

We currently rely on test fish data and it's my belief a directed index fishery would supply better data for the management of this area.

PROPOSED BY: Stan Savland (EF-F17-092)

PROPOSAL 167

5 AAC 33.350. Closed waters.

Close waters beyond one half mile from shore in Districts 12 and 14 to commercial fishing for salmon with purse seine gear, as follows:

(m) District 12:

...

(16) waters beyond 1/2 mile of the shoreline in sub-districts 112-14 and 112-16 during any seine openings

...

(o) District 14:

...

(10) waters beyond 1/2 mile of the shoreline in sub-districts 114-25 and 114-27 during any seine openings

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would address the need to allow for the harvest of pink salmon in the Icy Straits and northern Chatham Straits areas while allowing for the passage of other stocks through the fishing area. The Icy Straits and Northern Chatham Straights areas are known to be an area containing many mixed stocks that are traveling to river systems such as the Taku, Chilkat and Chilkoot. Only allowing seine fisheries to be persecuted within ½ mile of the shoreline would allow for the department to direct the fishing effort toward the targeted species, pink salmon, while other stocks can pass through this area where stock composition can be hard to determine. This change would be particularly helpful in years when a system such as the Chilkat is tracking below the escapement goal for a species, like sockeye, but there is large return of pink salmon needing to be harvested.

PROPOSED BY: William Prisciandaro (EF-F17-099)

PROPOSAL 168

5 AAC 33.350. Closed waters.

Close certain waters of Districts 12 and 14 to commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear, as follows:

(m) District 12:

...

(16) waters in sub-districts 112-14 and 112-16 would be closed to seine fishing

...

(o) District 14:

...

(10) waters in sub-districts 114-25 and 114-27 would be closed to seine fishing

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal asks the department to close seine fishing in the Icy Straits and Northern Chatham Strait areas for conservation of Chinook salmon. This area is known to be a travel corridor for both juvenile and adult Chinook stocks from many river systems. During 2017 and most likely continuing, restrictions have been placed on subsistence, commercial and sport fisheries in areas to the north of the Icy Straits and Northern Chatham Straits while no restrictions have been placed on commercial seine fisheries in this area to help conserve Chinook stocks. Chinook salmon returns to the Chilkat and Taku Rivers have missed escapement goals multiple times over the last decade and conservation measures like this are necessary to allow Chinook salmon to rebound from many years of low returns. It is in the best interest of all that we help Chinook stocks now so that we can have a healthy fishery in the future that can be enjoyed by everyone.

PROPOSED BY: Ryan Cook (EF-F17-101)

PROPOSAL 169

5 AAC 33.310. Fishing seasons and periods for net gear.

Open Section 6-D the second Sunday of June to commercial fishing for salmon with drift gillnet gear, as follows:

(c)(2)(A) Sections 6-A, 6-B, [AND] 6-C **and 6-D** open on the second Sunday of June;
(B) [DELETE ALL MATERIAL]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Gillnet fishermen wishing to harvest pink salmon in District 6 are precluded from doing so under existing regulations. These conditions are in part due to the closures associated with McDonald Lake conservation measures, which have forced fishermen into already crowded and limited areas. This proposal rectifies the situation by providing access for pink salmon in District 6(D) during years of high pink salmon abundance.

Gillnet fishermen will continue to have limited time and area already. Secondly, gillnetters are not adequately harvesting their allocation of wild pink salmon in Southeast Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (USAG) (HQ-F17-079)

PROPOSAL 170

5 AAC 33.310. Fishing seasons and periods for net gear.

Open a portion of District 10 the third Sunday of June to commercial fishing for salmon with drift gillnet gear only, as follows:

(k)(1) **District 110-31 opens on the third Sunday of June for gillnet only.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Gillnet fishermen have limited time and fishing area compared to other fishing groups targeting wild salmon in Southeast Alaska. Currently, gillnet fishermen have the smallest amount of area in which to target wild salmon and the fewest number of days available for harvest. Gillnet harvest opportunities are extremely restricted while the current harvests by the gillnet fishery accounts for only 18% of the entire SE salmon harvest.

Gillnetters will continue to have limited opportunities to harvest wild salmon. Gillnetters will have fewer square miles of water in which to target salmon and gillnetters will continue to bear the brunt of most conservation measures as the gillnet fisheries are based around terminal areas.

PROPOSED BY: United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (USAG) (HQ-F17-080)

PROPOSAL 171

5 AAC 33.331. Gillnet specifications and operation.

Add District 6 to the mesh-size restriction area and allow implementation of the mesh-size restriction for an additional month, as follows:

5 AAC 33.331 (d) is amended to read:

(d) In Districts 6, 8, 11, and 15, through the fourth Saturday in **July** [JUNE], the commissioner may, by emergency order, establish fishing periods during which the maximum gillnet mesh size is six inches.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Southeast Alaska (SEAK) king salmon stocks are currently experiencing a cycle of very low abundance. Over the past five years (2012–2016), the eleven king salmon index systems did not meet escapement goals 45% of the time. In 2017, the Taku and Chilkat Rivers were not expected to meet their escapement goals despite conservation measures. The Stikine River had a terminal run size forecast near the midpoint of the escapement goal range after accounting for conservation measures.

In response to the ongoing cycle of low productivity of SEAK king salmon stocks, Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries held a series of meetings in winter 2017 to develop a management strategy maximizing king salmon escapements across the region that included closures and time and area reductions for subsistence, sport, and commercial salmon fisheries throughout SEAK. Another critical part of this management strategy is a gillnet mesh restriction in districts 6, 8, 11, and 15, implemented over the entire duration of the king salmon runs to Chilkat, Taku, and Stikine rivers. Current regulations allow implementation of mesh restrictions in Districts 8, 11, and 15 through the first Saturday in June, which excludes District 6 and only covers a portion of these king salmon runs. SEAK king salmon runs typically peak in late June to early July and are largely complete by late July.

In March 2017, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted an emergency regulation allowing the department to implement the mesh-size restriction in District 6 and extend the mesh-size restriction through the fourth Saturday in July for districts 6, 8, 11, and 15. This emergency regulation was in effect for the 2017 fishing season and this proposal seeks to make those provisions a permanent management tool for conservation of SEAK king salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-110)

PROPOSAL 172

5 AAC 29.090. Management of the spring salmon troll fisheries.

Remove restrictions on harvesting non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon in the spring commercial salmon troll fishery on the Gravina Island shore, as follows:

Proposed language: New section 5 AAC 29.090(d)(1)(D)(vii) to read *“There is no limit on the number of non-Alaska hatchery produced salmon that may be taken in district 101-29 during statistical weeks 23 through 27, since the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is in excess of 66 percent or more of the king salmon taken in that fishery, averaged of a 10-year period”*

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The intent of the spring troll fishery is very specific and clearly stated in the 2015-2018 S.E. Alaska/Yakutat Areas Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations: *“The department shall manage the spring troll fisheries to target Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon”* (5 AAC 29.090(b)).

There are several tools that the Regulations engage for this purpose. These tolls are designed to limit the catch of non-Alaska hatchery-produced fish. An additional tool could be added to complement those which are currently in place. Doing so would allow an increased number of Alaska hatchery-produced fish to be caught, maximizing this resource for the highest value.

We recommend that district 101-29 be exempted from the Regulation’ restrictions contained in 5 AAC 29.090(d)(1)(D) during statistical weeks 23-27. This sub-district would be selected based on high historical abundance of Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon during these statistical weeks.

A graph of district 101-29 is attached*, depicting the 10-year average spring troll catch numbers for king salmon originating from Canada, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California and Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association. For this particular sub-district, it is clear that the relative catch of SSRAA-produced versus all other king salmon caught during week 23 through 27 is overwhelmingly Alaska hatchery-produced.

This recommendation is in accordance with 5 AAC 29.090(d)(2) “*consider additional fishing periods based on the best scientific data and on input from salmon trollers*”

Who would benefit:

- SSRAA would receive 3% more money
- Power and Hand troll fleets
- Fewer disruptions in management

PROPOSED BY: Charlie Piercy

(HQ-F17-005)

**Proposal submission instructions indicate any additional information provided with the form, such as tables, Internet web links, or charts, will not be included in the proposal book. The referenced graph will be included in the public comment material for the appropriate meeting.*

PROPOSAL 173

5 AAC 29.114. District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan.

Allow commercial fisheries using troll gear to target enhanced chum salmon in Districts 12 and 14 to continue by removing the sunset provision, as follows:

Delete [(e) The provisions of this section do not apply after December 31, 2017.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sunset of *District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan.*

Without adoption of this proposal or extending the deadline this productive troll fishery will end. Trollers, tenders, fish processors, the communities of Hoonah, Elfin Cove, Gustavus, Excursion Inlet, Juneau, Haines, and other SE communities with troll residents will suffer. Consumers who

appreciate high quality brite, troll handled, chum salmon will be denied. The Chinook salmon resource will benefit as less trailers will be targeting Chinook salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association Troll Representatives:
George Eliason, James Moore, Zack Olson, Bert Bergman (HQ-F17-010)

PROPOSAL 174

5 AAC 29.114. District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan.

Establish commercial fisheries targeting enhanced chum salmon using troll gear in portions of Districts 9 and 10, as follows:

District **9, 10**, 12, and 14, Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan. The purpose of the management plan in this section is to give the department direction for the orderly development of enhanced chum salmon troll fisheries during the directed troll fisheries in Cross Sound, Icy Strait, Northern Chatham Strait, **and in the waters of Districts 109 and 110 enclosed by a line from the Washington Bay light to 56° 43.11' N lat., 134°28.84' W long., to 56° 52.47' N lat., 134° 30.24' W long., to the Turnabout Island Light to Pinta Point at 57°05.96' N lat., 133°53.55' W long** while providing for the conservation of wild stocks. **Maps attached***

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Northern South East Alaska Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) has taken over the South East Cove chum release site and Gunnuck Creek Hatchery. NSRAA and is building the returns substantially. It is expected these chums will be returning in the area proposed in June and early July. Presently the District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan does not include this area of District 12 or the Turnabout Is/Pinta Rocks, 110-17 area of 110. So, we have offered this proposed solution by extending the plan to part of the Chatham Strait Spring Troll Area 112- 12 and the Turnabout Is./Pinta Rocks area of 110- 31 in ADF&G areas 9 and 10.

PROPOSED BY: Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association Troll Representatives:
George Eliason, Eric Jordan, James Moore, Zack Olson, Bert Bergman (HQ-F17-011)

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PROPOSAL 175

5 AAC 29.114. District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan.

Implement a king salmon possession restriction for vessels participating in the enhanced chum salmon troll fishery, as follows:

Add a new provision (d)(3) to read:

(d)(3) When a spring king salmon troll fishery is closed, a person may not have king salmon on board a salmon troll vessel while fishing for chum salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The *District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan* was adopted in 2012. This plan was developed to provide additional opportunity for salmon troll fishermen to target enhanced chum salmon during the spring troll fisheries. The plan allows salmon troll fishermen to continue to fish for enhanced chum salmon in specified areas of districts 12 and 14 following any closure of these fisheries to the retention of king salmon as described in 5 AAC 29.090(d)(1)(D).

When the plan was adopted provisions restricting possession of king salmon while participating in enhanced chum salmon fisheries was inadvertently omitted. This proposal will add a king salmon possession restriction to the *District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan* prohibiting salmon troll vessels participating in enhanced chum salmon fisheries from possessing king salmon in areas that have been closed to directed spring troll king salmon fishing.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-103)

PROPOSAL 176

5 AAC 29.112. Management of chum salmon troll fishery.

Establish a commercial fishery using troll gear to target hatchery-produced chum salmon in Crawfish Inlet, as follows:

Current regulations provide for two other hatchery areas to remain open to trolling for chum salmon during the coho closure. We propose that Crawfish Inlet be added to this short list of areas. The entire Inlet has been preliminarily been designated as a Terminal Harvest Area, which suggests that the presence of wild coho in Crawfish Inlet should be negligible

Proposed language:

5 AAC 29.112. Management of chum salmon troll fishery.

(a) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, a hatchery chum salmon troll fishery only during the summer coho salmon troll fishery closures specified in 5 AAC 29.110(b)(2).

(b) If the commissioner opens a season under (a) of this section, chum salmon fishing will occur only:

(1) in the waters of Sitka Sound and the Eastern Channel east of a line from Vitskari Rock Light to Inner Point, south of a line from Inner Point to Black Rock at 57_ 03.12' N. lat., 135_ 25.63' W. long., to Signal Island Light at 57_ 02.78' N. lat., 135_ 23.58' W. long., and north of a line from Cape Baranof at 56_ 59.03' N. lat., 135_ 23.23' W. long., to Kulichkof Rock at 56_ 59.52' N. lat., 135_ 26.62' W. long., to Vitskari Rock Light; and

(2) in the waters of Neets Bay east of the longitude of Chin Point to the longitude of the easternmost tip of Bug Island.

(3) in the waters of Crawfish Inlet in any or all portions east of 135 degrees 11.05'W, as determined by the Department.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture's (NSRAA) new Crawfish Inlet release site has been developed, in part, to provide opportunity for trollers to harvest chum and attempt to better balance the harvest of enhanced salmon. However, current regulations require a mid-August closure of 2-10 days to provide for coho allocation and/or conservation; this closure typically occurs during the peak of the Crawfish chum return.

In 1994, the Board of Fisheries (Board) formed a task force composed of seine, gillnet, and troll representatives to develop an allocation plan for enhanced salmon. The Southeast Alaska Allocation Task Force recommended, and the Board approved, a troll allocation of 27-32% of the total value of the commercial catch of enhanced salmon. When authorizing the allocation plan, the Board also unanimously adopted a set of Guiding Principles (94-148-FB) to assist the Regional Planning Teams, ADFG, and future Boards in arriving at hatchery allocation decisions.

The troll fleet has consistently fallen short of its allocated share of enhanced salmon. Since 2005, the actual troll share has averaged just 16-19%. This long-term shortfall is economically significant and estimated to be roughly \$4 million per year.

Achievement of hatchery allocation goals is based on review of 5-year rolling averages. The 9th guiding principle provides that when a gear group has been outside of its allocated range for three consecutive years as measured using a 5-yr average, adjustments can be made. The troll fleet has been below its allocation range for 22 consecutive years.

To partially address this imbalance, in 2014 NSRAA began releasing chum salmon at Crawfish Inlet to create a troll chum fishery. This is in keeping with the 13th guiding principle, which states that new production is an appropriate tool to assist in meeting allocation percentage goals.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F17-028)

PROPOSAL 177

5 AAC 29.110. Management of coho salmon troll fishery.

Allow commercial fishing with troll gear for hatchery-produced coho salmon, in certain areas, during commercial troll fishery coho salmon conservation closures, as follows:

(e) Notwithstanding other sections of this regulation, the department in consultation with hatchery operators may, for the purpose of allowing troll access to hatchery coho, define areas where coho retention is permitted during closures made under (b) of this section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The troll fleet is chronically behind on its allocation of enhanced fish. We would like to see ADFG given the authority to open

areas where the fleet can access hatchery coho during the August troll closure. ADFG should be given flexibility to determine whether to open these areas each year based on the health of wild stocks and the broodstock needs of the hatchery operators.

In 1994, the Board of Fisheries (Board) formed a task force composed of seine, gillnet, and troll representatives to develop an allocation plan for enhanced salmon. The Southeast Alaska Allocation Task Force recommended, and the Board approved, a troll allocation of 27-32% of the total value of the commercial catch of enhanced salmon. When authorizing the allocation plan, the Board also unanimously adopted a set of Guiding Principles (94-148-FB) to assist the Regional Planning Teams, ADFG, and future Boards in arriving at hatchery allocation decisions.

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PROPOSED BY: Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F17-030)

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 Biorka 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.

PROPOSAL 179

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

Adopt measures to reduce harvest rate in the winter commercial salmon troll fishery during times of high king salmon abundance, as follows:

(a) The department shall manage the winter salmon troll fishery so that the harvest of king salmon does not exceed a guideline harvest level of 45,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced fish, with a guideline harvest range of 43,000 to 47,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced fish, plus the number of Alaska hatchery king salmon harvested during the winter troll fishery. In this subsection, “non-Alaska hatchery-produced fish” means king salmon not originating from a hatchery in this state.

(b) The department using the following line restrictions and criteria, shall by emergency order, manage the winter troll fishery to achieve the guideline harvest range of 43,000 to 47,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook no earlier than April 14th.

Line restrictions.

Yakutat area district 183-10

1. Temporarily change the current winter fishing line at Yakutat Bay at the westernmost tip of Point Manby, at 59’41.66’ N. lat, 140’ 19.70 W. long, to 59’40.02’ N. lat., 140’24.36’ W. long, to 59’ 31.25’ N. lat., 139’ 53.69 W. long., to Ocean Cape light 59’32.06 N, 139’51.46 W.’ **To the Yakutat spring troll fishery area line at Point Manby 59’41.56 N, 140’19.70 W to Ocean Cape light 59’32.06 N, 139’51.46 W.’**

Sitka Area District 113

2. Temporarily change the current winter fishing line at Cape Edgecumbe light to the southernmost tip of Point Woodhouse,

To the southernmost tip of Shoals Point (approximately 57*00.64 N, 135*38.28 W) to the Northernmost tip of Biorka Island (approximately 56’52.080N, 135’33.010W) to the southernmost tip of Point Woodhouse.

Chatham strait District 109

3. Temporarily change the current winter fishing line at Cape Ommaney to Nation Point,;

To Cape Ommaney to Crowley light (approximately 56*07.20 N, 134* 15.54 W) on Kuiu Island to Nation Point on Coronation Is.

Sumner strait area District 105

4. Temporarily change the current winter fishing line at Helm Point to the southernmost tip of Cape Addington,

To Cora Point (approximately 55° 54.82 N, 134° 06.94 W) on Coronation Is. to the southernmost tip of Cape Addington.

Noyes Island area District 104

5. Temporarily change the current winter fishing line at the southern most tip of Cape Addington to western most tip of Cape Chirikof,

To the southernmost tip of Cape Addington to the northwestern most tip of Outer Point (approximately 55°22.55 N,133° 40.67 W) to the northern most tip of Granite Pt (approximately 55° 19.08 N, 133°41.40 W) to the western most tip of Cape Chirikof

Criteria

A) **Implementation of line restrictions may only occur if the catch rate of non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook in the winter troll fishery is predicted to reach the guideline harvest range of 43,000 to 47,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook before April 14th.**

B) **Implementation of line restrictions may only occur after January 1.**

C) **Implementation of line restrictions may only occur after the winter harvest has reached 25,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook.**

D) **Implementation of a line restriction in a district can only occur if that district's current harvest of non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook exceeds the percentages outlined below.**

District 183 --- 14% of the current winter harvest of non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook

District 113 --- 65% of the current winter harvest of non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook

District 109 --- 11% of the current winter harvest of non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook

District 105--- 12% of the current winter harvest of non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook

District 104 --- 8 % of the current winter harvest of non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook

E) **All temporary line restrictions shall be lifted April 15th.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In years when Chinook are in extreme high abundance the winter troll fishery has closed earlier than it should. Even though the closing of the winter fishery before April 14th is rare, the times that it has occurred, have had

negative economic impacts on the fishing communities in Southeast Alaska. This proposal is meant to slow the winter fishery's harvest rate down in these years of extreme high abundance.

The length of the winter season affects the troll harvest in the communities throughout Southeast Alaska. For the southern and non coastal communities, the loss of the latter part of the winter fishery hits them especially hard because the fish do not show up in their area until the later part of the season.

Since the weather improves in the later part of the fishery, the small boats lose their best opportunity to participate in the fishery when it closes early. This proposal should improve the safety of the fishery due to alleviating the desire to fish terrible weather because, fisherman will no longer feel pressured by the possibility of the season closing early.

This proposal should aid in maintaining a constant supply of fresh king salmon to the markets that would otherwise go without when the season closes early. Early closure leaves a wide break before spring fisheries start up, therefore leaving vacant winter fishery markets open for farm fish take over.

This proposal should improve the quality of the product because in rough weather, fish are subject to bruising and scaling that does not occur in calmer water. And finally this proposal should also help in avoiding the glutting of the fresh fish market by slowing the harvest rate down in years of high abundance

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-018)

PROPOSAL 180

5 AAC 29.090. Management of the spring salmon troll fisheries.

Reduce triggers in the Southeastern Alaska Area spring commercial salmon troll fishery by five percent in years of high king salmon abundance, as follows:

Reduce the percentage triggers in the spring troll fishery by 5% only when the abundance index, or some similar measure of abundance, is determined by the Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC), to be at a level equivalent to 1.95 or higher as measured by the PSC Chinook model.

5 AAC 29.090. Management of the spring salmon troll fisheries

...

(d) In its management of the spring fisheries under this section, the department shall

(1) first consider changes in the previous years' spring fisheries; the department shall open the fisheries if they meet the following requirements:

(A) a directed fishery may occur only if an Alaska hatchery return is expected to exceed broodstock requirements;

(B) at least one spring fishery shall be conducted annually, targeting the king salmon returning to each Alaska hatchery that meets its broodstock requirements;

(C) in order to continue the fishery each year without modification of areas previously established, the contribution rate of hatchery stocks to the directed fishery harvest must exceed 20 percent;

(D) if the preseason king salmon abundance index is less than 1.95, the department shall manage each spring salmon troll fishery as follows:

...

(E) if the preseason king salmon abundance index is 1.95 or greater, the department shall manage each spring salmon troll fishery as follows:

i. no more than 1,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is less than 20 percent of the king salmon taken in that fishery;

ii. no more than 2,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is at least 20 percent but less than 30 percent of the king salmon taken in that fishery;

iii. no more than 3,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is at least 30 percent but less than 45 percent of the king salmon taken in that fishery;

iv. no more than 5,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is at least 45 percent but less than 61 percent of the king salmon taken in that fishery;

v. there is no limit on the number of non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon that may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is 61 percent or more of the king salmon taken in that fishery;

(F) [(E)] if the requirements of (A) – (D) or (E) of this paragraph are met, the department shall open the spring salmon troll fisheries until no later than one day before the opening of the summer salmon troll fishery;

(2) consider additional fishing periods based on the best scientific data and on input from salmon trollers;

(3) if the preseason king salmon abundance index ~~determined by the Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission~~ is at least 1.15 and the amount of the winter troll fishery guideline harvest level remaining on May 1 is 10,000 or more king salmon, apply the following provisions:

(A) if the guideline harvest level remaining is at least 10,000 king salmon but not more than 15,000 king salmon, 250 additional non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon will be added to the maximum allowable number of non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon to be taken as provided in (2)(D) **or (E)** of this subsection;

(B) if the guideline harvest level remaining is more than 15,000 king salmon, 500 additional non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon will be added to the maximum allowable number of non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon to be taken as provided in (2)(D) **or (E)** of this subsection.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2014 and 2015, an abundance of Chinook salmon caused spring trolling areas to be restricted or closed prematurely, due to the high presence of treaty kings. The high abundance was largely attributed to Columbia River fall run Chinook, which were experiencing the largest returns since the dams were erected in 1938. ATA is requesting consideration of a small adjustment to the spring troll management plan, so that the fishery can avoid disruption should we see similar abundance in future years.

The spring troll fishery is structured in such a way as to allowing the targeting of Alaska hatchery Chinook, while minimizing the harvest of fish that count against the Pacific Salmon Treaty (treaty) quota. From April through June, small areas are opened to trolling near hatcheries or in corridors where Alaska hatchery fish are known to transit. The amount of fishing time allowed in each area varies and is determined weekly, with some openings lasting just 1-3 days per week. Guideline harvest levels for treaty Chinook have been established and those levels correlate to the percentage of Alaska hatchery fish contributing to the harvest in each spring area. Once the guideline level is reached, that area is closed to spring fishing.

The abundance of Chinook salmon in Southeast has been extraordinarily high in most of the recent years. In 2014, the model utilized by the Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission generated a pre-season abundance index of 2.57 and a quota of 439,400. As a result, seven spring areas across the region experienced time/area restrictions or closures, due to this strong showing of treaty Chinook that overwhelmed the spring hatchery harvest. 2013 and 2014 were the first years on record that the percent of Alaska hatchery kings in the spring troll fishery declined instead of increased, in mid to late June.

This extreme abundance continued into 2015 & 2016 and ADFG was compelled to manage the spring fishing areas conservatively. Both time and area restrictions were implemented in the face of large Columbia River returns, which had already caused the 2015 winter troll fishery to close

on March 25th - the earliest closure since 1972. In 2016, the winter fishery closed on March 8, which was seven weeks earlier than the regulatory closure date of April 30th; making it the earliest winter troll closure since at least 1950.

Loss of opportunity in the spring hatchery areas reduces troller's access to the hatchery Chinook our industry pays for, many of which are raised to mitigate chronic reductions in the treaty Chinook salmon quota and do not count against the annual quota. In addition, any loss of access to Alaska hatchery Chinook further confounds the troll fleet's ability to achieve its enhanced salmon allocation under 5 AAC 33.364 (see also: 94-148-FB).

Allowing a small reduction in the spring hatchery percentage triggers, only when abundance is anticipated to be very high, should help ensure that the troll fleet maintains access to spring hatchery areas, while also adhering to the original purpose, which was to help target effort in those areas with the most hatchery stocks while minimizing the harvest of treaty Chinook.

Until recently, the abundance of West Coast Chinook salmon has been such that ADFG could manage the spring troll fishery well within the Board of Fisheries goals for the fishery using the current regulations. However, the 2014 and 2015 seasons proved that the coastwide Chinook resource is capable of extraordinary spikes in abundance. It is likely that these fish will be present in similarly large numbers at some point in the future and the troll fishery could be disrupted again. It is obvious that additional management tools are needed for use in years of exceptional abundance, thereby reducing the potential for disruption and providing better access hatchery king salmon that are the target of the spring fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Trollers Association (HQ-F17-029)

PROPOSAL 181

5 AAC 29.100. Management of the summer salmon troll fishery.

Reduce the percentage of remaining commercial king salmon troll fishery harvest taken during the initial summer king salmon retention period from 70% to 60% during years of high king salmon abundance, as follows:

(c)(1)(A) to take **60** [70] percent of the remaining king salmon harvest **if the preseason abundance index is above 1.60 or take 70% of the remaining king salmon harvest if below 1.60**

...

(2)(A) if approximately **60 or** [70] percent or more (**depending on the pre-season abundance index**) ...

(B) If the department determines that less than **40** or [30]in that opening **depending on the preseason abundance index.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to amend 5 AAC 29.100 (C) (1) (a) and (2) (A) and (B) to take 60% of the remaining king salmon harvest if the pre-

season abundance index is above 1.60 (70% is the existing regulation and would remain in effect if the pre-season abundance index is below 1.60). The five main reasons to decrease the % to 60% on high abundance seasons:

1. Higher value for larger average size King salmon in late seasons;
2. Higher quality product;
3. Minimizes incidental hook and release of king salmon due to less non-retention days;
4. Spreads the income derived from king salmon more evenly among the fleet;
5. Greater opportunity for in-season management during the late season opening.

PROPOSED BY: John Murray (HQ-F17-048)

PROPOSAL 182

5 AAC 29.100. Management of the summer salmon troll fishery.

Establish a starting date for the reopening the summer commercial king salmon troll fishery, as follows:

Replace 29.100 (c)(1) (B)(ii) "if a closure is not necessary to achieve coho salmon harvest guidelines after the reopening of the king salmon troll fishery, no later than August 20, but only following a two-day closure to allow a fair start."

With:

"if a closure is not necessary to achieve coho salmon harvest guidelines after the reopening of the king salmon troll fishery, following a two-day closure to allow a fair start."

And create a new 29.100 (c)(1) (B)(iii) to read: "The date for opening shall be the second Tuesday in August"

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish a specific starting date for the summer salmon troll fishery.

If nothing is changed, fishermen and processors will not be able to plan for events around an unknown specific starting date for this fishery.

I considered a specific starting date in August, i.e. the 8th, but a Tuesday start allows an advantage for full-time fishermen

PROPOSED BY: Charlie Piercy (HQ-F17-004)

PROPOSAL 183

5 AAC 29.100. Management of the summer salmon troll fishery.

Modify commercial salmon fishing closed waters adjacent to the Situk River, as follows: