

PROPOSAL 90

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

Change trigger to from an annual abundance index (AI) number to a District 13 early-winter power troll CPUE tier, as follows:

I propose that 5 AAC 29.090 Management of the spring salmon troll fisheries be modified as follows:

5 AAC 29.090 Management of the spring salmon troll fisheries

...(d)(3) if the [PRESEASON KING SALMON ABUNDANCE INDEX DETERMINED BY THE CHINOOK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION IS AT LEAST 1.15] **Stat Week 41-48 District 113 early winter king salmon power troll CPUE is within or above tier 3** 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)...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The previous agreement between the United States and Canada under the Pacific Salmon Treaty expired in 2018. The old agreement used a computer-generated Abundance Index (AI) method to calculate Alaska's Chinook quota. The AI method was replaced with a tiered system that uses the Catch-Per-Unit-Effort (CPUE) of the early winter (early October through the end of November) Chinook troll fishery in District 113 instead. District 113 is a geographically large and typically productive district on the outer coast. Out of all of the districts with early winter fisheries in the region, the CPUE in District 113 was found to be the most accurate predictor of Chinook abundance the following summer.

The harvest in the winter troll fishery is limited by a Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) of 45,000 Treaty Chinook. In years when the regional winter harvest falls short of this amount by 10,000 or more king salmon, the GHLs in the spring fisheries are typically increased in an attempt to ensure that at least some of the unused winter GHL is caught during the higher-priced spring season, rather than getting transferred directly to the summer season. Under previous regulations this was only to occur when the computer-modeled Abundance Index was 1.15 or higher. A Chinook abundance level that merited an AI of 1.15 under the old system would be expected to fall within Tier 3 (which includes CPUEs in the range of 2.6-3.8 kings per boat-day) under the new Treaty Agreement. This housekeeping proposal just updates the language regarding the conditions that trigger additions to spring GHLs to reflect the change from the AI method of determining the Alaska quota to the CPUE tier method.

PROPOSED BY: Tad Fujioka

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