

PROPOSAL 119

5 AAC 15.330. Gear, 5 AAC 15.33X. Troll specifications and operations, and 5 AAC 29.XXX. Salmon Troll Fishery.

Amend allowable gear in the Chignik Management Area to include troll gear, create a management plan to include a commercial troll fishery and amend regulations in **Chapter 29 Salmon Troll Fishery** to include the Chignik Management Area, as follows:

5 AAC 15.330. Gear

(a) Salmon may be taken [ONLY] by purse seine, [AND] hand purse seine, **power troll and hand troll gear.**

5 AAC 09.33X. Troll specifications and operations

(a) Legal gear for the commercial summer troll fishery includes power and hand troll gear types. From each power or hand troll gurdy, only one line to which multiple leaders and hooks may be attached. Power trollers are limited to no more than six lines operated by hydraulic, electrical, or mechanical powered gurdies.

(b) Vessels using hand troll gear are limited to the operation of no more than two hand-operated gurdies or four fishing rods.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Though Chignik sockeye are considered a Stock of management concern, Coho are also present and a selective method of harvest when seining is closed is needed to benefit the local economy as well as to control potential predation of Sockeye juveniles.

What would happen if nothing is changed?

If nothing is done the Coho will continue to be unharvested when the salmon seine fishery is closed to protect sockeye escapement. This would put undue stress on the current Sockeye Stocks. In the Chignik system, coho spend from 0 to 3 years (typically 2 years) in freshwater before migrating to the ocean to mature and are capable of consuming sockeye fry after their first winter in freshwater. While juvenile coho are traditionally considered to reside primarily in streams (Sandercock 1991), they are primarily found in lake habitats preferred by sockeye in the Chignik system. Previous research in the watershed showed that juvenile coho prey heavily on sockeye juveniles (Roos 1960), **consuming over half** of the emerging fry annually (Ruggerone & Rogers 1992). Thus, predation by coho may limit the productivity of sockeye populations, thereby limiting the profitability of the aggregate commercial fishery (Ruggerone & Rogers 1992).

What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them?

The stakeholders asked the department to open up a Coho directed fishery and because of the regulations and terminal stock difficulties in Sockeye salmon they believed it would be irresponsible and potentially to the detriment of the present management of concern Sockeye stocks. By adding troll gear tied to the current permits this would give the department the latitude to open a Coho directed fishery without interfering with the Sockeye and Chinook low return issues.

There is no interest in creating more permits for the area, thus creating the same problem of expanding fisheries that has occurred in other areas. Troll gear would be added as a gear type specifically to the existing salmon permit in the Chignik area.

PROPOSED BY: Benjamin Allen

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