

Personal Testimony of James Moore
re: allocation plan Proposal175

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Board for this opportunity to testify today. I have some comments relating to proposal 175 which would call for another enhanced salmon allocation task force.

My name is James Moore, I live in Haines and I have been a troller for 44 years. Two of my sons are also commercial fishermen and in some seasons our little family fleet will harvest salmon, albacore and groundfish in waters ranging from Monterey, CA to Dutch Harbor. This is to say that fishing is no hobby for us, it is our life.

That being said I am a little embarrassed to admit **this is the first Board of Fish Meeting I have ever attended.** For over 40 years I depended on others to carry on the political side of our business but several years ago, feeling I might have something to contribute I agreed to get involved and took a position on the board of directors of one of our fishing organizations. Somehow within a year and a half I was elected or appointed to 4 different boards. (I do not recommend this!) My position on these boards made me the logical choice to negotiate on behalf of trollers in trying to achieve a formal consensus agreement on allocation prior to last springs JRPT. The formal agreement failed but the process, the levels of responsibility, the 4 hats if you will forced a kind of catharsis in my understanding of industry dynamics.

I am here today to speak briefly to you about Proposal 175 which would call for another BoF Task Force on enhanced salmon allocation. I Strongly recommend you do NOT do this as I would probably have to be on it!

Seriously, I believe it is unnecessary as does nearly all industry and producers. The current plan though admittedly imperfect provides the necessary guidelines, principles, tools for management, production and sharing of enhanced salmon.

Some make the claim that the present plan is or is not working. You know what? It is **neither**. It is **people** that make a plan work.

I am committed as ever to promoting opportunity for my fleet, to working for my gear group to come into its targeted allocation range **but not at all costs**. Certainly not at the cost of a respectful, informed, working relationship between user groups.

We trollers can now look forward to increased opportunity to access hatchery production as several new projects come on line in the next few years. These are born of **collaboration** not contention. I am thinking of the unanimous vote at the last NSRAA meeting designating the first new major project permitted by the Dept. (in decades I think) as Troll/Cost recovery.

Plans' not perfect, we're not perfect... but we can make it work... Thanks.