

PROPOSAL 144

5 AAC 33.376. District 13: Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan.

Allow increased commercial salmon fishing opportunity with troll gear in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area, as follows:

(b) (2) & (3).

In the proposed regulation that follows, regular text is existing regulation, **bolded is proposed and [bracketed] may be deleted.

(2) salmon may be taken by troll gear when the waters described in this subsection are closed to commercial net gear.

(A) Beginning with the first day of the August coho closure described in 5 AAC 29.110(b)(2), or August 20 if there is no closure, salmon may also be taken by troll gear when the waters described in this subsection are open to commercial net gear

(3) the commissioner [shall] **may** close the seasons in the waters described in this subsection to trolling during hatchery cost recovery periods.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Title: *Allow Trolling in Deep Inlet THA during certain Net and Cost Recovery Fisheries*

Trollers have been below their allocation of enhanced salmon established by BOF Finding 94-148-FB and adopted into regulation 5 AAC 33.364 *Southeast Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan*. When such an imbalance persists, (and the troll share has been consistently below the allocation range for over 20 years using the measure directed by the Allocation Plan) the Allocation Plan provides direction for the BoF to adjust terminal area fisheries to achieve that balance. The 13th point of BOF Finding 94-148-FB similarly states that the first tool to be used to make the distribution of the harvest meet the allocation goals is to make adjustments to Special Harvest Area management.

NSRAA has recently re-established a coho return to Deep Inlet. These fish primarily return in August- along with the later portion of the chum run. Both of these runs are well suited to a troll fishery. This proposal would change the Deep Inlet management plan to be more similar to management of SSRAA terminal areas which are open to trolling during all net openings.

The region-wide troll closure is a period of extremely limited opportunity for trollers. While net gear might preempt all available water during a highly-subscribed net opening, sometimes there would be opportunity to troll behind the gillnet fleet or when the seine fleet is divided between hatchery and wild fish opportunities. Allowing trollers to fish in Deep Inlet during cost recovery fisheries (which typically do not occupy more than a small fraction of the THA due to the small number of cost recovery boats) could be a potentially significant troll opportunity. Later in the year as the chum run tapers off, the net effort frequently decreases to the point that there is regularly room for simultaneous troll access.

PROPOSED BY: Chum Trollers Association

(EF-F17-109)
