

## **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 14<sup>th</sup>.**

### **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)

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