

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
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Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Members of the Board of Fisheries:

I am writing because I feel the Alaska Board of Fisheries needs to clearly and publicly lay out the jurisdictional responsibilities of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) team. It has become apparent to myself and fellow fisherman that parts of the current team might be over stepping their responsibilities as a negotiating member of the PST team. It is my opinion, that the PST team's responsibility should be limited to negotiating a treaty for the best interest of all Alaskan stakeholders. The Board of Fisheries is the State of Alaska's responsible managing group that sets all the allocative quota numbers for each user groups. The BOF process is a very public forum for all thoughts, comments and information to be laid out and the best decision for the State's interest is made. Both groups have different responsibilities and different work to achieve their goals.

It has become apparent that there are conflicting opinions of what the responsibilities of the PST team; most notably Commissioner Swanton and what the quota allocative responsibilities of the Alaska Board of Fisheries responsibilities. The cancelation of the August 2017 Chinook troll fishery is the glaring case where politics of the Pacific Salmon Treaty were used to re-allocate chinook salmon to other user groups who went over their allotted quota share. This to me is poor management practice and not right! Alaska Board of Fisheries, please fix this problem so that it doesn't happen again in the future. These precious chinook salmon are valuable to the commercial troll fleet.

Below is an excerpt from 8-7-2017 press release from Deputy Commissioner Swanton.

"In-season information from ADF&G, the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and NOAA surveys off the coast of Oregon, Washington, and the Gulf of Alaska all indicate that poor production conditions are currently occurring and will persist through at least 2018. In particular, Southeast Alaska and British Columbia stocks are experiencing historically low production; many of the affected stocks will not meet escapement goals or management objectives in 2017.

The in-season data and stock specific information cannot be ignored when conservation of wild stocks is the foundation of the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy and the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Therefore, it is imperative that Alaska offer relief now for these stocks, with a focus on protecting future production".

To further prove the point that the decision to close the commercial troll fleet down in August of 2017 was political in nature and not based on sound science; I have talked to a couple ADF&G staff and been told that closing the August 2017 troll season wasn't their choice and at a March 6, 2018 open forum type meeting with Commissioner Swanton and ADF&G Fisheries Biologist Ed Jones at the Capital building in Juneau to talk about Pacific Salmon Treaty and Taku River chinook. They both mentioned to the audience that they are running with a "faulty data set". This is disheartening considering it is coming from two of the top folks negotiating the next treaty and making the decisions of fishery management. Making me further sick to my stomach was that they said between 35-41% of the salmon that are caught in fish wheels/ sampled/ tagged for research don't make it to the spawning grounds due to

predation. Aren't they supposed to be studying, managing for sustained yield and improving salmon habitat? Seems like they might be part of the problem to me!

Still to this day, I'm baffled that the Alaska commercial troll fleet was shut down last August 2017 for the protection of Southeast Alaska chinook wild stocks; by the time the August Chinook fishery starts most of those fish are already in stream. The decision to close the fishery down unexpectedly has caused significant heartache about the management of this fishery, whether fishermen can count on this August opener in the future, and a huge monetary loss for the communities of SE Alaska.

In closing, please help all stakeholders out by clearly and publicly laying out the responsibilities of the Pacific Salmon Treaty team and the Board of fisheries. This in turn will protect your authority to allocate each quota share in the future.

Thank you for your time,

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