

PROPOSAL 172

5 AAC 29.090. Management of the spring salmon troll fisheries.

Remove restrictions on harvesting non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon in the spring commercial salmon troll fishery on the Gravina Island shore, as follows:

Proposed language: New section 5 AAC 29.090(d)(1)(D)(vii) to read *“There is no limit on the number of non-Alaska hatchery produced salmon that may be taken in district 101-29 during statistical weeks 23 through 27, since the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is in excess of 66 percent or more of the king salmon taken in that fishery, averaged of a 10-year period”*

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The intent of the spring troll fishery is very specific and clearly stated in the 2015-2018 S.E. Alaska/Yakutat Areas Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations: *“The department shall manage the spring troll fisheries to target Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon”* (5 AAC 29.090(b)).

There are several tools that the Regulations engage for this purpose. These tolls are designed to limit the catch of non-Alaska hatchery-produced fish. An additional tool could be added to complement those which are currently in place. Doing so would allow an increased number of Alaska hatchery-produced fish to be caught, maximizing this resource for the highest value.

We recommend that district 101-29 be exempted from the Regulation’ restrictions contained in 5 AAC 29.090(d)(1)(D) during statistical weeks 23-27. This sub-district would be selected based on high historical abundance of Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon during these statistical weeks.

A graph of district 101-29 is attached*, depicting the 10-year average spring troll catch numbers for king salmon originating from Canada, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California and Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association. For this particular sub-district, it is clear that the relative catch of SSRAA-produced versus all other king salmon caught during week 23 through 27 is overwhelmingly Alaska hatchery-produced.

This recommendation is in accordance with 5 AAC 29.090(d)(2) *“consider additional fishing periods based on the best scientific data and on input from salmon trollers”*

Who would benefit:

- SSRAA would receive 3% more money
- Power and Hand troll fleets
- Fewer disruptions in management

PROPOSED BY: Charlie Piercy

(HQ-F17-005)

**Proposal submission instructions indicate any additional information provided with the form, such as tables, Internet web links, or charts, will not be included in the proposal book. The referenced graph will be included in the public comment material for the appropriate meeting.*
