

## **PROPOSAL 151**

### **5 AAC 33.XXX. New Section.**

Establish a terminal harvest area and management plan for Carroll Inlet, as follows:

#### 5 AAC 33.371. District 1: CARROLL INLET TERMINAL HARVEST AREA SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN.

- a) This management plan distributes the harvest of hatchery produced king salmon in the Carroll Inlet Terminal Harvest Area between the purse seine, troll and drift gillnet fleets.
- b) The department, in consultation with the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (SSRAA), shall manage the Carroll Inlet Terminal Harvest Area from June 11 through July 10 for troll gear and June 15 to July 10 for purse seine and drift gillnet gear to provide for the harvest of hatchery - produced king salmon, unless closed earlier by emergency order. The Carroll Inlet Terminal Harvest Area consists of the waters of Carroll Inlet north of Nigelius Point at 55°33.50' N. Latitude.
- c) A drift gillnet operated in the terminal harvest area may not exceed 200 fathoms in length.
- d) May 1 to July 10, the Carroll Inlet THA will be expanded to include all waters of Carroll Inlet north of the latitude of California Head. The expanded area will open only for the harvest of king salmon by troll gear.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** From 1986 through 1995, SSRAA released chinook salmon at Carroll Inlet. At that time, the Alaska Administrative Code section describing the *Carroll Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* was found at 5 AAC 33.371 as noted above. Regulation 5 AAC 33.371 was repealed on 5/31/2009.

SSRAA's programs are continually changing and evolving. In the spring of 2016, 400,000 chinook salmon were released by SSRAA at Carroll Inlet, following four weeks of saltwater net pen rearing on-site. This site was permitted by the Department through the RPT process. Releases are authorized by FTP(s). Subsequent yearly releases of chinook at this site are planned.

The issue that SSRAA would like the Board to address is the reestablishment of administrative regulations and a Terminal Harvest Area (THA) for Carroll Inlet. The submission of this proposal, along with the solution contained within it, has been thoroughly discussed and approved by the 21-member SSRAA Board of Directors. Alternatives to this plan were considered in this process, and changes were made to reflect consensus. The SSRAA Board has representation from all three salmon gear groups, sport fisheries, subsistence users, native corporations, chambers of commerce, municipalities, processors and the public at-large.

If nothing is changed, i.e. there is no *Carroll Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan* going forward: 1.) The Department would have to manage this area on a EO basis that would cause unnecessary work and frustration for them and others; 2.) Commercial fishers

would not know what to expect in terms of fishing time and area each season, leading to lower catches and higher expenses; 3.) The regulations would suffer from internal inconsistencies.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (HQ-F17-073)

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