

**PROPOSAL 81**

**5 AAC 29.060. Allocation of king salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area.**

Allocate any Alaska all gear-allocation king salmon remaining after September 1 to the commercial troll fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 29.060. Allocation of king salmon in the Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area.

- (1) purse seine fishery: 4.3 percent of the annual harvest ceiling;
- (2) drift gillnet fishery: 2.9 percent of the annual harvest ceiling;
- (3) set gillnet fishery: 1,000 king salmon;
- (4) troll fishery: 80 percent, after the net fishery allocations in (1) - (3) of this subsection are subtracted from the annual harvest ceiling;
- (5) sport fishery: 20 percent, after the net fishery allocations in (1) - (3) of this subsection are subtracted from the annual harvest ceiling.

**(6) After September 1, if the department determines that any of the above fisheries will not catch their entire allocation of treaty Chinook for the year, the troll fishery will be opened to harvest those excess Chinook.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The state of Alaska and industry has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars during the negotiation process of the Pacific Salmon Treaty to secure Southeast Alaska’s share of treaty Chinook Salmon. It is a waste of funds and deprives the economy of Alaska to leave any of these Chinook salmon on the treaty table unharvested.

It also does not bode well for future negotiations, if Alaska has a record of not harvesting the treaty Chinook allocated to it. It is difficult to argue for more fish when data shows you aren’t using what you have been given. After September the charter fisheries are at the end of their season and sport Chinook harvest is down to a trickle. The department at this time should be able to determine what, (if any), treaty Chinook each fishery will not harvest by the end of the year.

The troll fishery is best suited to harvest these fish via trip limit fishery or an unlimited opening if numbers warrant. Other fisheries lack the harvesting power and the controlled harvesting ability the troll fleet has on this species. Alaska needs to prepare for the 2029 treaty negotiations by creating a strong platform to negotiate from. This will benefit all Chinook user groups in the future.

**PROPOSED BY:** Steve Merritt

(HQ-F20-118)

\*\*\*\*\*