



RC # RC 075 from Alaska Trollers Association

As an amendment to Proposal 83 and in response to PC 462

Purpose

To ensure non-resident sport harvest is uninterrupted while at the same time eliminating further impacts on the local high-resident commercial troll fishery and resident sport fishery harvests. All fisheries should be held to the conservation standards of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and the SOC.

Proposal

Maintaining 80/20 split and reduce the Out-of-State SEAK annual bag limit by one king salmon in every tier from January 1st through July 7th annually.

History / Background

Three Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiations have consistently reduced Alaska's historic harvest share. As part of those negotiations, all Alaska negotiation participants were aware of the decrements and all adjusted to receiving new reduced Chinook allocations, except one. The still unrestricted growth and guaranteed catches to their clients of one subsector threatens Alaska's finite and valuable Chinook resource.

Adoption of this proposal will avoid the inevitable collision course of the sector pie and keep the growth sector within their allocation, thereby reducing pressure on both the troll and the resident sport fishers, hopefully until there is a responsible rationalization plan underway.

The SEAK Chinook catch has a high percentage of federally funded Columbia River hatchery stocks. Rather than Alaska fisheries in-fighting, we need to unite and stand up to the Lower 48 to demand an increase of our State's fair and historic share of Treaty fish.

Moving fish from a well monitored, sampled, documented summer fishery (Commercial Troll) to a reduced management industrial spring charter fishery while SOC fish are returning is worrying: That is what SEAGO's PC 462 would do.

In summary, we are opposed to reducing the commercial allocation of 80% at any tier.