

Madam Chair, Board members and all,

I have read RC 203 by ATA concerning management of stocks of concern. I strongly support this language. I have been fishing this winter area since 1978. Most years it is a significant part of my troll income with excellent prices and high quality feeding kings. Catch rates are low, 5-20 a day usually, and it is a great time to be on the ocean. I, like a lot of trollers, do not have halibut or other IFQ's and this is the only fishery available to me this time of year. I worked for decades to get better troll opportunity on these high value great tasting fish only to have this spring fishery wiped out by stock of concerns while the guided sport fishery has not been restricted on the outer coast during this time.

I understand there is some confusion that this might affect the allocation balance between trollers and others. That is not so. The harvest foregone in the winter goes to the May, June, and summer troll seasons. This will not affect allocations between trollers and sport or nets.

I strongly support this and will really help the largely resident troll fishermen fishing at this time. I recommend the department carefully sample both this troll fishery and the sport fishery in these areas and if there are stock of concerns interceptions of an unacceptable rate to take appropriate actions to curtail the fishery where and when there are problems.

Eric Jordan