

**PROPOSAL 130**

**5 AAC 29.100. Management of the summer troll fishery.**

Allow for remaining troll king salmon allocation after winter and spring troll fisheries to be harvested during a single retention period beginning July 1.

Solution: A single uninterrupted summer king troll retention period beginning July 1.

We respectfully request a change in regulatory language enabling the troll fleet to harvest its entire summer king salmon quota share (its annual harvest allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060) starting with the July 1st king opener and continuing uninterrupted until concluded. Rather than two separate summer troll king openers as presently conducted, we propose one uninterrupted troll king opener during the summer king troll season, excepting any coho closure necessary to achieve escapement goals (during which all troll king salmon retention -- except as otherwise noted by the department -- would cease until the conclusion of the coho closure and king retention would resume immediately upon the resumption of coho retention).

This proposed solution greatly simplifies the regulations governing the summer king troll harvest, it assists the department in achieving its mission to apportion the troll fleet its mandated 80 percent share of the king allocation (after the nets' portion is assigned), and it obviates the necessity of regulatory language whose sole purpose is to address "what-ifs" and "what-thens" related to a second (separate) summer king troll harvest retention period in August.

Draft regulatory language:

5 AAC 29.100. remains unchanged except where formatting protocols indicate below and where repeated sequential deletions are noted (proposed deletions pertain to regulations governing a separate second troll king salmon opener in August).

**5AAC 29.100. Management of the summer salmon troll fishery**

-----start proposed changes/deletions-----

(A) to take **100 percent** [70 PERCENT] of the remaining troll king salmon harvest allocation, calculated as the annual troll harvest allocation minus the winter and spring troll harvests of treaty king salmon, in an [INITIAL] opening beginning July 1; **areas of king salmon high abundance shall remain open for the entirety of the summer king salmon troll harvest allocation except as ordered by emergency order.**

[SEQUENTIALLY DELETE THE FOLLOWING IN THEIR ENTIRETY: (B), (i), (ii), (2), (A), (B)]

**(B) if summer harvest retention of king salmon is still on-going at the start of any closure of the coho salmon troll fishery (to achieve escapement goals), troll king fishing shall cease during the coho closure -- except where explicitly specified -- and shall resume immediately upon the reopening of coho retention. King salmon retention shall remain open until the king salmon troll quota share (80 percent of the king salmon allocation once the nets' share has been deducted as prescribed in 5 AAC 29.060) is harvested or Sept. 20, whichever comes first.**

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**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The troll fleet wishes to secure the fairest opportunity to harvest its legally allocated share of king salmon without drama or rancor or uncertainty. But complications exist, which include:

\* The relatively low Southeast Alaskan king salmon quota share awarded at Treaty (with little optimism for future improvement) presents challenges for the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game

(ADFG) to fulfill its role as the executor of allocative apportionment among the affected gear groups.

\* The vast majority of the king salmon harvested by non-resident sports (the charter fleet and bare boats -- whose numbers are unrestricted and growing) occur in the spring and early summer, compounding ADFG's apportionment challenges. (The majority of the troll fleets' king harvest occurs much later in July and August.)

\* In August of 2023, ADFG revealed a regulatory change (as-then unknown to all stakeholders) which inscrutably abandoned in-season management for the non-resident sport fleet, resulting in an allocated overage by the sport sector of 17K kings. This led to a direct unrecoverable loss of 15.5K kings from the troll fleet's share to ensure that Alaska did not exceed its quota (gillnetters lost 1.5K kings from their allocative share as well).

\* The troll fleet (as well as the resident-sport sector, whose participation and king harvest have remained remarkably consistent for the last 20 years) unwittingly finds itself in a "race to the fish" that no one knew existed until the regulatory change and an allocative transfer was made known to all by ADFG in August of 2023.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** Yes. This proposal enjoys the support of the ATA board.

**PROPOSED BY:** David Richey and Ken McGee, ATA board members (EF-F24-168)

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