

**PROPOSAL 131**

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

Establish criteria for establishing a limited harvest troll fishery in August and allow for more than one limited harvest fishery to occur.

5 AAC 29.100 (D) if the department determines that the number of king salmon remaining on the annual troll king salmon harvest allocation is not sufficient to allow a competitive fishery, **of at least 3 days**, the commissioner may, by emergency order, reopen the troll fishery to the taking of king salmon during a limited harvest fishery, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) a limited harvest fishery may be opened for up to 10 days;
- (ii) more than one limited harvest fishery may occur in the same season if unharvested allocation remains.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current summer troll king salmon management begins with a competitive July opener targeting 70% of the summer quota, followed by a competitive August opener targeting the remainder of the quota and if necessary, a September equal share fishery to "sweep up" any kings that are left on the quota. While the July and August openings are long-established, the regulations governing the sweep up fishery were added much more recently. At the time of adoption, the regulation included many restrictions limiting this management tool while management and industry were getting accustomed to it. Now that it has been used a couple of times, trollers that were initially uncertain how it would work have become more comfortable with this sort of opening and would like to see it used in more situations.

This desire was precipitated by the 2023 August opening which was only 1 day long. The coho troll fishery is required to close for two days ahead of a competitive king opening to ensure a fair start, but this closure is not required for an equal share fishery. When the August king opener is only one or two days long for all but the most highly-productive king producers, the benefits of a competitive opening are outweighed by the costs of the two-day coho closure and need for immediate offloading of kings following the short opener.

This proposal would give the department more latitude to utilize the equal share fishery as a tool in more scenarios, thus avoiding the need for unnecessary fair-start closures and artificially shortened trips in situations when competitive openings are too inefficient to justify

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.** I was motivated to submit this proposal after several other trollers expressed their dissatisfaction to me with the inconvenience and inefficiency associated with the 2023 August opener that lasted only one day.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tad Fujioka

(EF-F24-039)

\*\*\*\*\*