



CITY & BOROUGH of YAKUTAT

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February 17, 2015

To:
Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526
1255 W. 8th Street
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

From:
Jon Erickson, Manager
City and Borough of Yakutat
PO Box 160
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Dear Board of Fisheries Members,

I write to you in strong support of Proposal #220, which was submitted by the Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee. This proposal will allow for the outward adjustment of the troll boundary line that delineates open waters for the Winter Troll Fisheries.

The City and Borough of Yakutat wholeheartedly supports this proposal because it will allow for increased opportunity for our local small boat salmon fleet and safer fishing practices in a rough stretch of water.

Commercial fishing is the lifeblood of our community. Access to safer fishing grounds closer to town along the rough line from Ocean Cape to Pt. Manby on the north shore of Yakutat Bay will be improved by moving the line outward as described in #220. It is vital to our fleet that they be able to access grounds that are better protected from harsh Gulf of Alaska winter weather. As it is now, fishermen must travel further out to the other side of the Bay, increasing run times and making for greater exposure to rough weather. Our local government would like to see our fishermen have a safer and more efficient way to fish on winter kings. We do not see a major conservation issue with the adjustment of the closure line.



This boundary adjustment would result in improved safety and better access to grounds that give our fishermen at least a fighting chance at profitability in the winter troll fishery. This would be an improvement in opportunity for a fishery and a town that is struggling to remain healthy and profitable. Improvement in our winter troll fishery would really help our small fleet find worthy fishing opportunities at a time of year when little other economic activity is available in Yakutat.

Thank you for considering a favorable vote on Proposal #220.

Jon Erickson
Manager, City and Borough of Yakutat