

**PROPOSAL 173 - 5 AAC 01.716. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amount necessary for subsistence uses.** Require the board to address habitat, conservation, and subsistence priority when considering regulations and policies, as follows:

5 AAC 01.176

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(d) In Southeastern Alaska, the board must always assess the impact that past and current management actions for wild and hatchery salmon have had on each community's ability to meet cultural and traditional subsistence uses. The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) must specifically address habitat, conservation, and subsistence priority obligations in their regulations and policies for commercial, sport, personal use, and hatchery programs. When the board considers regulations and policies that might compromise customary and traditional subsistence uses the affected communities shall be consulted. The board shall use the traditional use areas outlined in Goldschmidt and Haas (1946) to determine the communities they are obligated to consult with.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The board is obligated to sustain wild salmon habitats and stocks and provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses of those wild stocks (i.e., AS 16.05.258 (a) and 5 AAC 39.220). The board has not effectively addressed these wild salmon habitat, conservation, and subsistence priority obligations when promulgating regulations that allow other users to harvest and release wild and hatchery salmon. As a result, many communities are not meeting their cultural and traditional subsistence needs for fish because too many are being caught by other users and wild fish are being supplanted by hatchery release.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kootznoowoo Corp. Inc.

(HQ-F14-060)

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**PROPOSAL 174 - 5 AAC XX.XXX. New Section.** Establish a Taku River king salmon management plan, as follows:

Create a management plan in regulation that provides that if the pre-season Taku River king salmon terminal run forecast (available each year in December) is less than the mid-point of the inriver escapement goal range (27,500 fish), the troll fishery in District 14 is closed to taking king salmon for the spring fishery (April 15–June 30), and the sport king salmon bag limit in commercial fishing District 11, District 14, and District 12 north of the latitude of Point Couverden, is reduced to one fish from April 15–June 15.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Taku River is home to Southeast Alaska's largest and most important king salmon stock, and it is rapidly declining. There is no management plan governing the catch of Taku River kings, even though most of the sport catch and all of the commercial troll catch of Taku-bound kings occurs before the in-river escapement can be estimated. The escapement goal range is 19,000–36,000 fish. The sport fishery occurs within a few miles of the river and the commercial troll catch occurs many miles away in Icy Strait and other northern inside waters. To provide some degree of protection to this important run, a management trigger needs to be established for determining the viability of

having a fishery on this stock during years of expected low abundance, especially for the troll fishery which is the first harvester and by far the major harvester of the Taku stock. The troll catch of Taku king salmon is usually two to six times the sport catch of Taku king salmon, and easily exceeds the sport and gill net catch combined in poor years.

This proposal cannot be expected to be the cure-all for the Taku king salmon stock status, but it is a step in the right direction during poor runs. The 2013 Taku king run did not meet the lower end of the escapement range, and the 2014 pre-season forecast is for another weak run. Sport catches of wild king salmon in the Juneau area have declined in the last several years. If poor runs continue and nothing is done to reduce the harvest in poor years, the stock will continue to decline. This stock has supported generations of sport and commercial fisheries, and it a travesty to watch it decline without attempting to right the ship.

The District 14 spring troll fishery has been justified in the past as a king salmon hatchery access fishery even though there is no king salmon hatchery within dozens of miles of the fishery, and even though far more wild kings are caught than hatchery fish. The spring fishery morphed into a regular spring troll fishery with few regulations or controls, and is now a potential problem for intercepting wild Southeast king salmon returns during years of low abundance.

The language of the proposal would still allow trolling for chum salmon in Icy Strait in the spring. Only the Chinook fishery is proposed to be closed during poor runs.

The mid-point of the escapement range is a suggested starting point for discussion about when this plan commences. A point higher in the range than the midpoint can be justified as well.

**PROPOSED BY:** Territorial Sportsmen Inc. (HQ-F14-036)  
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**PROPOSAL 175 - 5 AAC 33.364. Southeastern Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan.** Evaluate potential changes to enhanced salmon allocations, as follows:

It is recommended that a task force be set up by the Board of Fish to revisit the current allocation plans effectiveness since inception and recommend any changes to the Board of Fish. This would allow for all gear groups and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to voice concerns over the current plan and allow for all changes that have occurred over time to be accounted for in any recommendations that are made to the board.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Over the past 20 years changes in the Southeast Alaska fishing industry; including fleet composition (numbers of permits for different net gear types), differences in market conditions, new production areas, new fisheries, and changes in treaty agreements to name a few show that the Board of Fish should

revisit the *Southeast Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan*. This is a plan that over time should be reviewed and adjusted on a set schedule to reflect the ever evolving salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska.

**PROPOSED BY:** Donald Churchill

(EF-C14-182)

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**PROPOSAL 176 - 5 AAC 33.364. Southeastern Alaska Area Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan.** Establish new enhanced salmon allocations by gear type, as follows:

We propose that the board direct the Northern Regional Planning Teams (RTP), the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc. (NSRAA) and Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. (DIPAC) boards to develop a detailed harvest management plan. We anticipate that the plan would:

- 1) Be modified annually based on the:
  - a. results of the previous year;
  - b. forecast returns of each species of enhanced salmon at each release site
  - c. expected prices.
  
- 2) Include target harvest levels for each gear group for each species of significance by release site.
  
- 3) Show a means by which half of the troll imbalance-which is currently at 10% (based on 17% share during the 2009–2013 period) will be eliminated to make the troll share during the 2015–2019 period at least 22%, with the anticipation that the remaining imbalance be eliminated in the following five year period.
  
- 4) Be initially submitted to the board no later than the last board meeting of the 2016–17 cycle with updates to follow annually

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Trollers have remained well below their allocation under the Southeast Enhanced Salmon Allocation Management Plan (5 AAC 33.364) for many years. These allocation ranges were established to ensure a "fair and reasonable distribution of the harvest of salmon from enhancement projects among the seine, troll and gillnet commercial fisheries." At least with regard to the troll fleet, the actual harvest has persistently fallen well short of the fair share of 27–32% provided.

It is necessary that the NSRAA board, DIPAC board and Northern RTP take a deliberate approach to craft a future harvest plan that closes the allocation imbalance over a reasonable period of time using the tools set forth in Board of Fish (board) Findings 94-148FB Guiding Principle #13.

Furthermore, in Findings 94-11, the Board of Fisheries agreed with the consensus recommendation of the State Allocation Task Force that when the value of a gear group's harvest over a trailing five year period has been outside of this distribution for three consecutive years,

the first course of action is to make an adjustment to access terminal harvest area fisheries in order to achieve the board-prescribed balance. The second course of action to remedy an allocation imbalance under Board of Fisheries Findings 94-11 is the additional production of enhanced salmon to benefit the gear group(s) below allocation.

Over the past two decades that the trollers have been below their allocation share, the existing Northern RPT & hatchery board system has failed to develop a successful solution to solve the imbalance. We know that it is possible for hatchery boards to develop well-balanced harvest plans since SSRAA manages to do so.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chum Trollers Assoc.

(EF-C14-171)

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