

**PROPOSAL 220 - 5 AAC 29.020. Description of fishing districts and winter boundary line.**

Modify the winter boundary line for the commercial salmon troll fishery, as follows:

(b) For the purposes of this chapter, the winter troll boundary line" for the winter season and periods established in 5 AAC 29.070 is a line across Yakutat Bay as follows; A line extending from the intersection of Loran-C line 7960-Y-30630 with the shoreline at Point Manby to the intersection of Loran-C lines 7960-Y-30630 and 7960-X-148 ~~delete~~ [40] **add** [30] to the intersection of Loran-C lines 7960-X-148 ~~delete~~[40] **add** [30] and 7960-Y-30440 to the intersection of Loran-C line 7960-Y-30440 with the shoreline at Ocean Cape light.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The winter troll boundary line was modified by an adoption of a proposal by the Yakutat Advisory Committee in 2003. At the time, the numbers established in regulation did not reflect the original intent of the Yakutat Advisory Committee proposal. This proposal will correct that oversight.

Prior to 2003, historical catch records indicate there was very little winter king harvest in the Yakutat area. The previous regulation had the winter line as the furthest south point of Ocean Cape, across Yakutat Bay, to the furthest point south of Point Mamby. Point Mamby is really a gradual corner several miles long.

Basing what is technically inside waters or out on this, is not so easy. If you went out to where the beach turns and goes up the coast to draw a transect, it changed the allowable fishing area. These were simple headlands to use when laws were written, and nobody was there to address it otherwise.

As Yakutat fishermen acquired more troll permits and increased winter trolling, it became apparent the bulk of the king salmon were around reefs that arcs out and across Yakutat Bay. Fishermen were forced to go across Yakutat Bay in the dead of winter to access them which was a serious safety concern. The original proposal recommended moving the point of Ocean Cape out to sea approximately 1½ to 2 miles, and the Mamby Point marker out to sea approximately three to four miles. This would move the point to point winter line out to sea beyond the arc of the reef, and include good nearby fishing habitat for the troll fleet for marginal days.

**PROPOSED BY:** Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-077)

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**PROPOSAL 221 - 5 AAC 29.020. Description of fishing districts and winter boundary line.**

Expand the winter commercial salmon troll fishery in the Yakutat Area to the territorial sea line, as follows:

A proposal to add to 5 AAC 29.020. Description of fishing districts and winter boundary line. Paragraph (b) Add (Alaska salmon troll Statistical area 181-40 out to the Territorial sea line across the mouth of Icy Bay.)

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This inside waters area was not added to the list when the winter boundary line was established. It is remote and the odds of

it being fished in the winter fishery are small. However, it does offer a safe place to fish for someone who might want to get away from it all and explore. Fish some terrain that hasn't been mapped and remapped. We feel that it wasn't right that it was left out. We feel this will not negatively impact anyone or any resource. It is 60 miles down the open beach from the farthest North trolling community of Yakutat. It is a winter time fishery. If it gets fished at all, it will likely be very infrequent.

**PROPOSED BY:** Yakutat Advisory Committee (EF-C14-084)  
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**PROPOSAL 222 - 5 AAC 29.090. Management of the spring salmon troll fisheries.** Correct regulatory language to clarify a contribution rate of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon for the spring salmon troll fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 29.090(d)(1)(C) is amended to read:

- (d) In its management of the spring fisheries under this section, the department shall
  - (1) first consider changes in the previous year's spring fisheries; the department shall open the fisheries if they meet the following requirements:

...

- (C) in order to continue the fishery each year without modification of areas previously established, the contribution rate of **Alaska hatchery-produced** [HATCHERY] stocks to the directed fishery harvest must exceed 20 percent.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The omission of the word "Alaska" when referring to "hatchery stocks" could be interpreted to allow the contribution of all coastwide hatchery stocks to be considered in management decisions. In other words, contributions from hatchery stocks originating outside Alaska would be considered combined with those originating in Alaska.

Spring troll fisheries target Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon and are managed according to guidelines based on the percentage of Alaska hatchery stocks in an individual spring fishery. Adding the word "Alaska" would correct this regulation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-079)  
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**PROPOSAL 223 - 5 AAC 29.100. Management of the summer salmon troll fishery.** Change the king salmon harvest percentage for the initial opening in the summer salmon troll fishery from 70 percent to 60 percent, as follows:

5 AAC 29.100(c) is amended to read:

- (c) The department shall manage the summer king salmon troll fishery as follows:
  - (1) the department shall manage the summer king salmon troll fishery
    - (A) to take **60** [70] percent of the remaining king salmon harvest **if the preseason abundance index is above 1.60, or take 70 percent of the remaining king salmon**

**harvest if below 1.60** calculated as the annual troll harvest ceiling minus the winter and spring troll harvests of treaty king salmon in an initial opening beginning July 1; and  
(2) in order to provide for the harvest of the remaining portion of the king salmon harvest following a coho salmon closure, the department shall manage the king salmon harvest as follows:

(A) if approximately **60 or** 70 percent or more (**depending on the preseason abundance index**) of the remaining troll king salmon harvest was taken during the initial opening under (1)(A) of this subsection the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the waters of frequent high king salmon abundance described in 5 AAC 29.025 for the remainder of the summer salmon troll season in order to slow down the harvest rate; however, if after 10 days, the department determines that the annual troll king salmon harvest ceiling might not be reached by September 20 with those waters closed, the commissioner shall reopen, by emergency order, the waters of frequent high king salmon abundance;

(B) the department shall reopen the summer king salmon troll fishery in the waters of frequent high king salmon abundance described in 5 AAC 29.025 if the department determines that less than **40 or** 30 percent of the king salmon harvest goal for the initial opening under (1)(A) of this subsection was taken in that opening **depending on the preseason abundance index**;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like to amend 5AAC 29.100(c)(1)(A) and (2)(A) and (2)(B) to take 60 percent of the remaining king salmon harvest if the preseason abundance index is above 1.60 (70 percent is in existing regulations and would remain in effect if the preseason abundance index is below 1.60). The five reasons to decrease the percentage to 60 percent harvest of king salmon on high abundance seasons are:

1. Higher value for king salmon in late season;
2. Higher quality product;
3. Minimizes the incidental hook & release of king salmon;
4. Spreading the income derived from king salmon more evenly among the fleet; and
5. Greater opportunity for in-season management during the August opening

**PROPOSED BY:** John Murray (EF-C14-104)

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**PROPOSAL 224 - 5 AAC 29.100. Management of the summer salmon troll fishery.** Allow the commissioner to open a season during which a trip limit is in effect for king salmon in the commercial summer salmon troll fishery, as follows:

If at any point in the summer troll fishery the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) determines that there is insufficient Chinook quota remaining for a competitive opening, and the commissioner determines that a trip limit would provide an effective means of harvesting the fish, s/he will reopen the fishery using a trip limit.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** When too few king salmon remain on the summer troll quota to effectively manage the fishery, ADF&G forgoes harvest rather than risk going over the troll Chinook allocation or the Pacific Salmon Treaty quota. This

proposal would provide an alternative for ADF&G to conduct a fishery on smaller increments of treaty fish. A similar option is already provided for the lingcod fishery at 5 AAC 28.173 (a)(f).

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Trollers Association (EF-C14-169)  
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**PROPOSAL 225 - 5 AAC 29.114. District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan.** Change the sunset date in the District 12 and 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

**5 AAC 29.114. District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan** (a) The purpose of the management plan in this section is to give the department direction for the orderly development of enhanced chum salmon troll fisheries during the directed troll fisheries in Cross Sound, Icy Strait, and Northern Chatham Strait, while providing for the conservation of wild stocks.

(b) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the Northern Chatham Strait Fishery Area in District 12 for up to four weekdays per week beginning on the second Monday in June through the last week in June to the retention of pink and chum salmon only. The Northern Chatham Strait Fishery Area consists of those waters enclosed by a line from 58°\_ 11.29' N. lat., 134°\_ 53.27' W. long. to 58°\_ 10.40' N. lat., 135°\_ 02.63' W. long. to 58°\_ 07.78' N. lat., 135°\_ 00.78' W. long. to 58°\_ 05.81' N. lat., 134°\_ 47.09' W. long.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of [5 AAC 29.090](#), the spring troll fisheries in District 14 will be managed to minimize the harvest of wild chum salmon and may be closed by emergency order based on wild chum salmon abundance.

(d) Participants in District 12 and District 14 enhanced chum salmon troll fisheries shall comply with the following retention and recordkeeping requirements:

(1) the operator of a salmon troll vessel shall keep the fish caught in each enhanced chum salmon fishery area separate from any other fish on board the vessel;

(2) a fish buyer shall separate fish caught in each enhanced chum salmon fishery area until delivered to the port of landing and shall issue a separate fish ticket for fish caught in each enhanced chum salmon fishery area.

(e) The provisions of this section do not apply after **December 31, XXX** [DECEMBER 31, 2014].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Joint Southeast Regional Planning team (JSERPT) has submitted this placeholder proposal as a way for the board to address imbalances in the enhanced salmon allocation management plan in Southeast Alaska (5 AAC 33.364). The current regulation was supported by the JSERPT in the "Industry Consensus" letter submitted last board cycle. The current regulation will sunset in 2014. The JSERPT will be considering recommendations to the board regarding this new proposal and other enhanced salmon allocation proposals at its fall 2014 meeting.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joint Southeast Regional Planning Team (EF-C14-174)  
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**PROPOSAL 226 - 5 AAC 29.114. District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan.** Remove sunset clause from District 12 and 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fishery Management Plan, as follows:

(a) The purpose of the management plan in this section is to give the department direction for the **MANAGEMENT** [ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT] of enhanced chum salmon troll fisheries during the directed troll fisheries in Cross Sound, Icy Strait, and Northern Chatham Strait, while providing for the conservation of wild stocks.

(b) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the Northern Chatham Strait Fishery Area in District 12 for up to four week days per week beginning on the second Monday in June through the last week in June to the retention of pink and chum salmon only. The Northern Chatham Strait Fishery Area consists of those waters enclosed by a line from 58°, 11.29' N. lat., 134°, 53.27' W. long. to 58°, 10.40' N. lat., 135°, 02.63' W. long. to 58°, 07.78' N. lat., 135°, 00.78' W. long. to 58°, 05.81' N. lat., 134°, 47.09' W. long.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 29.090, the spring troll fisheries in District 14 will be managed to minimize the harvest of wild chum salmon and may be closed **to the retention of chum salmon** by emergency order based on wild chum salmon abundance.

(d) Participants in District 12 and District 14 enhanced chum salmon troll fisheries shall comply with the following retention and record keeping requirements:

(1) the operator of a salmon troll vessel shall keep the fish caught in each enhanced chum salmon fishery area separate from any other fish on board the vessel;

(2) a fish buyer shall separate fish caught in each enhanced chum salmon fishery area until delivered to the port of landing and shall issue a separate fish ticket for fish caught in each enhanced chum salmon fishery area.

[ (E) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2014. ]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 2012 the Board of Fisheries adopted the Districts 12 and 14 *Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan* on an experimental basis. Section (e) of this plan includes a sunset date of December 31, 2014. The plan provides trollers important opportunity to harvest enhanced chum salmon. Fishermen in this area have landed a high percentage of the target hatchery fish with minimal bycatch of wild stocks or other species. We propose that the management plan remove the sunset and be made permanent and that the plan be renewed with the purpose of changing from orderly development to management. We further ask that the Chinook fishery be permitted to remain open in the event that the chum fishery is closed, as this was the intent of the proposal as originally submitted in 2012.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chum Trollers Association

(EF-C14-177)

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**PROPOSAL 227 - 5 AAC 29.114. District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan.** Remove sunset clause from District 12 and 14 enhanced commercial chum salmon troll fishery and allow fishing 7 days per week, as follows:

Provide the potential for this fishery to expand to seven days per week and delete the sunset clause:

**5 AAC 29.114 DISTRICT 12 AND DISTRICT 14 ENHANCED CHUM SALMON TROLL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

(b) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the Northern Chatham Strait Fishery Area in District 12 for up to **seven days** [FOUR WEEKDAYS] per week beginning on the second Monday in June through the last week in June to the retention of pink and chum salmon only. The Northern Chatham Strait Fishery Area consists of those waters enclosed by...

...  
[(e) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2014.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Northern Chatham Strait Enhanced Chum Spring Troll Fishery (District 112-16) will terminate at the end of 2014 unless reauthorized by the Board of Fisheries. This district was opened in 2013 as an experimental area as the result of Board of Fisheries' authorization in 2012. A successful chum troll fishery was developed which has had minimal conflict with other gear groups and very little bycatch.

As initially implemented, the fishery was restricted to four days per week due to concerns of potential conflicts with Juneau sport fishermen. The experience of these first seasons has shown that there is very little use of this district by sport fishermen in late June. The four days/week restriction has been a significant barrier to the full development of this troll fishery. Removing the four day/week maximum and allowing ADF&G staff to manage the fishery as needed to keep conflicts with other gear groups and wild chum harvest at low levels would potentially alleviate this problem.

Trollers remain well behind their allocated share of enhanced salmon under 5 AAC 33.364. If expanded to seven days per week, the North Chatham fishery has the potential to significantly help to correct this imbalance. If the North Chatham fishery were to be permitted to sunset, the discrepancy will be further exacerbated.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kole Koski (EF-C14-034)  
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**PROPOSAL 228 - 5 AAC 29.110. Management of coho salmon troll fishery.** Close the commercial troll fishery for coho salmon from August 1–10, as follows:

A mandatory 10-day closure from August 1 to August 10 to regulate the commercial harvest of coho salmon in Southeast Alaska.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Commercial outside waters troll fishery, the coho salmon are not allowed to migrate into the inside waters of Southeast Alaska, more salmon need to escape for local residents living in the Inside Passage of Southeast Alaska. We also need better escapement of salmon for our river systems. In the past, we had 10-day closures and the City of Angoon would propose the State of Alaska institute a policy to allow more fish for an inside fishery. The City of Angoon would like to propose a 10-day closure from August 1 to August 10 to allow our subsistence, commercial and sport fisheries to share the coho fishery. Angoon’s subsistence needs, commercial harvest and sport harvest are in dire need of healthy returns and foremost our subsistence needs suffer the most by lack of fish.

**PROPOSED BY:** City of Angoon (HQ-F14-035)

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**PROPOSAL 229 - 5 AAC 29.114. District 12 and District 14 Enhanced Chum Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan.** Allow commercial salmon fishing with troll gear in an area between North Chatham Strait and Homeshore, as follows:

Draw a line from the Western boundary line of the northern Chatham Strait area starting at: 58° 10.00' N. Lat, 135° 2.35' W. Long, to a point at 58° 10.00' N. Lat, 135° 6.24' W. Long, to a point on the Eastern boundary of the Homeshore area at 58° 11.59' N. Lat, 135° 9.19' W. Long.

Fishing would be permitted in the area south of this line when the northern Chatham and or Homeshore area is open.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Allow trollers participating in the chum fishery in the northern Chatham Straits enhanced chum area to troll between that area and the Homeshore area.

Currently trollers wishing to move between one area and another must pull their gear or troll miles to the south into the Point Sophia area. Most troll vessels are slow displacement hulls and cannot move faster than seven knots at slack tide with their gear up. Being able to troll between the two areas makes more sense. The area involved is relatively small and is a natural corridor between the two areas. This proposal makes the northern Chatham chum area more accessible and practical for trollers.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matthew Donohoe (EF-C14-168)

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**PROPOSAL 230 - 5 AAC 29.150. Closed waters.** Restrict commercial salmon fishing with troll gear in Section 15-C beginning July 1, as follows:

Proposed language:

(a) Unless otherwise specified in the chapter, the waters listed in this section are closed to the taking of salmon with troll gear, except as follows:

**(4) beginning July 1, the waters of District 15-C are open to trolling concurrently during periods that non-terminal harvest area waters are open to commercial drift gillnet fishing.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently, portions of District 15 are open for the general troll season on July 1 each year. This area has historically received very little effort as there are very few king salmon in the area to harvest. Recently, troll effort targeting chum salmon has increased. Experimental fisheries targeting enhanced chum in districts 14 and 12 are currently being prosecuted to understand the effect this new and emerging fishery may or may not have on wild stocks. The wild chum stock component of those fisheries is currently 20%. Chances are a fishery in district 15 will mirror those results. Our concern is that if there is a full blown high effort chum targeting troll fishery conducted in district 15, gillnet time and area may be reduced, as we are managed strictly on wild stock (chum and coho) abundance.

There is also anecdotal evidence that because of the small lures and slow speeds associated with chum trolling, that there are a significant amount of very small sub-legal king salmon incidentally being caught in this new fishery. These small Chinooks must be released by the troll fleet, but with a 25% mortality rate, there may be significant risk to out migrating Taku and Chilkat river fish; both runs that can ill afford incidental at sea mortality.

**PROPOSED BY:** United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters (EF-C14-166)  
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**PROPOSAL 231 - 5 AAC 29.150. Closed waters.** Reduce the area open to commercial salmon fishing with troll gear in Naha Bay during the summer, as follows:

Move the permanent commercial fish boundary marker farther out to Cache Island, thus keeping Naha Bay a sanctuary or safe haven for the returning wild salmon to spawn.

This solution should be immediate; since we are going on the fifth summer now since the boundary marker was moved back from Donnelly Point.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Preserving returning the wild salmon stocks of Naha Bay and River.** Naha Conservation is a group of property owners from Loring, Alaska, Naha Bay. Some of us are seasonal, part-time and full-time residents. We see firsthand the comings and goings of Naha Bay, including the fish, their cycles and all that follows. We speak from knowledge that covers several generations. We believe in conservation and taking the conservative approach to sustaining our limited resources and something is better

than nothing. We are hopeful though and thank you for considering what we have to say and propose today.

Wild pink, chum and some sockeye that are returning to the Naha River and area creeks to spawn are being incidentally caught by commercial troll fishing boats who are targeting Neets Bay Hatchery chum for their eggs.

Sometime in the summer of 2010 the commercial fish boundary marker was moved further back into Naha Bay, almost to Dog Fish Island. Summer of 2010 was when the first trollers came into the bay following a large school of hatchery chum and since this time and every summer since the small wild stock of pinks, chum and sockeye returns have disappeared. At first it was exciting to see all the activity on the bay, the boats the action. Loring came back to life for a bit, but year after year we have noticed something was different.

Last summer 2013 was the worst. There was no fish at all in the bay all of July and August. The pinks normally are coming in schools. We did not see this. A small run of chums did arrive in mid-September to spawn in a small creek in Naha Bay, but the numbers were few. The bears were hungry last summer. We saw them pacing up and down the Naha River and Roosevelt Lagoon looking for anything to eat.

Though the amount of trollers fishing in the bay were few last year compared to years past, they are still having an effect on the wild salmon stock.

We believe wild salmon stocks should be given every opportunity and chance to spawn if they make it back as far as the bay into which the creek or river flows into. The bay should be a safe haven for the fish. Given the dwindling wild stock of sockeye left on the Naha River action must be taken immediately.

We support our commercial fisheries and all the people who make their living off the sea, but we have seen firsthand our **wild** fish returns have dropped in these few short summers.

Never before have trollers come into Naha Bay and trolled nonstop for two weeks, 10 to 15 trollers at a time during the peak run. This is having an impact. We have talked to a couple of different trollers who have confirmed they are catching up to 10 to 15 wild pinks per day and maybe one or two sockeye and some **wild** chum. Multiply this by the number of boats and you will see the numbers add up quick. .

**PROPOSED BY:** Lisa Grogan, Naha Conservation

(EF-C14-096)

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**PROPOSAL 232 - 5AAC 29.120. Gear specifications and operations.** Clarify power troll gear specifications regarding hand troll gurdies and fishing rods, as follows:

5 AAC 29.120(b)(1) is amended by adding a new subparagraph to read:

(b) The maximum number of trolling lines that may be operated from a salmon troll vessel is as follows:

(1) from a power troll vessel:

...

**(C) from each power troll gurdy: only one line to which multiple leaders and hooks may be attached; a person may not use hand troll gurdies or fishing rods to take salmon commercially on board a registered power troll vessel;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Power troll gear is not clearly described nor is it clearly stated that fishing rods may not be used to fish commercially onboard a vessel registered for power troll gear. While 5 AAC 29.120(f) states that “a person may not use a salmon power troll vessel to take salmon with hand troll gear once that vessel has been registered and marked as specified...,” it does not specifically mention fishing rods. Adding that level of detail to the regulation would further clarify power troll gear specifications.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F14-080)

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**PROPOSAL 233 - 5 AAC 29.120. Gear specifications and operations.** Allow downriggers as legal commercial salmon hand troll gear for the entire year, as follows:

The new regulation would repeal a portion of section (b)(2)(B) and implement the winter hand troll provisions listed in section (j) on a year round basis.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Two fishing rods attached to two downriggers are legal hand troll gear only during the winter troll season. This proposal requests that winter hand troll regulations are adopted for the entire year. This proposal would allow hand trollers to operate legal rod and reel gear at a known depth, the same luxury afforded to salmon trollers using hand troll and power troll gurdies. The difference is that those that choose to attach their fishing rods to a hand operated troll gurdy or downrigger will be restricting themselves to the operation of one lure or baited rig per rod.

This proposal has been before the board in other cycles and there have been comments made that this change could have a meaningful impact on Chinook harvest. There have also been concerns raised that this proposal would cause enforcement issues. There is no evidence to support either of these concerns. Past supporters of this proposal have cited shoulder injuries, the safer operation of rod and reel gear vs. hand gurdies for solo fisherman in small boats in rough weather, or the fact that they would just prefer to participate in their fishery using fishing rods

attached to downriggers, even if it limits them to only two lures. Passage of this regulation would restrict only those hand trollers that chose to use rod and reel gear in combination with downriggers.

**PROPOSED BY:** Troy Bayne

(EF-C14-142)

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