

Tad Fujioka:

This was originally going to be my Oral Testimony. Instead I opted to set this aside to give a personal introduction instead.

Introduction:

My name is Tad Fujioka. I am a member of ATA, CTA and Sitka AC; but I will remove those hats now and be speaking for myself and my family.

I have a wife and two daughters ages 3 & 7; both of whom fished with me this summer. I am the author of PC 47. I will be speaking on the application of BoF Finding 94-148FB. A copy of these findings is included in appendix B1 of FMR 14-60 ADF&G's 2014 Report to the BoF on the Status of the Allocation of Hatchery-Produced Salmon in SE (and in PC 47 beginning on page 32.)

Body:

BoF Finding 94-148 is the result of several years of work by a task force of seine, driftnet and troll representatives. The taskforce's report was developed by consensus and was subsequently adopted as Findings by the BoF in 1994. Directly from these findings came the SE Enhanced Salmon Management Plan 5 AAC 33.364. The Management Plan is the regulation while the Findings describe the reasoning behind it and are the cornerstone of understanding hatchery management in SE. These findings are unusually simply-consisting of just 14 Guiding Principles-several of which are relevant to the proposals before you. For instance,

Principle 1: States that the goal of the hatchery program is to provide additional fishing opportunity and revenue. Sounds pretty... duh, but Proposal 230 to reduce troll access to district 15-C due to the abundance of hatchery chum is directly in conflict with this principle as well as being in conflict with

Principles 2, 3 & 11 all of which basically decree traditional fisheries to be sacred. That is to say that fisheries that existed prior to the modern hatchery era should not be altered to accommodate concerns regarding hatchery fish.

Changes to harvest patterns can and should be made when needed- but not to traditional fisheries.

Principle 9 defines when a gear group qualifies as deserving of such management changes. Specifically it says that a gear group's five-year average harvest needs to be outside of their allocated range for 3 consecutive years. All three gear groups currently meet this criteria; The driftnetters 5 yr average has been above range

since 2004. Seiners have been below range since 2005 and trollers have been below range for about twice as long as seiners have been.

Proposal 187 to add potential driftnet opportunity in the SE Cove SHA despite the gillnetters being over their allocation is contrary to principle 9.

Principle 13 provides three tools for correcting imbalances. The Number 1 tool is to change fishing opportunities in hatchery terminal areas.

Proposal 188 to consolidate the troll opportunity at SE Cove SHA making the fishery more productive for trollers and more typical of a traditional troll schedule is a direct application of the first tool.

These guiding principles were adopted to provide future Board of Fish members and others guidance when confronted with hatchery allocation issues. What the Principles lack and what consequently the SE Enhanced Salmon Plan lacks is an enforcement mechanism. Unlike the PWS plan which I think you are familiar with, there is no internal balancing mechanism in the SE Plan. The SE Plan depends on willful human action for it to work- which unfortunately explains the long-standing imbalances.

Proposal 176 calls for the RPT to publish annual harvest plans showing how the current imbalances would be gradually corrected. It is an attempt to preserve the benefits of flexibility within the SE Plan while reducing the likelihood that willful non-compliance will continue to cripple the original intent.

This is the testimony that I gave instead - including

I am Tad Fujioka. I live in Sitka. I grew up in Juneau. I am the author of PC 47- the long one. I am a board member of ATA and CTA and current member and former chair of the Sitka AC. I am taking those hats off this morning to speak for myself and my family.

the portion @ the end that I

As your index indicates, I had a speech all prepared regarding Board's Findings 94-148, but after realizing that almost all of you are new faces to me, I think it would be better if I told you more about myself instead. Mr. Chair, I request permission to simply submit that speech as an RC and use this opportunity to introduce myself.

didn't get to give due to running out of time.

First off, I have a family- a wife and two young daughters. The oldest is 7 and the youngest turned 3 two days ago. If think about how the BoF schedule works, you can probably figure out why I was not last SE Finfish meeting in Ketchikan.

My earliest salmon fishing memories are from when I was 4 or 5 and my father took me fishing from a 14' skiff with a couple of sport poles. At the end of each morning we would take a fish or two home and sell the rest to the fellow that ran the marina where the boat was kept.

The next year nothing appeared to have changed at first, but at the end of the first day we took all of the fish home. During the past winter, the area around Juneau had been closed to hand trolling. That makes me at age 40 one of the youngest people to have participated in the summer troll fishery in District 11-A.

If we want kids to grow up with a fishing heritage, it is important that fisheries in protected waters close to communities remain financially viable. When there is a good weather forecast and there are fish near town, I try to take my kids. I am proud to say that my youngest, last year when she was only 2 was aboard for my highest volume day of the entire season. This was the day, when for the first time in years

trollers had the opportunity to fish the Deep Inlet THA after a build up of chum. We got one day like that- our first in 4 years.

Even when my daughters don't come with me, I try to come home every night. My 28' boat is one of the smallest in the power troll fleet and is certainly smaller than any seiner and probably any SE gillnetter. However, it a good boat for me, since it is fast so I can fish all day and see my family in the evenings. The disadvantage is that much of the trolling on the outer coast is beyond my range and beyond what makes good safety sense. That has led me to focus on chum since they are most abundant near hatchery release sites which are in protected waters.

It is disheartening to be reminded –by Eric Jordan's powerpoint yesterday, that the troll fleet is being denied the opportunity to catch our share of hatchery-produced salmon by as much as \$12M a year.

It is even more disappointing to see proposals to further reduce our access to these fish in order to benefit the driftnet fleet that is already catching a third of the troll allocation. Specifically I am talking about proposal 187 to potentially open the SE Cove SHA to driftnetting and proposal 230 to limit troll access to District 15-C which is the closest remaining summer troll fishery to Juneau. BTW, this is a fishery that I have participated in. I used the state ferry to transport my boat on a trailer to Juneau.

In order to foster an environment conducive to family fishing, we need viable fisheries in protected waters- chum trolling is the perfect fit. Proposals to improve the Northern Chatham & SE Cove fisheries would help, but most important is for this Board to reaffirm your support for the allocation agreement that was reached by industry consensus and adopted by this body in 1994 by supporting proposal 176.