

Public Comment
Seth Charlton
January 14, 2018

Members of the Board,

I am unable to attend the public testimony section so please consider this my testimony for **Proposal 184, allowing salmon hand troll permit holders the option of using downriggers in combination with rod and reel fishing gear.**

I submitted PC 145 supporting the use of two rods with downriggers however I want to put my support behind **PC 167** which allows a person to be able to attach up to four rods to a downrigger(s). A hand troller is permitted to operate four fishing rods and they should have the option to operate those rods as they deem appropriate, whether attached to downriggers or not.

I will also re-state the most important information the board should consider with this proposal. Current regulations provide enforcement officers with the tools needed to cite those individuals intending to break the law by selling sport caught salmon. The dorsal fin of each sport-caught salmon taken on a registered troll vessel must be removed immediately. Registered hand troll vessels must display the letters HT on each side of the vessel so much enforcement can identify potential hand troll vessels. If a HT vessel is fishing in waters closed to commercial salmon trolling and they have not removed the dorsal fin from their salmon, then they can be cited.

Please support this logical proposal. Hand trollers should not be denied this option for fear that a few may abuse it. As with any regulation, 99.9 % will adhere and a tiny minority will abuse.

Thank you for your service on the Board of Fisheries.

Seth Charlton
Sitka, AK