

**F/V Cape Cross**

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RC 101

I'm Mark Roberts, a longtime troller from Petersburg. First, I'll speak in support of Proposal 177.

This proposal could allow commercial trollers some limited opportunity to catch hatchery-produced coho in certain areas at times when when trolling is closed for allocation or conservation purposes. It would give ADFG the flexibility to open targeted fisheries on enhanced cohos each year. They would work in close consultation with hatchery operators to best determine areas where this would be possible while still meeting all conservation and allocation criteria.

The troll fleet has been below it's hatchery allocation range for 22 consecutive years. Increased closures to protect wild-chinook in the spring mean even fewer hatchery-produced salmon taken by the troll fleet. Proposal 177 aims to try and make up for some of those loses by allowing trollers additional opportunity on enhanced coho.

I would now like to shift gears to ADFG's proposed management plan for southeast chinook stocks of concern. I am very worried about any proposed delay in the start of our summer troll fishery. If the department wants to gather data on impacts to the stocks of concern, then I strongly recommend we open the chinook fishery on July 1<sup>st</sup> as usual.

Moving the start date back a week this year will disrupt our fishery and it will not provide data that's comparable to the historic data we already have since its a different time frame.

I am all for conservation if it means supporting the future of our fishery, but disrupting our season unnecessarily is an unfair burden for trollers to bear especially when we have already sacrificed more king salmon than any other gear group this past year.

I recommend we open for Kings on July 1st. That would be the least disruptive solution. It would provide better data, and it would leave us the more time to catch coho so that we can make up for some of our king losses.

Thank you.

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