

Territorial Sportsmen, Inc.  
Juneau, Alaska

COMMENTS CONCERNING RC 266  
January 19, 2018

The Territorial Sportsmen appreciate the opportunity to provide our input on the king salmon management plans presented in RC 266.

We appreciate the Board of Fish attempting to address our concerns about the lack of attention to the status of the Taku stocks. We still prefer that the Taku king salmon stocks be listed as a stock of concern with an effective management plan adopted for that stock. As this is written, the Taku king salmon are partially protected indirectly under the Unuk River action plan. We also want to thank the Board and the staff for adopting (as draft) some of the proposals we presented at this meeting.

Our specific comments on the plan are presented below.

**Chilkat and King Salmon Rivers**

1. Purse seine and drift gillnet fisheries comments: We feel there should be non-retention of king salmon of all sizes in these fisheries.
2. We note that the Option A troll fishery regulations in districts 12 and 14 will be very similar to those imposed in 2017, which resulted in a catch of more than 100 Taku chinook. Apparently, the department would have no heartburn over a similar catch in 2018. It is our opinion that the harvestable surplus of Taku chinook is zero for a run of 4700 fish.
3. We note that the 15C and 12B April closure is super-ceded by Unuk action plan winter troll closure.
4. We believe the Chatham Strait troll fishing time in May and June is excessive. It appears the troll fishery would be open while the Juneau sport fishery is closed in the same area. We will have a hard time explaining that to the Juneau sportfishing community. We agree with the May 29 to June 14 closure which conflicts with the aforementioned Chatham Strait fishery.
5. We support the Option A provisions in the sport plan except that there is an oversight in the catch and release portion. We propose that the regulation should state that king salmon are not allowed to be netted or removed from the water during the sport catch and release.

## Unuk River

1. Purse seine and drift gillnet fisheries: We feel there should be non-retention of king salmon of all sizes in these fisheries.
2. We support the winter troll fishery closures outlined in this proposal.
3. We are concerned with the provision which allows opening spring troll king salmon fisheries "in areas that have been identified as having low proportional harvests of wild stock Southeast Alaska/Yakutat king salmon." This statement is too vague and could essentially negate most of the conservation oriented actions proposed in the action plan depending on how this is defined and what criteria are used.