

Submitted January 20th, 2018

Late comment RC to board of Fish

My name is Courtney Howard. I'm a commercial power troller from Sitka concerned about the boards plan to delay king salmon retention until July 8th. I feel the measures in the winter troll fishery and the spring troll fishery will be sufficient to achieve our conservation objectives with our stocks of concern. Please consider whether the number of kings from stocks of concern this week long delay is estimated to preserve is substantial in the context of the broader management plan being implemented to protect these fish. Opening Coho retention on July 1st while delaying King retention until July 8th will result in inadvertent king salmon by catch loss undermining the intended conservation achieved by the action. Of the actions proposed to be taken, this delay until July 8th will provide the least benefit to the stocks of concern and significant impact on the fleet.