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RC 305

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Is this management plan linked to an abundance index? It is very important that if runs improve that trollers be allowed the opportunity to catch their allocation and not suffer under restrictions.

Strategic sub-district spring closures are preferable to region-wide closures. Even a limited opportunity is better than no opportunity. ADF&G already has set harvest limits for wild kings for each spring district. Use the data they have to be strategic with the areas they have open (THAs are not an adequate replacement for the sub-district areas).

Moving the summer troll opener from July 1 to July 8 poses these challenges:

- All of the data collected by ADF&G for the past decades on king salmon is based on a July 1 opening. Moving the date removes the statistical rigor of this data set. It is important to keep, maintain, and add to these robust data sets, right? Are we moving away from a long-term science-based management plan? Will the data collected from this **1 year** be used to inform future management actions?
- It more lost fishing days in a year: where winter is closed 1 month early and spring is close to non-existent (look at the numbers caught in THAs during May and June). Getting a substantial paycheck in early July is critical to the financial well being of any troller.
- Moving the July 1 date to July 8 may interrupt plant operations. After speaking to an employee of one of the local Sitka plants, there may be severe ice-supply problems. They couldn't supply the ice boats both for a July 1 coho trip and be ready to supply boats for the July 8th opener.
- Coho is a fraction of what trollers earn with kings. However, having the troll season close for the two days before the summer king opener would be yet another financial hit this year. Coho have been showing up in high numbers in early July. Missing 2 days for the fair start to the king opener would be a loss of income on top of all of the other losses.

Solution:

Open the summer king salmon troll July 1, like you always do. If it's not broken, don't fix it.