

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association  
January 19, 2018

Response to RC266 (Recommendations on Chinook Action Plans)

Members of the Board,

We asked that the Board use a scalpel rather than a sledge hammer in devising the Chinook Action Plans, and that you provide sub-area fishing opportunity at times of the year when fishermen operating in those areas are unlikely to encounter Chinook stocks of concern—i.e., have a low proportional harvest of wild stock. Our members appreciate the complexity of devising sub-area closures, but we ask that you take time to reconsider aspects of RC266.

In particular, the Chilkat Troll (page 3) *region-wide* closure from May 29 to June 14<sup>th</sup> is not supported by the data. Historic data (2008-2017) establishes that of the approximately 10,700 kings annually caught during these weeks (weeks 23-24), an average of only 428 (4/10th of 1%) were Chilkat kings; the majority (237) of these were from District 114 (please see RC 152 slide 6 from Tad Fujioka).

**In the Chilkat Action Plan, please consider limiting the May 29-June 14<sup>th</sup> closure to district 114 and the adjacent sub areas, and allow the Department to close other areas by EO if needed.** The 10,700 Chinook historically harvested during these weeks are worth close to \$1 million at recent prices. This fair weather time of year provides important access to valuable Chinook by the fishing families of Southeast Alaska.

We also find the rationale for delaying the July Chinook opening difficult to derive from the data and would ask Board members to identify the basis for this decision. Should the Board choose to proceed with the July 8<sup>th</sup> date, we ask that the Board **specifically allow the Behm Canal chum troll fishery to begin prior to July 8<sup>th</sup>**. The chum fishery in this area does not catch Chinook and should not be delayed.