

I was under the impression that the Department of Fish and Game had the objective of working WITH industry stakeholders to find opportunities to access King Salmon. The current drafted action plan seems devoid of any such ambition. I really need Winter Kings to remain open past March 15 in order for my fishing business survive. How is it that we cant leave it open and closed by emergency order if an influx of Alaska wild Chinook begins to show up in landings? Or Leave a partial areas open? It is essential to have access to fish so we can make a living.

Included in the Spring Troll Action to Implement Objective is: "and in areas that have been identified as having low proportional harvests of wild stock Southeast Alaska/Yakutat king salmon " - This could be much more specific. What are these areas?

And finally to express my opposition to the proposed modified start date for the first summer opening. It can not be understated the hardship this will cause the salmon troller. Having to change gear, species type and fish hold setup 3 times in a very short period is going to be a huge mess. Not to mention, any short closure in which boats are offloading coho and others are arranging to get ice and leave town will be create a bottleneck at the fish plants. Further, traveling to the fairweather grounds takes over 20 hours from sitka. I would have to stop fishing on the 4th to get turned around and back out and up to the FW grounds to open on the 8th and I will be frantic to make it on time. This will cause me to miss 3 days of coho fishing that I would otherwise be entitled to from my Power troll permit.

Please take into account the hardships caused to the user group and reconsider delaying the start of the season. I also urge the Department of Fish and Game to look close at the map and find some areas for us to fish. Shutting the troller down from March 15 until July 8 is nothing short of devastating. I will not be able to maintain my business and make boat payments under a scenario that leaves me tied to the dock for 3 of the best months of my fishing season.

Sincerely,
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