Chairman Jensen and members of the Board,

2018 will be my third season running my own power troller. Your actions at this meeting will shape my future and that of many others. I humbly submit these comments and questions regarding the king salmon action plans.

I concur with Alaska Troller’s Associations comments in RC 298.

I do not object to reduced fishing time or areas in the spring troll fishery to achieve conservation objectives, but I question whether closing it entirely is the Department’s intent. With the combined temporal restrictions of the Chilkat plan and the spatial limitations of the Unuk plan, I am uncertain about when/where/if we will actually be able to fish.

Regarding the time closures, it seems that closure in the spring fishery should occur in early May, when CWT data shows a greater number of wild fish present, then OPEN at Statistical Week 22, when wild fish catch rates decline, as shown on page 1 of RC 393.

Delaying the start of the summer troll season will have widespread negative impacts on the fleet and possibly even the stocks of concern, as you have read in many other comments.

Finally, the issues of transboundary mines and chinook bycatch in the western gulf trawl fisheries are urgent. If there is any way for the Board to address these factors relating to king salmon survival, I implore you to do so.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Johnson