

Comment on RC 266

Alaskan Family Fisheries:

Brandon Eells F/V Emily Ann

Cleveland Eells F/V Seanna

Tyler Eells F/V Pegaso

Arthur Eells Jr. F/V Misty Dawn

Arthur Eells 3rd F/V Scimitar

Jeffery Eells F/V Hydra

RC 397

I'm Brandon Eells I live and fish out of Sitka, Alaska; my three brothers, father, and uncle also have boats and Southeast Alaska power troll permits. We, as a family of fishermen, think this option is a horrible one. The amount of King salmon that will be caught during the purposed July Coho opening would be astronomical.

Even with a full crew it is hard to run your lines fast enough to release King Salmon unharmed when their retention is illegal, even when their numbers are low. Any fisherman/women that go out for the purposed July 1st Coho opening alone or with little reliable help will kill King salmon and these valuable fish will sink into the depths without ever being counted, measured, or marked.

The size of the Coho in July are small and a market flooded with small Coho will result in a lower king salmon price as well as a poorer Alaskan wild Coho on the market. The brand name suffers. In addition the Bristol Bay sockeye return is predicted to be huge again and these fish compete directly on the market with small Troll-caught Coho. Small Cohoes will be hard to sell and the price will be terrible.

The Spring Management Plan for 2017 is going to be used for 2018, so charter fishermen and their clients may be out harvesting King salmon across areas where commercial trolling is prohibited for conservation. Our tourism industry does not need to revolve solely on fishing. Tourists can take a nature hike; take a photo, view our wildlife and many other things besides coming to catch fish. I, for one, will not call it an ideal situations as charter boat, after charter boat, fires up and runs out to go king fishing while an entire fleet of trollers, who pay raw fish salmon taxes to support the State and the town, await a two day opening in a back corner of the ocean where it is expected that the fleet will catch few to none. As a state we need to take better care of our local fisherman and balance their needs with the visitors who are out fishing. Everyday charter boats go out to high-abundance king areas and routinely max out their bag limits on Kings and Cohoes; yet those who live here year round (winters too) and rely on this fishery to support their families are stuck at home trying to decide how to pay their bills.

In times of conservation the recreational fisheries for king salmon may need to be limited to residents. Better record keeping for charter and recreational fishing is needed. An effort should be made to manage expectations and redirect the tourism industry away from "Catching a King" (A common marketing slogan used in Ketchikan).

Allow the fleet to fish July 1st for both kings and Coho as normal, with a August opener at the 70-30 ratio.

On behalf of Alaskan Family Fisheries and the Eells family, **Thank You** and please reconsider the ADF&G plan.

Sent from my iPhone