

PROPOSAL 92

5 AAC 29.140. Size limits, possession, and landing requirements.

Allow retention of king salmon greater than 26 inches in hatchery terminal harvest areas by commercial trollers, as follows:

Commercial trollers fishing in any open state established hatchery terminal area can keep king salmon 26" or longer.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial trollers are not allowed to keep king salmon that are under 28" that are caught in terminal hatchery areas, and yet gillnetters and seiners fishing in the same water at the same time can. A 27" king salmon swimming around in any terminal area where nets are being fished is going to be caught. How can it be fair that a troller has to throw this 27" king salmon overboard and yet 50 yards away is a gillnet or a seine that will catch it and that fisher has to sell it!?! In the last three years I have power trolled in Anita Bay, Neets Bay, and Carol Inlet. In all three locations the net fishermen have been fishing at the same time and I have to throw back a 27", 7 lb king that is probably a jack, and the nets get to keep the same fish and sell it. This is totally unfair and ridiculous! Most of these sub legal fish (for a troller) are colored up and match the skin color of the bigger, legal ones that I'm catching. This leads me to believe they are either jacks or early returning hatchery fish that are going to stay in the area until they are caught or die. Since trollers are still below their hatchery allocation share of hatchery fish, sited in the Southeast Allocation Plan (5 AAC 33.364), the current regs, this further skews the ratio of salmon sharing between trollers and nets. (Incidentally, about 6 years ago commercial trailers could legally keep king salmon under 28" in Anita Bay while fishing in the terminal area.)

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