

RC from Eric Jordan, aka "chumtroller@gmail.com" on proposal 102 and RC's and testimony concerning the NSRAA Board recommendation for a Sunday Wednesday Thursday Seine, Monday Tuesday Gillnet, and Thursday Friday Troll in Deep Inlet.

Board members, staff, and interested public. I have arguably the most experience fishing in Deep Inlet of any troller. I have undoubtedly caught more salmon in Deep Inlet on troll gear than any other troller. I have worked hard to get a troll day first after closures for Cost Recovery or Brood Stock collection and adequate notice so there is a day or two of build-up before trolling. Those days have been very good for trolling with much more participation because of the build up. It is my experience that the chums bite better in multiple areas the more time between net effort and trolling. But, by doing all our cost recovery now at Crawfish, and the success of our brood stock development and increased releases at Bear Cove, we have not had those troll days first recently in Deep Inlet. In a way this proposal by NSRAA recovers some opportunity lost there by trollers.

I have been fishing chums seriously since 1988, and what happened in the Sitka area last year is a notable outlier in terms of chums biting on troll gear in Eastern Channel. Last year was also an anomaly in that we had no seining under pink salmo management in the Eastern Channel Area. That undoubtedly contributed greatly to troll harvest. With market conditions improving for troll chums, more trollers interested in targeting chums, and two days fishing in Deep Inlet, I guarantee there will be significantly more salmon caught by trollers there.

One of the great things about Deep Inlet after a couple of days of build up is that the whole Inlet fills in with chum, it is deep enough for our troll gear to work on the schools right up to the head of the bay, the water is clear enough for them to see our gear, and many trollers can work the area efficiently. Plus, while chums often go off the bite on rainy stormy days and it is hard to work in stormy days outside of the Inlet, they still bite great in the protected waters of Deep Inlet.

Finally, there is a reason every NSRAA Board member except gillnetters voted to give trollers two days in Deep Inlet. They hear and understand the situation which is that this is a great way to help trollers move up in our hatchery harvest %. Please go along with the NSRAA Board recommendation.

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