

Good morning, esteemed members of the board, my name is Dave Richey, and I am a troller based here in Sitka.

Honeyholes.

Everyone who fishes knows what a honeyhole is, right? It's that sweet spot where the fish are abundant and willing, each day is brimming with promise, and you thank the fish gods cause you know you're innem.

Members of the board, **terminal harvest areas** are the honeyholes I speak of today. Especially for chum salmon.

But trollers are confronted with a thorny problem. Trollers have never, not once, ever, been in their allocation range in any of the 5-year rolling averages since the inception of the '94 Allocation Management Plan, which explicitly directs that the Board of Fish may take action – meaningful action in terminal harvest areas – whenever a gear group has been out of its allocation over a five-year rolling average. I think we all can agree that “never” in 20 years qualifies.

And so now, we are asking for your help.

Prop 176 mandates that the JRPT devise a region-wide harvest management plan that shares the terminal harvest areas fairly between all gear groups and enforces compliance with the well-established allocative targets.

SSRAA works for all gear groups. In Neets Bay THA, trollers are permitted to target chums (and cohos) from July 2 until Sept. 20. That's meaningful time and access.

By contrast, trollers have appealed repeatedly and proactively to the NSRAA board to correct this allocative problem. Due diligence in seeking our fair share of the honeyhole allocative harvest has been met with a mixture of indifference, disgust, and hostility. It's been a frustrating process for all, because the net groups have secured privileged access in the honeyholes and do not wish to share them.

Trollers are effectively locked out of the terminal harvest areas in the entire northern region.

Deep Inlet: no meaningful access. We get two days a week, non-consecutively (known as “build-up days” by the net groups, as cited in the RC-35 packet). Almost no trollers fish it; a sop, at best.

A regulation at Hidden Falls stipulating trollers may retain only one chum for every king is a mockery of meaningful access. Failure is baked into the regulatory cake.

DIPAC chums: Trollers are relegated to “interception fishery” status here also, well outside of the honeyhole at Amalga Harbor. Even out in Icy Strait, access has been conditional and hard-won. Troller share of DIPAC fish last year: 1%.

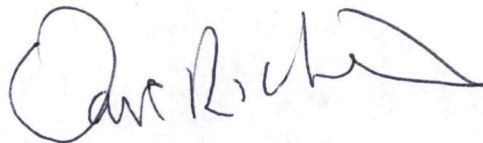
Future projects.

Southeast Cove was dangled out to trollers as a troll-priority project once. In fact, many, many times since 2009. Something changed, not sure whose quid pro got quod, but now the net groups have joined arms to support Prop 187 and oppose Prop 188. Apparently it's imperative to the northern net groups that *new* production harvest areas are shared by *all*, but *existing* ones are restricted solely to the net groups.

Then there's Crawfish. Crawfish is a source of genuine intrigue, but I haven't time.

Trollers vitally need your help with Prop 176. We hope your minds can see the necessity, and your hearts can be moved to act.

Thank you all for your time, consideration and service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Richey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.