

PROPOSAL 115

5 AAC 29.070. General fishing seasons and periods.

Modify the start date of the winter troll fishery, as follows:

The fishing seasons for the salmon troll fishery are as follows:

winter season from October 1 through April 30.

summer season from May 1 through September 30.

(b) The department shall manage the king salmon troll fishery to provide for

(1) a winter fishery during the period beginning October 11 **the first day of week 41** through April 30 or until the guideline harvest level is reached, as specified in 5 AAC 29.080, whichever occurs first;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under the 2019-2028 Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) agreement the CPUE winter troll assessment begins on ADF&G statistical Week 41. The first day of a statistical week is Sunday. The PST does not give Alaskan domestic management direction for an opening date for the fishery.

In recent years the Winter Troll Fishery opened on Oct 11th. During the 2018–2020 seasons the Winter Troll Fishery, under provisions of the Unuk River Stock of Concern (SOC) management plan, closed 6 weeks early (March 15th,) without reaching the Winter Troll GHF of 45,000 non-Alaskan hatchery fish.

The early closure of this lucrative part of the season has economically devastated SEAK’s trollers. During the Early Winter Troll Fishery (Oct-Dec), the estimated abundance and encounters of Southeast Alaska (SEAK) SOC are lower than at other times of the year. Opening the Winter Troll Fishery on the first day of Week 41 would give trollers back a few days of trolling when king salmon are at their highest value and with lower impact on SEAK SOC.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Trollers Association

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