

**AGENDA CHANGE REQUEST FORM**  
**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**

The Board of Fisheries (board) will accept requests to change its schedule under certain guidelines set forth in 5 AAC 39.999. The board will accept these agenda change requests (ACRs) only:

- 1) for a fishery conservation purpose or reason; or
- 2) to correct an error in regulation; or
- 3) to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.

The board will not accept an ACR that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of new compelling information, as determined by the board [5 AAC 39.999 (a) (2)].

Please answer all questions to the best of your ability.

1) CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD. If possible, enter the series of letters and numbers that identify the regulation to be changed. If it will be a new section, enter "5 AAC NEW".

Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC: [5 AAC 29.090. Management of the spring salmon troll fisheries](#)

2) WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM. Address only one issue. State the problem clearly and concisely. The board will reject multiple or confusing issues.

In recent years, an abundance of Chinook salmon has caused spring trolling areas to be restricted or closed prematurely, due to the high presence of treaty kings. This is due, in large part, to the Columbia River, which has recently experienced the three largest fall Chinook runs since the dams were erected in 1938. ATA is requesting a small adjustment to the spring troll management plan, only in years of exceptional abundance, so that the fishery can be conducted as envisioned by the Board of Fisheries and the fleet.

The spring troll fishery is structured in such a way as to target Alaska hatchery Chinook and minimize the harvest of fish that count against the Pacific Salmon Treaty (treaty) quota. A number of small areas are opened to trolling from April-June near hatcheries or in corridors where Alaska hatchery fish are known to transit. The amount of time allowed in each area varies, and is determined weekly, with some openings lasting just 1-3 days per week. Triggers have been established that mandate the minimum percentage of Alaska hatchery Chinook that must be harvested in order to keep each hatchery area open to trolling.

In 2014, the model utilized by the Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission generated a pre-season abundance index of 2.57. Seven spring areas across the region experienced time/area restrictions or closures, due to a strong showing of treaty Chinook. 2013 and 2014 are the only years on record that the percent of Alaska hatchery kings in the spring troll fishery declined instead of increased in mid – to late June.

While all of the data is not yet available, it is well-known that, as a result of exceptional abundance, ADFG managed the 2015 spring fishing areas conservatively. Both time and area restrictions were implemented in the face of another large Columbia River return, which had already contributed to the winter troll fishery closing 5 weeks earlier than ever before.

Loss of opportunity in the hatchery areas reduces troller's access to the hatchery Chinook our industry pays for, many of which are raised to mitigate chronic reductions in the treaty king salmon quota and do

not count against the annual quota. In addition, any loss of access to Alaska hatchery Chinook further confounds the troll fleet's ability to achieve its enhanced salmon allocation under 5 AAC 33.364 (see also: 94-148-FB).

Allowing a small reduction in the spring hatchery triggers, only when abundance is anticipated to be very high, should help ensure that the troll fleet maintains access to spring hatchery areas, while also adhering to the original purpose of the caps, which was to help preserve ample numbers of treaty kings for the summer fishery.

3) WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER? Or, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new or amended regulation say?

Reduce the percentage triggers in the spring troll fishery by 5% only when the abundance index, as determined by the Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission, is 1.95 or higher.

**5 AAC 29.090. Management of the spring salmon troll fisheries**

(a) In this chapter, a spring salmon troll fishery means a fishery that is

- (1) opened and closed by emergency order;
- (2) restricted in area;
- (3) designated by number so that each opening in a specific body of water is uniquely identified for catch reporting purposes.

(b) The department shall manage the spring salmon troll fisheries to target Alaska hatchery-produced king salmon.

(c) The department shall conduct the spring salmon troll fisheries each year before the opening of the general summer salmon troll season.

(d) In its management of the spring fisheries under this section, the department shall

(1) first consider changes in the previous years' spring fisheries; the department shall open the fisheries if they meet the following requirements:

(A) a directed fishery may occur only if an Alaska hatchery return is expected to exceed broodstock requirements;

(B) at least one spring fishery shall be conducted annually, targeting the king salmon returning to each Alaska hatchery that meets its broodstock requirements;

(C) in order to continue the fishery each year without modification of areas previously established, the contribution rate of hatchery stocks to the directed fishery harvest must exceed 20 percent;

**(D) if the preseason king salmon abundance index determined by the Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission is less than 1.95,** the department shall manage each spring salmon troll fishery as follows:

(i) no more than 1,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is less than 25 percent of the king salmon taken in that fishery;

(ii) no more than 2,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is at least 25

percent but less than 35 percent of the king salmon taken in that fishery;

(iii) no more than 3,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is at least 35 percent but less than 50 percent of the king salmon taken in that fishery;

(iv) no more than 5,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is at least 50 percent but less than 66 percent of the king salmon taken in that fishery;

(v) there is no limit on the number of non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon that may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is 66 percent or more of the king salmon taken in that fishery;

**(E) if the preseason king salmon abundance index determined by the Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission is 1.95 or greater,** the department shall manage each spring salmon troll fishery as follows:

**i. no more than 1,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is less than 20 percent of the king salmon taken in that fishery;**

**ii. no more than 2,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is at least 20 percent but less than 30 percent of the king salmon taken in that fishery;**

**iii. no more than 3,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is at least 30 percent but less than 45 percent of the king salmon taken in that fishery;**

**iv. no more than 5,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is at least 45 percent but less than 61 percent of the king salmon taken in that fishery;**

**v. there is no limit on the number of non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon that may be taken in a fishery if the percentage of Alaska hatchery-produced salmon taken in that fishery is 61 percent or more of the king salmon taken in that fishery;**

**(F) [(E)]** if the requirements of (A) – (D) **or (E)** of this paragraph are met, the department shall open the spring salmon troll fisheries until no later than one day before the opening of the summer salmon troll fishery;

(2) consider additional fishing periods based on the best scientific data and

on input from salmon trollers;

(3) if the preseason king salmon abundance index determined by the Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission is at least 1.15 and the amount of the winter troll fishery guideline harvest level remaining on May 1 is 10,000 or more king salmon, apply the following provisions:

(A) if the guideline harvest level remaining is at least 10,000 king salmon but not more than 15,000 king salmon, 250 additional non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon will be added to the maximum allowable number of non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon to be taken as provided in (2)(D) **or (E)** of this subsection;

(B) if the guideline harvest level remaining is more than 15,000 king salmon, 500 additional non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon will be added to the maximum allowable number of non-Alaska hatchery-produced salmon to be taken as provided in (2)(D) **or (E)** of this subsection.

(e) Repealed 6/14/2000.

(f) Repealed 5/31/2009.

(g) A CFEC permit holder that participates in a spring salmon troll fishery must offload all fish from the CFEC permit holder's vessel before participating in the summer salmon troll fishery.

(h) Notwithstanding (a) - (d) of this section, in Snow Passage the commissioner may, by emergency order, extend the length of weekly fishing periods during the spring fishery to maximize the harvest of hatchery coho salmon returning to the Neck Lake release site.

(i) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, a spring salmon troll fishery for one day per week during May and June in the Yakutat Bay area east of a line from Point Manby to Ocean Cape, with a maximum harvest of 1,000 king salmon.

(j) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, a fishing season during which two or more adjacent spring salmon troll fishery areas and those area's harvest caps, as specified in (d)(1)(D) of this section for non-Alaska hatchery salmon, are combined if each of the areas has Alaska hatchery compositions of 25 percent or greater for three or more consecutive seasons.

4) STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE. If one or more of the three criteria set forth above is not applicable, state that it is not.

a) for a fishery conservation purpose or reason:

N/A

b) to correct an error in regulation:

N/A

c) to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:

Until recently, the abundance of West Coast Chinook salmon has been such that ADFG could manage the spring troll fishery well within the Board of Fisheries goals for the fishery using the current regulations. However, due to the substantial and unexpected increase in the abundance of treaty Chinook salmon, ADFG needs another management tool in years of exceptional abundance,

to allow the troll fleet to access hatchery king salmon that are the target of the spring fishery. It is likely that Columbia River Chinook will be present in large numbers for at least a few more years and disruption of the troll fishery could continue if something is not done prior to the 2018 Southeast/Yakutat meeting.

5) WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

The spring troll fishery could be subjected to unnecessary time/area restrictions and closures, which will be economically harmful to the fleet and region. This would also hamper the troll fleet's ability to harvest hatchery king salmon being raised to mitigate the loss of quota share under the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

6) STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

The Board of Fisheries has an existing allocation plan that distributes the annual Pacific Salmon Treaty quota amongst the various Southeast user groups. ATA's proposal would have zero impact on the allocation, because the troll fleet would be held to its existing share.

7) IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

N/A

8) STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE FISHERY THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR (e.g., commercial fisherman, subsistence user, sport angler, etc.)

Commercial trollers.

9) STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING.

This particular proposal as not been considered by the Board of Fisheries, but there is a spring management plan and its terms have been discussed several times since the early 1990s.

Submitted by:

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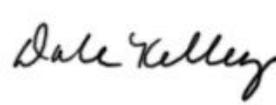
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**DATE:** 8/20/2015