

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 1982 AMENDMENTS TO THE  
SOUTHEAST ALASKA TROLL SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

January 5-6, 1982  
Juneau, Alaska

As part of the January 1982 joint meeting, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and Alaska Board of Fisheries conducted a public hearing to receive testimony on proposed 1982 amendments to the Southeast Alaska Troll Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Council and Board members, staff, and public in attendance were those persons listed in the attendance roster of the January Council minutes.

Synopses of individual testimony are given below.

Ed Wojcek, executive director of the Alaska Trollers Association, entered into the record an "ATA Position Paper" dated January 4, 1982, outlining ATA's position on the various Southeast Alaska troll fishery proposals submitted to the Board. He said that ATA opposes continued interceptions of chinook salmon by the Canadians and feels that the State of Washington should account for interdam chinook salmon losses. ATA adamantly opposes any further reduction in chinook optimum yield for the Southeast Alaska fishery.

Hafter Gjerde, speaking on behalf of the Petersburg Fish and Game Advisory Committee, testified against the proposal for 90%/10% allocation for power and hand trollers submitted by the Alaska Trollers Association. Mr. Gjerde favored allowing hand trollers to have sport poles on board when trolling.

Barry McClelland, Ketchikan hand troller, testified against further reductions in the chinook OY. He said that Alaskan trollers have given enough and that he is worried about his ability to continue making a living as a fisherman if the OY is reduced any further.

Clark Eaton, board member of Alaska Trollers Association from Gig Harbor, Washington, testified in favor of ATA's proposal to implement time/area trawl closures off Southeastern Alaska when high concentrations of salmon are observed. He opposed further reductions in OY and suggested that serious study be undertaken to learn the full extent of chinook salmon losses due to dams on the Columbia River.

John Wilcox, president of the Juneau Hand Troll Association, opposed the 90/10 allocation for power and hand trollers; favored the use of treble hooks; and suggested that something be done to solve the problem of net-marked fish. He proposed that no optimum yield be imposed on the troll fishery until the State of Washington provides information on inter-dam losses.

Robert Ziegler, power troller and ATA board member, testified in favor of expanding the troll fishery westward to spread the level of effort over a larger area. He also supported the ATA proposal for a coho test troll fishery.

Paul Johnson, Elfin Cove fisherman, blamed the condition of the chinook resource on losses caused by the Columbia River dams. He urged the Council to

consider a 15-year rebuilding plan for Southeast Alaska stocks similar to the plan adopted last year by the Board.

Sue Stern and Ken Proctor, representing the Sitka Handtroller's Association, presented written testimony addressing the Association's position on various Board proposals. A copy of their testimony is made a part of this Summary as Attachment I.

Bill Stokes testified in favor of allowing sport rods aboard commercial trolling vessels.

Joe Reader brought to the meeting two net-marked salmon, taken near the Fairweather Grounds in July 1981, for the Council and Board to inspect. He said he had observed large amounts of monofilament net on the beaches and suggested that the Council and Board do something to determine its origin. He opposed any further reductions in optimum yield and favored expanding the troll fishery westward.

Gordon Williams, acting chairman of the Angoon Fish and Game Advisory Committee, testified against further reductions in optimum yield. He said that something must be done to learn the origin of net-marked fish.

Matthew Guess, member of the Angoon Fish and Game Advisory Committee, asked the Board to extend its deadline date for proposals from September 20 to October 1. He wanted no further reductions in OY.

Richard Luhndahl, representing the Pelican Fish and Game Advisory Committee, submitted written testimony outlining their position on various Board proposals. He favored curtailing all foreign gillnet and trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska; suggested that the Council's members all come from Alaska; that halibut incidental catch be reinstated for the troll fishery; that control over marine mammals off Alaska be returned to the State; and that the reductions in optimum yield taken over the last few years be re-established at projected potential harvest levels, with anything less than the potential harvest level being termed a "temporary OY."

Eric Jordan, Advisory Panel member and Sitka fisherman, said he thinks the later opening date and use of time/area closures has contributed significantly to the rebuilding of Southeast Alaska stocks. He favored repeal of the ban on treble hooks. Mr. Jordan suggested that chinooks caught during the coho season be tagged, that the information be recorded in logbooks, and information used to help manage the troubled Southeastern stocks.

Chuck Porter, Juneau hand troller since 1932, suggested that banning the use of nets in the Columbia River could help to rebuild the bright chinook stocks. He asked the Council and Board to manage the troll fishery as one fishery and to direct the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission to issue either gurdy or rod and reel permits, requiring that gear type to be used throughout the life of the permit. Mr. Porter suggested that the government pay the Indians not to fish, like it paid farmers not to plant crops, as a method to help rebuild the Columbia River stocks.

Wilbur Johnson, Sr., representing the Confederated Tribes of Oregon and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, testified that the Indians have never done anything which might cause harm to the Columbia River chinook stocks.

Levi George, also representing the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, said he has been a fisherman all his life and he predicted five years ago that soon there would be no fish left over which to fight. He said the resource is important to the Indians, as it was there when the white man came to America. He explained the Indian ceremonial and subsistence fisheries. In response to Mr. Porter's suggestion that the Indians be paid not to fish, he said there is no dollar amount which could ever replace the value of the fishery to the Indian's lifestyle.

Lee Krause, representing the Halibut Producers Coop, thanked the Board for their stand against larger reductions in OY last year. He said the Halibut Producers Coop is struggling because it is made up of small businessmen who have made large investments in the fishing industry. He felt that trollers are being asked to give up too much. Mr. Krause said that in the last year the value of his permit has fallen \$10,000, the value of his boat is down \$20,000, and reduced fishing time due to reductions in optimum yield cost him \$35,000, for a total loss last year of \$65,000. He asked the Board and Council to carefully consider the socioeconomic impacts of their actions, and urged no further reductions in OY.

Tony Guggenbiggler, troller from Wrangell and member of ATA, testified in favor of a May 1 opening date for the troll season, rather than May 15, and closures in specific areas rather than blanket closures.

Charles Jones, member of the Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee, testified in favor of allowing extra sport gear aboard hand and power troll vessels and closing all commercial salmon fishing when trolling is closed. He also endorsed repeal of the ban on treble hooks.

Walt Pasternak, Sitka troller and member of ATA, stressed the need for increased observer coverage on foreign vessels to monitor the incidental trawl catch of chinooks.

Dave Pitcher, Ketchikan troller, testified in favor of measuring the FCZ from the base line rather than the surf line.

Denny Kimball, president of the Halibut Producers Coop, explained the history of the Cooperative and said their goal has been to remain wholly U.S. owned and operated. He suggested eliminating the foreign fishery off Alaska entirely; favored expanding the troll fishery westward; and urged the Council and Board to increase OY for 1982.

Earl Krygier, biologist for the Alaska Trollers Association, reported the results of the ATA study on net-marked fish. He said that only 1 or 2% of all net-marked fish survive, and suggested there may be some relationship between high incidences of net-marked fish and declining salmon stocks.

Larry Gammon, chairman of the Elfin Cove Fish and Game Advisory Committee, urged the Council and Board to stand up against Judge Craig and the Indians and make no further concessions in the troll fishery.

Gordon Peterson, member of the Icy Straits Trollers Association, testified in favor of expanding the troll fishery westward to reduce pressure on Southeast Alaska stocks.

Ron Williams, chairman of the Alaska Native Brotherhood Grand Camp, asked the Board to extend its deadline for salmon proposals to October 1 and proposed that trollers be allowed to take bait with rod and reel.

Bill Cummins testified in support of allowing sport gear aboard troll vessels for personal use fishing. He complimented the Board and Council on their "preventive", long-term management approach rather than trying just to make it from one season to the next.

Raymond Dick, member of the Hoonah Fish and Game Advisory Committee, testified in favor of allowing trolling seven days a week in all areas and abolishing the 8/6 day fishing schedule. He endorsed the proposal not to include chinook and coho catches taken in authorized derbies in the commercial harvest totals. He opposed the 90/10 power and hand troll allocation.

Leo Lande, member of the Angoon Fish and Game Advisory Committee, suggested that the State of Alaska loan money to the State of Washington so it can develop a fisheries enhancement program for the Columbia River.

Diana Rondy of Sitka Troll Pack, an association of U.S. cold storage businesses located in Sitka, asked the Council and Board not to make any further concessions to the Columbia River Indians in the Confederated Tribes case.

Richard Hofferman testified against further OY reductions for the 1982 season. He favored repeal of the ban on treble hooks and expanding the troll fishery westward.

Morris Ingman, Ketchikan power troller and secretary of the Ketchikan Fish and Game Advisory Committee, said there should be no further reductions in optimum yield for 1982.

Della Sewell testified in favor of extending the troll fishery westward to reduce pressure on Southeast Alaska stocks.

Eric Jordan, testifying on behalf of the Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee, favored expanding the troll fishery westward; repealing the ban on treble hooks; and maintaining the status quo for the May 15 troll season opening date.