

Public Testimony
Agenda Item D-1 Salmon

Gordon Williams, Board Regional Advisory Board Representative. His Board voted to basically endorse a similar management scheme as 1983 and to continue Alaska's rebuilding program and a harvest level that has some restraint for conservation. In the absence of a treaty, a three-cycle rebuilding program is the only reasonable alternative. Mr. Williams said he felt that the computer models used to arrive at management schemes should be looked at carefully and not taken as the "gospel" because the basic assumptions used in these models may be interpreted in different ways. His Council did not arrive at a definite concensus regarding season dates, but it was generally agreed that July 1 would be unacceptable. Closing the FCZ during the single-species fishery probably did not contribute to conservation of chinooks because it forced fishermen into shallower waters where the abundance of chinook was greater.

Jim Martin, Levi George, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Levi George read a written statement submitted by Tim Wapato of the Commission which encouraged work toward a coastwide conservation program. Specifically, the Commission proposed that the state of Alaska, the Columbia River treaty tribes, and the States of Washington and Oregon request the U.S. government to inquire of the Canadian government whether it would be willing to discuss formulation of an inter-nation agreement limited to the conservation of naturally spawning chinook salmon stocks of common concern. At the U.S.-Canada negotiations a workable program was very nearly reached and Mr. George encouraged the Council and Board to build upon that work.

Earl Krygier, Alaska Trollers Assn. ATA submitted a proposal for the 1984 chinook troll fishery which suggested the opening and closing dates of the season with consideration of the conflict with the halibut fishery, and a status quo harvest level.

Ed Wojeck, Alaska Trollers Assn. There is no knowledge of a conservation effort on the part of the Canadians. Their harvest rates continue to increase while stocks decline. He feels a separate chinook treaty would be giving up the resource to Canada. The ATA proposal for the 1984 season takes care of the Alaska stocks on a three-cycle rebuilding program.

Bob Fishel, Juneau. Mr. Fishel spoke on net-scarred salmon. He trolled the first two weeks of the 1983 season and caught seven net-scarred fish, which he feels is a significant number. He thinks a lot could be done in the squid fisheries by changing the net size and the way the net is hung.

Harold Thompson, Sitka Sound Seafoods. Mr. Thompson requested the Council and Board consider a chinook opening date of June 5 because of the problems anticipated by processors if both halibut and salmon are being harvested at the same time.

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March 11, 1983

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Walt Pasternak, Juneau. Spoke in favor of a June 5 opening date for troll salmon for the 1984 season only. He is also in favor of maintaining the status quo for harvest goals, but feels the hatchery fish should be added to the total.

Dave Pitcher, troller, Ketchikan. Each year, the Canadians fish more and more and increase their historical catch record for the purpose of treaty negotiations. It is important to break this pattern. Urged the Council to forget about treaty proposals and protect the chinook stocks in Alaskan waters. Any actions to protect other stocks should be dependent on accomplished equal Canadian actions. Alaskan salmon management since Statehood has been very successful and he has a great deal of confidence in the Board of Fisheries. During a meeting of trollers in Ketchikan recently, opening of the troll season was discussed. A majority in that area felt that they would like to see the season open on May 15; however, they had two concerns. One was that a later date, if carried on over several years, would somehow end up being the traditional opening date for the troll season. The other was that earlier in the season they would be catching a different mix of stocks than those they would catch later in the season and felt it would be more healthy to spread the effort over a number of different stocks.

Tony Guggenbickler, Wrangell, troller, member of ATA. Feels that chinook mortality during the coho-only season has been satisfactorily minimized. A limited coho-only fishery is necessary to the trollers. Supports a June 5 opening date for chinook for 1984.

Lance Ingle, Wrangell, troller, member of ATA. Thinks the Alaska troll season should begin on May 15 but realizes the conflict with the halibut opening, so for the 1984 season only, he would support an opening no later than June 5. He supports the status quo for the 1984 troll catch and asked that the FCZ not be closed.

Dave Peters, Port Angeles, Wa., ATA. Pointed out that the government is blaming the declining chinook stock on its own citizens while allowing foreign trawl and high sea gillnet fishery in areas of chinook abundance. Disagrees with a treaty which penalizes Alaskans for their conservation efforts and rewards Canadians for overfishing. Supports the status quo for 1984 harvest levels and an opening date no later than June 5.

John Wilcox, Juneau Hand Troll Assn. Feels that any treaty which allows Canadians to fish while Alaskans cannot is flawed. Until a treaty is signed, harvest should be regulated by availability, not politics. The coho 10-day emergency closure was supposed to be for one year only, not an annual event. During recent years there have been above-average escapements and still have had the closure imposed.

Charles E. Wilber, troller, Sitka. Would like to have a May 15 opening, but because of the conflict with the halibut season in 1984, he would support an opening no later than June 5. Also supports the status quo for 1984 harvest levels, increased by aquaculture fish.

Gary Slaven, troller, Petersburg. As long as we continue to conserve, it will be difficult to get a treaty because Canada can depend on us to do what is prudent. Supports ATA proposal on opening dates for season.

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Bill Froust, troller, Sitka, member ATA. Alaska is the only successful state on the west coast to rebuild chinook stocks. Canada continues to overfish. He supports the status quo for the 1984 harvest and would like the aquaculture fish added to that and suggests a coho-only season after September 20.

Richard Lundahl, power troller, Pelican. Feels the buy-back program is aimed at establishing a small, highly efficient fleet of larger boats. What would the residents of smaller villages do for a living without fishing?

Clark Eaton, Gig Harbor, WA., ATA. Spoke on the ATA proposal which would provide a catch no less than 1983. Alaska has taken conservation cuts during the past several years providing a good faith bargaining posture with Canada. The reductions have proven successful in improving escapements in 8 of the 9 Alaska index systems from 1981-83. Similar improvements have not happened in Canada or Washington. Future requests for reductions cannot be viewed as conservation efforts, but efforts in allocation. Urged Board to hold the line; Alaska has already made its contribution to conservation with positive results.

Joe Riederer, power troller, Juneau. The pressure on chinooks from foreign trawling and squid fisheries should be addressed. Drifting gillnets is a big problem and something should be done about it. Supports the status quo for 1984.

Jim Wild, Elfin Cove Advisory Committee. Elfin Cove is sustained by the troll fishery. He supports an OY of 320,000. There is no biological reason for reducing the OY. Supports an opening date no later than June 5.

Chris Sharpsteen, troller, Petersburg. Urged Council and Board to consider ATA proposal. Cannot afford to disallow a single-species fishery because the troll fishery cannot afford to lose the potential income.

Barry McClelland, troller, Ketchikan. Feels there is undue "federal influence and southern bias" in treaty negotiations. Must reconcile, economically and politically, whatever is necessary to rebuild the chinook stock coastwide. Supports ATA proposal. Would like to see the traditional April 15 date used in future years and not completely abandoned.

Maurice Ingman, troller, Ketchikan. Supports a harvest of 290,000 fish plus the enhancement fish.

Stan Reddekopp, Juneau, President, ATA. Alaska has made significant concessions for the conservation and rebuilding of the chinook stock and the South has taken advantage of this. Would support the status quo and urge the Board and Council to make decisions without the bias of the South.

Eric Jordan, Sitka. It is critically important to get an equitable treaty signed with the Canadians. He feels the single-species fishery is necessary to the growth of the fishery. Supports the ATA proposal.

John Bunt, Pelican. Pelican economy is based on fishing and is struggling. If he has a "statewide" permit, then why can't he fish "statewide?"

Bill Evans, former Alaska member ATA, Alaska is the only successful state on the west coast to rebuild chinook stocks. Canada continues to overfish. He supports the state and would like the opportunity that would be that and support a colony season after September 30.

Richard Lundquist, former Alaska, believes the buy-back program is aimed at maintaining a small, highly efficient fleet of larger boats. What would be the residents of smaller villages do for a living without fishing?

John Latham, Dir. Fishery, WA, ATA. Spoke on the ATA proposal which would provide a catch no less than 1981. Alaska has taken conservation out during the past several years providing a good fishery program with Canada. The reductions have proven successful in improving escapement to 2 of the 3 Alaska border systems from 1981-2. Earlier improvements have not happened in Canada or Washington. Future requests for reductions should be viewed as conservative effort, not efforts in allocation. Unger Board to hold the line; Alaska has already made its contribution to conservation with constant results.

John Hildebrand, former Alaska, believes the pressure on chinook from foreign countries and world fisheries should be addressed. Cutting Alaska's share for quotas and catching should be done about it. Supports the state and for 1981.

John Latham, Dir. Fishery, WA, ATA. Bill Latham has been maintained by the title. He supports an 87 of 20,000. There is no biological reason for reducing the 87. Supports an opening date no later than June 1.

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Gary McMaster, Pelican ADF&G Advisory Board. Fishermen have seen nothing but cuts in their allocations. The escapements are good this year, so why should they take more cuts in OY? Canada has not been taking cuts. Residents of Pelican support the status quo, plus hatchery fish, but really would like an OY of 320,000. Pelican Cold Storage supports an opening date of June 5.

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