

Industry Consensus 12/9/08

The troll fleet continues to be out of their target range, the seiners and gillnetters are out of their ranges. Seiners are on the low end and Gillnetters are on the high end. No extraordinary events outside of association or management control seem to account for these imbalances, therefore they should be addressed.

The recommendations below are considered a package deal.

In recognition of the current imbalance and the long-term trends in the distribution of enhanced fish the JRPT recommends to the commissioner:

- 1) Encourage facility operators to try to increase production in a way that will provide additional opportunities to harvest fish by the seine fleet and troll fleet (This would include the additional production that might become available because of the increased capacity at Burnett Inlet, if practicable 10 million additional summer chum fry would be released at Kendrick Bay and 1.25 million coho smolts released)
- 2) Encourage facility operators and ADF&G to identify additional times and areas where enhanced coho and Chinook could be harvested by trollers without affecting wild stocks.
- 3) Request regional associations to look at the possibility of otolith marking of all Coho and Chinook towards the goal of getting additional information about migration patterns and run timing.
- 4) RPT ask Gunnuk Creek and AKI give a presentation that outlines their current situation, financial picture, long term plans, cost recovery plans and impediments to getting to full production permitted for.
- 5) Recommend to SSRAA that Neets Bay be open in the fall after brood stock and cost recovery goals are met.
- 6) In recognition of the current imbalance and the long-term trends in the distribution of enhanced fish the JRPT recommends to the Board of Fisheries to:
  - A) Change the opportunities in several SHA's where there are or have been net fishery rotations. These changes will likely result in a substantial higher percentage of the harvest in these SHA's going to seiners. These changes would remain in place until at least 2011. If at that time the seine fleet and gillnet fleets are still out of their range these changes would remain in place, unless the Joint RPT agrees to other remedies. Although it appears that changes in all SHA's might not correct the present imbalance the joint RPT is cautious in requesting too many changes at once, knowing

that unusual survival or market conditions could occur, and wants to avoid any over steering of the balance. These SHA changes would be:

- a) A time ratio of one to one for gillnet openings to seine openings in Deep Inlet after the third Sunday in June for 2009, 2010 and 2011 and sunset after the 2011 season. (Proposal #273 RPT)
  - b) A time ratio of one to one for gillnet openings to seine openings in Anita Bay for 2009, 2010 and 2011 and sunset after the 2011 season. (Proposal #271)
  - c) RPT recommends when SSRAA determines that a rotational fishery is to be conducted in Neets Bay have the time ratio between the gillnet and seine fleet be 1 to 1 after June 20. (Proposal #268)
- B) RPT makes the following recommendations regarding Board of fisheries proposals
- a) Proposal #244 (exclude PNP's from allocation plan) The RPT recommends no action be taken based on the recommendations above and the belief that they are inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan, SE Enhanced Allocation plan and the duties of the RPT.
  - b) Proposal #245 (removes NSRAA from overall plan) The RPT recommends no action be taken based on the recommendations above and the belief that they are inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan, SE Enhanced Allocation plan and the duties of the RPT.
  - c) Proposal #246 (excludes commercial fishing from Coffman Cove) The RPT recommends the Board of Fish opposes this proposal based on that the RPT has consistently as the permits were approved commented that this production would not change the management of the commercial fisheries to protect these fish for sport fish terminal use (RPT minutes April 12, 2006 and Dec 7, 2005)
  - d) Proposal #267 (Nakat rotation 1to1) oppose and recommend that Nakat Inlet remain closed to commercial seining for at least the next three years as other short and long term remedial measures are put into effect
  - e) Proposal #268 (Neets Bay rotations) opposed as written. See recommendation above A (c).
  - f) Proposal #271 (Anita Bay) oppose as written. See recommendation above A (b).
  - g) Proposal #273 Deep Inlet 1 to 1 Amend as recommended above in A (a)
  - h) Proposal #274 Recommend no action based on amended action taken on Proposal #273.
  - i) Proposal #327 (extend coho season to 9/30 in Behm Canal) The RPT recommends support for this proposal if there are no wild stock concerns. The RPT believes that if wild stock concerns can be addressed this would provide additional opportunity for the troll fleet which is below their allocation range.
  - j) Proposal #269 (extend SHA for sport fishery) The RPT is making no recommendation on this proposal but would like to comment that this

proposal will further impact the troll fleet within the allocation plan of enhanced fish.

The Industry members of the RPT would like to state that this is the first time since 1994 where both net fleets are significantly out of their ranges in opposite directions. It is the first time the joint RPT has needed to consider recommending changes in SHA rotations. The JRPT recognizes that there may be a better and more timely alternative than the Board of Fish process continually readjusting the management of the rotational fisheries. The joint RPT will consider alternatives and may have a recommendation by the 2012 board meeting that will allow significant adjustments in SHA's without requiring board of Fisheries action. These adjustments would be conducted within the current Southeast Enhanced Allocation Plan and would not make any changes to the allocation ranges. If the RPT can not come up with a plan the RPT will submit Board of Fish proposal as appropriate for the gear groups based on the current situation within the allocation plan.