

From: <jmkoeppen@comcast.net>
Date: Tue, Mar 31, 2015 at 2:52 AM
Subject: Comments on 2015 Commerical Salmon Season
To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

To: Pacific Fisheries Management Council
From: John Koeppen
Date: March 30, 2015
Subject: Comment on the 2015 Commercial Troll Management for non-Indian Ocean Salmon Fisheries Alternatives

I wish to submit my comments for the 2015 commercial salmon season structure from Horse Mountain to Pt Arena, Pt Arena to Pigeon Pt, and Pigeon Pt to the US/Mexico Border.

I respectfully request the council not consider the Pt. Arena to Pigeon Pt Alternative III which closes fishing starting August 29th. This area is critical to my ability to make a living. Nearly 25% of my 2013 and 2014 annual income was caught in this area.

The October experimental fishery from Pt. Reyes to Pt San Pedro contributes another 11-12% of my annual income. Please do not close this fishery without good science to support the decision. My understanding is the motivation to close Pt. Arena to Pigeon Pt and the October Pt. Reyes experimental fisheries is political. Water users pressuring CA Fish & Wildlife because their water is being restricted. How would they react if told they couldn't harvest their crops because someone in a city couldn't water their grass? Doesn't make sense does it?

The fish are coming in good numbers and need to be harvested for two reasons. 1. Too many fish spanning will create an over abundance of smolt. If not harvested, this year class will be stressed and lack the health to return to the ocean resulting in a disaster which we've witnessed in the past. The Sacramento River is not healthy enough to support an over populated salmon run of smolt. 2.) The inability to harvest a strong fall run of Sacramento River salmon in September and October will be a financial disaster for most of the fleet harbored in Bodega Bay, San Francisco, and Half Moon Bay. For me, it will be the last straw.

I do support Alternative II for Horse Mountain to the Mexico Border.

The OR/CA Border to Humboldt Jetty option needs to be confined to 2,000 fish per comments from the people proposing the option. I have no preference when they catch their fish. I do support their effort and purpose.

My last comment is the area from Horse Mountain to Pt Arena is most likely going to make or break the season for those who fish salmon full time as their main or sole source of income, as I do. As much time as possible is needed in this area, even if time is given up in another area; similar to what was done in 2014 when Pigeon Pt to the Mexico border was closed on August 15th as an example.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

John Koeppen
F/V Lulu