

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
SALMON TROLL PING RATE

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) continues to request that the salmon troll ping rate topic is prioritized and scheduled on the Council's November 2019 agenda.

Currently the ping rate is scheduled to increase to four pings per hour, which is an increase from the status quo ping rate for salmon trollers of one ping per hour. An increase in the ping rate will cause the salmon troll fleet economic hardship, due to additional cost for more pings (four times more). Shortened seasons and catch restrictions further the economic hardship of the fleet.

At the June 2019 Council meeting, The Enforcement Consultants (EC) commented on this topic under Agenda Item I.2.a, which read, in part: "the EC recommends that the Council consider exemption of salmon trollers from the 15-minute ping rate as early as the September 2019 meeting. The EC is not opposed to exempting salmon trollers from the 15-minute ping rate, and if approved will request consideration creating specific areas where the increased ping rate would be required. For example, a GEO-Fence could be established around the YRCA's that would automatically increase the VMS ping rate to 15-minute pings for salmon trollers that operate within it (e.g., when operating within 2 nautical miles of the YRCA's). The EC would also recommend removal of any granted exemption upon indications of non-compliance. SAS and Enforcement Consultants (EC) commented on this topic in June 2019 under Agenda Item I.2.a."

The SAS concurs with the EC statement and looks forward to working with the EC on the details of the GEO-fence concept, understanding that there is a fishing area to the north that is a prime salmon troll area of particular interest to the commercial salmon fishermen.

PFMC
09/13/19