



PSPA Statement in Response to Decision on Southeast Troll Fishery
May 8, 2023

On May 2, 2023, a U.S. District Court judge ruled to vacate the Incidental Take Statement that governs the Southeast Alaska Chinook troll fisheries, effectively closing those fisheries and harming Southeast communities, fishermen, and processors who have been sustainably prosecuting these fisheries for decades. The lawsuit, brought by Wild Fish Conservancy, is premised on providing more salmon for the endangered Southern Resident killer whales which reside in Puget Sound, WA.

Science and data indicate the orca's decline is due to habitat loss, water pollution, and climate factors, and that there are a multitude of salmon removals off Washington and Oregon greatly outweighing those of the Southeast troll fishery. Closing the Southeast troll fishery will have little to no effect on this orca population but will devastate the Southeast Alaska region, residents, and businesses.

PSPA and its member processors in Southeast Alaska support steps to appeal the decision and for the National Marine Fisheries Service to modify the biological opinion prior to the 2023 season.

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