

**United Chignik Salmon Fishermen**

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Board Support Section  
PO Box 115526  
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Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries:

Subject: Pollock State Waters Fishery –Chignik Management Area (L)

We understand that the Board is considering a proposal to permit a limited Pollock fishery that includes the state waters of Area L. As a fishing group representing about 40 salmon Chignik salmon fishermen, we support such a proposal subject to limiting the harvest of Pollock to the gear proposed other than trawl gear. It is our observation that trawl gear, including pelagic trawls, too often produce catches that often indicate that the gear has been dragging or “fishing” benthic habitat. We do not need habitat destruction or a bycatch of halibut, feeder Chinook salmon or Tanner crab from trawl gear. Let’s strive for a clean state waters Pollock fishery in at least the Chignik area, and out-of-the chute that should preclude authorizing trawl gear including pelagic trawls.

Our group, UCSF, recommends a combined GHL for seine and jig gear and set high enough to encourage participation. Further suggested for an Area L Pollock fishery is that vessel length be held to a 58 feet maximum length to further encourage local participation and the fishery be super-exclusive. In Chignik, our fleet is exclusively small boats ( $\leq 58$  ft.).

Chignik’s economic base is commercial fisheries, period. There are no alternative resources or industries (no timber, oil/gas, tourism, etc.). Our schools are boarded-up except for the school at Chignik Lagoon and at Perryville Village. Local jobs are few, and we no longer have a permanent shore-based processor. Chignik needs an economic advantage, and adding local fisheries is a move in the right direction. Respectfully we ask that the Board take these points into consideration in making fisheries decisions for Area L.

Thank you

Most sincerely,

Mori Jones, UCSF President

cc UCSF Board