

PROPOSAL 139

5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, and 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Repeal Dolgoi Island Area-related regulations from the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*, as follows:

REPEAL 5 AAC 09.365(f) of the South Unimak & Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan and **5 AAC 09.366(j)** of the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like the Board to repeal the ‘Dolgoi area’ regulations in the South Unimak & Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan and in the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula [5 AAC 09.365(f) & 5 AAC 09.366(j)] that would close statistical areas 283-26, 284-37, 284-38, 284-39 after the trigger of 191,000 sockeye are harvested in a larger area including statistical areas 283-15, 283-17, 283-20, 283-21, 283-23, 283-24, 283-25, 283-26, 284-36, 284-37, 284-38, 284-39, 284-42, based on fish ticket information.

According to WASSIP harvest rate data, the ‘Dolgoi area’ catch of Chignik bound salmon had a minimal (from less than 1% to a maximum of 7.4%) impact on the overall Chignik run for years 2006-2008.

The salmon fishing area impacted by these regulations is situated directly between the communities of King Cove and Sand Point.

While the department carried out the new 2016 regulations as written, and fishermen followed them, the closure that was predicted to happen only 3 or 4 times out of every 10 years, based on historical data, occurred every year since implementation as of this date. We believe that the attainment of the trigger of 191,000 sockeye each year has more to do with the recent 50,000,000+ Bristol Bay runs than Chignik sockeye intercept.

We have reviewed the Chignik daily harvest reports over the past years since the 2016 implementation of the ‘Dolgoi area’ regulations. Looking at the data we see a direct connection between Chignik Management Area commercial harvest and CMA sockeye escapement, however we do not find a definitive link with the annual Dolgoi closure and an increase in Chignik sockeye escapement.

The regulations are being implemented as intended but are not accomplishing the intended purpose to increase Chignik escapement/harvest. The regulations are unnecessary and overly burdensome on Area M fishermen.

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-041)
