

Alaska Board of Fisheries
February 21-27, 2019 | Anchorage, Alaska
Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands-Chignik Finfish Proposals

PROPOSAL 128

5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

Increase Chignik Management Area sockeye salmon harvest and escapement thresholds in the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

Modify the SEDM Management plan to allow for a higher minimum sockeye harvest for Chignik that is more in line with current economic conditions. The regulation would read as follows:

5AAC 09.360 Southeast District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

(b) In years when a harvestable surplus for the first (Black Lake) and second (Chignik Lake) runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be less than **1,000,000** [600,000] fish, a commercial fishery is not allowed in the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay north of a line from Elephant Point at 55° 43.18' N. lat., 160° 01.13' W. long., until the department projects that a harvest of **600,000** [300,000] sockeye salmon **will occur** in the Chignik Area described in 5 AAC 15.100. After July 8, if at least **600,000** [300,000] sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least **1,000,000** [600,000] fish and the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area.

(c) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than **1,000,000** [600,000] fish but the first run fails to develop as predicted and it is determined that a total sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area of **1,000,000** [600,000] or more fish may not be achieved, the commercial salmon fishery in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay north of a line from Elephant Point at 55° 41.92' N. lat., 160° 03.20' W. long., to Waterfall Point at 55° 43.18' N. lat., 160° 01.13' W. long., shall be curtailed until the department projects a harvest in the Chignik Area of at least **600,000** [300,000] sockeye salmon through July 8 if that number of fish are determined to be surplus to the escapement goals of the Chignik River system. After July 8, if at least **600,000** [300,000] sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area is at least **1,000,000** [600,000] fish and the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area.

(d) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond the escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than **1,000,000** [600,000] fish and

the department determines that the runs are as strong as expected, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The minimum Chignik sockeye harvest assurances of 300,000 and 600,000 prior to any opening in the SEDM is woefully inadequate. In 1985 the Board modified the SEDM Management Plan based on the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan from the Kodiak Management Area that was enacted in 1978. The Board insisted on a minimum sockeye harvest threshold for Chignik when it enacted the Cape Igvak Management Plan in 1978, and the Board smartly adopted that requirement when it modified the SEDM Management Plan in 1985. While the argument was made by the Board that a 600,000 minimum sockeye harvest assurance for Chignik was adequate when it adopted the Cape Igvak Management Plan in 1978, and subsequently in the SEDM Management Plan in 1985, it is indisputable that a minimum sockeye harvest assurance of 600,000 in Chignik today is woefully inadequate due to the dramatic change in economic conditions since the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan and the SEDM Management Plan were adopted a whopping 40 and 33 years ago, respectively.

PROPOSED BY: Axel Kopun

(EF-F18-057)

PROPOSAL 129

5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

Decrease the Chignik River-origin sockeye salmon harvest composition from 80 percent to 66 percent of harvest in the *Southeast District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

5 AAC 09.360

...

(f) The estimate of Sockeye Salmon destined for the Chignik River has been determined to be **66** percent of the Sockeye Salmon harvested in the Southeast district mainland and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section. Beginning July 1 all Sockeye salmon taken in the Northwest Stepovak Section are considered to be destined for Orzinski Bay

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The estimate of Sockeye Salmon destined for Chignik River has been determined to be 80 percent of the Sockeye Salmon harvested in the Southeast district mainland and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section. Beginning July 1 all Sockeye Salmon taken in Northwest Stepovak Section are considered to be destined for Orzinski Bay.

The estimate of Sockeye Salmon destined for Chignik River should be adjusted to the 66 percent as was found in the WASSIP study of the Sockeye Salmon harvested in the SEDM And before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section. The lower percent which was found in the WASSIP study will give the sedm fisherman more opportunity to fish their traditional setnet sites.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Smith

(EF-F18-034)

PROPOSAL 130

5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

Decrease the Chignik River-origin sockeye salmon harvest composition from 80 percent to 60 percent of harvest in the *Southeast District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

The estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River has been determined to be **60%** [80%] of the sockeye salmon harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lost fishing time and opportunities in the SEDM of Area M. The genetic stock assessment for the SEDM indicated the actual percentage of Chignik bound salmon caught in the SEDM is lower than 80%.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F18-074)

PROPOSAL 131

5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

Increase the Southeast District Mainland allocation of Chignik River-origin sockeye salmon from 7.6% to 10%, as follows:

The percentage of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the SEDM fishery may be permitted to fluctuate above or below **10%** [7.6%] of sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik area at any time before July 25.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lost fishing time and opportunities in the Southeast District Mainland (SEDM) fishery. The SEDM has a 7.6% allocation at 80% while Kodiak has a 15% allocation based on a 90% catch of Chignik bound salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F18-073)

PROPOSAL 132

5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

Revise the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear concurrent to open commercial fishing periods for salmon in the Chignik Management Area, as follows:

Revise the Southeastern District Salmon Management Plan to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear concurrent to the Chignik Area commercial sockeye salmon fishery as follows:

Conduct concurrent fishing periods between Area L (Chignik) and Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM). (a) the elimination of the harvest of 300,000 red salmon in the Chignik area before set net fishermen in the SEDM can harvest salmon; (b) to fish concurrently while Area L (Chignik) fishermen are fishing Area M set net fishermen are fishing in the SEDM area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The SEDM Salmon Management Plan guidelines are currently being based on a fictitious assumption that 20% of the fish caught in the SEDM are local stocks, while the other 80% are Chignik bound. This 80% figure needs to be eliminated from the SEDM Management Plan. SEDM set net fishermen are only allowed to harvest 7.6% of what Chignik fishermen harvest. Before any fishermen in the SEDM can harvest any fish Chignik fishermen have to harvest a minimum of 300,000 red salmon before we can begin to put our nets in the water and harvest our local stock of red salmon. We rarely catch or come close to catching the 7.6 allocation, which is a low number for a historical fishery. We seldom fish on the SEDM because of the restrictions set forth upon the fishery. This allocation needs to be eliminated. During 2014 fishermen in the SEDM weren't allowed to harvest any salmon in the SEDM area and are being denied access to their historical fishery which is affecting the viability of set netting in the area. The harvest of 300,000 red salmon in the Chignik area before set netters on the SEDM can harvest salmon needs to be eliminated and done away with. When Chignik area fishes, we as set netters would like to fish at the same time on the SEDM District.

PROPOSED BY: Jack Foster Jr. and Amy Foster (EF-F18-053)

PROPOSAL 133

5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

Open the Southeastern District to commercial fishing for salmon in concurrence with Western and Perryville district open commercial salmon fishing periods from June 1 through July 13, as follows:

(d)(i) Between June 1st through July 13th fishing will be allowed in concurrence as 5 AAC 15.200 (c) Western District and (d) Perryville District

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? If we are fishing the same fish we should be able to fish the same time!

PROPOSED BY: Emil Mobeck (HQ-F18-040)

PROPOSAL 134

5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

Repeal the current *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and readopt the management plan in place prior to 2001, as follows:

Return the South Unimak District to its pre-2001 status. Remove the entire Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District from the South Unimak District. Return the Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof Sections of the South Central District to their pre-2001 June South Peninsula management plan for those areas.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In February 2004, the BOF modified the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fisheries Management Plan (5 AAC 09.365). The Board established a new, expanded fishing schedule, removed previously enacted chum salmon harvest restrictions, and the *South Unimak fishery was expanded to include the entire Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District*. The inclusion of the entire Southwestern District and West and East Pavlof Bay Sections into the South Unimak June Fishery Management Plan has had a severely detrimental impact on Chignik Fishermen due to high interception rates of Chignik bound sockeye in areas historically closed during the South Unimak June fishery. In essence, the Board created a new, expansive interception fishery on fully allocated Chignik stocks that has severely damaged all Chignik fishermen and the entire Chignik region.

PROPOSED BY: Axel Kopun

(EF-F18-058)

PROPOSAL 135

5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

Repeal the current *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and readopt an amended version of the management plan in place prior to 2001, as follows:

Erase all of the current 5 AAC 09.365 and replace with the following, edited language from the 2001-2003 plan;

5 AAC 09.365. SOUTH UNIMAK AND SHUMAGIN ISLANDS JUNE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN (2001-2002).

(a) The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries harvest [BOTH] **chinook salmon**, sockeye salmon and chum salmon in a mixed stock fishery. These stocks of salmon are bound for Bristol Bay and the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region, as well as other areas across the North Pacific Ocean. These salmon stocks have historically been intercepted in significant numbers along the Alaska Peninsula. To ensure that none of these salmon stocks are overharvested, it is necessary to restrain the interception of these stocks as provided in the management plan in this section, and consistent with the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222) and Policy for the Management of Mixed Stock Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.220)

(b) The South Unimak fishery takes place in the Unimak District, the Ikatan Bay Section in the Southwestern District, and the Bechevin Bay Section in the Northwestern District, plus the following waters of the Southwestern District located outside of the Ikatan Bay Section and not described as closed waters in 5 AAC 09.350;

(1) waters north and west of a line from Cape Pankof Light to Thin Point (54° 57.32' N. lat., 162° 33.50' W. long.); and

(2) waters enclosed by a line from Thin Point (54° 57.32' N. lat., 162 ° 33.50' W. long.) to the northernmost tip of Stag Point (54° 59.10' N. lat., 162° 18.10' W. long.) on Deer Island to the

southernmost tip of Dolgoi Cape (55 ° 03.15' N. lat., 161 ° 44.35' W. long.) on Dolgoi Island and from the northernmost tip of Bluff Point (55° 09.93' N. lat., 161° 53.72' W. long.) on Dolgoi Island to ArchPoint Light (55° 12.30' N. lat., 161 ° 54.30' W. long.).

(c) The Shumagin Islands fishery takes place in the Shumagin Islands Section.

(d) Beginning June 10 **through June 30**, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for purse seine and drift gillnet gear as follows:

(1) commercial fishing periods may occur only from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and may not be open for more than

(A) three days in any seven-day period;

(B) 16 hours per day;

(C) 48 hours in any seven-day period;

(D) two consecutive 16-hour fishing periods in any seven-day period;

[(2) THROUGH JUNE 24, COMMERCIAL FISHING PERIODS IN THE SHUMAGIN ISLANDS AND SOUTH UNIMAK FISHERIES WILL OCCUR AT THE SAME TIME;

(3) AFTER JUNE 24, THE PROVISIONS OF (F) APPLY.]

(e) Beginning June 10, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for set gillnet gear in both the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries as follows:

(1) from June 10 through [JUNE 24] **June 30**,

(A) commercial fishing periods may occur only from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.;

[(B) THE FISHERY WILL BE CLOSED FOR ONE PERIOD IF, DURING THE PRECEDING PERIOD, THE RATIO OF SOCKEYE SALMON TO CHUM SALMON IS NOT EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN THE RECENT 10 YEAR AVERAGE;

(2) AFTER JUNE 24, THE SCHEDULE OF OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS OF FISHING PERIODS SHALL COINCIDE WITH THE SCHEDULE FOR SEINE AND DRIFT GILLNET GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN (F) OF THIS SECTION.

(F) AFTER JUNE 24, IN EITHER THE SOUTH UNIMAK OR SHUMAGIN ISLANDS FISHERIES,

(1) IF THE RATIO OF SOCKEYE SALMON TO CHUM SALMON IS TWO TO ONE OR LESS ON ANY DAY, THE NEXT DAILY FISHING PERIOD FOR SEINE AND DRIFT GILLNET GEAR SHALL BE OF SIX-HOUR DURATION IN THAT FISHERY;

(2) IF THE RATIO OF SOCKEYE SALMON TO CHUM SALMON IS GREATER THAN TWO TO ONE, THE COMMISSIONER MAY EXTEND THE FISHING PERIOD BY EMERGENCY ORDER, TO A MAXIMUM OF 16 HOURS AS DESCRIBED IN (D)(L) OF THIS SECTION;

(3) IF THE RATIO OF SOCKEYE SALMON TO CHUM SALMON IS TWO TO ONE OR LESS FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE FISHING PERIODS, THE FISHERY SHALL CLOSE FOR ALL GEAR TYPES.]

(g) All salmon caught by a CFEC permit holder must be retained, and each CFEC permit holder must report the number of salmon caught, including those taken but not sold, on an ADF&G fish ticket. For the purposes of this subsection, "caught" means brought on board the vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Excessive harvest of migrating discrete stocks of concern in the Cook Inlet, Bristol Bay, and AYK areas.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-F18-099)

PROPOSAL 136

5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.
Amend the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* so that fishing periods are structured with 24-hour windows where commercial salmon fishing gear is in the water, as follows:

Amend regulation 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to allow for at least a 24 hour closure between the openings for each gear type in the Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof sections of the South Central District so Chignik bound sockeye have an opportunity to pass through the area. The regulation would read like this:

5 AAC 09.365 **(g) notwithstanding (d) of this section;**

(1) For set net gear,

(A) Beginning June 7, commercial fishing periods in the Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District will begin at 6 a.m. and run 42 hours until midnight the next day; commercial fishing will then close for 54 hours and reopen at 6 a.m. three days later.

(2) For seine and drift gillnet gear,

(A) Beginning June 10, commercial fishing periods in the Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District will begin at 6 a.m. and run 42 hours until midnight the next day; commercial fishing will then close for 54 hours and reopen at 6 a.m. three days later.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, as written, adopted and implemented in 2004, results in fishing gear being in the water continuously from June 7 to June 29. When the set-netters

are closed, the seiners and drifters are open. Then when the seiners and drifters close, the set-netters are fishing. The result is continuous fishing from June 7 through June 29. When coupled with the fact the Board expanded the South Unimak fishery to include the entire Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District at the same time, the result is Chignik bound sockeye are harvested continually throughout the month of June as they pass through the Southwestern District, the West and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands. This has resulted in a tremendous surge in the interception of Chignik bound sockeye, which are abundant in the area at this time.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Anderson

(EF-F18-066)

PROPOSAL 137

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.

Expand geographic scope of the Dolgoi Island Area as defined in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management* and *Post June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*, as follows:

5 AAC 09.365 (f): replace and amend to read:

Notwithstanding (d) of this section, commercial salmon fishing will close in the waters of the Dolgoi Island Area, defined as statistical areas 283-20 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42, when the catch reaches 191,000 sockeye salmon based on fish ticket information.

5 AAC 09.366. Post June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

amend (b) to read:

Beginning 1 July and extending through July 25 commercial salmon fishing periods in the waters of the Dolgoi Island Area, defined as statistical areas 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42, will be equivalent and concurrent with that provided in waters of the SEDM as regulated on the harvest of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon July 1 - July 25 in accordance with 5 AAC 09.360.

amend (j) to read:

Notwithstanding (b) as amended above, the commercial salmon fishery through July 25 will close in the waters of the Dolgoi Island Area, defined as statistical areas 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42, when the harvest of 191,000 sockeye salmon is reached based on fish ticket information.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? June - July 25 DOLGOI ISLAND FISHERY

The Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25th needs to be modified for improved accountability and a stock conservation requirement on Chignik-bound sockeye salmon. Currently there is no provision to ensure that over-exploitation does not occur when Chignik's early and late run stocks are failing which happened in two of three years during the WASSIP study and again in 2014. In

those years the Igvak and SEDM fisheries were closed to safeguard Chignik escapements and protect Chignik's harvest preference, and yet the Dolgoi Island Area was fished. As evident from the WASSIP study about one-half of the Dolgoi Island Area catch is migrating Chignik sockeye salmon.

The current regulation provides that only a portion of the Dolgoi Island Area fishery will close when 191,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested based on fish ticket information. That is not working for three reasons: 1.) Fishing is still permitted on east-bound Chignik fish in portions of the Dolgoi area not closed; 2.) When fish ticket numbers do reach 191k the Department is providing a 6- to 12 hours (depending on the year) extension to accommodate purse seine and gill net gear removal which therein permits more harvest beyond the intended 191k limit and; 3). Very importantly there is no control on the Dolgoi the harvest when Chignik is not achieving escapement and/or their terminal 600k harvest preference.

A reasonable solution is to regulate the Dolgoi Island Area fishery with a 191k sockeye limit applied to the entire area through July 25th and a stock conservation provision in July similar to that provided in the Igvak and SEDM Chignik interception fisheries To the point, proposed is for the entire Dolgoi Island fishery from June 1 through July 25 to close once the catch reaches 191,000 sockeye salmon based on fish ticket information and with fishing periods beginning July 1 and ending on July 25 limited to the days and hours provided in the Southeast District Management Plan excluding the Northwest Stepovak Section which is managed as a terminal stock fishery.

Note: There is no intent to close any terminal-stock harvest area managed as such in the Dolgoi Island Area nor impact the SEDM fishery or its allocation

PROPOSED BY: George Anderson (HQ-F18-006)

PROPOSAL 138

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.

Amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan and the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula to reduce commercial salmon fishing opportunity in the Dolgoi Island Area, as follows:

5 AAC 09.365 (d): amend to include the following and repeal 5 AAC 09.365 (f).

(* for set gillnet gear in the Dolgoi Island Area (Statistical Areas 283-20, 283-21, 283-23, 283-25, 283-26, 284-36 thru 284-39, and 284-42),

(A) beginning June 7 commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 66 hours until 11:59 p.m. two days later; commercial fishing will then close for 54 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later.

(B) notwithstanding (A) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 11:59 p.m. on June 28.

(*) for seine and drift gillnet gear in the Dolgoi Island Area (Statistical Areas 283-20, 283-21, 283-23, 283-25, 283-26, 284-36 thru 284-39, and 284-42),

(A) beginning June 10 commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 66 hours until 11:59 p.m. two days later; commercial fishing will then close for 54 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later.

(B) notwithstanding (A) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 11:59 p.m. on June 27.

5 AAC 09.366 (c): amend to include the following and repeal 5 AAC 09.366 (j).

(*) In the Dolgoi Island Area (Statistical Areas 283-20, 283-21, 283-23, 283-25, 283-26, 284-36 thru 284-39, and 284-42).

Amend (e) to read:

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of (d) of this section, commercial fishing periods will be equivalent and concurrent with that provided in waters of the SEDM as regulated on the harvest of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon July 1 - July 25 in accordance with 5 AAC 09.360.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Dolgoi Island Area Fishery of Area M South Peninsula June 1–July 25.

The Dolgoi Island Area fishery, June thru July 25, is absent of a stock-conservation assignment on Chignik-bound sockeye salmon and a parallel provision for ensuring a harvest preference for the Chignik terminal-stock fishery. Known is that the Dolgoi fishery targets primarily Bristol Bay (BB) and Chignik bound sockeye salmon, and other non-local sockeye stocks (Upper CI and Kodiak sockeye). While its impact on BB sockeye is rather negligible, the fishery substantially impacts eastward traveling sockeye salmon headed for Chignik. The WASSIP study verified such even during two of the three study years when the two Chignik runs were relatively weak (2007 & 08).

In 2007 and 2008, Area M's Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) fishery was closed due to Chignik-run failures, but the Dolgoi Island Area fishery remained open. Similarly in Kodiak's 2008 Igvak fishery on Chignik-bound sockeye it too was completely closed and again, in 2014 along with the SEDM fishery. In those years Dolgoi Island Area fished without any limit on the harvest of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon or sharing in the conservation burden. It is quite reasonable for the Dolgoi fishery, based on the 2006-08 WASSIP study which identified an average 50% Chignik-stock component, to shoulder a conservation assignment on Chignik sockeye salmon along with a minimum harvest preference as provided in the Igvak and SEDM plans for the Area L Chignik fishery.

Certainly the Dolgoi Island Area fishery is historic. However, it has accelerated and now having more impact on Chignik-bound sockeye than in the past. Catch numbers have increased and the recently imposed 191,000 sockeye salmon limit is not comprehensive to where there is accounting for weakness or failures in either of the two Chignik runs. In the 2016 Dolgoi fishery 429,000 sockeye were harvested through July 25th and in 2017 the catch was 258,000. The excessive catches were due to a combination of factors but mainly owing to a false assumption that the cap would effectively prevent catches from exceeding a total of about 200,000 sockeye salmon through

July 25th. Such was not the case. Of the 429,000 sockeye taken in the 2016 fishery 175,000 were harvested after the closure of the statistical areas covered by the cap. In 2017 66,000 sockeye salmon were harvested in excess of the 191,000 cap. Secondly leading to those overages, management permitted continued fishing in the prescribed closed areas 12 hours after fish tickets tallied 191k and for 6 hours in the 2017 fishery. The justification cited was time needed to accommodate orderly gear removal. At Chignik in 2017 due to a poor second run mainly only 897,000 sockeye salmon were harvested, an amount 40% less than the averages for 2007-16 and 2012-16 and not enough to sustain the fleet and local villages without record high catches of other salmon species which thankfully occurred with the local pink and chum salmon runs. Reasonable safeguards are needed in the interception fisheries known to harvest strong numbers of Chignik bound sockeye salmon; the Board has acknowledged this in the current Igvak and SEDM plans, and this is needed in the Dolgoi Island fishery to safeguard, as best possible, the economic and cultural viability of the Chignik salmon fishery.

As current regulations stand the Dolgoi Island Area fishes regardless of whether the early and/or late Chignik runs fail or where escapement needs are barely met or even not met which could be the case for the 2018 early run. Presently, ADF&G is projecting the lower end on the 80% confidence range on Chignik's 2018 first-run to be zero (0) fish----- no catch or escapement.

The change being proposed is to adjust the fishing time in June in the Dolgoi Island Area to 75% of the current assigned time through June and thereafter, July 1-25, provide fishing time equivalent and concurrent with that provided in waters of the SEDM as regulated on the interception of Chignik bound sockeye salmon. But importantly, none of the Dolgoi sockeye salmon catch would be assigned to or against the 7.6% SEDM-Chignik allocation, and there would **not be** a 191,000 sockeye cap imposed on the Dolgoi Island Area Fishery June 1-July 25 as provided in current regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Jacob Shangin (HQ-F18-007)

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)

PROPOSAL 140

5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.
Include the area from Cape Tolstoi to McGinty Point in the area open to commercial fishing for salmon under the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

5 AAC 09.365(c) The Shumagin Islands June fishery takes place in the Shumagin Islands Section and the area from Cape Tolstoi to McGinty Point.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Areas in the south peninsula June fishery that are closed for no reason, causing loss of fishing opportunities.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-071)

PROPOSAL 141

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

Repeal closed waters in the South Alaska Peninsula Area, as follows:

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

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lost fishing time and area in the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-072)

PROPOSAL 142

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Establish commercial salmon fishing periods by emergency order from July 14 through July 31 in the South Alaska Peninsula, as follows:

(d) notwithstanding (c)(1) of this subsection, from July 6th through July **13th** [31], the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, fishing periods as follows.

(d)(i) notwithstanding (c)(1) of this subsection, from July 14th through July 31st, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, fishing periods as (D)(3)

(1) the first fishing period will begin at 6:00 am and run **36**[33] hours until 6:00 pm the following day; commercial fishing will then close for **60**[63] hours, and reopen under (2) of this subsection, (2) following the closure under (1) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 am and close at 6:00 p, for 60 hours; commercial fishing will then close for 60 hours and reopen at 6:00 am three days later.

(3) following the closure under (2) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 am and close at 6:00 pm for 60 hours; commercial fishing will then close for 60 hours and reopen at 6:00am three days later.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We are closed more than open. We need to have a better schedule of fishing windows.

PROPOSED BY: Emil Mobeck (HQ-F18-041)

PROPOSAL 143

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Repeal the immature salmon test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section, as follows:

Repeal 09.366(i) from the post June management plan.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lost fishing time and money caused by closures brought on the immature test fishery. What fish are being saved? Where are they going?

PROPOSAL 144

5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Restrict commercial fishing for salmon in areas both along the coast and in open seaward waters of the Outer Port Heiden Section and the open seaward waters of the Ilnik Section when the preseason Bristol Bay sockeye salmon forecast is 30 million fish or less, as follows:

This proposal seeks to restrict commercial fishing in areas both along the coast and in open seaward waters of the Outer Port Heiden and the open seaward waters of the Ilnik Section when the preseason Bristol Bay forecast is 30M salmon or less. The purpose of these area restrictions when the Bristol Bay preseason forecast is 30M salmon or less is twofold. First to appropriately spread the conservation of the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon amongst all users when the preseason forecast is 30M salmon or less; and secondly, when the Bristol Bay preseason forecast is 30M salmon or less., to direct more commercial fishing on local Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks, particularly the Meshik River and Ilnik River stocks, that migrate within known channels in each section. This proposal seeks to further limit the distance open to commercial fishing seaward in both fishing Sections. When the Bristol Bay preseason forecast is 30M salmon or less, the seaward boundary limit would be 0.5 miles seaward throughout these two Sections.

5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan

(j) In the Ilnik Section,

(1) notwithstanding 5 AAC 09.320(a)(4), from June 20 through July 20,

(A) commercial salmon fishing will be permitted in the Ilnik Section

(i) southwest of the Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Ilnik River sockeye salmon;

and

(ii) northeast of the Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Meshik River and Ilnik River sockeye salmon, combined;

(B) If the preseason Bristol Bay sockeye salmon forecast is 30M salmon or less, fishing will be allowed seaward for 1.5 miles.

(i) If inseason assessment indicates a run larger than 30M salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Ilnik Section, and immediately reopen the Ilnik Section, with fishery restrictions that the commissioner determines appropriate

(C) [(B)] notwithstanding (B) if the commissioner closes that portion of the Egegik District specified in 5 AAC 06.359(c) for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Ilnik Section and immediately reopen the Ilnik Section, with additional fishing restrictions that the commissioner determines necessary;

(I) The Outer Port Heiden Section is open from June 20 through July 31 to commercial salmon fishing in those waters west of a line from 57 _E0S.52' N. lat., 158_E34.45' W. long. to 57 _E0S.85' N. lat., 158_E37.50' W. long. based on the abundance of Meshik River sockeye salmon.

(A) If the preseason Bristol Bay sockeye salmon forecast is for 30M salmon or less, the Outer Port Heiden Section is open from June 20 through July 31 to commercial salmon fishing in those waters west of a line from 56 59.68 N. lat., 158 E40.45' w. long. Under this scenario, this section will be open to commercial fishing seaward for 1.5 miles.

(i) If inseason assessment indicated a run larger than 30M salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Outer Port Heiden Section, and immediately reopen the Outer Port Heiden Section, with fishery restrictions that the commissioner determines appropriate

(B) notwithstanding (A), If the commissioner closes the portion of the Egegik District as specified in 5 AAC 06.359(c) for the conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Outer Port Heiden Section, and immediately reopen the Outer Port Heiden Section, with additional fishing restrictions that the commissioner determines necessary.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sharing the conservation of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon. Currently, in both Ilnik and the Outer Port Heiden Sections, conservation action on Bristol Bay salmon is only taken after a conservation closure occurs in Bristol Bay. Specifically, closure of that portion of the Egegik District specified in 5 AAC 06.359(c) for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks will prompt the commissioner to take unspecified conservation action in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections. This delayed fishery management conservation action in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections will no doubt cause the conservation of Bristol Bay salmon to be mis apportion to the Bristol Bay fishers. Because the Bristol Bay preseason forecast has been fairly accurate, we believe that it is prudent and precautionary to base conservation efforts in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections on the Bristol Bay preseason forecast. Because Bristol Bay fishery managers are ultimately responsible for meeting subsistence needs and escapement goals, no additional conservation regulations are necessary for the Bristol Bay Management Area.

We recommend closing substantial portions of the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections to commercial fishing when the preseason Bristol Bay sockeye salmon forecast is 30M salmon or less. The 30M salmon preseason forecast represents an anticipated escapement of approximately 7.2M salmon, leaving approximately 22.8M for potential harvest. The estimated total Bristol Bay escapement of 7.2M salmon from a run of 30M salmon would provide for escapements that would fall near the midpoint of the low range of the individual system escapement goals. Note also that since 1996, the total run Bristol Bay sockeye salmon has only fallen below 30 M salmon in 6 of the 22 years of record. The median run size during the period, 1996-2017, is approximately 39.4M salmon. Incorporation of this trigger in the Northern District fishery management plan will assure that conservation of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon, when necessary, will be more appropriately shared among all commercial fishers that harvest Bristol Bay sockeye salmon. This recommendation to the management plan may preclude or possibly reduce additional inseason restrictions deemed necessary by the commission if a closure of that portion of the Egegik District specified in 5 AAC 06.359(c) for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks occurs. Accordingly, we propose that fishing be restricted both in shore length and seaward extension in the Outer Port Heiden Section and the seaward extension in the Ilnik Section. This would not only limit the area open to fishing in both Sections but may also focus fishing pressure on local salmon stocks, Meshik and Ilnik River stocks, that may or may not be affected by factors affecting the

Bristol Bay sockeye salmon projection. Both Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Section fisheries are to be managed on the abundance of local sockeye salmon stocks, Ilnik and Meshik River stocks.

If nothing is done, fishing may continue in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections until it becomes obvious that restrictions are necessary because of closures in the Egegik District (Ugashik District). At that time, it will be too late to appropriately share conservation of Bristol Bay salmon amongst all commercial fishers. Bristol Bay Managers may be forced to restrict fishing periods or close the fisheries because of the need to meet subsistence needs and escapement goals. Additionally, if Northern Peninsula stocks are not affected by the factors negatively affecting Bristol Bay stocks, escapements to the Meshik and Ilnik Rivers could be well over the targeted escapement because of the lack of fishing pressure directed on these stocks. This preseason closure of waters in the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections when the Bristol Bay preseason forecast is 30M salmon or less may be relaxed based on inseason assessment of the run.

Other solutions considered was to substantially reduce fishing time in both the Port Heiden and Ilnik Sections based on the preseason forecast of less than or equal to 30M Bristol Bay sockeye salmon. This may be a viable alternative or a combination of area and time restrictions. Another solution was to dramatically reduce the area opened to fishing within the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik Sections so that the major harvest would consist of local stocks. These restrictions could possibly be relaxed on inseason assessment of the Bristol Bay run. Finally, we considered setting various triggers, based on the Bristol Bay preseason sockeye salmon forecast (30M, 25M, 20M salmon), that would stipulate increased closed waters and/or fishing time in the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik Sections, commensurate with the pre-season Bristol Bay forecast.

Note that the WASSIP study found that Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks contributed an average of 48% to the SW Ilnik harvest (3 years); 30% to the NE Ilnik harvest (3 years); and 21 % to the Outer Port Heiden Section harvest (2 years).

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-022)

PROPOSAL 145

5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters and 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Restrict commercial fishing for salmon along the coast and in offshore waters of the Outer Port Heiden Section and restrict fishing in offshore waters of the northeast portion of the Ilnik Section, as follows:

This proposal seeks to restrict fishing both along the coast and in offshore waters of the Outer Port Heiden Section and restrict fishing in offshore waters of the NE portion of the Ilnik Section. The purpose of these area restrictions as to direct more commercial fishing on local Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks, particularly the Meshik River and Ilnik River stocks, that migrate within known channels in each Section. This proposal seeks to further limit the distance open to commercial fishing along the shore and offshore in the Outer Port Heiden Section and off shore in the NE portion of the Ilnik Section. The offshore boundary limit would be from 3 miles at the newly described northern open water boundary of the Outer Port Heiden Section (see below for

location) to 2 miles offshore at the line that separates the SW and NE portions of the Ilnik Section at Unangashak Bluffs (159°10.25' W. long.).

These closures will also improve fish quality because of a shorter transport from fishery to processor and also provide for the harvest of Meshik and Ilnik River sockeye salmon stocks.

5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters. Salmon may not be taken in the following locations:

(3) Outer Port Heiden: waters of the Outer Port Heiden Section

(A) repealed 6/5/2016;

(B) east of a line from **56 E59.68' N. lat., 158 E46.45 W. long** [57 E05.52' N. LAT., 158_E34.45' W. long.] to 57_E08.85' N. lat., 158_E37.50' W. long.;

also, seaward waters are open to commercial fishing within the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik Sections from a 3 miles seaward from a point on the shore 56 E59.68'N lat., 158 E34.45' W. long., to 2 miles seaward from the point on the shore, 159 10.25' W. long., that describes the line that separates the SW from the NE portions of the Ilnik Section.

5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan

(j) In the Ilnik Section,

(1) notwithstanding 5 AAC 09.320(a)(4), from June 20 through July 20, (A) commercial salmon fishing will be permitted in the Ilnik Section

(i) southwest of the Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Ilnik River sockeye salmon; and

(ii) northeast of the Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Meshik River and Ilnik River sockeye salmon, combined; **Commercial salmon fishing will be permitted in seaward waters within the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik Sections from a 3 miles seaward from point on the shore 56 E59.68'N lat., 158 E34.45', to 2 miles seaward from the point 159 10.25' W. long that describes the line that separates the SW from the NE portions of the Ilnik Section.**

(I) The Outer Port Heiden Section is open from June 20 through July 31 to commercial salmon fishing in those waters west of a line from **56 E59.68' N. lat., 158 E46.45 W. long** [57 E05.52' N. lat., 158_E34.45' W. long.] to 57_E08.85' N. lat., 158_E37.50' W. long. **within a line 3 miles seaward from a point on the shore 56 E59.68'N lat., 158 E34.45' W. long., to 2 miles seaward from the point on the shore, 159 10.25' W. long., that describes the line that separates the SW from the NE portions of the Ilnik Section,** based on the abundance of Meshik River sockeye salmon. If the commissioner closes the portion of the Egegik District as specified in 5 AAC 06.359(c) for the conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Outer Port Heiden Section, and immediately reopen the Outer Port Heiden Section, with additional fishing restrictions that the commissioner determines necessary.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 1. Overescapement of sockeye salmon into the Meshik and Ilnik Rivers. Escapements into the Meshik River have exceeded the high end of the current SEB of 86,000 salmon the last 4 years, 2014-2017, ranging from 95,500 in 2014 to 191,725 in 2017. In the Ilnik River, sockeye salmon escapements have exceeded the high end of the current SEG of 60,000 sockeye salmon in 2016 and 2017. In 2016, 124,000 salmon escaped to spawn; in 2017 a record 238,000 sockeye salmon escaped to spawn. This escapement is nearly 4 times the upper end of the current SEG. This proposal seeks to adjust the Sections so

that more local Northern Peninsula salmon stocks are harvested, resulting in more appropriate escapement to the Meshik and Ilnik Rivers. Note also that WAS SIP indicated that Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks contributed an average of 48% to the SW Ilnik harvest (3 years); 30% to the NE Ilnik harvest (3 years); and 21% to the Outer Port Heiden Section harvest (2 years).

2. Quality of delivered fish that are harvested in the Outer Port Heiden Section; Most fishers are fishing very near the northern boundary of the Outer Port Heiden district. Delivery of these fish is delayed by the long travel distance from the point of harvest to the processor, resulting in degraded quality salmon.

3. Additionally, frequent very rough seas within the Outer Port Heiden Section makes it very difficult to fish and to transport fish to processor, resulting in waste and fish being delivered that are poor quality.

If nothing is done, escapements to the Meshik and Ilnik Rivers will continue to exceed the upper end of the SEB. Additionally, poor quality fish will continue to be delivered to processors because of the long travel distance and time. Other solutions considered was to close the northern portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section, as described above, but limit fishing to 1.5 miles from shore in both the open portion of the Outer Port Heiden and the NW portion of the Ilnik Sections, but this would eliminate much of the Outer Port Heiden Section to fishing because of shallow water.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-023)

PROPOSAL 146

5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Close portions of the Northern District to commercial fishing for salmon when escapement goals are not met for two consecutive years, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 (n): If the escapement goal for the Bear or Nelson Rivers is not met for two consecutive years from June 20 through July 31, the department shall manage the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections to conserve Bear River and Nelson River sockeye salmon stocks by allowing the passage of sockeye salmon from the northeast to the southwest of the Northern District as described in this subsection. Notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 09.320, from June 20 through July 31, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, establish fishing periods for the Bear River and Three Hills Sections and that portion of the Ilnik Section between the longitude of Unangashak Bluffs at 159° 10.25' W. long., and the longitude of Three Hills at 159° 49.45' W. long., during which the waters that are between the three-mile seaward boundary line, described in 5 AAC 09.301, and a line that is one and one-half miles shoreward of the three-mile seaward boundary are closed for one 24-hour period during a seven-day period. The waters located to the southwest of the open waters where a 24-hour closure has occurred will have sequential closures that allow fishing only in the waters out to the one and one-half mile line described in this subsection for the first 24 hours of an open fishing period. When the department is assured that the escapement goal will be met for the river that did not meet the escapement goal for two consecutive years, then the rolling closures will no longer be in effect.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To provide protection for the Nelson and Bear Rivers in the management of the Northern District fishery. If the escapement at Nelson or Bear Rivers is not met for two consecutive years, management action will be taken from Unangashak Bluffs in the Ilnik Section, as well as the Three Hills, and Bear River Sections to conserve stocks by implementing rolling closures.

PROPOSED BY: Nelson Lagoon Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-053)

PROPOSAL 147

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Reduce the inriver goal for sockeye salmon above the Chignik River weir for August and September, as follows:

Rewrite : 5 AAC 15.357 (b)(3)(B) to read:

(B) the department shall manage the commercial fishery to allow for the passage of at least **20,000** sockeye salmon above the Chignik River weir, in addition to the late-run sockeye salmon escapement needs, to provide an inriver harvestable surplus above the Chignik River weir in August and September of at least **10,000 fish** in August and **10,000 fish** from September 1 through September 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current inriver-goal above the Chignik River weir of 75,000 sockeye salmon for August and September combined, as put in place during the last Board cycle, is too high and effectively prohibits traditional opportunities to commercially fish surplus sockeye and Coho salmon in late August and September. Further, the August inriver goal of 25,000 and the September 50,000 inriver goal each well exceed that necessary to readily meet late season sockeye and/or red-fish subsistence needs. ADF&G reports that total subsistence harvest post- June combined for all waters upstream of the Chignik River weir (Chignik River, Chignik Lake and its tributaries and Black Lake) is less than 3,000 sockeye salmon (ADF&G Subsistence Div. report, 2015). A more balanced inriver subsistence goal would be 10,000 sockeye for each of the two months for a total 20,000 fish, an amount nearly 600 percent more than the estimated total post-June sockeye subsistence harvest of less than 3,000.

Further consideration is that the original request for the current August and September inriver goals of 25,000 and 50,000 sockeye salmon respectively for a total of 75,000 fish was based in part by the belief that the second or late-run escapement needed to be higher than that managed by ADF&G to improve second run production. While the subsistence priority is fully recognized and most valid, it should not be used to go beyond reasonableness to where a higher escapement is mandated well beyond that necessary to fully satisfy local subsistence requirements and opportunities.

An August and September inriver goal of 10,000 for each of the two months for total of 20,000 sockeye salmon is sensible. Such would readily ensure a healthy surplus of fish beyond local subsistence needs and yet still encourage the opportunity for a late-season fishery particularly on local Chignik Coho salmon. Further consideration is that a late-season commercial Coho salmon fishery may well advantage late-run Chignik sockeye salmon production, per FRI (Univ. of WA). Several studies provide evidence that Coho fry predation on juvenile sockeye salmon rearing in

Chignik Lake is substantially suppressing late-run sockeye salmon production. Establishing a 10,000 August and a 10,000 September inriver sockeye salmon goal for a total inriver goal of a 20,000 fish would be functional for all concerned and is therefore respectfully requested.

PROPOSED BY: Don Bumpus (HQ-F18-024)

PROPOSAL 148

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* so that pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Western and Perryville sections of Area L will be managed based on the strength of the pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Stepovak and Shumagin Islands sections of Area M, as follows:

A. From July 9 through September 30, (1) the department shall manage the Chignik fishery of the Perryville and Western Districts of the fishery based on the abundance of pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Stepovak area of the SEDM and the Shumagin Islands; (2) When fish stocks of pink, chum and Coho Salmon have low escapement in the Stepovak Area of the SEDM and the Shumagin Islands during July, August and September the Perryville District 275-40, 275-50, 275-60 and the Western District 273-74, 273-80, 273-90 will be closed there are significant returns of salmon in the streams and Area M fishermen are able to commercial salmon fish in these areas; (3) In July and August in the Perryville District and Western District there shall be at least one 48 hour closed period within a seven day period in order to maintain healthy fish stocks in the SEDM.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Local Set Net and Seine fishermen have been denied access to harvesting salmon in August and September these past few years due to low numbers of westward returning chum and pink salmon in the Stepovak Area and Shumagin Islands. At the same time the Area M fishermen are shut down Chignik fishermen are fishing 7 days a week day after day catching and producing high numbers of Pink Salmon and Chum Salmon destined for the Stepovak Area and Shumagin Islands while the Area M fishermen are shut down and salmon are not returning to the local streams. When fish stocks of Pink Salmon and Chum Salmon have low escapement within the Stepovak Area of the SEDM and Shumagin Islands during July, August and September the Perryville District and the Western District will be closed until there are significant returns of salmon in the streams and Area M fishermen are able to commercial fish in these areas. In early July and August in the Perryville district and Western district there shall be at least one 48 hour closed period within a seven day period in order to maintain healthy fish stocks in the SEDM and Shumagin Islands.

PROPOSED BY: Jack Foster Jr and Amy Foster (EF-F18-051)

PROPOSAL 149

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Increase commercial salmon fishing opportunity in the Western and Perryville districts, as follows:

(d) In the Western and Perryville District,

(1) during June, the commercial salmon fishery shall open concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, and the openings shall be based on achieving the Black Lake sockeye salmon escapement goals;

(2) from approximately June 26 through July 8,

(A) the department shall evaluate the strength of the sockeye salmon late run; and

(B) in order to continue managing the Black Lake sockeye salmon harvest and escapement, while assessing the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run strength, commercial salmon fishing in the Western District will, in the department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted;

(3) from the end of the transition period, described in (b)(2) of this section, until the end of the fishing season, the department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery based on its evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs, and the escapement objectives of the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Chignik Fishermen have little to no access to half of their fishing area prior to July 6. By regulation, Chignik Fishermen are only allowed a maximum of two 48 hour openings in the Western District between June 1 and July 5.

Chignik bound sockeye are being aggressively harvested in Area M beginning June 7 of each year, yet Chignik Fishermen are only allowed two 48 hour openings to harvest sockeye in their own Western Districts prior to July 5, just a few miles northeast of where the Area M Fishermen are allowed to harvest practically non-stop. With interception fisheries on both sides, Chignik Fishermen need all the fishing area available to them to be open to fishing when escapement goals are being met. When Cape Igvak is open, fishing in the Eastern District in Chignik drops off almost immediately. This compresses the Chignik fleet and reduces fishing opportunities for the entire fleet, especially when coupled with reduced sockeye abundance due to the sockeye intercepted just a few miles away. Opening the Western District would allow Chignik Fishermen more area to move to when fishing is negatively impacted by interception, as well as providing more opportunity for harvest of Chignik bound sockeye that is currently unavailable under the current regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Axel Kopun

(EF-F18-063)

PROPOSAL 150

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Open the Western District to commercial fishing for salmon for up to 48 hours each week from June 1 to July 5, as follows:

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend (e) to read:

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of (d) of this section, in the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, the commercial salmon fishery shall open concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District,

from 1 June through July 5 for no more than 48 hours each week with a closure of not less than 48 hours between fishing periods.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? WESTERN DISTRICT ---- PROVIDE WEEKLY FISHING OPPORTUNITY UP TO 48Hrs. JUNE – JULY 5 UNDER TERMINAL STOCK MGMT.

The Western District of the Chignik Management Area (CMA) borders the Central District and its eastern boundary is only 30 miles from Chignik Lagoon. The CMA’s Perryville District, which lies between Area M’s Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) and Chignik’s Western District, is about 55 miles in width. The Eastern District is east of the Central District of the CMA and borders the Kodiak Management Area at the Cape Igvak Section. Immediately west and east of the CMA are two Board of Fisheries sanctioned Chignik interception fisheries, to the west the Area M SEDM Fishery and to the east the Kodiak Cape Igvak Fishery. Both are specifically managed for early and late run Chignik-bound sockeye salmon June through July 25.

Currently the Western District is managed exclusively on Chignik-bound sockeye salmon from 1 June through 5 July. However permitted are only two 48 hour maximum periods in those 6 weeks. Requested is the opportunity for a single (1) 48-hour fishing period per week in the Western District through July 5 when the Central and Chignik Bay (Chignik Lagoon) districts are open. Justification is that Chignik-bound sockeye interception fisheries are well established on the west and east sides of the CMA June through July 25, and in recognition of such, a modest increase within the CMA fishing grounds is reasonable given that Western District openings would be totally dependent on local-stock availability, escapement goals being met, and concurrent openings in the CMA districts to the east including Chignik Lagoon. In further support it bears recognition that the Perryville District would continue to provide a buffer between the Western District and the SEDM of Area M as the Perryville District is closed to salmon fishing June through early July. Lastly, the CMA seine fleet should not be ham-strung by a ‘keep-them-in-the-box philosophy’ as held by some who would say that the fleet does not require more fishing area for local stock exploitation simply because any deviation from the past could be precedent setting. To a degree one might find this arbitrary and certainly well less than objective and unfair.

For evaluation, a 3-year sunset provision could be applied on the proposed regulatory change.

PROPOSED BY: Don Bumpus (HQ-F18-001)

PROPOSAL 151

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Increase commercial salmon fishing opportunity in the Western and Perryville districts from June 1 through July 5, as follows:

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend (e) to read:

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of (d) of this section, in the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, the commercial salmon fishery may be opened and closed

concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, from 1 June through July 5.

And in the Perryville District from 1 June through July 5, three 48 hour salmon fishing periods may be permitted subject to concurrent fishing in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District and not less than a closure of 48 hours or more between periods.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? PROVIDE LIMITED SALMON FISHING IN THE PERRYVILLE AND WESTERN DISTRICTS, JUNE 1 THROUGH JULY 5 ON CHIGNIK SOCKEYE SALMON.

On behalf of the Native Villages of Perryville and Ivanof Bay respectfully requested is that the Alaska Board of Fisheries provide limited harvest opportunity on Chignik-bound sockeye salmon in the Perryville and Western Districts during June and early July. The purpose is to reduce travel time and other expenses for village fishermen, and secondarily provide more orderly fishing and fleet dispersal opportunities for all Chignik fishermen.

During June and early July in the Western and PV Districts the primary sockeye stock is Chignik-bound fish as evident by the Area M SEDM fishery, immediately to the west of Perryville, which is regulated in June and July on east-bound Chignik sockeye salmon exclusively. Further evidence is in the Dolgoi Island Area. Based on the most recent genetic study about one-half of the catch in those waters, 76 miles to the west of the Perryville District, are migrating Chignik fish. It is also known that east-bound Chignik sockeye salmon are harvested in the Shumagin Islands in June and well into July.

Our villages, Perryville and Ivanof Bay, are dependent on salmon fishing culturally and economically, and we want to preserve, cultivate, and maintain our way of life without having to be reliant on Chignik and Chignik Lagoon as a fishery base. It is extremely difficult and costly for local fishermen to travel home between closures, which can be extensive. As previously stated, we would like access to Chignik bound salmon when escapement needs are being met according to terminal-stock management on Chignik sockeye salmon. Currently the entire Perryville District is completely closed in June and early July, and in the Western District a maximum of only two 48 hour fishing periods or 4 days are allowed, if at all. This we find insufficient and burdening. We ask only for fairness and consideration and not a handout or special treatment. Thank you.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Kosbruk and Edgar Shangin (HQ-F18-009)

PROPOSAL 152

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Prohibit commercial fishing for salmon in the Perryville District and Mitrofanina Section until the Orzinski Lake sockeye escapement goal is met, as follows:

The Mitrofanina and Perryville districts will not open until red salmon escapement levels are met in the Orzinski red system.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Chignik fishery is becoming a new and expanding fishery, especially in the Mitrofanina and Perryville districts. The interception of westbound reds in these areas may be having a detrimental effect on the Orzinski red returns.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-066)

PROPOSAL 153

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Prohibit commercial fishing for salmon in the Perryville District and Mitrofanina Section when the Southeastern District is closed to commercial fishing for salmon, as follows:

When the SEDM section of the south peninsula is closed because of escapement concerns, the Mitrofanina section and Perryville district will close to commercial salmon fishing until the SEDM reaches its escapement goals.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In recent years the SEDM has not opened in late July and August until escapement levels had been reached. At the same time the Mitrofanina and Perryville districts were permitted to remain open while they were targeting west-bound fish.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-067)

PROPOSAL 154

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Adopt a large fish escapement goal for king salmon, as follows:

The solution I recommend is that jacks should not be counted in the escapement goal.

Only mature Chinooks can be counted in the escapement goal.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Only mature Chinook salmon can be counted in the escapement goal numbers.

The reason I would like to see this policy implemented is that 1,350 kings is too small of an escapement goal for the Chignik River. Some years, jacks account for 25% or more of the Kings' escapement goal. Most Rivers use sonar and only count large Kings. Jacks skew the male-female ratio.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Corr (EF-F18-093)

PROPOSAL 155

5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Allow the shoreward end of a set gillnet to be anchored other than on the beach above low tide, as follows:

5 AAC 09.331(5). In the Unimak Southwestern South Central and Southeastern Districts 25 fathoms of seine webbing may be used on the shoreward end of a set gillnet. The shoreward end of the seine **lead can be anchored behind a rock or in a kelp patch.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the Unimak Southwestern Southcentral and Southeastern Districts 25 fathoms of seine webbing may be used on the shoreward end of a set gillnet; the shoreward end of the seine webbing must be attached to the beach above low tide.

I would like to have the shoreward end of the lead not have to be attached to the beach above low tide as it is impossible to get ashore when the swells are normally too large breaking over the rocks but instead, anchored on the shoreward end of the set gillnet.

If this isn't changed I am unable to use my lead in the large bull kelp patches which extend offshore and ruin gillnet webbing making them too dirty and visible to salmon.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Smith

(EF-F18-035)

PROPOSAL 156

5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Repeal minimum mesh size requirement for set gillnets in the South Alaska Peninsula Area, as follows:

Repeal 5 AAC 09.331(b)(3) and replace with (c), in the South Alaska Peninsula there is no minimum mesh size for set gillnets.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Set gillnets have different mesh size requirements for different areas and sections in the south peninsula fisheries. The effect is having to buy extra nets of different size mesh.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F18-070)

PROPOSAL 157

5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Allow two legal limits of set gillnet gear to be transported by a single vessel as long as both limited entry permit holders owning the gear are onboard the vessel, as follows:

5 AAC 39.240 (F) A set gillnet salmon fishing vessel in the Alaska Peninsula Area can operate, or assist in operating, or have aboard it or any vessel towed by it, the legal limit of salmon fishing

gear for two CFEC permit holders 4 nets, 100 fathoms each of gear as long as both CFEC permit holders are on board the vessel.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Alaska Peninsula set gillnet fishing vessels are not allowed to fish combine on one vessel with two set net CFEC permit holders with their 400 fathoms of legal gear (4 nets). The Alaska Peninsula area has very rough dangerous waters and weather at times and some set gillnet net permit holders in the area only have a small vessel such as a skiff to fish off of which can lead to injury/death or not being able to fish the opener at all resulting in a loss in season profits or crew due to injury. Not all set gillnet vessels can make it to the fishing grounds safely due to vessel size and weather conditions which fishing in combine with larger vessels will benefit both parties.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Hartman (EF-F18-108)

PROPOSAL 158

5 AAC 15.332. Seine specifications and operations.

Increase the maximum length of purse seines from 225 to 250 fathoms in the Eastern, Central, Western, and Perryville Districts, as follows:

Change the regulation concerning maximum purse seine length in Chignik in the Eastern, Central, Western and Perryville Districts to match those allowed in Kodiak and Area M. The new regulation would read:

5 AAC 15.332 (a) In the Eastern, Central, Western and Perryville Districts no purse seine less than 100 fathoms or more than 250 (225) fathoms in length may be used.

(b) In the Eastern, Central, Western and Perryville Districts no hand purse seine less than 100 fathoms or more than 250 (225) fathoms in length may be used.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulations in effect in Chignik under 5 AAC 15.332 (a), (b) which restricts purse seine length to a maximum of 225 fathoms in the Eastern, Central, Western and Perryville Districts. This limitation hampers efficiency and results in lost harvest opportunity for Chignik fishermen. The heavy interception that occurs on Chignik bound sockeye at Cape Igvak and throughout Area M often results in drastically lower numbers of sockeye entering the Chignik area in the days immediately after those interception fisheries are prosecuted. The gaps in the Chignik sockeye run created by those interception fisheries moves through the Chignik area from the outer districts inward toward Chignik Lagoon, resulting in reduced harvests and thus even further reduced harvest efficiency. To add insult to injury, the Kodiak and Area M seine fisheries are allowed to use purse seines that are 250 fathoms in length while fishing for Chignik bound sockeye within plain sight of Chignik fishermen who are restricted to 225 fathom purse seines.

PROPOSED BY: Axel Kopun (EF-F18-054)

PROPOSAL 159

5 AAC 27.610. Fishing seasons and periods for Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area, and 5 AAC 27.655 Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery Allocation Plan.

Change season start dates and allocation between drift gillnet and purse seine gear groups in the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring fishery, as follows:

Remove the allocation and season timing sector splits between the gillnet and purse seine gear groups in the Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery, aligning them within a shared fishery where 100% of the allocation and fishing time is available to both gear types.

In 5 AAC 27.655, strike sections (a) and (b) establishing separate allocations to the gillnet and purse seine gear groups.

In 5 AAC 27.610, under section (e) (2), align the season start dates of the gillnet and purse seine gear groups.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Observations on the fishing grounds show herring are arriving to both the Togiak and Dutch Harbor districts earlier. This resulted in a drastic under-harvest in 2016, when the Dutch Harbor fleet was able to capture only 208 tons of the 2,166 allocated. In 2017, reports from local fishermen and processors indicated herring had again returned to the district early, in late June. Timing and allocation separation of the gillnet and purse seine fleets in Dutch Harbor — only one of which has been active in the last 10 years — prevents managers from opening the full fishery to active participants in response to these shifts.

ADFG has recorded zero participation from the Dutch Harbor herring gillnet fleet since 2009. For five years prior to 2009 the effort was small enough to trigger confidentiality requirements that precludes the state from reporting that effort. The purse seine fleet, on the other hand, has maintained consistent participation in the harvest of this important resource. For these reasons, it makes the most sense to remove the now inapplicable allocation split and season start difference between the purse seine and gillnet fleets. This allows managers the flexibility to open the fishery to active participants in response to run timing, managing for effective harvest and in consideration of the ecological changes occurring in Western Alaska and the North Pacific.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Veerhusen (EF-F18-101)

PROPOSAL 160

5 AAC 28.640. Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area Sablefish Management Plan.

Allow pot gear to be longlined during the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters sablefish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.640 is amended to read:

...

(c) Sablefish may be taken only with pots, longlines, mechanical jigging machines, and hand troll gear. Pots may be longlined in the Aleutian Islands **and Western** Districts [, BUT MAY NOT BE LONGLINED IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT].

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The National Marine Fisheries Service amended federal regulations in 2017 to allow use of longlined pot gear for harvesting sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska IFQ sablefish fishery. Concurrent to the federal fishery, the state opens a state-waters sablefish fishery in the Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area. State and federal sablefish regulations are generally aligned to provide consistency for participants that fish in both fisheries. This proposal would realign state and federal gear regulations by allowing for longlined pot gear during the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters sablefish fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-018)
