



October 15, 2019

Chairman Reed Morisky
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
1255 W. 8th Street
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Chairman Morisky,

The City of Sand Point is located on Popof Island In the Southeastern District of Area M. The City urges the Board not to accept Agenda Change Request (ACR) #5 that seeks to further curtail commercial salmon fishing In the Dolgoi Island area of the South Alaska Peninsula region.


Sand Point-based fishermen participated at the February 2019 Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island/Chignik Finfish meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, which included discussion of proposals 137, 138 and 139 that recommended specific changes to the Dolgoi Island area salmon management. Three other proposals, 134, 135 and 136 related to the fishery were also discussed. Two main regulatory changes to South Alaska Peninsula June salmon management resulted from the meeting. 1) June fishing schedules for all salmon fishing gear groups were realigned, resulting in 72% more hours of fishing closures with no salmon fishing gear in South Alaska Peninsula waters during June. 2) The Dolgoi Island area was completely closed to purse seine fishing gear in June. The enactment of these regulatory changes placed a significant restriction on the Sand Point fleet and the rest of the Area M fleet this year and will for the rest of the cycle.

In addition to the new 2019 regulations, it should be noted that the Southeastern District Mainland section of the South Alaska Peninsula remained closed for the entire 2018 salmon season and did not open until August 15th in 2019. The City simply cannot accept the claim that the burden of conservation has fallen on Chignik; the Board's own meeting minutes and outcomes directly contravenes these claims that are set forth ACR #5.

The dismal 2018 Chignik salmon season was concerning to South Peninsula fishermen, and why the fishermen recommended the February 2019 regulatory changes that included significant concessions, and it appears to be paying off for Chignik. While the 2018 total Chignik escapement was only 70% of the preceding 10-year average, the 2019 escapement reached 87% of the prior 10-year average and in the 2019 commercial fishery, Chignik Management Area L fishermen harvested over 3.4 million pounds of sockeye, over 1.4 million pounds of coho and over 6.9 million pounds of pink salmon.

We ask the Board to reject ACR #5 at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glen Gardner Jr.".

Glen Gardner, Jr., Mayor