

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
ALASKA PENINSULA / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS / CHIGNIK FINFISH  
FEBRUARY 23–MARCH 1, 2016**

**PROPOSAL INDEX**

**Following is a list of proposals that will be considered at the above meeting sorted by general topic. A board committee roadmap will be developed and distributed prior to the meeting.**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER (59 proposals)      SUBJECT**

**Area Boundary and North Alaska Peninsula District (28 proposals)**

*Alaska Peninsula Area/Bristol Bay Area Boundary (3 proposals) This set of proposals will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.*

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 22 | Move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area. |
| 23 | Move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area. |
| 24 | Move all waters of the Northern District east of the latitude of Cape Seniavin from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area.                    |

**North Alaska Peninsula Salmon Northern District (25 proposals)**

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 147 | Repeal sequential closures in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections.  |
| 148 | Allow commercial fishing for salmon with drift gillnet gear in the Ilnik Section.   |
| 149 | Create a directed sockeye salmon fishery in the Cinder River Section.   |
| 150 | Describe waters of Cinder Lagoon open to commercial salmon fishing.   |
| 151 | Consider the catch of non-local salmon as a factor in management of Northern District salmon fisheries.   |
| 152 | From June 20 through July 20 manage the Northern District salmon fisheries jointly with Alaska Department of Fish and Game Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay staff.    |
| 153 | Include information on the abundance of non-local stocks as a factor in managing Northern District commercial salmon fisheries.                                       |
| 154 | Link management actions in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area commercial salmon fisheries to salmon abundance in adjacent Bristol Bay Area districts. |
| 155 | Close the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District to commercial salmon fishing.  |
| 156 | Close the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District to commercial salmon fishing.  |

- 157 In the Inner and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District  
restrict commercial fishing for salmon to no more than four days in any  
seven day period.
- 158 Restrict commercial salmon fishing in the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer  
Port Heiden sections of the Northern District to no more than one and one-  
half miles offshore.
- 159 Open waters of the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District  
from one and one half miles to three miles offshore to commercial salmon  
fishing.
- 160 Close waters of the Bear River and Nelson Lagoon sections of the  
Northern District between zero to one and one-half miles offshore to  
commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnet gear until escapement  
objectives have been met.
- 161 Close waters of the Northern District between zero and one and one-half  
miles offshore to commercial fishing with drift gillnet gear when Bear  
River and/or Nelson River coho salmon escapements do not meet  
objectives.
- 162 Close waters of the Northern District between zero and one and one-half  
miles offshore to commercial fishing with drift gillnet gear when Bear  
River and/or Nelson River sockeye salmon escapements do not meet  
objectives.
- 163 Between the longitude of Three Hills and the northern boundary of the  
Outer Port Heiden Section restrict drift and set gillnets to 29 and one-half  
meshes depth.
- 164 Manage commercial salmon fishing in the Black Hills Section and in  
Moffet Lagoon in the Izembek-Moffet Bay Section based on Moffet  
Lagoon escapement.
- 165 In the Nelson Lagoon Section allow the compliment of drift gillnet gear to  
be split into two 100 fathom nets that may be fished simultaneously.
- 166 Eliminate closed waters in Caribou Flats and allow drift gillnet fishing in  
Caribou Flats by emergency order if Nelson Lagoon escapement goals are  
achieved.
- 167 Open the Uria Bay Section of the Northwestern District to regular fishing  
periods.
- 168 Reduce closed waters in Christianson Lagoon.
- 169 Implement global positioning satellite coordinates for all district and  
section boundaries in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area.
- 170 Redefine the boundaries of the Outer Port Heiden Section using GPS  
coordinates.
- 171 Implement global positioning satellite coordinates for all district and  
section boundaries in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area.

**Commercial Salmon Chignik, South Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Island, Gear and Seward Boundary (23 proposals)**

***Chignik Salmon (5 proposals)***

- 172 Increase the passage of sockeye salmon above the Chignik River weir to provide additional subsistence fishing opportunity.
- 173 Reduce waters closed to commercial fishing for salmon in Kujulik, Portage, and Ivanof bays in the Chignik Area.
- 174 In July and August close Chignik Area commercial salmon fisheries between Castle Cape and Kupreanof Peninsula when the Southeastern District Mainland is closed to commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear.
- 2 Allow bycatch retention of Pacific cod in the Chignik Area salmon seine fishery. *(This proposal will be heard at the Pacific cod meeting and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.)*
- 175 Create a pink salmon management plan in the Chignik Area.

***South Alaska Peninsula Southeastern District Mainland Salmon (5 proposals)***

- 176 Amend Southeastern District Mainland commercial salmon set gillnet fishery season opening times and fishing periods.
- 177 Revise the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear concurrent to the Chignik Area commercial sockeye salmon fishery.
- 178 In the Southeastern District Mainland establish weekly fishing through July 10 for set gillnet gear and from July 11 through July 25 establish 48 hour open fishing periods and closures for set gillnet and purse seine gear.
- 179 Amend the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to establish that 40 percent of the sockeye salmon taken in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay sections are considered to be of Chignik River origin.
- 180 Require all salmon harvested in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery to be landed within the Southeastern District.

***South Alaska Peninsula Salmon June Management Plan (6 proposals)***

- 181 Repeal the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.
- 182 Modify the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to shift the opening date for the drift gillnet fishery to coincide with the set gillnet fishery opening date.
- 183 Modify the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to stagger opening days for the drift and purse seine fisheries.
- 184 Repeal the current South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan and readopt the management plan in place during 2003-2004.

185 Establish a Dolgoi Island Section and Dolgoi Island Section Management Plan.

186 Establish a Dolgoi Island Section and Dolgoi Island Section June Management Plan.

***South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Post-June Management Plan (2 proposals)***

187 Modify the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for South Alaska Peninsula to provide the department authority to make openings for specific gear groups.

***Aleutian Island salmon (1 proposal)***

188 Establish open commercial salmon fishing periods in the Unalaska District that coincide with the last two open fishing periods in July in the Shumagin Islands Section.

***Alaska Peninsula Salmon Gear and Seaward Boundary (5 proposals)***

189 Allow for dual permit vessels and increased gear limits for dual permit vessels in the Alaska Peninsula Area commercial salmon purse seine fishery.

190 Change purse seine depth measurement standard from number of meshes deep to an equivalent depth measurement in feet and inches.

191 Repeal minimum mesh size standards for drift gillnet gear.

192 Allow commercial fishing for salmon with set gillnets in the area between Popof Head and Dark Cliffs any time the area is closed to commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear.

193 Change the Southwestern and Unimak District seaward boundary.

***Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Commercial Herring and Groundfish, and Subsistence and Sport Fish (8 proposals)***

***Aleutian Islands Groundfish (2 proposals)***

194 Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to commercial fishing for groundfish with pelagic trawl gear. *(This proposal will be heard at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting, and be heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting)*

195 Update logbook requirements for Aleutian Islands state-waters sablefish fishery.

***Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery (1 proposal)***

196 Change the date fishermen using purse seine gear may access the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring gillnet allocation from July 25 to July 20.

***Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Subsistence (1 proposal)***

197 Clarify when commercial salmon fishing license holders may subsistence fish for salmon in the Alaska Peninsula Area.

***Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Sport Fish (4 proposals)***

- 198                      Require non-retention of king Salmon in the Sandy River.
- 199                      Amend the freshwater bag limit provisions for salmon species other than king salmon.
- 200                      Close Swanson Lagoon and its tributaries to sport fishing for sockeye salmon.
- 201                      Reduce the possession limit for coho salmon in Illiuliuk Creek.

**BOARD OF FISHERIES**  
**ALASKA PENINSULA / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS / CHIGNIK FINFISH**  
**FEBRUARY 23–MARCH 1, 2016**

**PROPOSAL 22 – 5 AAC 06.100. Description of area; 5 AAC 06.200. Fishing districts and sections; 5 AAC 09.100. Description of area; and 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections.** Move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.*):

We recommend that the BOF change the descriptions of the Bristol Bay area to include the Cinder River and Inner and Outer Port Heiden sections and remove the same sections from the Alaska Peninsula area. Suggested draft regulatory language follows:

**5 AAC 06.100. Description of area.** The Bristol Bay Area includes all waters of Alaska in Bristol Bay east of a line from Cape Newenham at 58° 38.88' N. lat., 162° 10.51' W. long. to Strogonof Point at 56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long. [CAPE MENSHIKOF AT 57° 28.34' N. LAT., 157° 55.84' W. LONG.]

**5 AAC 09.100. Description of area.** The Alaska Peninsula Area includes the waters of Alaska on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula, southwest of a line from Strogonof Point (56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long. [CAPE MENSHIKOF AT 57° 28.34' N. LAT., 157° 55.84' W. LONG.] to...

Additionally, we recommend deleting 5 AAC 09.200 (1) and (2) (A) and (B) from Chapter 09. Alaska Peninsula Area and adding new fishing districts (e) and (f) to the Bristol Bay area. We recommend adding to 5 AAC 06.200 Fishing Districts and sections

(e) Cinder River District, waters of Bristol Bay between Cape Menshikof at 57° 28.34' N. lat., 157° 55.84' W. long. and 158° 20.00' W. long

(f) Port Heiden District:

(1) Outer Port Heiden Section: waters located between 158° 20.00' W. long. and the longitude of Strogonof Point at 56° 53.50' N. lat., 158°50.45' W. long., excluding the waters of the Inner Port Heiden Section;

(2) Inner Port Heiden Section: waters of Port Heiden Bay south and east of a line from Strogonof Point at 56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long. to the mainland shore of the northeast entrance to the bay at 56° 56.50' N. lat., 158° 51.50' W. long.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The residents of Port Heiden ask the Board of Fisheries to change the Alaska Administrative Code so that the boundaries of the Bristol Bay area include the village Port Heiden and the Cinder River and Port Heiden Districts for the following reason:

1. Port Heiden is a member community in the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation;

2. The community of Port Heiden is within the Bristol Bay Coastal Resource Service Area;
3. The residents of Port Heiden have strong family ties to other communities in the Bristol Bay Area;
4. Most of the commercial fishing permits that are owned by Port Heiden residents are Area T permits, or commercial Bristol Bay fishing permits;
5. Including Port Heiden in the Bristol Bay area would facilitate enforcement efforts in the Outer and Inner Port Heiden sections.

**PROPOSED BY:** Native Village of Port Heiden (EF-C15-039)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 23 – 5 AAC 06.100. Description of area; and 5 AAC 09.100. Description of area.** Move the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.*):

We recommend that the BOF change the descriptions of the Bristol Bay area to include the Cinder River and Inner and Outer Port Heiden sections and remove the same sections from the Alaska Peninsula area. Suggested draft regulatory language follows:

**5 AAC 06.100. Description of area.** The Bristol Bay Area includes all waters of Alaska in Bristol Bay east of a line from Cape Newenham at 58° 38.88' N. lat., 162° 10.51' W. long. to **Strogonof Point at 56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long.** [CAPE MENSHIKOF at 57° 28.34' N. lat., 157° 55.84' W. long.]

**5 AAC 09.100. Description of area.** The Alaska Peninsula Area includes the waters of Alaska on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula, southwest of a line from **Strogonof Point (56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long.)** [CAPE MENSHIKOF (57° 28.34' N. lat., 157° 55.84' W. long.) to...

Additionally, we recommend deleting 5 AAC 09.200 (1) and (2) (A) and (B) from Chapter 09. Alaska Peninsula Area and adding new fishing districts (e) and (f) to the Bristol Bay area.

We recommend adding to 5 AAC 06.200 Fishing Districts and sections

**(e) Cinder River District, waters of Bristol Bay between Cape Menshikof at 57° 28.34' N. lat., 157° 55.84' W. long. and 158° 20.00' W. long**

**(f) Port Heiden District:**

**(1) Outer Port Heiden Section: waters located between 158° 20.00' W. long. and the longitude of Strogonof Point at 56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long., excluding the waters of the Inner Port Heiden Section;**

**(2) Inner Port Heiden Section: waters of Port Heiden Bay south and east of a line from Strogonof Point at 56° 53.50' N. lat., 158° 50.45' W. long. to the mainland shore of the northeast entrance to the bay at 56° 56.50' N. lat., 158° 51.50' W. long.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The residents of Port Heiden ask the Board of Fisheries (BOF) to change the Alaska Administrative Code so that the

boundaries of the Bristol Bay area include the village Port Heiden and the Cinder River and Port Heiden Districts for the following reason:

1. Port Heiden is a member community in the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation;
2. The community of Port Heiden is within the Bristol Bay Coastal Resource Service Area;
3. The residents of Port Heiden have strong family ties to other communities in the Bristol Bay Area;
4. Most of the commercial fishing permits that are owned by Port Heiden residents are Area T permits, or commercial Bristol Bay fishing permits;
5. Including Port Heiden in the Bristol Bay area would facilitate enforcement efforts in the Outer and Inner Port Heiden sections.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gerda Kosbruk (EF-C15-112)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 24 – 5 AAC 06.100. Description of Area and 5 AAC 09.100. Description of Area.** Move all waters of the Northern District east of the latitude of Cape Seniavin from the Alaska Peninsula Area to the Bristol Bay Area, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Bristol Bay Finfish meeting, and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.*):

I propose that Area T, Bristol Bay, be recognized as starting at Cape Seniavin, and managed as such. The genetics of WASSIP clearly show that the vast majority of salmon caught above Cape Seniavin are bound for Bristol Bay. Port Heiden is recognized as part of Area T. I suggest that the Entry Commission inadvertently misdrew the divide between Area T and Area M. If you want to catch Bristol Bay fish, buy a Bristol Bay permit.

Alternatively, Area M fishing opportunity and area could be gradually curtailed within this zone.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I am addressing the indiscriminate interception of Bristol Bay bound salmon. Area M fishing openers are specifically targeting Bristol Bay salmon stocks without adequate regard to escapement requirements. Bristol Bay stocks are managed through small terminus fisheries with strict adherence to the state’s constitutional directive of sustainable fisheries. This sustainability is only guaranteed through the use of intense scientific and management procedures and tools. Decades ago the ADF&G recognized interceptive fisheries as dangerous to the health of salmon stocks and set in motion actions to curtail such fisheries. Area M intercepting Bristol Bay salmon is in violation of such mandatory efforts. Bristol Bay salmon must be managed for OEG’s, not by "windows".

**PROPOSED BY:** Larry K. Christensen (EF-C15-134)  
\*\*\*\*\*



**PROPOSAL 147 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**  
Repeal sequential closures in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik sections, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 is amended to delete subsection (n).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan was amended in 2013 to include a series of rolling closures of certain sections of the North Peninsula area above Port Moller. This new regulation has created problems for the drift gillnet fleet in maintaining an orderly and effective fishery. The fishery in this area is important for processors and the local economy. The premise of the rolling closure regime was ensuring adequate returns to Nelson Lagoon, but this rationale was flawed: escapements and harvests in Nelson Lagoon are healthy and the drift gillnet fishery in the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections have low harvest rates on Nelson River stocks according to the recent WASSIP study.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-C15-041)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 148 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**  
Allow commercial fishing for salmon with drift gillnet gear in the Ilnik Section, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 is amended to read:

To allow drift gear in the Ilnik Lagoon section from June 1 thru September 30. Openings will be Monday morning 6:00 a.m. to Thursday midnight and closures will be Friday to Monday morning at 6:00 a.m.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like to open up Ilnik Lagoon section on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula for driftnet fishing on the inside of the lagoon. The reason why is to have another area to fish when the wind is blowing gale force wind. This peninsula can also give the drift fleet more area to fish. It can also help control escapement.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Hartman (HQ-F15-079)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 149 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons; 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods; 5 AAC 09.330. Gear; 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan; and 5 AAC 39.120. Registration of commercial fishing vessels.** Create a directed sockeye salmon fishery in the Cinder River Section, as follows:

5 AAC 09.310(a)(1)(B): from **June 20** [August 1] through September 30 throughout this section.  
5 AAC 09.320(a)(3): in the Cinder River Section, salmon may be taken from 6:00 a.m. Monday to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday from June 20 to July 31, and from 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 6:00 p.m. Saturday after July 31.

5 AAC 09.330(a)(1), add a new subsection as follows: ( ) from June 20 through July 31 salmon may be taken with drift gillnets only in the waters outside the lagoon into which the Cinder River drains.

5 AAC 09.369(m), add the following language: [.] , provided, that from June 20 to July 31 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 portion of the Cinder River section outside the lagoon into which the Cinder River drains.

5 AAC 39.120(d), revise the definition for Area T as follows: T Bristol Bay Area (5 AAC 06.100) and **the following portions of the Alaska Peninsula Area (5 AAC 09.200): January 1 through June 19, the portion of the Cinder River section outside the lagoon into which the Cinder River drains; January 1 through December 31, the portion of the Cinder River Section within the lagoon into which the Cinder River drains** [Cinder River] and Inner Port Heiden Section; and August 1 through December 31, that portion of the Ilnik Section within Ilnik Lagoon and all waters inside the Seal Islands [of the Alaska Peninsula Area (5 AAC 09.200(a) – (3))].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This series of regulatory changes would establish a directed sockeye salmon fishery in the Cinder River Section from June 20 through September 30. Cinder River sockeye returns have been above escapement goals nearly every year for over a decade, which represents foregone harvest opportunity for the Area M drift gillnet fleet.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-C15-042)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 150 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons.** Describe waters of Cinder River Lagoon open to commercial salmon fishing, as follows:

5 AAC 09.310(a)(1)(A) is amended to read:

- (a) In the Northern District, salmon may be taken as follows:
  - (1) Cinder River Section:
    - (A) from May 1 through September 30 within the lagoon into which Cinder River drains (locally known as False Ugashik or Shagong) **described by a line across the lagoon entrance from 57° 21.14' N. lat., 158° 06.82' W. long. to 57° 21.46' N. lat., 158° 04.68' W. long.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations do not describe Cinder River Lagoon, which is the only area of the Cinder River Section that can be

commercially fished for salmon prior to August 1. This proposal will define waters of Cinder River Lagoon that are currently open to commercial salmon fishing during scheduled weekly fishing periods.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-060)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 151 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Consider the catch of non-local salmon as a factor in management of Northern District salmon fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 is amended to read:

(b) The department shall manage the Northern District salmon fisheries on the basis of salmon abundance as determined by escapement information and catch-per-unit-effort information **taking into account the percentage of the catch which is not of the targeted river.** The department shall manage each section of the Northern District as specified in this management plan and 5 AAC 09.320.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Effectively manage the Northern Peninsula fishers areas by modifying 5 AAC 09.369.

**PROPOSED BY:** Roland Briggs (EF-C15-046)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 152 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** From June 20 through July 20 manage the Northern District salmon fisheries jointly with Alaska Department of Fish and Game Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay staff, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 is amended to read:

(1) notwithstanding 5 AAC 09.320(a)(4), from June 20 through July 20, must be managed in cooperation with East Side Bristol Bay staff.

Strike the Section (B).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** More effective manage individuals river’s stocks of fish.

Modify 5AAC 09.369.

**PROPOSED BY:** Roland Briggs (EF-C15-047)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 153 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Include information on the abundance of non-local salmon stocks as a factor in managing Northern District commercial salmon fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 is amended to:

(b) The department shall manage the Northern District salmon fisheries on the basis of salmon abundance as determined by escapement information and catch-per-unit-effort information **taking into account the abundance of non-Northern Peninsula in the catch area.** The department shall manage each section of the Northern District as specified in this management plan and 5 AAC 09.320.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** More effective manage rivers on the North Peninsula.

From the WASSIP study it showed that a significant portion of the Northern Peninsula catch was actually destined for non-North Peninsula rivers therefore managing by escapement and catch per unit effort could allow over exploitation of a rivers run. Managing based on catch per unit effort when it is established that a large portion of the catch is not of the targeted river puts sustainability in question.

**PROPOSED BY:** Roland Briggs (EF-C15-048)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 154 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Link management actions in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area commercial salmon fisheries to salmon abundance in adjacent Bristol Bay Area districts, as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 is amended to read:

(a)The purpose of this management plan is to provide guidelines to the department for the management of salmon stocks in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Management Area.

Realizing data on some of the river systems are limited the manager shall use all available data to correct his catch per unit effort numbers to reflect actual catch of the targeted river system. Up to and including smaller sub districts around the targeted river mouths or lagoons in order to trigger a management action in the district.

If past studies have shown that 40% or more of the catch is of non-targeted stocks then the area shall be co-managed by managers of the areas that have 15% or more of their fish in the catch. Or if past studies of catch in that area have shown the potential harvest of a particular river to be more that 30% of the low end escapement goal of a non-targeted river the area shall be co-managed.

The starting % shall be initiated from the WASSIP study. As more data is collected and as longer timeline and better picture of the long-term catch patterns in an area are achieved the management will adjust accordingly.

(Both managers must agree on openings if the managers cannot agree the commissioner shall make the final decision after reviewing the potential damage to each system.)

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The North Peninsula Management plan needs to work in partnership with management plans in areas where there is cross harvesting of resources. There are portions of the North Pacific Management Plan that appear to be in conflict with itself. It appears the managers are directed to make management decisions to which they have insufficient data to determine, thus this could lead to overharvest of the targeted river.

**PROPOSED BY:** Roland Briggs (EF-C15-091)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 155 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons; 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods; 5 AAC 09.330 Gear; 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters; and 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Close the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District to commercial salmon fishing, as follows:

Close the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial fishing for sockeye salmon by amending the following:

5 AAC 09.310 Fishing Seasons.

(a) In the Northern District, salmon may be taken as follows: (2) Port Heiden Sections:

...

(B) Outer Port Heiden Section: **no open season** [FROM JUNE 20 TO JULY 31];

5 AAC 09.320.Fishing Periods.

(a) In the Northern District, salmon may be taken only during weekly fishing periods from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Thursday, unless modified by emergency order, except as follows:

(4) In the [OUTER PORT HEIDEN,] Inner Port Heiden[,] and Ilnick Sections, salmon may be taken from 6:00 a.m. Monday through 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, except...

5 AAC 09.330. Gear.

...

[(10) OUTER PORT HEIDEN SECTION: WITH DRIFT GILLNETS ONLY]

5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.

Salmon may not be taken in the following locations.

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

[(A) 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 BOUNDARY LINE;]

5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to....

[(1) THE OUTER PORT HEIDEN SECTION IS OPEN FROM JUNE 20 TO JULY 31 TO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN THOSE WATERS WEST OF A LINE FROM 57° 05.52' N. LAT., 158° 34.45' W. LONG. TO 57° 08.85' N. LAT., 158° 37.50' W. LONG. BASED ON THE ABUNDANCE OF MESHNIK RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON. IF THE COMMISSIONER CLOSES THE PORTION OF THE EGEGIK DISTRICT, AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 06.359 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?** The Outer Port Heiden fishery is an intercept salmon fishery primarily targeting Bristol Bay sockeye salmon stocks. The stated management objective for the Outer Port Heiden fishery, harvesting Meshnik River-bound sockeye salmon, appears to be an excuse for allowing this fishery to be prosecuted since relatively few Meshnik River sockeye salmon are harvested. Additionally, the number of salmon in excess of established SEGs has been dramatically reduced because of increases in the escapement goal range since 2006. Further, we believe that the Outer Port Heiden fishery does not effectively target Meshnik River-bound sockeye salmon. We also find that the establishment of a new and expanding Outer Port Heiden fishery is contrary to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) Mixed Stock Policy 5 AAC 39.220 (d). We seek to have the BOF close the waters of the Outer Port Heiden Section to the harvest of salmon. We also would like to encourage the BOF and ADF&G to effectively target Meshnik River-bound sockeye salmon through prosecution of an Inner Port Heiden commercial fishery.

The Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area was closed to commercial fishing for salmon from 1990 through 2006. However, prior to 1990, only one commercial harvest of sockeye salmon was recorded during the period 1962–1989. This harvest consisted of 686 sockeye salmon in 1986. Therefore, this section was effectively closed until it was open to commercial fishing in 2007. Beginning in 2007 through the 2014 fishing season, the commercial sockeye salmon harvest from the Outer Port Heiden fishery has ranged from 254,916 salmon in 2013 to 786,025 in 2010. Not surprising, this new and expanding fishery accounted for 0.0% of the North Peninsula total sockeye salmon harvest prior to 2007 but up to 41.5% (2011) since it was opened in 2007. The dramatic shift in the percent of the total North Peninsula sockeye salmon harvest in this fishery has no doubt increased the proportion and number of Bristol Bay salmon stocks in the North Peninsula salmon harvest, and particularly, those fish bound for the Ugashik River.

At the February 2007 Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island Areas BOF meeting, a proposal (Proposal 210) to limit the fishery area in the Port Heiden, Three Hills, and Ilnik Fishing sections

for sockeye salmon to within one mile of land from May 1 to June 30 was amended to open the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial fishing from June 20 to July 31. This amended proposal was passed by the BOF. Accordingly, commercial fishing in the Outer Port Heiden Section commenced in 2007. The BOF specified that the Outer Port Heiden Section was specifically opened to harvest sockeye salmon bound for the Meshik River.

Prior to 2007, the Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) range for the Meshik River was from 10,000 to 20,000 sockeye salmon. However, escapements to the Meshik River regularly exceeded 80,000 sockeye salmon. At that time, it appeared that there was a very large surplus of sockeye salmon that could be harvested. However, in 2007, ADF&G increased the Meshik River sockeye salmon SEG to 20,000 to 60,000 sockeye salmon, reducing the number of salmon that were in excess of the SEG. Further, in 2010, ADF&G again changed this goal to 25,000 to 100,000, effectively substantially reducing or eliminating the excess salmon above the SEG that was perceived in 2006.

In 2007 and 2008 the Outer Port Heiden commercial sockeye and chum salmon harvest was sampled under WASSIP. During these two years, this section accounted for 11.5% and 16.4% of the total Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon harvest. Genetic Stock Identification (GSI) analysis indicated that the vast majority of the sockeye salmon harvested in the Outer Port Heiden Section were destined to Bristol Bay, particularly the Ugashik River. Bristol Bay sockeye salmon comprised approximately 72.7% (282,061 salmon) in 2007 and 81.6% (262,543 salmon) in 2008 of the Outer Port Heiden section sockeye salmon harvest. The Ugashik River stock alone contributed approximately 43% to this harvest in both 2007 and 2008. Interestingly, North Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks contributed only 23.7% (91,991 salmon) in 2007 and 17.9% (57,591 salmon) in 2008. This means that vast majority of the sockeye salmon harvested in the Outer Port Heiden fishery, 76.3% in 2007 and 82.1% in 2008, were destined to non-North Peninsula Rivers of origin. These fish were intercepted in this fishery. More interestingly is that the harvest rate on sockeye salmon destined to the Meshik River was only 11.5% (26,140 salmon) in 2007 and 13.3% (44,872 salmon) in 2008.

Since the WASSIP sampling years, both the number and the contribution (percent) of the Outer Port Heiden fishery harvest to the Northern Peninsula total harvest has dramatically increased. The average Outer Port Heiden harvest during the WASSIP sampling years was 354,322 sockeye salmon and accounted for an average of 14.0% of the total Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon harvest. Since then, however, during the most recent 6-year period, 2009-2014, the average number of fish harvested in the Outer Port Heiden section has risen to 479,458 sockeye salmon and has accounted for an average of 34.4% of the total Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon harvest. We believe that this new fishery has expanded since inception and we also believe that there is a potential for further expansion. We also believe that most if not all of the increased harvest in this fishery is comprised of Bristol Bay-origin salmon, and most likely Ugashik River-bound sockeye salmon.

At the February 2010 BOF meeting, no substantial changes were made to the Outer Port Heiden Section fishery. However, ADF&G increased the SEG for the Meshik River sockeye salmon stock to an SEG range of 25,000 to 100,000, further decreasing the excess Meshik River sockeye salmon available for harvest.

At the February 2013 BOF meeting, the BOF recognized the primary intercept nature of this fishery and, in an attempt to shift the intercept harvest of sockeye salmon to more local North Peninsula stocks, particularly, the Meshik River sockeye salmon stock, closed the waters of the Outer Port Heiden section from a line 1.5 miles from the shore to the 3.0 mile line boundary line. This closure was to provide protection to the migrating Bristol Bay sockeye salmon stocks, which were thought to be migrating farther offshore than local North Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks.

Based on the above information, we conclude that the Outer Port Heiden fishery is an intercept salmon fishery, primarily targeting Bristol Bay sockeye salmon stocks. Accordingly, the stated management objective for the Outer Port Heiden fishery, harvesting Meshik River-bound sockeye salmon, appears to be an excuse for allowing this fishery to be prosecuted since relatively few Meshik River sockeye salmon are harvested and the number of salmon in excess of established SEGs has been dramatically reduced because of increases in the escapement goal range. We suggest that a viable alternative to prosecuting this fishery for the stated objective of harvesting Meshik River-origin salmon would be to prosecute a commercial fishery within the Inner Port Heiden section. We also find that the establishment of a new and expanding Outer Port Heiden fishery is contrary to the Alaska BOF Mixed Stock Policy 5 AAC 39.220 (d). Bristol Bay sockeye salmon stocks were fully allocated prior to the establishment of this fishery. The continued prosecution of this expanding fishery has shifted the allocation scheme of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon and particularly Ugashik River-origin sockeye salmon more toward the North Peninsula.

A GSI study conducted on the salmon present during the prosecution of the Outer Port Heiden fishery was conducted during the 2014 and will be conducted during the 2015 season. Results of this investigation will be provided to the BOF as an on-time comment prior to the February 2016 Alaska Peninsula BOF meeting. Because of the increased sockeye salmon harvest by the Outer Port Heiden along with the increased contribution of this harvest to the total North Peninsula sockeye salmon harvest, we anticipate an even higher contribution of Bristol Bay salmon to the Outer Port Heiden harvest with an even greater contribution of Ugashik River bound fish.

Who does this proposal benefit: The commercial fisherman of Bristol Bay will benefit from the acceptance of this proposal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mitch Seybert (EF-C15-079)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 156 – 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons; and 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.** Close the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District to commercial salmon fishing, as follows:

Close the Outer Port Heiden Section.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Northern Peninsula District is a mixed stock fishery that intercepts Bristol Bay salmon. At the 2007 Alaska Peninsula Board of Fish meeting the Northern Peninsula District’s opportunity to intercept Bristol Bay fish



was increased by opening the Outer Port Heiden Section. State fisheries policy is to not allow the expansion of mixed stock fisheries.

The WASSIP study shows that almost all of the fish caught in the Outer Port Heiden Section are bound for Bristol Bay and as much as 80% of those are bound for the Ugashik River. Ugashik is having trouble meeting its escapement goals in a time where the total Bristol Bay run is increasing.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kurt Johnson (EF-C15-111)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 157 – 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods.** In the Inner and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District restrict commercial fishing for salmon to no more than four days in any seven day period, as follows:

In the Port Heiden Section of Area M’s North Peninsula commercial salmon fishery, fishing will be permitted a maximum of four days in a seven day period, to protect the escapement of the small streams in the Port Heiden Inner District, and North River Outer District and migrating stocks to Bristol Bay, and Nelson Lagoon in the month of July.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Conservation, subsistence harvest concerns, (kings, chums, sockeye).

High interception of Bristol Bay’s migrating stocks.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-092)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 158 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.** Restrict commercial salmon fishing in the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Outer Port Heiden sections of the Northern District to no more than one and one-half miles offshore, as follows:

In the Area M’s North Peninsula Commercial Salmon fishery,[Ilnik to Port Heiden] fishing will be permitted in a reduced area until total run strength to Ugashik is 2.5 million or 5 million to Egegik. Fishing will be permitted from the 18 ft high tide mark out to a GPS line 1.5 miles off shore, Starting from the Three Hills northern eastwest line go north to intersect the Port Heiden Outer Dist. southern eastwest corner line, 1.5 miles off shore.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Harvesting migrating Bristol Bay stocks in a year of less abundance when local stocks of Area M are healthy.

Harvesting Bristol Bay migrating stocks needed to sustain locally owned Bristol Bay permit numbers in the villages of Port Heiden, Ugashik, Egegik.

Harvesting migrating Bristol Bay stocks unnecessarily when it can be reduced with time and area that won't affect local harvests and escapements of Port Heiden and Illnik.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-109)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 159 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.** Open waters of the Outer Port Heiden Section of the Northern District from one and one half miles to three miles offshore to commercial salmon fishing, as follows:

5 AAC 09.350(3) is amended by deleting current subsection (A).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The board in 2013 closed the portion of the Outer Port Heiden section from one and one-half miles offshore to the three-mile seaward boundary. These closed waters should be reopened in the interest of an orderly and safe fishery. The current open area, inside one and one-half miles, includes shallow waters and obstacles (e.g., snags) that are difficult and dangerous to fish in heavy weather, particularly during night hours. The three-mile line is well defined in charting programs, and is used throughout the North Peninsula District, but the one and one-half mile line is not, potentially creating enforcement/compliance problems.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-C15-040)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 160 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Close waters of the Bear River and Nelson Lagoon sections of the Northern District between zero to one and one-half miles offshore to commercial salmon fishing with drift gillnet gear until escapement objectives have been met, as follows:

From June 1 to August 15 sockeye season, drift gear will be restricted to no less than 1.5 to 3 miles away from shore until Bear River and Nelson River have achieved their adequate escapement.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The *sustainability* of the Bear River and Nelson River Fishery due to the mismanagement of the North Peninsula Fishery between June 1 to August 15 sockeye salmon season.

Under the current management, the Bear River and Nelson River escapement will be depleted and will no longer have a fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ray Johnson (EF-C15-110)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 161 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**

Close waters of the Northern District between zero and one and one-half miles offshore to commercial fishing with drift gillnet gear when Bear River and/or Nelson River coho salmon escapements do not meet objectives, as follows:

From August 15 to September 30 coho salmon season drift gear will be restricted to no less than 1.5 to 3 miles away from shore until Bear River and Nelson River have achieved their adequate escapement.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The *sustainability* of the Bear River and Nelson River Fishery due to the mismanagement of the North Peninsula Fishery between August 15 to September 30 coho salmon season.

Under the current management, the Bear River and Nelson River escapement will be depleted and will no longer have a fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ray Johnson (EF-C15-113)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 162 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.**

Close waters of the Northern District between zero and one and one-half miles offshore to commercial fishing with drift gillnet gear when Bear River and/or Nelson River sockeye salmon escapements do not meet objectives, as follows:

At any time between June 1st and September 30 salmon season, should the Bear River and/or Nelson River fall short of adequate escapement, the drift fleet will revert back to the 1.5 to 3 mile "away from shore" regulation.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The *sustainability* of the Bear River and Nelson River Fishery due to the mismanagement of the North Peninsula Fishery between June 1 to September 30 salmon season.

Under the current management, the Bear River and/or Nelson River escapement will be depleted and will no longer have a fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ray Johnson (EF-C15-114)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 163 – 5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Between the longitude of Three Hills and the northern boundary of the Outer Port Heiden Section restrict drift and set gillnets to 29 and one-half meshes depth, as follows:

In the North Peninsula of Area M's commercial salmon fishery, from the Northern Three Hills Section east/west boundary line to the northern shore boundary line of Outer Port Heiden Section maximum mesh depth permitted will be 29 ½ mesh.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Harvesting weak stocks (king, sockeye, chum) while targeting larger systems in the Port Heiden section.

Subsistence concerns.

Intercepting high percentages of Bristol Bay migrating stocks in the Illnik and Port Heiden sections of Area M.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-098)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 164 – 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Manage commercial salmon fishing in the Black Hills Section and in Moffet Lagoon in the Izembek-Moffet Bay Section based on Moffet Lagoon escapement, as follows:

The Black Hills section starting north from Moffet Point should only be opened and closed with the Moffet Lagoon section to allow local escapement in Moffet Lagoon. If any emergency orders for opening the Black Hills section are made both Black Hills and Moffet Lagoon sections should be opened for fishing. Area biologists managing both areas need to communicate and align fishery openers. In the past Moffet Lagoon section closed and Black Hill section remained open by emergency order.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The depletion of Moffet Lagoon section escapement and fishery sustainability.

**PROPOSED BY:** Herman Samuelson (HQ-F15-078)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 165 – 5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** In the Nelson Lagoon Section allow the compliment of drift gillnet gear to be split into two 100 fathom nets that may be fished simultaneously, as follows:

In Nelson Lagoon, drift gear can be split into two 100 fathom nets, and fished separately yet simultaneously.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In Nelson Lagoon the drift gear is no more than 200 fathoms. In some places the channel in the lagoon is not wide enough to hold a 200 fathom net.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ray Johnson (EF-C15-117)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 166 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters; and 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Eliminate closed waters in Caribou Flats and allow drift gillnet fishing in Caribou Flats by emergency order if Nelson Lagoon escapement goals are achieved, as follows:

5 AAC 09.350 and 5 AAC 09.369 are amended to read:

5 AAC 09.350 -- delete subsection (13)

5 AAC 09.369 Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. Revise subsection (d) to read as follows: In the Caribou Flats Section, from June 16 through August 15, the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow commercial fishing for sockeye salmon if escapement goals in Nelson Lagoon have been achieved.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Caribou Flats Section has been closed to drift gillnetting for many years, to ensure returns to Nelson Lagoon. The fishery inside the lagoon has concentrated on larger fish using larger mesh gear. This has, over time, skewed the escapement to smaller fish. Allowing drift gillnet effort in the Caribou Flats Section, once Nelson Lagoon escapements have been achieved, would likely result in the harvest of these smaller fish and help in rebalancing the size distribution of the escapement.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joe Hinton (HQ-F15-063)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 167 – 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods.** Open the Uria Bay Section of the Northwestern District to regular fishing periods, as follows:

5 AAC 09.320(b)(3) is amended to read:

**(3) Uria Bay Section from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Thursday**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Uria Bay Section opens only by emergency order. This section in the past was open to commercial fishing, June 1<sup>st</sup> well into July on a weekly fishing period Monday thru Thursday.

**PROPOSED BY:** False Pass Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-085)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 168 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.** Reduce closed waters in Christianson Lagoon, as follows:

5 AAC 09.350(18)(A) is amended to read:

(A) Christianson Lagoon: waters of the lagoon **from a point located 250 yards upstream from the lagoon outlet channel terminus at the ocean shoreline [AND THOSE WATERS WITHIN 500 YARDS OF THE LAGOON’S EXIT CHANNEL TERMINUS AT THE OCEAN SHORELINE];**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Closed waters of Christianson Lagoon in the Uria Bay Section. This is a lagoon entrance and not a river mouth.

**PROPOSED BY:** Travis Hoblet (HQ-F15-084)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 169 – 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections; and 5 AAC 09.206. Use of global positioning system (GPS).** Implement global positioning satellite coordinates for all district and section boundaries in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area, as follows:

That Alaska Department of Fish and Game and/or Fish and Wildlife Protection establish a series of points that can be implemented by regulatory definition so all fishermen can be fish legally within boundaries that can be defined and navigated with modern GPS equipment.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The most offshore boundaries of the Sections of the North Peninsula fishing areas. At present there are no GPS specifications so that Area M fishermen can be confident that they are fishing legally within their Sections.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Barr (EF-C15-100)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 170 – 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.** Redefine the boundaries of the Outer Port Heiden Section using GPS coordinates, as follows:

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) **Seaward of a line of a line defined by the following GPS coordinates: N57 19.300 X W158 20.000, N57 16.400 X W158 26.500, N57 11.700 X W158 30.500, N57 03.200 X W158 40.500, N56 58.700 X W158 44.500, N56 56.500 X W158 47.200, N56 55.800 X W158 50.450** [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-LINE];

Note: The line defined by the proposed coordinates roughly follows the 1 ½ mile limit on the most current NOAA chart. This was done in an attempt to maintain the current perceived legal fishing area. The number of points could easily be reduced by straightening the line which would slightly change the current fishing area.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulatory language in 5 AAC 09.350(3) is very difficult to effectively enforce under the best of circumstances and especially difficult with aircraft patrols. The difficulty in enforcing the current regulation is differences in how the 3 mile line is drawn on NOAA charts and how that compares with 5 AAC 39.975(13) “waters of Alaska”. This is a remote fishing district and aircraft are the most used

method to patrol the area. Enforcement personnel must be able to determine if a violation is occurring and be able to take action to notify the operator. If a Trooper pilot must make passes over a vessel to determine the latitude and longitude it is fishing, and then later plot the location on a chart to determine if a violation exists, it is unlikely the trooper can address the violation in a timely manner.

Defining the Outer Point Heiden closed waters boundary with GPS coordinates would allow enforcement and fishermen to accurately determine if nets are fishing in legal waters. GPS coordinates are used to define all manner of fish and game boundaries throughout the state. GPS has been vetted extensively in the Alaska Court system and has been found to be extremely accurate. Even a very basic (cheap) GPS can accurately show a line between points and display a cross track distance from the line. GPS is practical, easy to use and defensible.

It is in the State's best interest to clearly defined, enforceable commercial fishing boundaries in order to protect the resource and to ensure appropriate allocation and management of resources. Using GPS coordinates to define the Outer Port Heiden closed waters line is a far better means of attaining these goals than the current method.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Public Safety, Alaska Wildlife Troopers (EF-C15-103)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 171 – 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections; and 5 AAC 09.206. Use of global positioning system (GPS).** Implement global positioning satellite coordinates for all district and section boundaries in the Northern District of the Alaska Peninsula Area, as follows:

In the North Peninsula Area M's commercial salmon fishery, all boundary lines will be defined by true enforceable GPS lines.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Lack of enforceable boundary lines on the North Peninsula. Area M existing boundary lines are not worth the time for enforcement, because location of legal waters is not defined clearly.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-094)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 172 – 5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.** Increase the passage of sockeye salmon above the Chignik River weir to provide additional subsistence fishing opportunity, as follows:

The following draft regulatory language was developed and approved by all five Tribal councils:

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan is amended to read:

(b)

(3) from the end of the transition period, described in (2) of this subsection until September 14,

...  
(B) the department shall manage the commercial fishery to allow for the passage of at least 150,000 [50,000] sockeye salmon above the Chignik River weir, in addition to late-run sockeye salmon escapement needs, to provide an in river harvestable surplus above the Chignik River weir in August and September of at least [75,000] 25,000 fish in August and [75,000] [25,000] fish from September 1 through September 15;

Increasing the numbers of late-run sockeye salmon required to be passed through the weir will result in additional late season subsistence harvest opportunity.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** During the past four years, subsistence fishers of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Perryville, and Port Heiden have experienced challenges when attempting to harvest late-run sockeye salmon returning to Chignik Lake and its tributaries. Many elders and high harvesting subsistence fishers indicate that sockeye salmon used to be available in the Chignik Lake watershed well into the winter months for as long as they can remember, until the recent four years. Historically, local subsistence fishers depended upon the availability of red fish well into January and February, but recently fishers are unable to locate fish in the traditional subsistence fishing areas of the Chignik Lake watershed as early as December.

The same issue was brought to the board before and action was taken to establish the existing in-river goals. Local subsistence fishers believe that the existing in river escapement goals are no longer satisfying the subsistence needs of residents in all five communities. The current escapement goals and management practices in August require modification in order to provide for traditional subsistence opportunities during the fall and winter months.

According to 5 AAC 15.357 (b)(3)(B), ADF&G managers must allow at least 50,000 sockeye salmon to pass through the Chignik Weir in addition to the late-run sockeye salmon escapement needs. This is to provide an in-river harvestable surplus above the Chignik River weir in August of at least 25,000 fish in August and an additional 25,000 fish from September 1 through September 15. The Chignik Lake late-run sockeye salmon escapement goal for the month of August for spawning purposes, as it is published in the ADF&G escapement objective schedule, is 40,000 to 53,000 sockeye salmon (not including the 50,000 fish for in river subsistence harvestable surplus). During August 2007–2014, the spawning escapement goal (not including the additional 25,000 sockeye salmon passing through the weir for subsistence in August) fell below once, exceeded six times and met twice. While escapement was not met only once during the past eight years, subsistence users are continually unable to harvest their late-run sockeye salmon.

The current escapement goals set for September 1–15 may be the reason that subsistence fishers are unable to get their fish. The ADF&G has only met the escapement goal for September 1–15 twice in the last eight years (2007–2014). During only two of those years were sockeye salmon passed through the weir for escapement needs above the in-river subsistence harvestable surplus goal.



Local subsistence fishers are concerned because the later arriving salmon normally have a commensurate later stream life and are the fish believed to be available to subsistence fishers during the winter months. Not managing the September 1–15 portion of the late sockeye run of the Chignik River to provide for the regulation required passage of subsistence fish is unacceptable. Modification of management practices and goals are necessary to provide for subsistence opportunities of sockeye salmon well into the winter months.

Five tribal councils have joined together to submit this proposal to the board requesting greater opportunity for subsistence fishers during their traditional harvesting months or December-March.

The five Tribal councils submitting this proposal request that the board increase the additional late-run escapement goal for August and September 1–15 to provide opportunity for subsistence fishers. The five Tribal councils recommend adding 50,000 sockeye salmon to the August goal and 50,000 sockeye to the September 1–15 goal above what is currently in regulation (currently there are 25,000 additional fish in August and 25,000 additional fish during Sept. 1–15).

Local community members and active fishers have been informed that the late-run has recently been managed for the lower end of the goal ranges with hopes of protecting feed for juvenile salmon and to therefore increase the size of the late-run. While this effort may scientifically be justifiable, the reduction of the goals and management to minimize late-run escapement has directly impacted or eliminated portions of the late season subsistence fisheries and action is required to provide greater subsistence opportunity. All of the reasons contributing to the decline of the late fall and winter sockeye salmon population may not be known (intercept fisheries, climate change, ocean conditions, etc.), the numbers of sockeye salmon passing through the weir is known and manageable. From 2007–2014, as little as 21,000 late-run sockeye salmon passed through the weir from August 1–September 15 to meet spawning needs not including the 50,000 sockeye salmon required for subsistence opportunity.

**PROPOSED BY:** The federally recognized tribes of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Perryville & Port Heiden (EF-C15-131)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 173 – 5 AAC 15.350. Closed waters.** Reduce waters closed to commercial fishing for salmon in Kujulik, Portage, and Ivanof bays in the Chignik Area, as follows:

5 AAC 15.350 is amended to read:

5 AAC 15.350 Closed Waters. Salmon may not be taken in the following waters:

...

(9) Kujulik Bay: west of a line from 56 32.54' N. lat., 158 01.38' W. long. to 56 34.22 N. lat., 158 03.26' W. long.; and north of a line from 56 32.54' N. lat., 158 01.38' W. long. to 56 35.49' N. lat., 157 59.06' W. long.;

(10) Portage Bay: west of a line from 56 11.34' N. lat., 158 35.23' W. long. to 56 11.10' N. lat., 158 35.54' W. long.;

...

(13) Ivanof Bay: west of a line from 55 50.60' N. lat., 159 30.56' W. long. to 55 53.23' N. lat., 159 31.13' W. long.; and east of a line from 55 52.26' N. lat., 159 28.23' W. long. to 55 54.03' N. lat., 159 29.15' W. long.;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Chignik pink and chum salmon runs are typically underutilized. It is estimated that conservatively an average of two million dollars are lost to the commercial fishery annually because of over escapement and too conservative management. To reduce these losses not only should some weekly fishing occur in Chignik inter-bays, as addressed in a companionship proposal, but several closed water areas in the Chignik Management Areas should be reduced to improve access to harvestable surpluses while still providing adequate sanctuary areas for escapement. It is understood that closed water line adjustments can be made inseason, but too characteristically nothing is done in time to avoid over escapement and fish quality problems with an abundance of water-marked and dark fish harvested that the processor discards (grinds).

The three closed waters areas proposed for size reductions are in bays where in the late 1970's some "creek robing" was occurring. This was when fish quality was not a major issue due to canning and at a time when shallow seines were common. As a consequence, the Department expanded many closed waters areas in the Chignik area. Now due to fish quality concerns, peer pressure, and better education, deeper draft boats and seines, and surveillance, the problem no longer exists. What we have now is an artifact of too much restriction.

Certainly the Department has the tools to move markers inseason, but the record indicates complacency, in part because of weather, aircraft availability, and unwillingness to timely survey and what some characterize as "tunnel vision" on sockeye salmon management. Chignik's pink and chum salmon runs need to be managed proactively, not managed from behind. In line with this, bays where current closed waters warrant an adjustment to improve access to local pink and chum salmon surpluses while still ensuring escapement protection include:

- a. Ivanof Bay (Area 275-40);
- b. Portage Bay (Area 273-84); and
- c. Kujulik Bay (Area 272-50).

**PROPOSED BY:** Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-034)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 174 – 5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.** In July and August close Chignik Area commercial salmon fisheries between Castle Cape and Kupreanof Peninsula when the Southeastern District Mainland is closed to commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear, as follows:

When there is low escapement in the SEDM area and the set netters aren't able to fish, Chignik fishermen are shut down and are not able to harvest salmon from Castle Cape to Kupreanof Peninsula in Area L.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** During the months of July and August if there is insufficient escapement in the SEDM and the set net fishermen are shut

down and cannot fish then the fishermen in Area L, Chignik area should also be shut down so that escapement goals can be met in the SEDM area.

Chignik fishermen are intercepting salmon bound for streams in the SEDM.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jack R. Foster Jr, Amy M. Foster (EF-C15-072)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 2 – 5 AAC 28.540. Possession limits for Chignik Area.** Allow bycatch retention of Pacific cod in the Chignik Area salmon seine fishery, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Pacific cod meeting and heard and deliberated on at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting.*):

Allow the taking of Pacific cod as a bycatch under a Chignik Area L salmon permit only during the salmon seining operations.

Cod must not be the target species and no more than XX% would be allowed of each delivery.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Bycatch of Pacific cod during the salmon seining season by seiners. The resources is being wasted and has lost potential revenue.

**PROPOSED BY:** Al Anderson (HQ-F15-073)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 175 – 5 AAC 15.3XX. Chignik Pink Salmon Management Plan.** Create a pink salmon management plan in the Chignik Area, as follows:

5 AAC 15.3XX. CHIGNIK PINK SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN. (a)The goal of this plan is to ensure that Chignik’s pink and chum salmon runs are managed to assure timely harvest opportunity and good product quality and to achieve the Department’s biological escapement goals.

(b) The Department shall manage the terminal waters of the 11 Chignik Management Area bays as listed from 24 June through 31 August for local pink and chum salmon. Fishing time will be one 72-hour period per week. However, the commissioner may extend or reduce weekly fishing time by bay or bay aggregate depending on pink and chum salmon run strength and escapement requirements and/or evidence of sockeye salmon targeting when waters outside the bay(s) in the same district are closed. Because in some bays fish tend to leave designated closed water areas on minus tides, the commissioner may close or limit fishing within part or all of those bays to protect escapement when minus tides are slated to occur.

1. Agripina Bay (Area 272-96) all waters west of a line from 57 05.20 N. lat., 156 26.16 W. long. to 57 07.10 N lat., 156 24.58 W. long.;
2. Chighinagak Bay (Area 272-90) all waters north of a line from 56 55.52 N. lat., 156 47.50 W. long. to 56 59.33 N lat., 156 38.01 W. long.;

3. Nakalilok Bay (Area 272-80) all waters north of a line from 56 55.15 N. lat., 156 56.07 W. long. to 56 54.54 N lat., 156 50.53 W. long.;
4. Yantarni Bay (Area 272-72) all waters north of a line from 56 48.26 N. lat., 157 08.25 W. long. to 56 49.17 N lat., 157 05.21 W. long.;
5. Amber Bay (Area 272-70) all waters northwest of a line from 56 46.37 N. lat., 157 24.35 W. long. to 56 48.11 N lat., 157 17.23 W. long.;
6. Kujulik Bay (Area 272-50) all waters west of a line from 56 33.26 N. lat., 157 49.19 W. long. to 56 36.30 N lat., 157 40.45 W. long.;
7. Kuiukta Bay (Area 273-80) all waters north of a line from 56 01.11 N. lat., 158 38.28 W. long. to 56 02.15 N lat., 158 35.13 W. long.;
8. Fishrack Bay (Area 273-72) all waters north of a line from 55 59.27 N. lat., 158 46.50 W. long. to 55 59.21 N lat., 158 43.37 W. long.;
9. Ivan Bay (Area 273-72) all waters north of a line from 55 58.00 N. lat., 158 53.08 W. long. to 55 59.14 N lat., 158 48.12 W. long.;
10. Humpback Bay (Area 275-50) all waters north of a line from 55 49.52 N. lat., 159 24.29 W. long. to 55 49.56 N lat., 159 22.12 W. long.; and north of a line from 55 50.13 N. lat., 159 21.36 W. long. to 55 51.24 N lat., 159 18.57 W. long.;
11. Ivanof Bay (Area 275-40) all waters north of a line from 55 47.36 N. lat., 159 30.05 W. long. to 55 47.42 N lat., 159 26.16 W. long.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** While sockeye salmon are well managed in the Chignik Management Area (CMA), other species could use major attention. In the CMA, excluding the Chignik River system, the Department identifies 161 pink salmon spawning streams and 137 with chum salmon runs. For a variety of reasons the pink and chum returns to these streams are typically well underutilized/underexploited. A recent analysis by Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association estimates that conservatively, an average of two million dollars is being lost to the commercial fishery annually because of escapement excesses. Needed is discrete management of Chignik pink and chum salmon. Firmly believed is that Chignik pink and chum salmon management plan can be implemented by weekly bay fisheries from late June through August without compromising conservation or impacting management of other species.

We recognize that the Department has the ability to provide timely fishing opportunity on Chignik's healthy pink and chum salmon stocks. However, having that ability and effecting such has been problematic. The current standard is that near full escapement must be documented via aerial surveys first before an intra-bay fishery could be called. Another is that it has become rather standard policy that the fleet and/or industry must request a specific bay or bay aggregate fishery for such to be "considered." The problem is that this does not work for a multitude of reasons. Weather, aircraft availability, and willingness to survey typically result in flights and subsequent opening occurring too late, if at all, to ensure reasonable marketability of ensuing harvests and prevention of excessive escapements. Expecting the fleet and/or industry to prospect the CMA and then "plead" for a fishery opening is ineffective and not proactive fisheries management.

Excessive pink and chum escapements obviously provide no benefit, and unfortunately, as previously identified, this has become the Chignik norm. Requested is proactive not reactive

pink and chum salmon management. In accordance, we respectfully ask that the Board authorize directed weekly pink and chum salmon fisheries in selected Chignik bays when our local stocks begin entering in late June. This is important for both Chignik fishermen and our only Chignik-based processor, Trident Seafoods. No longer should economic and biological losses occur because of Chignik pink and chum salmon fisheries opening too late, over escapement, and water-marked and dark fish being harvested and then ground-up at the processing plant because of no market value.

Some would profess that status quo pink and chum management works. It does not for the multitude of reasons detailed previously. Others would say that a standard weekly opening would likely cause escapement shortfalls. That too is short on foundation. If fish abundance is low, fleet effort will be minimal even with 3 day/week openings. Four days of non-fishing per week combined with closed waters areas should provide ample escapement. Certainly weekly fishing time can be reduced or even suspended and closed waters areas increased by emergency order if an escapement issue occurs.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-035)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 176 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.** Amend Southeastern District Mainland commercial salmon set gillnet fishery season opening times and fishing periods, as follows:

Reestablish the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) set net fishery beginning June 6, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. three days later; commercial fishing will then close for 32 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. two days later;

a) notwithstanding of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 10:00 p.m. July 25.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Modify the Southeastern District Mainland Management Plan to establish fishing periods for the set net fleet from June 6 through July 25.

Reestablish the SEDM set net fishery to be 88 hours fishing and 32 hours off continuously starting June 6 at 6:00 a.m. until June 9 at 10:00 p.m. for 88 hours open and 32 hours closed then opened again June 11 at 6:00 a.m. for another 88 hours and closed 32 hours continuously this schedule until July 25th managed under its own system, for the set netters. Due to political pressures from outside the area the set net fleet has been squeezed out of fishing on the mainland onto less productive sites on the islands overcrowding and reducing catches to a point where viability is uncertain.

While Chignik fishermen realized historic returns in 2011 despite continuous fishing in the SEDM by the set net fleet only we realized moderate returns with no obvious effect on Chignik. 2014 we weren't able to fish on the SEDM while Chignik continued to harvest great catches of salmon.

Because of the recent high catches of salmon in the Chignik area and the less impressive SEDM catches there should be new valuable information to be calculated into the SEDM management plan. Considering this proposal only asks for what has been in place before in this area, fishing time this area originally had, it should not be too hard to simplify the plan into its own SEDM Management Plan, minus the political distractions. This proposal would be very similar to the reinstatement of the June Shumagin Island fishery.

If nothing is changed the local set net fishermen will continue to be denied access to historical fishery areas, which is affecting the viability of set netting in the area and continues to overcrowd in the islands. The value of the permits will diminish in value along with the viability of the set net fishery as the islands have a few good producing sites to be shared by too many.

No one will suffer if this proposal is passed. After the 2011 season which Chignik area realized massive returns and to this day yearly continue to have great catches and returns, the SEDM didn't see any spectacular fish runs in the area proving beyond a doubt the management plan for SEDM is seriously compromised and needs a serious overhaul in order for the once profitable historic fishery to be returned to the set net fishermen.

Other solutions I considered was asking the board to put an L on my permit card right alongside Area M, if we are going to be managed under Area L regulations then we should be able to also set net in Area L. My immediate goal is to have the board seriously consider my proposal more than a cursory examination and to take into account the fact that SEDM set netters have had undo hardships put upon us, from previous board decisions and have in effect been squeezed out of a historic and traditional fishery, which has resulted in the devaluation of the permits, our business and sites that we have fished for well over 60 years. It is our desire as set netters to once again realize and obtain the SEDM fishery that has been historically and traditionally fished by ourselves, our parents and our grandparents well before statehood with an ultimate goal to sustain a living and pass down this fishery to our children and grandchildren, our future generation of fishermen.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jack R. Foster Jr and Amy M. Foster (EF-C15-054)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 177 – 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 the Chignik Area commercial sockeye salmon fishery, as follows:

Conduct concurrent fishing periods between Area L (Chignik) and Southeast 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. 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 SEDM District.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jack Foster Jr. & Amy M. Foster (EF-C15-070)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 178 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.** In the Southeastern District Mainland establish weekly fishing through July 10 for set gillnet gear and from July 11 through July 25 establish 48 hour open fishing periods and closures for set gillnet and purse seine gear, as follows:

Modify the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Management Plan to establish weekly fishing periods from June 10 through July 10 for set gillnet gear and from July 11 through July 25 establish 48 hour openings followed by 48 hour closures for both set gillnet and seine gear.

From June 10 through July 10 the SEDM will be open for set gillnets four days followed by three days closed per week. From July 11 through July 25 will be open 48 hours followed by 48 hour closures for set gillnet and seine gear.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Lost fishing opportunities in the SEDM of Area M.

**PROPOSED BY:** John A. Foster (EF-C15-081)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 179 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.** Amend the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to establish that 40 percent of the sockeye salmon taken in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay sections are considered to be of Chignik River origin, as follows:

5 AAC 09.360(f) is amended to read:

...

(f) The estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River has been determined to be **40%** [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 Sections.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 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:** John A. Foster (EF-C15-083)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 180 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.** Require all salmon harvested in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery to be landed within the Southeastern District, as follows:

All salmon harvested in the Southeastern District Mainland through July 25 must be landed in the Southeastern District Mainland. No vessel that has landed salmon under the Southeastern District Mainland may have salmon on board when more than one mile outside the Southeastern District Mainland with the following exceptions: (1) a vessel that has landed salmon in the Southeastern District Mainland may have on board up to 50 salmon for personal use, if the salmon have been headed and gutted; (2) a boat may transport salmon landed in the Southeastern District Mainland, not covered under exception (1) above, beyond the Southeastern District Mainland provided a fish ticket is completed in accordance with AS 16.05.671 provisions and before exiting the Southeastern District Mainland. The commissioner may waive the requirements of this section when necessary.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** An incentive to underreport sockeye salmon harvested in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery exists. With RSW standard equipment in the seine fleet, extra value paid for dock deliveries in Sand Point, knowledge that the SEDM fishery is regulated on the number of fish harvested, and concurrent fisheries taking place not limited by an allocation therein lies opportunity and an enticement to misreport.

The importance of accurate accounting of sockeye salmon harvested under the Southeastern District Mainland Management Plan is clear. The Southeastern District Mainland fishery is linked to the Chignik and the Cape Igyak fisheries. All three work under a joint allocation scheme, and therefore it is important that no one area or fishery take the liberty of not completely reporting harvest numbers. There is also importance in making certain that stock assignments are



as accurate and precise as possible for the purpose of run reconstruction which serves for forecasting and spawner–recruit analysis. Other advantages exist too. Tightening catch reporting standards in the Southeastern District Mainland is consistent with the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy for the State of Alaska: 5 AAC 39.222, Section 3 *salmon management* (i)“*management should ..... incorporate procedures to assure effective monitoring, compliance, control, and enforcement.*”

In accordance, the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan should be amended to provide a landing requirement on the salmon harvested in that fishery. While not expected, at times tender services in the SEDM may not always be available or may be inconvenient. Further, many seiners may prefer a Sand Point delivery because of the price incentive for a dock delivery. It is therefore reasonable that a landing requirement regulation provide a means for legal deliveries to be made outside SEDM waters. Such can be accomplished by AS 16.05.671 *Transportation and sale of certain fish by an agent of the fisherman who caught the fish*. Under this statute a fisherman could easily obtain blank fish tickets to transport SEDM harvested salmon outside the area including Sand Point.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-036)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 181 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.** Repeal the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin June Salmon Management Plan is amended to read:

Repealed

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Close commercial salmon intercept fishery, for conservation of Yukon Kuskokwim salmon.

AS 16.05.251 Regulations of the Board of Fisheries (a)(2).

**PROPOSED BY:** Jesse Foster (EF-C15-030)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 182 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.** Modify the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to shift the opening date for the drift gillnet fishery to coincide with the set gillnet fishery opening date, as follows:

5 AAC 09.365(d) In the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods as follows:

(1) for set gillnet **and drift gillnet** gear, ...

(2) for seine [AND DRIFT GILLNET] gear, ...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan establishes one fishing schedule for set gillnets and another for drift gillnets and purse seines. Set gillnets begin their fishing schedule on June 7 and drift gillnets and seines begin on June 10. The plan should be amended so that drift gillnets are on the same schedule as set gillnets. This will help reduce competition between drift gillnets and purse seines.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-C15-044)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 183 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.** Modify the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to stagger opening days for the drift and purse seine fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 09.365 is amended to read:

...

(d)

(2)

(A) Beginning June 9 drift gillnet gear commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. Three days later, commercial fishing will then close for 32 hours and reopen 6:00 a.m. two days later. The final June fishing period for drift gillnetting in June will be June 27 at 10:00 p.m.

(B) Beginning June 10th opening for the seine fleet will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. Three days later, commercial fishing for the seine fleet will close for 32 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. Two days later. The final fishing period will end at 10:00 p.m. on June 28th for the seine fleet.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** During the June South Unimak and Shumigan Islands Fishery, stagger the openings for the seine and drift gillnet fleets. Staggering the opening date by one day, for the seine and drift fleets would give at least one day per week without gear conflicts between the drift and seine fleets. The scheduled amount of days would remain the same; the opening day would just change.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-087)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 184 – 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 during 2003-2004, as follows:

Revert to the regulation found in Register 166 of the Alaska Fish and Game Laws and Regulations 2003-2004 for 5 AAC 09.365 South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Fishing on stocks of concern when the harvest of discrete stocks are unknown.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-080)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 185 – 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections; and 5 AAC 09.XXX Dolgoi Island Section Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Establish a Dolgoi Island Section and Dolgoi Island Section Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 09.XXX. Dolgoi Island Area Management Plan (a) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000 fish and the department determines the runs are as strong as expected, the department shall manage the Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25 to where fishing in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) will close when fish ticket records first tabulate to more than a 120,000 sockeye harvest except that after July 9 Sections 283-23 and 283-25 may open for the harvest of local-stocks irrespective of the 120,000 sockeye restriction. Excluded are all designed terminal stock harvest areas as defined in regulation.

(b) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000 there will be no commercial salmon fishery allowed in the Dolgoi Island Area until a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area is achieved.

After July 8, after at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Management Area, and provided escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25 to where fishing will close when fish ticket records first tabulate to more than a 120,000 sockeye harvest except that after July 9 Sections 283-23 and 283-25 may open for the harvest of local-stocks irrespective of the 120,000 sockeye restriction and the Chignik Area minimum sockeye harvest requirements. Excluded are all designed terminal stock harvest areas as defined in regulation.

(c) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River sockeye salmon is expected to be at least 600,000 and the first nm fails to develop as predicted and it is determined that a total sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area of 600,000 may not be achieved by July 25, commercial salmon fishing in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat. areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) will be curtailed in order to allow a minimum harvest in the Chignik Area of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon. After July 8, after at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and provided escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25 so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least 600,000. Additionally, when fish ticket records through July 25 first tabulate to more than a 120,000 sockeye harvest the Dolgoi Island Area will close to commercial fishing except that after July 9 Sections 283-23 and 283-25 may open for the harvest of local-stocks irrespective of the 120,000 sockeye restriction and the Chignik Area minimum sockeye harvest requirements. Excluded are all designed terminal stock harvest areas as defined in regulation.

(d) All salmon harvested under the Dolgoi Island Area Salmon Management Plan must be landed in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42). No

vessel that has landed salmon under the Dolgoi Island Area Management Plan may have salmon on board when more than one mile outside the Dolgoi Island Area with the following exceptions:

(1) a vessel that has landed salmon under the Dolgoi Island Area Salmon Management Plan may have on board up to 50 salmon for personal use, if the salmon have been headed and gutted; (2) a boat may transport salmon landed in the Dolgoi Island Area, not covered under exception (1) above, beyond the Dolgoi Island Area provided a fish ticket is completed in accordance with AS 16.05.671 provisions and before exiting the Dolgoi Island Area.

After July 9, Sections 283-23 and 283-25 are excluded from all landing requirements as defined in this section (d). The commissioner may waive the requirements of this section when necessary.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Amend the current management plan covering the Dolgoi Island Area (stat areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) to provide fishing opportunity on local pink and chum salmon stocks while ensuring that the area is regulated to limit excessive pre July 26<sup>th</sup>, harvest of non-local fish, namely on Chignik bound sockeye salmon.

The Dolgoi Island Area supports a major June and post-June sockeye salmon interception fishery based on the three year WASSIP study (2006–08). Primarily intercepted are Chignik, East of Wassip (Kodiak/U. Cook Inlet), and Bristol Bay (BB) sockeye salmon. During the June fishery Chignik sockeye average 43% of the catch followed by East of Wassip sockeye at 27% and BB at 25%. In Post June, the catch is dominated by the Chignik sockeye at 51% and East of Wassip sockeye at 43%. South Peninsula sockeye stocks average less than 1% of the June and post June Dolgoi Island harvests.

Through July 25 the Dolgoi Island Area operates as targeted fishery on non-local sockeye salmon and, in many years, has had a major impact on Chignik-bound sockeye salmon. In the WASSIP years (2006- 08) the Dolgoi sockeye catch averaged 20% of the terminal harvest in the Chignik Area. In 2008, the Dolgoi Island Area fishery was open through July 25 when both the Igvak and SEDM fisheries were entirely shut down due to weak Chignik runs. 40% of the 2008 Dolgoi catch through July 25 in 2008 was Chignik-bound sockeye salmon.

A management plan is needed on Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25 that provides a reasonable harvest limit and accountability on the sockeye salmon catch. Such is justified because it is the only interception fishery where the dominant stock is Chignik-bound sockeye salmon that does not operate under a plan that recognizes annual variations in the strength of the two Chignik sockeye runs, Area L through July 25 harvest preferences, and the Igvak and Southeast Mainland District allocations.

Specifically we are calling for the Board of Fisheries to adopt a June through July 25 plan that sets an upper harvest limit on the Dolgoi Island Area fishery and a requirement that the fishery be managed to ensure a minimum harvest level in the Chignik Management Area as similarly

provided under the Cape Igvak and Southeastern District plans, but does not compromise terminal fishing on local pink and chum salmon. Lastly for accountability purposes, we ask that the BOF place a modest landing requirement on the Dolgoi Island Area through July 25.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Jones- Agent for United Chignik Salmon Fishermen (HQ-F15-001)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 186 – 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections; and 5 AAC 09.XXX Dolgoi Island Section June Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.** Establish a Dolgoi Island Section and Dolgoi Island Section June Management Plan, as follows:

**(1) Dolgoi Island Area June Management** (a) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik Rivers system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000 fish and the early run develops to where in the Chignik Area at least 300,000 early run sockeye salmon are expected to be available for harvest and surplus to escapement goals, the commissioner may establish commercial fishing periods in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat. areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) as follows:

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

(2) notwithstanding (1) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at midnight on June 27.

(b) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000, no June commercial salmon fishing shall occur in the Dolgoi Island Area until a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area is achieved. If the 300,000 has been achieved the commissioner may establish commercial fishing periods in the Dolgoi Island Area as follows:

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

(2) notwithstanding (1) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at midnight on June 27.

(c) All terminal harvest areas as specified in regulation are excluded from (a) and (b) sections.

**(2) Dolgoi Island Area July 6-25 Management** (a) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000 there will be no commercial salmon fishing in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat. areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) until a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area, as described in 5 AAC 15.100, is achieved. After July 8, after at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and provided escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25 so the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least 600,000. Subject to the above, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods as follows:

(1) the first fishing period will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 25 hours until 7:00 a.m. the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 71 hours and re-open under (2) of this subsection;

(2) following the closure under (1) of this section, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run for 27 hours until 9:00 a.m. of the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 69 hours and re-open at 6:00 a.m. three days later.

(b) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River sockeye salmon is expected to be at least than 600,000 commercial salmon in the Chignik Area and the department determines the runs are as strong as expected, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat. areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) as follows:

(1) the first fishing period will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 25 hours until 7:00 a.m. the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 71 hours and then reopen under (2) of this subsection;

(2) following the closure under (1) of this section, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run for 27 hours until at 9:00 a.m. of the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 69 hours and re-open at 6:00 a.m. three days later.

(c) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River sockeye salmon is expected to be at least 600,000 and the first run fails to develop as predicted and it is determined that a total sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area of 600,000 may not be achieved by July 25, commercial salmon fishing in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat. areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) will be curtailed in order to allow a minimum harvest in the Chignik Area of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon. After July 8, after at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and provided escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25 so the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least 600,000. Subject to the above, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods as follows:

(1) the first fishing period will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 25 hours until 7:00 a.m. the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 71 hours and then reopen under (2) of this subsection;

(2) following the closure under (1) of this section, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run for 27 hours until at 9:00 a.m. of the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 69 hours and re-open at 6:00 a.m. three days later.

(d) All terminal harvest areas as specified in regulation are excluded from (a), (b), and (c) sections.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Dolgoi Island Area supports a major June and post-June sockeye salmon interception fishery based on the three year WASSIP study (2006-08). Primarily intercepted are Chignik, East of Wassip (Kodiak/U. Cook Inlet), and Bristol Bay (BB) sockeye salmon. During the June fishery Chignik sockeye average 43% of the catch followed by East of WASSIP sockeye at 27% and BB at 25%. In Post June, the catch is dominated by Chignik sockeye at 51% and East of WASSIP sockeye at 43%. South Peninsula sockeye stocks average less than 1% of the June and post June Dolgoi Island catch.

The pre July 26<sup>th</sup> Dolgoi Island Area fishery is by no means insignificant. In the WASSIP years (2006-08) the sockeye catch averaged 20% of the terminal harvest in the Chignik Management Area. Further evidence is that the fishery operated in 2008, a year when both Igvak and SEDM fisheries were closed (June 1 through July 25) due to weak Chignik runs. Per the WASSIP study an estimated 40% of the pre-July 26<sup>th</sup> Dolgoi catch was Chignik bound sockeye salmon in that year. In 2014 while the SEDM and Igvak fisheries were closed due to failure of the Chignik early run and a weak Chignik late run, the Dolgoi Island Area was opened and a total of 280,000 sockeye salmon were harvested through July 25 of which more than 136,000 are estimated to be Chignik sockeye salmon. South Peninsula sockeye barely contributed at less than 3,000 fish.

A management plan for the Dolgoi Island Area that addresses non-local interception of sockeye salmon which comprise an estimated 99+ % of the catch and is dominated by Chignik-bound fish is warranted. A reasonable plan would be a modest reduction in fishing time starting in June and continuing through July 25, coupled with a limit on the fishery whenever Chignik sockeye numbers are weak to where a Dolgoi Island Area harvest would impact the BOF-assigned harvest threshold for Area L and/or cause Chignik escapement shortfalls. Such is well justified. The Dolgoi Island Area is the only area where in June and July the dominant stock is Chignik bound sockeye salmon that does not operate under a plan that recognizes annual variations in the strength of the two Chignik sockeye runs, Area L pre July 26<sup>th</sup> harvest preferences, and the Igvak and Southeast Mainland District allocations.

There is no justification to limit or reduce harvest opportunity on any local South Peninsula stocks including pink and chum salmon, and therefore no change in the terminal harvest areas or management thereof should occur nor is proposed.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-033)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 187 – 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.** Modify the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for South Alaska Peninsula to provide the department authority to make openings for specific gear groups, as follows:

The Department of Fish and Game will have the authority to make openings for specific gear groups during the post June Management in Area M.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Missed fishing opportunities for the set gillnet fleet while local managers wait for full escapement levels in Area M to arrive.

**PROPOSED BY:** John A. Foster (EF-C15-090)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 188 – 5 AAC 12.320. Weekly fishing periods.** Establish open commercial salmon fishing periods in the Unalaska District that coincide with the last two open fishing periods in July in the Shumagin Islands Section, as follows:

5 AAC 12.320 is amended to read:

The Unalaska District will be opened for two 22-hour fishing periods. The first period begins on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 a.m. and remains open until July 27 at 6:00 p.m. The second period begins on July 30 at 6:00 a.m. and remains open until July 31 at 6:00 p.m.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** We would like the board to address the issue that evaluating pink salmon run strength to the Unalaska District solely by use of aircraft surveys, originating from the Sand Point Alaska Department of Fish and Game office, is not and should not be the only tool used to provide ADF&G with adequate information in which to open or not open the Unalaska District to commercial pink salmon fishing. Commercial salmon openings are another tool that can be used by ADF&G to judge run strength and can be used to good effect; especially in the far flung Unalaska District.

In 2013, ADF&G biologists made only one aerial survey to the Unalaska District in mid-July. For the rest of July and August, weather conditions between Sand Point and the Unalaska District did not allow ADF&G biologists the chance to fly a survey and therefore the entire fishing district remained closed to pink salmon fishing. Allowing minimal fishing time in the Unalaska during late July is another tool ADF&G could use to evaluate run strength and avoids the problem of flying aerial salmon surveys in notoriously poor weather fishing districts.

In order to provide the Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist with early run strength information, other than that collected by sporadic or nonexistent aerial surveys, we recommend that commercial fishing in the Unalaska District should be opened to coincide with the last two July openings in the Shumagin Island Section.

These two openings have two advantages. One, they are scheduled far enough into July to coincide with the start of the Unalaska pink salmon run. Two, these late July openings are simultaneous with the two last week Shumagin Island Section openings and help spread fishing effort out and thus eliminating a mad rush to the Unalaska District.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mike Kurtz and John Mitchell (HQ-F15-088)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 189 – 5 AAC 09.332. Seine specifications and operations.** Allow for dual permit vessels and increased gear limits for dual permit vessels in the Alaska Peninsula Area commercial salmon purse seine fishery, as follows:

The maximum seine length is 250 fathoms, or 300 fathoms with a "lock 2" permit. Prior to the fishing season an individual with two permits locked together must register with ADF&G their intent to fish that season with a "lock 2" permit.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Too many latent permits being added to the Area M salmon fishery.

Allow seine salmon permit holders to operate additional gear under a dual permit lock together.



What we would like to call a "lock 2". Excessive activation of latent permits will result in too many fishing operations in the South Peninsula area to sustain reasonable livelihoods for the historic and current participants. In the past 10 years, an average of 49% of the available permits have been used in the fishery. We are asking for 20% gear increase in exchange for 100% of permit usage. With added permits to the current fishery we would be harmed by processor limits and loss in revenue to both the state and local economy tax base. Once the permits are locked together they cannot become unlocked or sold individually. Area M is currently in a rebuilding phase for salmon fishing. Our returns have been poor at best. This would also give relief to management, keeping track of less catcher vessels in the short seasons we have would be beneficial for rebuilding salmon stocks.

If nothing is done, more fishing operations will continue to be added to the current level and our escapement goals will continue to be low in local streams.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ray Koso and Don McCallum (EF-C15-093)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 190 – 5 AAC 09.332. Seine specifications and operations.** Change purse seine depth measurement standard from number of meshes deep to an equivalent depth measurement in feet and inches, as follows:

Prefer the department regulation to describe the seine depth in equivalent terms using feet and inches.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulation describes the allowable depth of a purse seine for the South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery as 350 each 3.5 inch meshes plus 25 each seven inch meshes. Fishermen who recently purchased nets that were built with Indian web have experienced shrinkage that traditional American web does not exhibit. These fishermen are not allowed to modify their nets to equal depths of other fishermen's nets by simply adding a strip of web, because the seine depth regulation is based on number of meshes. This regulation assumes all nets will retain same hanging depths over time, thereby disadvantaging fisherman who have purchased these new Indian web nets.

**PROPOSED BY:** King Cove Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-095)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 191 – 5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.** Repeal minimum mesh size standards for drift gillnet gear, as follows:

5 AAC 09.331(a)(2) is amended to read:

(2) a drift gillnet has no minimum mesh size.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Driftnet mesh size. There is no minimum mesh size in any of the Area M Fisheries except in the post-June South Peninsula fishery in the Unimak District and a western portion of the SW District. This area is fished by

the entire fleet in June, without mesh size limits, which means that the drift gillnetters who fish in June have to purchase an additional net for Post-June. This imposes a substantial financial burden on drift netters, particularly local drifters that prefer fishing the South Peninsula over the North Peninsula in July. We also feel that it is a housekeeping proposal that would allow a more orderly driftnet fishery.

**PROPOSED BY:** King Cove Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-096)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 192 – 5 AAC 09.330. Gear.** Allow commercial fishing for salmon with set gillnets in the area between Popof Head and Dark Cliffs any time the area is closed to commercial salmon fishing with purse seine gear, as follows:

5 AAC 09.330 is amended to read:

5 AAC 09.330

...

(f) ...

(1) Salmon may be taken only with purse seines and hand purse seines in the area between Popof Head and Dark Cliffs (Popof Head) from June 1 through August 31 however, salmon may be taken by set gillnet gear during periods when the seine fishery is closed, and if by emergency order due to the presence of immature salmon.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal addresses that salmon may be taken only with purse seine and hand purse seine in the area between Popof Head and Dark Cliffs (Popof Head) from June 1 through August 31. However, salmon may be taken by set gillnet gear during periods when the seine fishery is closed by emergency order due to the presence of immature salmon. I would like to change the regulation so that the set net gear would be allowed to fish this area (Popof Head) when the seine fleet is not there and are closed to fishing this area whether it be due to immature salmon or that it is closed to seining while set net is open in the Shumigin Island section. If the regulation is not changed the set net fleet is losing an opportunity to utilize a portion of this open area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jim Smith (EF-C15-097)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 193 – 5 AAC 09.301. Seaward boundary of districts.** Change the Southwestern and Unimak District seaward boundary, as follows:

5 AAC 09.301 is amended to read:

**5 AAC 09.301. Seaward boundary of districts.** For the purpose of managing the historical salmon net fishery in the vicinity of False Pass and Unimak Bight, the outer boundary of the Southwestern and Unimak Districts is a line drawn along 54° 22.5'N. lat. from 163° 01.2'W. long. near the western end of Sanak Island to 164° 27.1' W. long., south of Cape Lutke on Unimak Island [THREE MILES SEAWARD FROM A LINE COMMENCING AT 54° 26.70'

N. LAT., 162° 53.00' W. LONG.] The seaward boundary of all other districts is a line three miles seaward of the baseline, as described in 5 AAC 39.975(13).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The 2012 amendment to the Federal Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) redefined the plan's boundaries to exclude from its West Area three historical net fisheries managed by the State of Alaska, including the Alaska Peninsula fishery (50 C.F.R. 679.2, Definition of Salmon Management Area, Subsection (2)(iii)). The current seaward boundary of the state's Southwestern and Unimak Districts does not match up with the shoreward boundary of the federal FMP, leaving a gap of unregulated waters between the state and federal management areas. The state boundary should be revised so it is coterminous with the federal line, to avoid confusion and potential enforcement problems from having two different management boundaries.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-C15-043)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 194 – 5 AAC 28.650. Closed waters in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area.** Close all waters of Unalaska Bay to commercial fishing for groundfish with pelagic trawl gear, as follows (*This proposal will be heard at the Alaska Peninsula / Chignik / Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting, and be heard and deliberated on at the Statewide Finfish meeting*):

5 AAC 28.650. Closed waters in Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area

...

(b) The waters of Unalaska Bay are closed to groundfish fishing with pelagic trawl gear, [as follows:] **south of a line from Cape Kalekta at 54° 00.50' N. lat., 166° 22.50' W. long. to Cape Cheerful at 54° 01' N. lat., 166° 40' W. long.**

[(1) FROM JUNE 10 THROUGH AUGUST 31, SOUTH OF A LINE FROM CAPE KALEKTA AT 54°, 00.50' N. LAT., 166°, 22.50' W. LONG. TO CAPE CHEERFUL AT 54°, 01' N. LAT., 166°, 40' W. LONG.];]

[(2) BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1 UNTIL THE CLOSURE OF THE PARALLEL BERING SEA WALLEYE POLLOCK 'B' SEASON, SOUTH OF A LINE FROM CAPE KALEKTA AT 54°, 00.50' N. LAT., 166°, 22.50' W. LONG. TO A POINT NEAR HOG ISLAND AT 53°, 55.42' N. LAT., 166°, 34.25' W. LONG. TO A POINT IN BROAD BAY AT 53°, 55.42' N. LAT., 166°, 38.80' W. LONG.; FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, "PARALLEL BERING SEA WALLEYE POLLOCK 'B' SEASON" MEANS THE PARALLEL SEASON CONDUCTED FROM JUNE 10 THROUGH NOVEMBER 1]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Since 2002 large-scale trawling in tiny Unalaska Bay has unacceptably impacted an area traditionally used by subsistence, sport, and smaller non-trawl commercial fishers and hunters. Trawlers have harvested approximately four million pounds annually of pollock from Unalaska Bay over the past ten plus years. The State of Alaska opens these waters to trawling from September 1 to November 1 as a parallel fishery to the eastern Bering Sea catcher vessel pollock fishery that is managed by NMFS. There is no cap on what amount of the B season pollock trawl quota can come out of Unalaska Bay and in 2004 nearly 12 million pounds was harvested. No research has

been done to understand the local pollock biomass, its abundance or what a sustainable harvest level may be. The huge trawl nets used to prosecute this fishery are putting excessive pressure on a sensitive area already fully utilized by local fishers and hunters. Based on observations made by local residents it appears fish and game are being scattered and or driven from the bay coincidentally as this trawl fishery is happening. It has become nearly impossible for local fishermen and hunters to feed their families and small commercial vessels are increasingly required to leave the safety of Unalaska Bay in order to make a living. The subsistence salmon, halibut, herring and crab fisheries and sea mammal hunting has been very poor in recent years and the local tanner crab fishery has remained closed since 2010. Most of the trawling occurs when other user groups are using the bay during the summer and fall dislocating the smaller boats out of the safety of the bay into the Bering Sea, endangering lives, in order to find fish and game and avoid gear conflicts (loss). Habitat destruction will occur where trawl gear touches the bottom. This proposal will allow fish and game to recover and return to areas closer to our community enabling us to be able to continue harvest and process our local resources. We considered limiting all commercial fishing vessels under 35 feet lengths, but so few of them bother fishing inside the bay and their impacts are not nearly that of the trawl vessels. Trawlers are large vessels that are built to handle the stormy weather of the Bering Sea. They did not historically fish in Unalaska Bay and restricting them from these waters would alleviate many problems.

**PROPOSED BY:** Unalaska Native Fisherman’s Association (EF-C15-128)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 195** – 5 AAC 28.640. Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area Sablefish Management Plan. Update logbook requirements for Aleutian Islands state-waters sablefish fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 28.640(g) is amended to read:

**(g) An operator of a vessel fishing for sablefish in the Aleutian Islands District and Western District of the South Alaskan Peninsula Area shall maintain an accurate logbook of all fishing operations for each type of gear used [EACH VESSEL OPERATOR SHALL OBTAIN AND COMPLETE A LOGBOOK PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR ALL FISHING ACTIVITY IN THE WATERS OF ALASKA UNDER THIS SECTION. THE LOGBOOK MUST BE ON BOARD THE VESSEL AT ALL TIMES AND COPIES OF EACH LOGBOOK PAGE CORRESPONDING WITH AN ADF&G FISH TICKET FOR SABLEFISH MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF LANDING].**  
**The following requirements apply to a logbook under this subsection:**

**(1) a logbook must**

**(A) include the date, specific locations of harvest by latitude and longitude, type and number of gear, average depth, and hours fished for each set of gear;**

**(B) include, for the target species, the round weight of fish retained and discarded;**

**(C) be updated within 24 hours after midnight local time on the day of operation;**

**(D) be retained, with its original pages, for a period of two years by the owner or operator of the vessel;**

**(E) be kept on board the vessel while operating gear, during transits to or from a port of landing, and for 14 days after landing sablefish;**

**(F) be made available to a local representative of the department upon request;**

**(2) a copy of each logbook page described in this subsection corresponding with an ADF&G fish ticket must be submitted to the department within seven days of the landing;**

**(3) a person may not make a false entry in the logbook described in this section.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Existing sablefish fishery logbook regulations for the Aleutian Islands District of the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area and Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area do not specify logbook entries must be true and accurate or logbook pages must be retained; this has caused enforcement difficulty. The proposed sablefish logbook requirements will improve the department's ability to accurately track fishery harvest.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-055)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 196 – 5 AAC 27.655. Dutch Harbor Food and Bait Herring Fishery Allocation Plan.** Change the date fishermen using purse seine gear may access the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring gillnet allocation from July 25 to July 20, as follows:

I would like the board to change the rollover date from July 25 to July 20. I suggest the board use the current language and just change the date from the 25 to the 20 of July. This would still give any one the opportunity to fish, but if there is no effort by the 20, the seiners could harvest the remaining quota.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 2001 the board allocated 7% of the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring quota to be harvested by gillnet only, and then increased that number in 2004 to 14%. The intent of this change from an all seine fishery was to give the small local Dutch Harbor fleet an opportunity to catch the herring. 2001 through 2005 there was effort and there were landings. Since 2005 there has been no effort or no landings by the gillnet fleet. The regulation now states that the uncaught gillnet quota does not roll over into the seine quota until the 25 of July. The fishery opens July 15. The seiners usually have their portion of the quota caught by the 20 of July and it does not make economic sense for the vessels, or the processors to wait until the 25 of July to catch the roll over gillnet quota. The result being in the last 10 years most of the gillnet portion of the quota has gone unharvested.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom Evich (EF-C15-052)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 197 – 5 AAC 01.410. Fishing seasons.** Clarify when commercial salmon fishing license holders may subsistence fish for salmon in the Alaska Peninsula Area, as follows:

5 AAC 01.410(a) is amended to read:

- (a) In the Alaska Peninsula Area, salmon may be taken at any time, except
  - (1) in those districts and sections open to commercial salmon fishing, **a commercial salmon fishing license holder may not subsistence fish for** salmon [MAY NOT BE TAKEN] during the 24 hours before and 12 hours following a commercial salmon fishing period; **a commercial salmon fishing license holder may subsistence fish for salmon during a commercial salmon fishing period;**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations restrict the general public from fishing during the 24 hours before and 12 hours following a commercial salmon fishing period. This restriction was likely intended to prevent the sale of subsistence salmon during commercial salmon fishing periods. Modification of this regulation would allow those members of the general public who do not possess a commercial salmon fishing license to subsistence fish for salmon during periods that commercial salmon fishing license holders are restricted. Additional language to this regulation will also provide clarity to commercial salmon fishing license holders as to when they may legally subsistence for salmon during commercial salmon fishing periods. Regulatory language from the Chignik Area (5 AAC 01.485) was used as precedence for the amended regulatory language provided.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-059)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 198 – 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, annual limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area; and 5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.** Require non-retention of king salmon in the Sandy River, as follows:

Non-retention of sport caught king salmon in the Sandy River from origination to salt water, using only unbaited single-hook, artificial lure or artificial flies year round.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Retention of sport caught Chinook Salmon on the Sandy River. Increased sport fishing pressure and retention of unknown populations of Chinook salmon on the Sandy River could negatively impact the stock.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association & Nelson Lagoon Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-030)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 199 — 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, annual limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.** Amend the freshwater bag limit provisions for salmon species other than king salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 65.020(a)(2) is amended to read:

(2) other salmon, **20 inches or greater in length**, 5 per day, **10** [5] in possession; **less than 20 inches in length, 10 per day; 10 in possession**.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** General regulations for bag and possession limits of any-sized salmon other than king salmon in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area (APAIA) are unnecessarily restrictive and inconsistent with general sport regulations in the adjacent Kodiak Remote Zone (Kodiak Area). Overall angler effort levels in APAIA are among the lowest in the state and currently there is no conservation concern due to sport fishing for stocks where general bag and possession limits apply. Most APAIA fishing locations are remotely located. Increasing the possession limit from 5 to 10 fish for salmon 20 inches or greater in length other than king salmon will allow anglers at remote locations to retain two bag limits prior to processing their catch. Establishing a freshwater bag limit of 10 salmon less than 20 inches in length will increase opportunity for anglers to harvest male ‘jack’ salmon, from both natural and enhanced populations of landlocked salmon. Increasing the possession limit to 10 salmon and establishing a bag limit of 10 fish less than 20 inches in length will also align general regulations for APAIA with those currently in place for the remainder of the Kodiak Area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-044)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 200 — 5 AAC 65.051. Waters closed to sport fishing in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.** Close Swanson Lagoon and its tributaries to sport fishing for sockeye salmon, as follows:

5 AAC 65.051(5) is amended to read:

(5) Swanson Lagoon and its tributaries are closed to sport fishing for **sockeye** salmon.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In 2013, the Swanson Lagoon sockeye salmon run was designated a ‘Stock of Concern’ by the department and the Alaska Board of Fisheries under provisions of the *Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries* (5 AAC 39.222.). Other salmon stocks present in the Swanson Lagoon drainage are currently considered sustainable by department. This proposal would limit the closure of the sport fishery to sockeye salmon only, and allow anglers to target other salmon species that may be present.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F15-045)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 201 – 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, annual limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.** Reduce the possession limit for coho salmon in Illiuliuk Creek, as follows:

5 AAC 65.020(c) is amended to read:

(c) In the salt waters and all freshwater drainages of Unalaska Bay, [EXCLUDING THE ILLIULIUK RIVER DRAINAGE,] the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is five fish per day, five in possession, of which no more than two fish may be coho salmon and two fish may be sockeye salmon.

5 AAC 65.020(f) is repealed:

(f) **Repealed** / / [IN ILLIULIUK CREEK (ALSO KNOWN AS TOWN OR UNALASKA CREEK), DOWNSTREAM FROM ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED AT THE CHURCH HOLE, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR COHO SALMON IS TWO PER DAY, FOUR IN POSSESSION].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal would align the regulations within the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutians Islands Area for Unalaska Bay salmon fisheries. The above amended provisions would clarify and standardize the other salmon bag and possession limits within the Unalaska Bay fresh and salt waters. All current regulations applicable within Unalaska Bay would remain in effect under this proposal except the possession limit for Illiuliuk Creek drainage coho salmon which would be reduced from 4 to 2 in possession.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F15-046)

\*\*\*\*\*