

PROPOSAL 55 - 5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan. Repeal the *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* and close commercial salmon fishing in the Cape Igvak Section through July 25, as follows:

The Board is requested to repeal the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan in its entirety, and close the Cape Igvak Section to commercial salmon fishing through July 25.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan was established in 1978 as an interception fishery targeting Chignik-bound sockeye salmon. At the time Kodiak sockeye stocks were depressed, with Kodiak fishermen harvesting on average fewer than 500 thousand sockeye salmon annually in the 10 years prior to the implementation of the plan. In contrast, the two Chignik sockeye runs were healthy, and the Board decided Chignik fishermen should “share the wealth” with Kodiak. Not surprisingly, things have changed dramatically in Chignik and Kodiak since 1978.

Chignik has gone from supporting several shore-based processors to none, and we are almost solely dependent on our sockeye salmon fishery. There just aren’t any jobs available outside of fishing, our villages are losing residents and we are on the verge of losing our schools as well. Every sockeye lost to interception at Cape Igvak heavily impacts the well-being of the five Chignik villages.

Kodiak on the other hand, has several shore based processors, multiple fisheries in which fishermen can engage in, and a myriad of jobs available outside of fishing. Kodiak’s sockeye harvests have rebounded dramatically as well, with an average harvest of 2.2 million sockeye per year in the past 10 years, despite an average harvest of “only” 158, 607 sockeye at Igvak in the same time period. In fact, in 2015, according to the preliminary figures provided by ADF&G in a report titled “2015 Alaska Commercial Salmon Harvests and Ex-vessel Values,” the Kodiak sockeye harvest was worth more than double that of Chignik (\$13.4 million vs. \$6.6 million), despite the fact the Igvak fishery only accounted for a sockeye harvest of under 7,000 sockeye total. According to the same report, the Kodiak pink salmon harvest provided an additional \$20+ million to Kodiak fishermen in 2015. It is clear that the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan is not necessary to the success of the Kodiak salmon fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Macaluso, spokesperson for Chignik Seiners Association

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