

PROPOSAL 128

5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

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

Modify the SEDM Management plan to allow for a higher minimum sockeye harvest for Chignik that is more in line with current economic conditions. The regulation would read as follows:
5AAC 09.360 Southeast District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

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

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

(d) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond the escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than **1,000,000** [600,000] fish and the department determines that the runs are as strong as expected, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections,

and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area.

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

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