

PROPOSAL 136

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

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

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

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

(1) For set net gear,

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

(2) For seine and drift gillnet gear,

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

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, as written, adopted and implemented in 2004, results in fishing gear being in the water continuously from June 7 to June 29. When the set-netters are closed, the seiners and drifters are open. Then when the seiners and drifters close, the set-netters are fishing. The result is continuous fishing from June 7 through June 29. When coupled with the fact the Board expanded the South Unimak fishery to include the entire Southwestern District and the West and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District at the same time, the result is Chignik bound sockeye are harvested continually throughout the month of June as they pass through the Southwestern District, the West and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District and the Shumagin Islands. This has resulted in a tremendous surge in the interception of Chignik bound sockeye, which are abundant in the area at this time.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Anderson

(EF-F18-066)
