

PROPOSAL 137

5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, and 5 AAC 09.366. Post June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Expand geographic scope of the Dolgoi Island Area as defined in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management* and *Post June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*, as follows:

5 AAC 09.365 (f): replace and amend to read:

Notwithstanding (d) of this section, commercial salmon fishing will close in the waters of the Dolgoi Island Area, defined as statistical areas 283-20 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42, when the catch reaches 191,000 sockeye salmon based on fish ticket information.

5 AAC 09.366. Post June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

amend (b) to read:

Beginning 1 July and extending through July 25 commercial salmon fishing periods in the waters of the Dolgoi Island Area, defined as statistical areas 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42, will be equivalent and concurrent with that provided in waters of the SEDM as regulated on the harvest of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon July 1 - July 25 in accordance with 5 AAC 09.360.

amend (j) to read:

Notwithstanding (b) as amended above, the commercial salmon fishery through July 25 will close in the waters of the Dolgoi Island Area, defined as statistical areas 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42, when the harvest of 191,000 sockeye salmon is reached based on fish ticket information.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? June - July 25 DOLGOI ISLAND FISHERY

The Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25th needs to be modified for improved accountability and a stock conservation requirement on Chignik-bound sockeye salmon. Currently there is no provision to ensure that over-exploitation does not occur when Chignik's early and late run stocks are failing which happened in two of three years during the WASSIP study and again in 2014. In those years the Igvak and SEDM fisheries were closed to safeguard Chignik escapements and protect Chignik's harvest preference, and yet the Dolgoi Island Area was fished. As evident from the WASSIP study about one-half of the Dolgoi Island Area catch is migrating Chignik sockeye salmon.

The current regulation provides that only a portion of the Dolgoi Island Area fishery will close when 191,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested based on fish ticket information. That is not working for three reasons: 1.) Fishing is still permitted on east-bound Chignik fish in portions of the Dolgoi area not closed; 2.) When fish ticket numbers do reach 191k the Department is providing a 6- to 12 hours (depending on the year) extension to accommodate purse seine and gill net gear removal which therein permits more harvest beyond the intended 191k limit and; 3.) Very

importantly there is no control on the Dolgoi the harvest when Chignik is not achieving escapement and/or their terminal 600k harvest preference.

A reasonable solution is to regulate the Dolgoi Island Area fishery with a 191k sockeye limit applied to the entire area through July 25th and a stock conservation provision in July similar to that provided in the Igvak and SEDM Chignik interception fisheries. To the point, proposed is for the entire Dolgoi Island fishery from June 1 through July 25 to close once the catch reaches 191,000 sockeye salmon based on fish ticket information and with fishing periods beginning July 1 and ending on July 25 limited to the days and hours provided in the Southeast District Management Plan excluding the Northwest Stepovak Section which is managed as a terminal stock fishery.

Note: There is no intent to close any terminal-stock harvest area managed as such in the Dolgoi Island Area nor impact the SEDM fishery or its allocation

PROPOSED BY: George Anderson

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