

PROPOSAL 148

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* so that pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Western and Perryville sections of Area L will be managed based on the strength of the pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Stepovak and Shumagin Islands sections of Area M, as follows:

A. From July 9 through September 30, (1) the department shall manage the Chignik fishery of the Perryville and Western Districts of the fishery based on the abundance of pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Stepovak area of the SEDM and the Shumagin Islands; (2) When fish stocks of pink, chum and Coho Salmon have low escapement in the Stepovak Area of the SEDM and the Shumagin Islands during July, August and September the Perryville District 275-40, 275-50, 275-60 and the Western District 273-74, 273-80, 273-90 will be closed there are significant returns of salmon in the streams and Area M fishermen are able to commercial salmon fish in these areas; (3) In July and August in the Perryville District and Western District there shall be at least one 48 hour closed period within a seven day period in order to maintain healthy fish stocks in the SEDM.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Local Set Net and Seine fishermen have been denied access to harvesting salmon in August and September these past few years due to low numbers of westward returning chum and pink salmon in the Stepovak Area and Shumagin Islands. At the same time the Area M fishermen are shut down Chignik fishermen are fishing 7 days a week day after day catching and producing high numbers of Pink Salmon and Chum Salmon destined for the Stepovak Area and Shumagin Islands while the Area M fishermen are shut down and salmon are not returning to the local streams. When fish stocks of Pink Salmon and Chum Salmon have low escapement within the Stepovak Area of the SEDM and Shumagin Islands during July, August and September the Perryville District and the Western District will be closed until there are significant returns of salmon in the streams and Area M fishermen are able to commercial fish in these areas. In early July and August in the Perryville district and Western district there shall be at least one 48 hour closed period within a seven day period in order to maintain healthy fish stocks in the SEDM and Shumagin Islands.

PROPOSED BY: Jack Foster Jr and Amy Foster

(EF-F18-051)
