

PROPOSAL 150

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Open the Western District to commercial fishing for salmon for up to 48 hours each week from June 1 to July 5, as follows:

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend (e) to read:

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of (d) of this section, in the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, the commercial salmon fishery shall open concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, from 1 June through July 5 for no more than 48 hours each week with a closure of not less than 48 hours between fishing periods.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? WESTERN DISTRICT ---- PROVIDE WEEKLY FISHING OPPORTUNITY UP TO 48Hrs. JUNE – JULY 5 UNDER TERMINAL STOCK MGMT.

The Western District of the Chignik Management Area (CMA) borders the Central District and its eastern boundary is only 30 miles from Chignik Lagoon. The CMA's Perryville District, which lies between Area M's Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) and Chignik's Western District, is about 55 miles in width. The Eastern District is east of the Central District of the CMA and borders the Kodiak Management Area at the Cape Igvak Section. Immediately west and east of the CMA are two Board of Fisheries sanctioned Chignik interception fisheries, to the west the Area M SEDM Fishery and to the east the Kodiak Cape Igvak Fishery. Both are specifically managed for early and late run Chignik-bound sockeye salmon June through July 25.

Currently the Western District is managed exclusively on Chignik-bound sockeye salmon from 1 June through 5 July. However permitted are only two 48 hour maximum periods in those 6 weeks. Requested is the opportunity for a single (1) 48-hour fishing period per week in the Western District through July 5 when the Central and Chignik Bay (Chignik Lagoon) districts are open. Justification is that Chignik-bound sockeye interception fisheries are well established on the west and east sides of the CMA June through July 25, and in recognition of such, a modest increase within the CMA fishing grounds is reasonable given that Western District openings would be totally dependent on local-stock availability, escapement goals being met, and concurrent openings in the CMA districts to the east including Chignik Lagoon. In further support it bears recognition that the Perryville District would continue to provide a buffer between the Western District and the SEDM of Area M as the Perryville District is closed to salmon fishing June through early July. Lastly, the CMA seine fleet should not be ham-strung by a 'keep-them-in-the-box philosophy' as held by some who would say that the fleet does not require more fishing area for local stock exploitation simply because any deviation from the past could be precedent setting. To a degree one might find this arbitrary and certainly well less than objective and unfair.

For evaluation, a 3-year sunset provision could be applied on the proposed regulatory change.

PROPOSED BY: Don Bumpus

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