

PROPOSAL 151

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Increase commercial salmon fishing opportunity in the Western and Perryville districts from June 1 through 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 may be opened and closed concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, from 1 June through July 5.

And in the Perryville District from 1 June through July 5, three 48 hour salmon fishing periods may be permitted subject to concurrent fishing in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District and not less than a closure of 48 hours or more between periods.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? PROVIDE LIMITED SALMON FISHING IN THE PERRYVILLE AND WESTERN DISTRICTS, JUNE 1 THROUGH JULY 5 ON CHIGNIK SOCKEYE SALMON.

On behalf of the Native Villages of Perryville and Ivanof Bay respectfully requested is that the Alaska Board of Fisheries provide limited harvest opportunity on Chignik-bound sockeye salmon in the Perryville and Western Districts during June and early July. The purpose is to reduce travel time and other expenses for village fishermen, and secondarily provide more orderly fishing and fleet dispersal opportunities for all Chignik fishermen.

During June and early July in the Western and PV Districts the primary sockeye stock is Chignik-bound fish as evident by the Area M SEDM fishery, immediately to the west of Perryville, which is regulated in June and July on east-bound Chignik sockeye salmon exclusively. Further evidence is in the Dolgoi Island Area. Based on the most recent genetic study about one-half of the catch in those waters, 76 miles to the west of the Perryville District, are migrating Chignik fish. It is also known that east-bound Chignik sockeye salmon are harvested in the Shumagin Islands in June and well into July.

Our villages, Perryville and Ivanof Bay, are dependent on salmon fishing culturally and economically, and we want to preserve, cultivate, and maintain our way of life without having to be reliant on Chignik and Chignik Lagoon as a fishery base. It is extremely difficult and costly for local fishermen to travel home between closures, which can be extensive. As previously stated, we would like access to Chignik bound salmon when escapement needs are being met according to terminal-stock management on Chignik sockeye salmon. Currently the entire Perryville District is completely closed in June and early July, and in the Western District a maximum of only two 48 hour fishing periods or 4 days are allowed, if at all. This we find insufficient and burdening. We ask only for fairness and consideration and not a handout or special treatment. Thank you.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Kosbruk and Edgar Shangin

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