

PROPOSAL 60

5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan.

Reduce the Cape Igvak Section allocation from 15 percent to five percent of the total Chignik Area sockeye salmon catch, as follows:

The Board should amend 5 AAC 18.360, Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

(a) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first (Black Lake) and second (Chignik Lake) runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000, there will be no commercial salmon fishery allowed in the Cape Igvak Section, as described in 5 AAC 18.200(g)(8), until a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area, as described in 5 AAC 15.100, is achieved. After July 8, after at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least 600,000 and the harvest in the Cape Igvak Section **shall not exceed** [will approach as near as possible 15] **5** percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

(b) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000, but the first run fails to develop as predicted and it is determined that a total sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area of 600,000 or more may not be achieved, the Cape Igvak Section commercial salmon fishery will be curtailed in order to allow at least a minimum harvest in the Chignik Area of 300,000 sockeye salmon by July 9 if that number of fish are determined to be surplus to the escapement goals of the Chignik River system. After July 8, after at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least 600,000 and the harvest in the Cape Igvak Section **shall not exceed** [will approach as near as possible 15] **5** percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

(c) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond the escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000 and the department determines the runs are as strong as expected, the department will manage the fishery in such a manner whereby the number of sockeye salmon taken in the Cape Igvak Section **shall not exceed** [will approach as near as possible 15] **5** percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

(d) The total Chignik sockeye salmon catch constitutes those sockeye salmon caught within the Chignik Area plus 80 percent of the sockeye salmon caught in the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, as described in 5 AAC 09.200(f), plus 90 percent of the sockeye salmon caught in the Cape Igvak Section. The harvest in the Cape Igvak Section at any time before July 25 may **shall not exceed** [be permitted to fluctuate above or below 15] **5** percent of the cumulative Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board should reduce the allocation percentage in the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan. The Cape Igvak fishery's 15% allocation of Chignik-bound sockeye was implemented in 1978 when Kodiak sockeye stocks were severely depressed and Chignik sockeye stocks were doing exceptionally well. In the 41 years since then, Kodiak sockeye stocks are notably and exponentially healthier, raising serious questions about whether the 15% allocation is appropriate. Reducing the allocation will alleviate

the economic pressure currently placed on Chignik and better align the Cape Igvak Management Plan with current fishery trends and economic realities.

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