

PROPOSAL 61

5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* to increase the minimum expected sockeye salmon harvest thresholds from 300,000 to 600,000 prior to July 8 and 600,000 to 1,000,000 fish after July 8, and from 600,000 to 1,000,000 fish in years when runs are as strong as expected, as follows:

5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan. **(a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide guidelines to the department for the management of the interception of Chignik River sockeye salmon caught in the Cape Igvak fishery conducted in the Cape Igvak Section of the Kodiak Area.**

(b) [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 **1,000,000** [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 **600,000** [300,000] sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area, as described in 5 AAC 15.100, is achieved. **Prior to** [AFTER] July 8, after at least **600,000** [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 **1,000,000** [600,000] and the harvest in the Cape Igvak Section will approach as near as possible 15 percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

(c) [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 **1,000,000** [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 **1,000,000** [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 **600,000** [300,000] sockeye salmon by July **8** [9] if that number of fish are determined to be surplus to the escapement goals of the Chignik River system. **Prior to** [AFTER] July 8, after at least **600,000** [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 **1,000,000** [600,000] and the harvest in the Cape Igvak Section will approach as near as possible 15 percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

(d) [C] 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 **1,000,000** [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 will approach as near as possible 15 percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

(e) [D] The total Chignik sockeye salmon catch constitutes those sockeye salmon caught **prior to July 9** within the Chignik Area **only**. [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.] **In order to approach as near as possible 15 percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch,** the harvest in the Cape Igvak Section at any time before July **8** [25] may be permitted to fluctuate

above or below 15 percent of the **total** [CUMULATIVE] Chignik sockeye salmon catch **as defined in this paragraph.**

(f) [E] This allocation method will be in effect through July **8** [25]. The first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Cape Igvak Section will not occur **within 72-hours of the start of the first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Chignik Area.** [BEFORE THE FIRST FISHING PERIOD OF THE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING SEASON IN THE CHIGNIK AREA]

(g) [F] During the period from approximately June 26 through July 8, the strength of the second run of Chignik River system sockeye salmon cannot be evaluated. In order to prevent overharvest of the second run, commercial salmon fishing in the Cape Igvak Section will, in the department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted during this period.

(h) [G] The department shall announce commercial salmon fishing periods by emergency order. The department shall give at least one-day notice prior to the opening of a commercial salmon fishing period unless it is an extension of a fishing period in progress.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan was established in 1978 and many of the assumptions made and safeguards instituted by the Board when adopting the plan 41 years ago have since been found to be incorrect and/or have become obsolete with the passage of time, resulting in an interception fishery that has an even greater negative impact on the Chignik fishery than when the plan was first implemented.

PROPOSED BY: Axel Kopun

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