

## **PROPOSAL 109**

### **5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the *Chignik Area Management Plan* to allow period openings to harvest more salmon in the Central District and repeal the inriver run goal in August and September, as follows:

Institute a weekly fishery in the Lagoon & Central District starting August 1 and continuing through September 15. With 2 days a week closed to fishing it will give sockeye a chance to move into & through the Lagoon, and eventually into the river and corresponding tributaries. The weekly closures throughout August & September will naturally protect & enhance subsistence opportunities as well. It will also provide Chignik fishermen with the best chance to harvest their surplus of coho in September.

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(b) (3) from the end of the transition period, described in

(2) of this subsection until **July 31**, [SEPTEMBER 14,]

(A) the commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, fishing periods in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, based on the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon escapement goals;

(B) [THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY TO ALLOW FOR THE PASSAGE OF AT LEAST 20,000 SOCKEYE SALMON ABOVE THE CHIGNIK RIVER WEIR, IN ADDITION TO LATE-RUN SOCKEYE SALMON ESCAPEMENT NEEDS, TO PROVIDE AN IN-RIVER HARVESTABLE SURPLUS ABOVE THE CHIGNIK RIVER WEIR IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER OF AT LEAST 10,000 FISH IN AUGUST AND 10,000 FISH FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30;]

(C) the commissioner may take additional emergency order actions to protect or harvest local pink, chum, king, and coho salmon runs; and

(b) (4) **from August 1 until September 15**, [BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 15,] **if Chignik Late Run escapement goals are being met, weekly** fishing periods in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, **shall run from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 10:00 p.m Friday**. [MAY BE NO MORE THAN 48 HOURS PER WEEK, AND SHALL BE BASED ON THE DEPARTMENT'S EVALUATION OF THE SOCKEYE SALMON RUN STRENGTH AND THE SUBSISTENCE NEEDS FOR CHIGNIK LAKE LATE-SEASON SOCKEYE SALMON.]

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**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** When the late run is achieving its escapement goal, it usually results in continual fishing in the Chignik Bay & Central Districts in August. The August portion of the late run is generally small, and continual fishing in Area M over the years has already reduced the run from what it used to be. Coupled with continual fishing

within the Lagoon & Central Districts has resulted in great concern in Chignik that it has a negative impact on the ability of the myriad of small tributaries within the Chignik watershed to fill with sockeye. Not giving the sockeye a break from being fished can lead to a less dispersed population in the watershed. The current regulations also tend to cause a lost harvest opportunity on the September coho run in Chignik Lagoon.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chignik Intertribal Coalition

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