

PROPOSAL 113

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to allow post-June commercial salmon fishing periods, as follows:

Notwithstanding 5AAC 15.357 (d)(1), (d)(2), and (d)(3), in the Western District excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection and in the Perryville District, beginning on July 6 and ending on August 15, excluding all waters north of the Cape Itki line and the Inner Ivanof Bay statistical area within those districts. Waters south of the Cape Itki line and the Inner Ivanof Bay statistical area shall be opened by the department for commercial salmon fishing for 72 hours or more per week for the harvest of local pink and chum salmon. Notwithstanding the preceding, fishing south of the Cape Itki line and the Inner Ivanof Bay statistical area shall not exceed 36 hours per weekly period starting on July 6 and extending through July 31 if a directed sockeye-salmon fishery has not occurred in the Chignik Area and the Department is not expecting the midpoint of the Chignik early-run sockeye escapement goal to be reached by July 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Schedule weekly pink and chum salmon openings in the outer waters of the Perryville and Western Districts.

Provide management guidelines to the department for post-June salmon fisheries in the outer waters of the Western and Perryville districts, July 6-August 15. Specifically promote the harvest of local pink and chum salmon stocks, on the come, as similarly provided in the Kodiak and South Area M management areas. Currently in the Western and Perryville districts, the department does not permit pink and chum salmon fishing until fish build-ups are visually present in inner bays, stream closed-water areas, and/or in streams sufficient to meet escapement requirements. This prevents early fishing opportunity and promotes over-escapement, lost harvest opportunity, and product quality degradation.

Chignik salmon fishermen cannot afford to rely, to the degree they have in the past, on local sockeye production. Historically, Chignik’s pink and chum stocks have been underutilized. A regulation to advance Chignik’s opportunity for harvesting these stocks is warranted..

PROPOSED BY: United Chignik Salmon Fishermen

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