

PROPOSAL 114

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Management Area.

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

Notwithstanding 5AAC 15.357 (c)(3), in the Agripina Section Outer Area, Chiginagak Outer Section, and Nakalilok-Yantarni Outer Section the department shall schedule commercial salmon fishing for 72 hours or more per week for early local pink and chum salmon fishing beginning on July 6 and ending on August 15. Notwithstanding the preceding, fishing time in the outer areas shall be limited to 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 Eastern District.

Provide management guidelines to the department for the management of post-June salmon fisheries in the Eastern District, 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, the department does not permit pink and chum salmon fishing in the Eastern District 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.

The solution proposed, in concert with an accompany proposal designating seaward or outer fishing areas within three sections of the Eastern District, is to create early fishing opportunity without compromising stock conservation.

PROPOSED BY: United Chignik Salmon Fishermen

(EF-F22-006)
