

PROPOSAL 116

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to manage the Western and Perryville Districts of Registration Area L based on the strength of the pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Southeast District Mainland (SEDM) Section of Registration Area M, as follows:

Add a section to the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan so that pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Western and Perryville districts of Area L will be managed based on the strength of the pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Southeast District Mainland (SEDM) section of Area M, as follows:

From July 25 through September 30, (1) the department shall manage the Chignik fishery in the Perryville and Western Districts of the fishery based on the abundance of pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the SEDM; (2) When stocks of pink, chum and coho salmon have low escapement in the SEDM during August and September, the Perryville and Western Districts will be closed; (3) In the Perryville and Western Districts, there shall be at least one 48 hour closed period in a seven day period.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Local set net and seine fishermen have been denied access to harvesting salmon in August and September these past few years due to low numbers of westward returning chum and pink salmon in the Southeast District Mainland (SEDM) Section of Area M. Chignik fishermen are fishing seven days a week, catching high numbers of pink and chum salmon destined for the SEDM area, while Area M fishermen are shut down and salmon are not returning to local streams. When stocks of pink and chum salmon have low escapement within the SEDM area during August and September, the Perryville and Western Districts will be closed until there are significant returns.

PROPOSED BY: Area M Seiners Association

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