

PROPOSAL 131

5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear, and after July 11, purse seine gear concurrent to open commercial fishing periods for salmon in the Chignik Management Area, as follows:

Revise the Southeastern District Mainland Management Plan to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear and after July 11 seine gear concurrent to the Chignik Area Commerical Salmon Fishery as follows: Conduct concurrent fishing periods between Area L (Chignik) and Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM). (a) Elimination of the harvest of 300,00 -400,000 red salmon in the Chignik area before fishermen in the SEDM can harvest salmon; (b) to fish concurrently while Area L (Chignik) fishermen are fishing Area M fishermen are fishing in the SEDM area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The SEDM Salmon Management Plan guidelines are currently being based on an apocryphal assumption that 20% of the fish caught in the SEDM are local stocks, while the other 80% are Chignik bound. The 80% figure needs to be eliminated from the SEDM Management Plan. SEDM fishermen are only allowed to harvest 7.6% of what Chignik fishermen harvest. Before any fishermen in the SEDM can harvest any salmon Chignik fishermen have to harvest a minimum of 300,000 -400,000 red salmon before we can begin to put our nets in the water and harvest our local stock of red salmon. We rarely catch or come close to catching the 7.6 allocation, which is a low number for a historical fishery. Seldom do we fish on the SEDM because of the severity of the restrictions set forth upon the fishery. This allocation needs to be eliminated. During 2014 fishermen in the SEDM weren't allowed to harvest any salmon in the SEDM area and are being denied access to their historical fishery which is affecting the viability of set netting in the area. The harvest of 300,000 - 400,000 red salmon in the Chignik area before set netters on the SEDM can harvest salmon needs to be eliminated and done away with. When Chignik area fishers, we as set netters would like to fish at the same time on the SEDM District.

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