

PROPOSAL 133

5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to reduce commercial salmon fishing time and area for purse seine gear, as follows:

Amend fishing time in the Shumagin Islands for seiners to 72 hour openings interspersed with 72 hour closures. Remove the Volcano Bay Section and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections from the June Management Plan.

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(b) The South Unimak fishery takes place in the Unimak District, the Southwestern District **(excluding the Volcano Bay Section)**, [THE EAST PAVLOF BAY AND THE WEST PAVLOF BAY SECTIONS OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT], and the Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District.

(d) In the South Unimak [AND SHUMAGIN ISLANDS] **fishery** [FISHERIES], the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods as follows:

(1) for set gillnet gear,

(A) beginning June 6, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 64 hours until 10:00 p.m. two days later; beginning June 10, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. three days later; commercial fishing will then close for 32 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. two days later;

(B) notwithstanding (A) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 10:00 p.m. on June 28;

(2) for seine and drift gillnet gear,

(A) beginning June 10, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. three days later; commercial fishing will then close for 32 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. two days later;

(B) notwithstanding (A) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 10:00 p.m. on June 28.

(e) In the Shumagin Islands fishery, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods as follows: [ALL SALMON CAUGHT BY A CFEC PERMIT HOLDER MUST BE RETAINED, AND EACH CFEC PERMIT HOLDER MUST REPORT THE NUMBER OF SALMON CAUGHT, INCLUDING THOSE TAKEN BUT NOT SOLD, ON AN ADF&G FISH TICKET. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION, "CAUGHT" MEANS BROUGHT ON BOARD THE VESSEL.]

(1) for set gillnet gear,

(A) beginning June 6, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 64 hours until 10:00 p.m. two days later; beginning June 10, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. three days later; commercial fishing will then close for 32 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. two days later;

(B) notwithstanding (A) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 10:00 p.m. on June 28;

(2) for seine gear,

(A) beginning June 10, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 72 hours until 6:00 a.m. three days later; commercial fishing will then close for 72 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later;

(B) notwithstanding (A) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 6:00 a.m. on June 25.

(f) All salmon caught by a CFEC permit holder must be retained, and each CFEC permit holder must report the number of salmon caught, including those taken but not sold, on an ADF&G fish ticket. For the purposes of this subsection, "caught" means brought on board the vessel.

[(f) NOTWITHSTANDING (d) OF THIS SECTION, COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING WILL CLOSE IN THE WATERS OF THE VOLCANO BAY SECTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT SOUTH AND EAST OF A LINE FROM ARCH POINT LIGHT AT 55° 12.30' N. LAT., 161° 54.30' W. LONG. TO A POINT ON BELKOFSKI PENINSULA AT 55° 09.50' N. LAT., 161° 57.80' W. LONG. AND IN THE PORTION OF THE WEST PAVLOF BAY SECTION SOUTH OF BLACK POINT (55° 24.48' N. lat.), IF THE HARVEST OF SOCKEYE SALMON FROM THE SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT, THE VOLCANO BAY SECTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT, AND THE BELKOFSKI BAY SECTION, EXCLUDING THOSE WATERS INSIDE OF A LINE BETWEEN VODAPOINI POINT AND BOLD CAPE, REACHES 191,000 SOCKEYE SALMON BASED ON FISH TICKET INFORMATION.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Chignik sockeye fishery is struggling, with the early run not able to achieve escapement in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021, and the late run unable to make escapement in 2018 and 2020.

In 2004 the BOF increased fishing time in the Shumagin Islands to 544 hours in June, up from the historical average of 270 hours the previous 30 years. That's an increase in fishing time of 101%, with the seiners reaping almost all of the benefit. From 2004 to 2018 there were actually 544 hours of continuous fishing time in the Shumagin Islands. In 2019 the BOF made a small adjustment that instituted short, 32-hour closures in the fishery. But 32 hours is not enough time for Chignik-bound sockeye to traverse the area.

In it's 2004 action, the BOF also opened up an entirely new June month interception fishery in the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District. These areas are well-known and documented heavy interception areas for Chignik-bound sockeye, as well as other east-bound sockeye.

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