

PROPOSAL 134

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

Amend the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

Repeal 5 AAC 09.365 and replace with the previous management plan adopted by the BOF approximately 20 years ago but edited to incorporate Chinook salmon and coho salmon in addition to chum and sockeye salmon.

The current South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan no longer includes some commercial fisheries in Area M that also intercept significant numbers of AYK-bound salmon during their movements back to the Bering Sea and AYK rivers, including Area M cape fisheries. These additional areas need to be incorporated into a new management plan that guides Area M commercial fisheries and ensures only sustainable interceptions of AYK-bound salmon stocks in excess of AYK escapement needs, priority AYK subsistence needs, and historical harvest levels by AYK sport and AYK commercial fisheries to ensure healthy and sustainable AYK salmon and AYK communities.

Old WASSIP data may be the only best available information currently available, and should be used to inform mitigation actions until such time that newly developed genetic markers are incorporated into more relevant mixed stock analyses. Waiting for action until the ADF&G reinitiates these assessments is unacceptable. Otherwise, commercial salmon harvests throughout Area M south of the Alaska Peninsula where AYK salmon have historically been intercepted should be eliminated entirely.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The lack of proactive and precautionary management actions to conserve and meet the escapement goals of AYK chum salmon stocks in Alaska Peninsula Management Area M commercial fisheries in 2020 and 2021 is problematic and unsustainable. The failure of ADF&G to continue genetic mixed stock analysis and assessments of Area M commercial fisheries' interception of Chinook salmon, chum salmon, and coho salmon bound for AYK spawning rivers and tributaries for more than a decade is problematic and unsustainable.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries addressed these concerns previously two decades ago; however, those interception mitigation measures have since been repealed or relaxed to such an extent that the June commercial fisheries in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands sections, and other sections of Area M, which intercept AYK-bound salmon stocks must be closed or restricted to ensure that commercial interception does not compromise sustainable management principles, mixed stock fishery policies, and meeting escapement goals of AYK Chinook, chum, and other salmon stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (EF-F22-065)
