

## **PROPOSAL 140**

### **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, as follows:

Repeal the current *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and readopt an amended version of the management plan in place from 2001-2003, as follows:

Erase all of the current 5 AAC 09.365 and replace with the following, edited language from the 2001-2003 plan;

#### **5 AAC 09.365. SOUTH UNIMAK AND SHUMAGIN ISLANDS JUNE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN (2001-2003).**

(a) The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries harvest [BOTH] **chinook salmon**, sockeyesalmon and chum salmon in a mixed stock fishery. These stocks of salmon are bound for Bristol Bay and the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region, as well as other areas across the North Pacific Ocean. These salmon stocks have historically been intercepted in significant numbers along the Alaska Peninsula. To ensure that none of these salmon stocks are overharvested, it is necessary to restrain the interception of these stocks as provided in the management plan in this section, and consistent with the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222) and Policy for the Management of Mixed Stock Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.220)

(b) The South Unimak fishery takes place in the Unimak District, the Ikatan Bay Section in the Southwestern District, and the Bechevin Bay Section in the Northwestern District, plus the following waters of the Southwestern District located outside of the Ikatan Bay Section and not described as closed waters in 5 AAC 09.350;

(1) waters north and west of a line from Cape Pankof Light to Thin Point (54° 57.32' N. lat., 162° 33.50' W. long.); and

(2) waters enclosed by a line from Thin Point (54° 57.32' N. lat., 162 ° 33.50' W. long.) to the northernmost tip of Stag Point (54° 59.10' N. lat., 162° 18.10' W. long.) on Deer Island to the southernmost tip of Dolgoi Cape (55 ° 03.15' N. lat., 161 ° 44.35' W. long.) on Dolgoi Island and from the northernmost tip of Bluff Point (55° 09.93' N. lat., 161° 53.72' W. long.) on Dolgoi Island to ArchPoint Light (55° 12.30' N. lat., 161 ° 54.30' W. long.).

(c) The Shumagin Islands fishery takes place in the Shumagin Islands Section.

(d) Beginning June 10 **through June 30**, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for purse seine and drift gillnet gear as follows:

(1) commercial fishing periods may occur only from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and may not be open for more than

(A) three days in any seven-day period;

(B) 16 hours per day;

- (C) 48 hours in any seven-day period;
- (D) two consecutive 16-hour fishing periods in any seven-day period;

[(2) THROUGH JUNE 24, COMMERCIAL FISHING PERIODS IN THE SHUMAGIN ISLANDS AND SOUTH UNIMAK FISHERIES WILL OCCUR AT THE SAME TIME;

(3) AFTER JUNE 24, THE PROVISIONS OF (F) APPLY.]

(e) Beginning June 10, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods for set gillnet gear in both the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries as follows:

(1) from June 10 through [JUNE 24] **June 30**,

(A) commercial fishing periods may occur only from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.;

[(B) THE FISHERY WILL BE CLOSED FOR ONE PERIOD IF, DURING THE PRECEDING PERIOD, THE RATIO OF SOCKEYE SALMON TO CHUM SALMON IS NOT EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN THE RECENT 10 YEAR AVERAGE;

(2) AFTER JUNE 24, THE SCHEDULE OF OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS OF FISHING PERIODS SHALL COINCIDE WITH THE SCHEDULE FOR SEINE AND DRIFT GILLNET GEAR AS SPECIFIED IN (F) OF THIS SECTION.

(F) AFTER JUNE 24, IN EITHER THE SOUTH UNIMAK OR SHUMAGIN ISLANDS FISHERIES,

(1) IF THE RATIO OF SOCKEYE SALMON TO CHUM SALMON IS TWO TO ONE OR LESS ON ANY DAY, THE NEXT DAILY FISHING PERIOD FOR SEINE AND DRIFT GILLNET GEAR SHALL BE OF SIX-HOUR DURATION IN THAT FISHERY;

(2) IF THE RATIO OF SOCKEYE SALMON TO CHUM SALMON IS GREATER THAN TWO TO ONE, THE COMMISSIONER MAY EXTEND THE FISHING PERIOD BY EMERGENCY ORDER, TO A MAXIMUM OF 16 HOURS AS DESCRIBED IN (D)(L ) OF THIS SECTION;

(3) IF THE RATIO OF SOCKEYE SALMON TO CHUM SALMON IS TWO TO ONE OR LESS FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE FISHING PERIODS, THE FISHERY SHALL CLOSE FOR ALL GEAR TYPES.]

(g) 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.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Reduce Excessive harvest of migrating discrete stocks of concern in the Cook Inlet, Bristol Bay, and AYK areas.

2021 saw a decrease of Yukon River summer and fall chum escapement of almost 90%. This was without any directed fishery and no subsistence harvest.

The Yukon River summer chum run averages 2 million fish. In 2021 that number was 152,000. The Yukon River fall chum run average is 998,000 fish. In 2021 that number was 102,000. Two large producers of chum salmon in the Yukon Drainage, the Chena and Salcha Rivers, saw only 22% of average escapement under perfect counting conditions. Alaska did not meet any of its Treaty obligations with Canada. (There is an international treaty with Canada over Yukon River Chinook, summer and fall chum that spawn in Canada.)

This resulted in unprecedented loss of subsistence chum fishing opportunity in the Yukon River.

At the same time, the S. Unimak and Shumagin Islands June 2021 fishery had the highest harvest of chum salmon in the history of the Area M fishery. 1,168,601 chum were harvested in the 2021 June fishery alone.

This indicates that there is a direct correlation between the high harvest of chum in Area M to the loss of chum escapement to the AYK and a total loss of chum subsistence harvest. Reducing the Area M June fishery will allow opportunity to see if chum escapement in the AYK will be able to meet escapement goals and allow for a subsistence harvest.

This is ultimately both a conservation and a subsistence issue.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Advisory Committee Fisheries Sub-Committee (HQ-F22-040)  
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