

Chignik Area Salmon Management (15 proposals)

PROPOSAL 105

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to reflect changes to Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goals.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In April 2022 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game changed the Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goal from early and late run goals to a single goal. Several management plans reference two sockeye salmon escapement goals for the Chignik River. This proposal does not suggest a specific change to the management plan, rather it is meant to serve as a signal that the Alaska Board of Fisheries may wish to consider amending the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* in response to the new Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goal.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F22-046)

PROPOSAL 106

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to increase inriver escapement of sockeye salmon prior to opening a commercial fishery by emergency order, as follows:

5 AAC 15.357 (b)(1) THE COMMISSIONER MAY OPEN, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, THE CHIGNIK COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHERY WHEN 40,000 SOCKEYE SALMON HAVE ESCAPED INTO THE CHIGNIK RIVER. The Original Language reads; 5 AAC 15.357 (b)(1) the commissioner may open, by emergency order, the commercial salmon fishery when 20,000 sockeye salmon have escaped into the Chignik River, however, if the department determines that a strong buildup of sockeye salmon exists in Chignik Lagoon and that 20,000 sockeye salmon will escape into the Chignik River, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, the commercial salmon fishery before 20,000 sockeye salmon have escaped into the Chignik River.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A previously used management practice which ADFG has sought to move away from was to allow for the passage of 40,000 sockeye through the Chignik Weir prior to the first commercial harvest period. This management practice allowed for subsistence opportunity as well as providing an early deposit of escapement into the spawning grounds as well as give managers the opportunity to more effectively gauge run strength.

The current language does not allow for an adequate influx of early sockeye especially since in recent years low quality spawners have been predominant in the early run timing apportionment.

Current language also allows guesswork in ADFGs management by pre loading their escapement with the expectation that sockeye in Chignik Lagoon will escape past Chignik weir and that management can currently open the commercial fishery prior to 20,000 sockeye pass Chignik Weir. While this is widely understood as a trigger so that intercept fisheries that rely on Chignik’s salmon fishery being open to commercial harvest so that they may also open, this type of

management can no longer be afforded given the current state of run failure in Chignik thanks to the immense pressure placed on Chignik stocks and minimal escapement requirements over the years.

PROPOSED BY: Timothy Murphy

(EF-F21-002)

PROPOSAL 107

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Modify the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to allow more commercial fishing time by opening commercial salmon fishing periods regardless of sockeye salmon escapement, as follows:

(d) From June 1 through July 5, in the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, and in the Perryville District, the department, **as a mixed-stock fishery directed on early-run sockeye returning to Black Lake; shall open, by emergency order, at least two commercial test fishing periods of 33 hours in length, and may open for no more than two weekly 48 hour fishing periods.** [open the commercial salmon fishery concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District]; during this time period the Perryville District may open for no more than [three] **two weekly** 48 hour fishing periods, [with a minimum closure of 48 hours between each period]; beginning July 6, the department may open the commercial salmon fishery in the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, and in the Perryville District, except that,

(1) from approximately late June to mid-July (transition period),

(A) the department shall evaluate the strength of the sockeye salmon late run; and

(B) in order to allow the department to assess the Chignik Lake run strength, the department may keep closed or severely restrict commercial salmon fishing in the Western District, except the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, and in the Perryville District;

(2) from the end of the transition period, described in (b)(2) of this section, until July 31, fishing periods shall be based on the department's evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs, and its evaluation of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run; from July 22 through July 31,

(A) repealed 3/29/2008;

(B) the commissioner may, by emergency order, open fishing in the following terminal harvest areas:

(i) those portions of the Western and Perryville Districts north of a line from Cape Ikti at 56° 00.32' N. lat., 158° 32.02' W. long., to Coal Cape at 55° 53.42' N. lat., 159° 00.45' W. long., to Cape Alexander at 55° 47.22' N. lat., 159° 24.57' W. long.;

(ii) waters in the Ivanof Bay Section of the Perryville District that are north of the latitude from Alexander Point at 55° 47.37' W. long., to Kupreanof Peninsula; and

(iii) those portions of the Chignik Bay and Central Districts known locally as Jack's Box, which consists of those waters east of 158° 15.36' W. long., south of 56° 20' N. lat., and west of 158° 10' W. long.;

(3) after July 31, the fishing periods shall be managed based on the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs or the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run

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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The WASSIP data shows a mixed stock harvest of sockeye in the CMA Western and Perryville districts. This proposal would give CMA fishermen economic opportunities to fish on a mixed stock, as well as give the department run strength data. There should be limited mixed stock openers in the Western and Perryville districts.

PROPOSED BY: Area M Seiners Association

(EF-F22-055)

PROPOSAL 108

5 AAC 15.357 - Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan

Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to implement commercial salmon fishing periods in June, as follows:

(c) In the Eastern District,

(1) from June 1 through approximately June 25th , as a mixed-stock fishery directed on early-run sockeye salmon returning to Black Lake; the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, at least two commercial test fishing periods of 33 hours in length

[(1)](2) during June, the commercial salmon fishery shall open concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, and the openings shall be based on achieving the Black Lake sockeye salmon escapement goals;

[(2)](3) from approximately June 26 through July 8,

(A) the department shall evaluate the strength of the sockeye salmon late run; and

(B) in order to continue managing the Black Lake sockeye salmon harvest and escapement, while assessing the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run strength, commercial salmon fishing in the Eastern District will, in the department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted;

[(3)](4) from the end of the transition period, described in (b)([2]3) of this section, until July 31, the department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery based on its evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs, and the strength of the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon; **and the commissioner may open, by emergency order, one commercial test fishing period per week, not to exceed 48 hours**

[(4)](5) after July 31, the department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery based on its evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs or the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run. **The commissioner may open, by emergency order, one commercial test fishing period per week, of 57 hours in length.**

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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The WASSIP data shows a mixed stock harvest of sockeye salmon in the Chignik Management Area (CMA) Western and Perryville districts and ADF&G Fishery Manuscript Series No. 16-10 shows a mixed harvest of sockeye salmon in the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) Cape Igvak section. The CMA Eastern district lies in between these districts so it can be assumed that there is a mixed stock sockeye salmon harvest in the CMA Eastern district as well. In order to give CMA fishermen economic opportunities on a mixed stock as well as give the department run strength data, there should be limited mixed stock openers in the Eastern district.

PROPOSED BY: Kodiak Seiners Association (HQ-F22-026)

PROPOSAL 109

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Chignik Area Management Plan* to allow period openings to harvest more salmon in the Central District and repeal the inriver run goal in August and September, as follows:

Institute a weekly fishery in the Lagoon & Central District starting August 1 and continuing through September 15. With 2 days a week closed to fishing it will give sockeye a chance to move into & through the Lagoon, and eventually into the river and corresponding tributaries. The weekly closures throughout August & September will naturally protect & enhance subsistence opportunities as well. It will also provide Chignik fishermen with the best chance to harvest their surplus of coho in September.

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan

(b) (3) from the end of the transition period, described in

(2) of this subsection until **July 31**, [SEPTEMBER 14,]

(A) the commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, fishing periods in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, based on the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon escapement goals;

(B) [THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY TO ALLOW FOR THE PASSAGE OF AT LEAST 20,000 SOCKEYE SALMON ABOVE THE CHIGNIK RIVER WEIR, IN ADDITION TO LATE-RUN SOCKEYE SALMON ESCAPEMENT NEEDS, TO PROVIDE AN IN-RIVER HARVESTABLE SURPLUS ABOVE THE CHIGNIK RIVER WEIR IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER OF AT LEAST 10,000 FISH IN AUGUST AND 10,000 FISH FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30;]

(C) the commissioner may take additional emergency order actions to protect or harvest local pink, chum, king, and coho salmon runs; and

(b) (4) **from August 1 until September 15, [BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 15,] if Chignik Late Run escapement goals are being met, weekly** fishing periods in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, **shall run from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 10:00 p.m Friday.** [MAY BE NO MORE THAN 48 HOURS PER WEEK, AND SHALL BE BASED ON THE DEPARTMENT'S EVALUATION OF THE SOCKEYE SALMON RUN STRENGTH AND THE SUBSISTENCE NEEDS FOR CHIGNIK LAKE LATE-SEASON SOCKEYE SALMON.]

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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? When the late run is achieving its escapement goal, it usually results in continual fishing in the Chignik Bay & Central Districts in August. The August portion of the late run is generally small, and continual fishing in Area M over the years has already reduced the run from what it used to be. Coupled with continual fishing within the Lagoon & Central Districts has resulted in great concern in Chignik that it has a negative impact on the ability of the myriad of small tributaries within the Chignik watershed to fill with sockeye. Not giving the sockeye a break from being fished can lead to a less dispersed population in the watershed. The current regulations also tend to cause a lost harvest opportunity on the September coho run in Chignik Lagoon.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Intertribal Coalition (EF-F22-072)

PROPOSAL 110

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to restrict commercial fishing periods in Chignik Lagoon until the escapement goal has been met, as follows:

Close Chignik Lagoon area to commercial salmon fishing until the escapement has been met.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Commercial salmon fishing in the Chignik Lagoon Area while there are not enough salmon getting upriver.

PROPOSED BY: George P Gundersen (EF-F22-077)

PROPOSAL 111

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to increase commercial salmon fishing time and area in the Eastern District in August, as follows:

Insert language to specifically allow for more opportunity to harvest pinks & chums in the Eastern District in August:

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan

(c) (4) **from August 1 to August 31**, [AFTER JULY 31] the department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery based on **abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks**. [ITS EVALUATION OF LOCAL PINK, CHUM, AND COHO SALMON RUNS OR THE STRENGTH OF THE CHIGNIK LAKE SOCKEYE SALMON RUN.]

(c) (5) after August 31, fishing periods shall be based on abundance of coho salmon stocks, although the department may consider the abundance of late pink and chum salmon stocks.

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Forgone harvest of pinks & chums in the Chignik Management Area. Current regulations do not properly allow for fishing periods in Chignik in the areas where pinks and chums can be harvested without impacting local sockeye stocks in the month of August. When escapement goals for sockeye are not being met, or are not high enough to open the fishery, Chignik fishermen are not allowed to harvest pink & chum stocks even when they are abundant in the Eastern District.

PROPOSED BY: Axel S. Kopun (EF-F22-053)

PROPOSAL 112

5 AAC 15.357 - Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan

Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to include a harvest cap in the Eastern District to reduce commercial salmon fishing time, as follows:

Section 5 AAC 15.357 - Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan

(c) In the Eastern District,

(1) during June, the commercial salmon fishery shall open concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, and the openings shall be based on achieving the Black Lake sockeye salmon escapement goals;

(2) from approximately June 26 through July 8,

(A) the department shall evaluate the strength of the sockeye salmon late run; and

(B) in order to continue managing the Black Lake sockeye salmon harvest and escapement, while assessing the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run strength, commercial salmon fishing in the Eastern District will, in the department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted;

(3) from the end of the transition period, described in (b)(2) of this section, until July 31, the department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery based on its evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs, and the strength of the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon;

(A) From July 9 to July 31 in the Eastern District, the department shall manage the fishery as follows:

(i) The fishery may remain open during normal fishing periods until the harvest exceeds 20,000 sockeye salmon based on fish ticket information;

(ii) When the harvest exceeds 20,000 sockeye salmon based on fish ticket information, the commissioner shall restrict, by emergency order, the fishery to waters of the Eastern District to sections 272-95, 272-91, 272-81, 272-73, 272-74, 272-71, and 272-73.

(4) after July 31, the department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery based on its evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs or the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The WASSIP data shows a mixed stock harvest of sockeye salmon in the Chignik Management Area (CMA) Western and Perryville districts and ADF&G Fishery Manuscript Series No. 16-10 shows a mixed harvest of sockeye salmon in the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) Cape Igvak section. The CMA Eastern district lies in between these districts so it can be assumed that there is a mixed stock sockeye salmon harvest in the CMA Eastern district as well. To protect non Chignik Lakes bound sockeye stocks while allowing harvest of local pink and chum stocks after the transition period there should be a sockeye harvest cap in the Eastern district after which the fishery is limited to the bays to target local pinks and chums.

PROPOSED BY: Nathaniel Rose (HQ-F22-027)

PROPOSAL 113

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to allow post-June commercial salmon fishing periods, as follows:

Notwithstanding 5AAC 15.357 (d)(1), (d)(2), and (d)(3), in the Western District excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection and in the Perryville District, beginning on July 6 and ending on August 15, excluding all waters north of the Cape Itki line and the Inner Ivanof Bay statistical area within those districts. Waters south of the Cape Itki line and the Inner Ivanof Bay statistical area shall be opened by the department for commercial salmon fishing for 72 hours or more per week for the harvest of local pink and chum salmon. Notwithstanding the preceding, fishing south of the Cape Itki line and the Inner Ivanof Bay statistical area shall not exceed 36 hours per weekly period starting on July 6 and extending through July 31 if a directed sockeye-salmon fishery has not occurred in the Chignik Area and the Department is not expecting the midpoint of the Chignik early-run sockeye escapement goal to be reached by July 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Schedule weekly pink and chum salmon openings in the outer waters of the Perryville and Western Districts.

Provide management guidelines to the department for post-June salmon fisheries in the outer waters of the Western and Perryville districts, July 6-August 15. Specifically promote the harvest of local pink and chum salmon stocks, on the come, as similarly provided in the Kodiak and South Area M management areas. Currently in the Western and Perryville districts, the department does not permit pink and chum salmon fishing until fish build-ups are visually present in inner bays, stream closed-water areas, and/or in streams sufficient to meet escapement requirements. This prevents early fishing opportunity and promotes over-escapement, lost harvest opportunity, and product quality degradation.

Chignik salmon fishermen cannot afford to rely, to the degree they have in the past, on local sockeye production. Historically, Chignik's pink and chum stocks have been underutilized. A regulation to advance Chignik's opportunity for harvesting these stocks is warranted.

PROPOSED BY: United Chignik Salmon Fishermen (EF-F22-004)

PROPOSAL 114

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Management Area.

Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to allow post-June commercial salmon fishing periods, as follows:

Notwithstanding 5AAC 15.357 (c)(3), in the Agripina Section Outer Area, Chiginagak Outer Section, and Nakalilok-Yantarni Outer Section the department shall schedule commercial salmon fishing for 72 hours or more per week for early local pink and chum salmon fishing beginning on July 6 and ending on August 15. Notwithstanding the preceding, fishing time in the outer areas shall be limited to 36 hours per weekly period starting on July 6 and extending through July 31 if a directed sockeye-salmon fishery has not occurred in the Chignik Area and the Department is not expecting the midpoint of the Chignik early-run sockeye escapement goal to be reached by July 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Schedule weekly pink and chum salmon openings in the Outer Waters of the Eastern District.

Provide management guidelines to the department for the management of post-June salmon fisheries in the Eastern District, July 6-August 15. Specifically promote the harvest of local pink and chum salmon stocks, *on the come*, as similarly provided in the Kodiak and South Area M management areas. Currently, the department does not permit pink and chum salmon fishing in the Eastern District until fish build-ups are visually present in inner bays, stream closed-water areas, and/or in streams sufficient to meet escapement requirements. This prevents early fishing opportunity and promotes over-escapement, lost harvest opportunity, and product quality degradation.

Chignik salmon fishermen cannot afford to rely, to the degree they have in the past, on local sockeye production. Historically, Chignik's pink and chum stocks have been underutilized. A regulation to advance Chignik's opportunity for harvesting these stocks is warranted.

The solution proposed, in concert with an accompany proposal designating seaward or outer fishing areas within three sections of the Eastern District, is to create early fishing opportunity without compromising stock conservation.

PROPOSED BY: United Chignik Salmon Fishermen (EF-F22-006)

PROPOSAL 115

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* so that pink, chum and coho salmon stocks in the Western and Perryville Sections of Registration Area L will be managed based on the strength of the pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Stepovak and Shumagin Islands Sections of Registration Area M, as follows:

A. From July 9 through September 30, (1) the department shall manage the Chignik fishery of the Perryville and Western Districts of the fishery based on the abundance of pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Stepovak area of the SEDM and the Shumagin Islands; (2) When fish stocks of pink, chum and coho salmon have low escapement in the Stepovak Area of the SEDM and the Shumagin Islands during July, August and September the Perryville District 275-42, 275-52, 275-60 and the Western District 273-74 will be closed until there are significant returns of salmon in the streams and Area M fishermen are able to commercial salmon fish in these areas; (3) In July and August in the Perryville and Western District there shall be at least one 48 hour closed period within a seven day period in order to maintain healthy fish stocks in the SEDM.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Previous Intermittent Years, Local Set Net and Seine fishermen have been denied access to harvesting salmon during the months of August and September due to the low numbers of westward returning chum and pink salmon within the Stepovak Area and Shumagin Islands. At the same time the Area M Fishermen are shut down the Chignik fishermen are fishing 7 days a week catching and producing high numbers of Pink Salmon and Chum Salmon destined for the Stepovak Area and Shumagin Islands while the Area M fishermen are shut down and salmon aren't returning to the local streams. When fish stocks of Pink and Chum Salmon have low escapement within the Stepovak Area of the SEDM and Shumagin Islands during July, August and September the Perryville District should be closed until there are significant returns of salmon in the streams and Area M fishermen are able to commercial fish in these areas. In early July and August in the Perryville District and Western District there shall be at least one 48 hour closed period within a seven day period in order to maintain healthy fish stocks in the SEDM and Shumagin Islands.

PROPOSED BY: Jack Foster Jr. and Amy M. Foster (EF-F22-070)

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 (EF-F22-057)

PROPOSAL 117

5 AAC 15.200. Fishing districts, sections, and subsections.

Amend the fishing districts, sections, and subsections to increase fishing time and area by creating new sections in outside waters of the Chignik Management Area, as follows:

5 AAC 15.200 (1) **(A)**

Agripina Section Outer Area:

Seaward of a line from Cape Providence at 56, 58.67 N. Lat., 156, 33.47 W. Long. to David Island at 57, 01.40 N. Lat., 156, 30.42 W. Long.

and seaward of a line from David Island at 57, 02.32 N. Lat., 156, 30.01 W. Long. to the eastern end of the Chignik Area.

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5 AAC 15.200 (2) **(A)**

Chiginagak Section Outer Area:

Statistical Area 272-93

5 AAC 15.200 (3) **(A)**

Nakalilok-Yantarni Section Outer Area:

Seaward of a line from 56, 49.10' N. Lat., 157, 05.17' W. Long. to Cape Kuyuyukak at 56, 53.85'N. Lat., 156, 49.72' W. Long.

And seaward of a line from 56, 46.12' N. Lat., 157, 12.05' W. Long. to 56, 49.10' N. Lat., 157, 05.17' W. Long.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide flexibility to the department to prosecute post-June salmon fisheries in the Eastern District through the creation of outer fishing areas to allow greater harvest opportunity on local area pink and chum salmon stocks while safeguarding escapement buildups in bays and adjacent close-water areas.

PROPOSED BY: United Chignik Salmon Fishermen (EF-F22-005)

PROPOSAL 118

5 AAC 15.200. Fishing districts, sections, and subsections & 5AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the districts, sections and subsections and the management plan to increase commercial fishing time and area in the Western and Perryville Districts in August, as follows:

Modify the structure of the Western & Perryville Districts and specifically allow for more opportunity to harvest pinks & chums in those areas that do not target sockeye in August:

5 AAC 15.200. Fishing districts, sections, and subsections

(c) (1) Castle Cape Section: all waters bounded by the latitude of a point southwest of Jack Point at 56° 16.40' N. lat., 158° 12.50' W. long., and a line extending 165° from a point northwest of **Seal Cape at 55° 59.34' N. lat., 158° 26.17' W. long.** [CAPE IKTI AT 56° 00.32' N. LAT., 158° 32.02' W. LONG.]

(C) Chankliut Island Subsection: all waters of the Castle Cape Section bounded by the Outer Castle Cape Subsection and a line extending 165° from a point at 56° 7.28' N. lat., 158° 21.70' W. long.;

(D) Devil's Bay Subsection: all waters of the Castle Cape Section bounded by a line extending 165° from a point at 56° 7.28' N. lat., 158° 21.70' W. long., and a line extending 165° from a point northwest of Seal Cape at 55° 59.34' N. lat., 158° 26.17' W. long.;

(c) (2) Dorner Bay Section: all waters bounded by a line extending 165° from a point northwest of **Seal Cape at 55° 59.34' N. lat., 158° 26.17' W. long.,** [CAPE IKTI AT 56° 00.32' N. LAT., 158° 32.02' W. LONG.,] and a line extending 165° from a point on the west side of Dorner (Kuiukta) Bay's entrance at 55° 57.00' N. lat., 158° 40.00' W. long.;

(d) (1) **(A) Inner Perryville Subsection: all waters of the Perryville Section north of a line from Coal Cape at 55° 53.42' N. lat., 159° 00.45' W. long. to Cape Alexander at 55° 47.22' N. lat., 159° 24.57' W. long.;**

(d) (1) **(B) Perryville Subsection: all waters of the Perryville Section south of a line from Coal Cape at 55° 53.42' N. lat., 159° 00.45' W. long. to Cape Alexander at 55° 47.22' N. lat., 159° 24.57' W. long.;**

(d) (2) **(A) Inner Humpback Bay Section: all waters of the Humpback Bay Section north of a line from Coal Cape at 55° 53.42' N. lat., 159° 00.45' W. long. to Cape Alexander at 55° 47.22' N. lat., 159° 24.57' W. long.;**

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan

(d) (3) **From August 1 to August 31, [AFTER JULY 31] the fishing periods in the Outer Castle Cape Subsection, Chankliut Island Subsection, Outer Kuiukta Bay Subsection, Mitrofanina Island Subsection, Outer Perryville Subsection and the Outer Humpback Bay Subsection shall be managed based on abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks [THE DEPARTMENT'S EVALUATION OF LOCAL PINK, CHUM, AND COHO SALMON RUNS] or the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run.**

(d) (4) **from August 1 to August 31, [AFTER JULY 31] fishing periods in the Devil's Bay Subsection, Inner Kuiukta/Portage Bay Subsection, Windy Bay Subsection, Dorner Bay Subsection, Mitrofanina Bay Subsection, Fishrack Bay Subsection, Ivan Bay Subsection, Coal Cape Subsection, Inner Perryville Subsection, Inner Humpback Bay Subsection, and the Ivanoff Bay Section shall be managed based on abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks.**

(d) (5) **after August 31, fishing periods shall be based on abundance of coho salmon stocks, although the department may consider the abundance of late pink and chum salmon stocks.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Forgone harvest of pinks & chums in the Chignik Management Area. Current regulations do not properly allow for fishing periods in Chignik in the areas where pinks and chums can be harvested without impacting local sockeye stocks. When escapement goals for sockeye are not being met, or are not high enough to open the fishery, Chignik fishermen are not allowed to harvest pink & chum stocks even when they are abundant in the Western & Perryville Districts.

PROPOSED BY: Axel S. Kopun (EF-F22-050)

PROPOSAL 119

5 AAC 15.330. Gear, 5 AAC 15.33X. Troll specifications and operations, and 5 AAC 29.XXX. Salmon Troll Fishery.

Amend allowable gear in the Chignik Management Area to include troll gear, create a management plan to include a commercial troll fishery and amend regulations in **Chapter 29 Salmon Troll Fishery** to include the Chignik Management Area, as follows:

5 AAC 15.330. Gear

(a) Salmon may be taken [ONLY] by purse seine, [AND] hand purse seine, **power troll and hand troll gear.**

5 AAC 09.33X. Troll specifications and operations

(a) Legal gear for the commercial summer troll fishery includes power and hand troll gear types. From each power or hand troll gurdy, only one line to which multiple leaders and hooks may be attached. Power trollers are limited to no more than six lines operated by hydraulic, electrical, or mechanical powered gurdies.

(b) Vessels using hand troll gear are limited to the operation of no more than two hand-operated gurdies or four fishing rods.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Though Chignik sockeye are considered a Stock of management concern, Coho are also present and a selective method of harvest when seining is closed is needed to benefit the local economy as well as to control potential predation of Sockeye juveniles.

What would happen if nothing is changed?

If nothing is done the Coho will continue to be unharvested when the salmon seine fishery is closed to protect sockeye escapement. This would put undue stress on the current Sockeye Stocks. In the Chignik system, coho spend from 0 to 3 years (typically 2 years) in freshwater before migrating to the ocean to mature and are capable of consuming sockeye fry after their first winter in freshwater. While juvenile coho are traditionally considered to reside primarily in streams (Sandercock 1991), they are primarily found in lake habitats preferred by sockeye in the Chignik system. Previous research in the watershed showed that juvenile coho prey heavily on sockeye juveniles (Roos 1960), **consuming over half** of the emerging fry annually (Ruggerone & Rogers 1992). Thus, predation by coho may limit the productivity of sockeye populations, thereby limiting the profitability of the aggregate commercial fishery (Ruggerone & Rogers 1992).

What are other solutions you considered? Why did you reject them?

The stakeholders asked the department to open up a Coho directed fishery and because of the regulations and terminal stock difficulties in Sockeye salmon they believed it would be irresponsible and potentially to the detriment of the present management of concern Sockeye stocks. By adding troll gear tied to the current permits this would give the department the latitude to open a Coho directed fishery without interfering with the Sockeye and Chinook low return issues.

There is no interest in creating more permits for the area, thus creating the same problem of expanding fisheries that has occurred in other areas. Troll gear would be added as a gear type specifically to the existing salmon permit in the Chignik area.

PROPOSED BY: Benjamin Allen

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