

**ALASKA PENINSULA / ALEUTIAN ISLAND / CHIGNIK**  
**FINFISH PROPOSAL INDEX**  
(55 Proposals)

<b><u>Subsistence Salmon (1 proposal).....</u></b>	<b><u>7</u></b>
<b><u>PROPOSAL 98.....</u></b>	<b><u>7</u></b>
Modify waters closed to subsistence fishing for salmon to increase access for subsistence users who are not commercial salmon fishery permit holders, as follows: .....	7
<b><u>Sport Salmon (6 proposals) .....</u></b>	<b><u>7</u></b>
<b><u>PROPOSAL 99 .....</u></b>	<b><u>7</u></b>
Prohibit retention of king salmon and establish closed areas in the King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek, as follows: .....	7
<b><u>PROPOSAL 100.....</u></b>	<b><u>8</u></b>
Prohibit retention of king salmon in King Salmon and Milky Rivers and Ridgerunner Creek, as follows:.....	8
<b><u>PROPOSAL 101.....</u></b>	<b><u>8</u></b>
Prohibit retention of king salmon in King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek, as follows: .....	8
<b><u>PROPOSAL 102.....</u></b>	<b><u>9</u></b>
Prohibit retention of king salmon in King Salmon River and tributaries of Bear River, as follows: .....	9
<b><u>PROPOSAL 103.....</u></b>	<b><u>9</u></b>
Reduce the bag and possession limit for coho and sockeye salmon in the salt waters and freshwater drainages of Cold Bay, as follows:.....	9
<b><u>PROPOSAL 104.....</u></b>	<b><u>10</u></b>
Repeal the closed water provisions for salmon fishing in Swanson Lagoon within the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area, as follows:.....	10
<b><u>Chignik Area Salmon Management (15 proposals).....</u></b>	<b><u>11</u></b>
<b><u>PROPOSAL 105.....</u></b>	<b><u>11</u></b>
Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to reflect changes to Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goals. ....	11
<b><u>PROPOSAL 106.....</u></b>	<b><u>11</u></b>
Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to increase inriver escapement of sockeye salmon prior to opening a commercial fishery by emergency order, as follows: .....	11
<b><u>PROPOSAL 107.....</u></b>	<b><u>12</u></b>
Modify the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to allow more commercial fishing time by opening commercial salmon fishing periods regardless of sockeye salmon escapement, as follows: .....	12

<b><u>PROPOSAL 108</u></b> .....	<b>13</b>
Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to implement commercial salmon fishing periods in June, as follows: .....	13
<b><u>PROPOSAL 109</u></b> .....	<b>14</b>
Amend the <i>Chignik Area Management Plan</i> to allow period openings to harvest more salmon in the Central District and repeal the inriver run goal in August and September, as follows: .....	14
<b><u>PROPOSAL 110</u></b> .....	<b>15</b>
Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to restrict commercial fishing periods in Chignik Lagoon until the escapement goal has been met, as follows:.....	15
<b><u>PROPOSAL 111</u></b> .....	<b>15</b>
Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to increase commercial salmon fishing time and area in the Eastern District in August, as follows:.....	15
<b><u>PROPOSAL 112</u></b> .....	<b>16</b>
Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to include a harvest cap in the Eastern District to reduce commercial salmon fishing time, as follows:.....	16
<b><u>PROPOSAL 113</u></b> .....	<b>17</b>
Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to allow post-June commercial salmon fishing periods, as follows:.....	17
<b><u>PROPOSAL 114</u></b> .....	<b>18</b>
Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> to allow post-June commercial salmon fishing periods, as follows:.....	18
<b><u>PROPOSAL 115</u></b> .....	<b>19</b>
Amend the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> 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: .....	19
<b><u>PROPOSAL 116</u></b> .....	<b>19</b>
Modify the <i>Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan</i> 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: .....	19
<b><u>PROPOSAL 117</u></b> .....	<b>20</b>
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: .....	20
<b><u>PROPOSAL 118</u></b> .....	<b>21</b>
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: .....	21
<b><u>PROPOSAL 119</u></b> .....	<b>22</b>

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: ..... 23

**North Alaska Peninsula Salmon Northern District (10 proposals)..... 24**

**PROPOSAL 120 ..... 24**

Modify fishing periods in the Northern District, as follows: ..... 24

**PROPOSAL 121 ..... 27**

Amend the fishing season in the Three Hills Section to increase potential fishing time and aligning sections to similar fishing periods, as follows: ..... 27

**PROPOSAL 122 ..... 28**

Amend fishing seasons to allow more commercial fishing time by allowing fishing periods in the Cinder River Section, as follows:..... 28

**PROPOSAL 123 ..... 28**

Amend fishing seasons to allow more fishing time and area for set net gear in the Cinder River Section, as follows: ..... 28

**PROPOSAL 124 ..... 29**

Amend fishing seasons, fishing periods and gear to allow more commercial fishing time to all Registration Area M gear types in the Cinder River Section, as follows:29

**PROPOSAL 125 ..... 29**

Amend closed waters to change the boundary line in the Outer Port Heiden Section, as follows: ..... 29

**PROPOSAL 126 ..... 29**

Amend closed waters and *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* to reduce commercial salmon fishing time and area in the Outer Port Heiden Section, as follows: ..... 29

**PROPOSAL 127 ..... 31**

Amend fishing seasons to increase fishing time in the Caribou Flats Section, as follows: ..... 31

**PROPOSAL 128 ..... 31**

Amend Gillnet specifications and operations to reduce commercial salmon harvest in the North Peninsula using gillnet depth reductions, as follows:..... 31

**PROPOSAL 129 ..... 32**

Allow use of monofilament gillnet web in the Northern District, as follows:..... 32

**South Alaska Peninsula Southeastern District Mainland Salmon (3 proposals) ..... 32**

**PROPOSAL 130 ..... 32**

Amend the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* to allow more fishing time in the Northwest Stepovak Section as follows: ..... 32

**PROPOSAL 131 ..... 33**

Amend the <i>Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan</i> 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: .....	33
<b><u>PROPOSAL 132</u></b> .....	<b>34</b>
Amend the <i>Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan</i> to reflect changes to Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goals. ....	34
<b><u>South Alaska Peninsula Salmon June Management Plan (10 proposals)</u></b> .....	<b>34</b>
<b><u>PROPOSAL 133</u></b> .....	<b>34</b>
Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to reduce commercial salmon fishing time and area for purse seine gear, as follows: .	34
<b><u>PROPOSAL 134</u></b> .....	<b>36</b>
Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> , as follows: .....	36
<b><u>PROPOSAL 135</u></b> .....	<b>37</b>
Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands Management Plan</i> to reduce commercial salmon fishing time in the Shumagin Islands Section, as follows: .....	37
<b><u>PROPOSAL 136</u></b> .....	<b>38</b>
Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to implement a chum salmon harvest cap to reduce commercial fishing time, as follows: .....	38
<b><u>PROPOSAL 137</u></b> .....	<b>41</b>
Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to reduce commercial salmon fishing time, as follows: .....	41
<b><u>PROPOSAL 138</u></b> .....	<b>43</b>
Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to require the department to place observers onboard commercial salmon fishing vessels, as follows: .....	43
<b><u>PROPOSAL 139</u></b> .....	<b>46</b>
Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to restrict commercial salmon fishing time, as follows: .....	46
<b><u>PROPOSAL 140</u></b> .....	<b>47</b>
Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to reduce commercial salmon fishing time, as follows: .....	47
<b><u>PROPOSAL 141</u></b> .....	<b>50</b>
Amend the <i>South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan</i> to require the department to manage the June fishery by emergency order to close those areas within the management plan. Amend <b>5 AAC 09.330. Gear.</b> to allow other gear types to be used in the commercial fishery, as follows: .....	50
<b><u>PROPOSAL 142</u></b> .....	<b>50</b>

Amend *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and *Post-June Salmon Management Plan* to allow more fishing time for set gillnet gear only, as follows: ..... 50

**South Alaska Peninsula Post-June Salmon Management Plan (5 proposals) ..... 51**

**PROPOSAL 143 ..... 51**

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to close the set gillnet fishery in response to department immature salmon assessment, as follows: ..... 51

**PROPOSAL 144 ..... 52**

Amend the *Post-June Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to allow for fishing periods starting August 1 in the Southeastern and South Central Districts, as follows: ..... 52

**PROPOSAL 145 ..... 53**

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula, as follows: ..... 53

**PROPOSAL 146 ..... 53**

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing periods, as follows:..... 53

**PROPOSAL 147 ..... 54**

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing periods for set gillnet gear, as follows: ..... 54

**South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Management (2 proposal) ..... 54**

**PROPOSAL 148 ..... 54**

Amend a suite of management plans to reduce commercial fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula area, as follows:..... 54

**PROPOSAL 149 ..... 56**

Amend management plans for the South Alaska Peninsula area to reduce commercial fishing time, as follows: ..... 56

**Alaska Peninsula Salmon Gear, Closed Waters and Description of Districts and Sections (3 proposals) ..... 59**

**PROPOSAL 150 ..... 59**

Amend districts and sections, *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* and *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* by including the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District into the South Central District, as follows: ..... 59

**PROPOSAL 151 ..... 63**

Amend gillnet specifications and operations to allow offshore anchoring of the up to 25 fathom seine web lead, as follows: ..... 63

**PROPOSAL 152 ..... 63**

Amend the closed water boundary in Stepovak Bay to increase commercial fishing area in the Stepovak Flats Section, as follows:..... 63

***Subsistence Salmon (1 proposal)***

**PROPOSAL 98**

**5 AAC 01.425. Waters closed to subsistence fishing.**

Modify waters closed to subsistence fishing for salmon to increase access for subsistence users who are not commercial salmon fishery permit holders, as follows:

5 AAC 01.425 is amended to read:

...

**(6) for the holder of a CFEC limited entry salmon permit, the waters specified in 5 AAC 09.350 during an open commercial salmon fishing period, and the waters described in 5 AAC 39.290.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations link subsistence and commercial salmon fishing opportunity in the Alaska Peninsula Area and limit the ability of subsistence fishers to harvest fish in certain areas when commercial fishing for salmon is open. One specific area of concern cited by subsistence users is the Kinzarof Lagoon area of Cold Bay. Amending 5 AAC 01.425 would reduce the burden on subsistence fishers while also preserving the intent of 5 AAC 01.410 which states that in those districts and sections open to commercial salmon fishing, a commercial salmon fishing permit holder may not subsistence fish for salmon during the 24 hours before a commercial salmon fishing period or the 12 hours following the closure of a commercial salmon fishing period.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F22-044)

\*\*\*\*\*

***Sport Salmon (6 proposals)***

**PROPOSAL 99**

**5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.**

Prohibit retention of king salmon and establish closed areas in the King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek, as follows:

5 AAC 65.022 b (3) In the King Salmon River, king salmon must be immediately released. Also King Salmon River is closed to king salmon fishing upstream of 56 degrees 06' 00" N., 160 degrees 27' 17" W.. In Ridgerunner Creek, a tributary of the Milky and Bear Rivers, king salmon must be immediately released. Ridgerunner Creek is closed to king salmon fishing upstream of 56 degrees 09' 35" N., 160 degrees 20' 55" W.

If adopted this would allow sport fishing to occur on these two systems in the areas that effort typically occurs yet allow fish to make it to the spawning grounds without constant effort on them as they swim upriver. It also makes the catch and release regulation similar to other areas nearby that also have much larger king salmon runs and will allow people to still fish for them now and in the future.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The sport fishing effort for king salmon on the King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek, which is a tributary of the Milky

River and Bear River system near Port Moller, has increased dramatically and I have concern for the resource and would like to see protections on the two systems so that the future of kings salmon at these locations allows for sport fishing to occur and healthy runs in the future. I have a home nearby which I built in 2007 and the amount of effort from lodges has dramatically increased in recent years and the fish need to have some protection. These creeks are only 15-30' wide and the rivers are not very long in length and are more like creeks than rivers, and the fish are subject to harvest as they school and hold while slowly migrating upriver. Sport fishing effort typically occurs in the same areas and there are often 2-3 lodges with up to 8-15 people per day that target these fish daily. Other nearby rivers with much larger king salmon runs are catch and release yet these two systems are not catch release. These creeks have king salmon runs from only about 400-1,000 fish annually and need to be catch and release like other nearby systems. There should also be a closed area to king salmon fishing, which is the only species targeted during the months of June and July on these systems. This will allow sportfishermen to fish these systems yet still provide protection of the king salmon.

**PROPOSED BY:** J.W. Smith (EF-F22-009)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 100**

**5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.**

Prohibit retention of king salmon in King Salmon and Milky Rivers and Ridgerunner Creek, as follows:

Limit King Salmon Fishing on the King Salmon River and the Milky River/Ridge Runner Creek to catch and release only

Maybe allow 1 Jack King at least 20" and under harvested per day.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I am a lodge owner on the Alaska Peninsula and am concerned about the fisheries for our future.

Trying to save the King Salmon River and Milky/Ridge Runner Creek from excessive King Salmon sport fishing.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alan & Tanjala Eischens (EF-F22-018)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 101**

**5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.**

Prohibit retention of king salmon in King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek, as follows:

(b) Have the King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek be catch and release sport fishing for king salmon.



**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I have been a long-time lodge owner in the area and have seen the sport fishing effort on the King Salmon River and Ridgerunner Creek increase over time and I think there should be catch and release sport fishing on these systems as the runs are small in size and the fish can't handle all of the pressure.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mel Gillis (EF-F22-026)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 102**

**5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.**

Prohibit retention of king salmon in King Salmon River and tributaries of Bear River, as follows:

(b) In the King Salmon River and Bear River tributaries, King Salmon may not be possessed or retained; a person may not remove a King Salmon from the water before releasing a fish.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** As King Salmon stocks have declined and increased sport fishing effort over the past decade, there is concern of long term sustainability of the King Salmon populations in King Salmon River and the tributaries in Bear River.

**PROPOSED BY:** Connor Murphy (EF-F22-025)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 103**

**5 AAC 65.022. Special provisions for bag, possession, and annual limits, and methods and means in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.**

Reduce the bag and possession limit for coho and sockeye salmon in the salt waters and freshwater drainages of Cold Bay, as follows:

This proposal seeks to add a special provision to the bag and possession limit for coho salmon and sockeye salmon in the salt waters and freshwater drainages of Cold Bay. The new proposal would read 5 AAC 65.022 (f) In the salt waters and all freshwater drainages of Cold Bay, the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than king salmon, is five fish per day, five fish in possession, of which no more than two fish may be coho salmon and two fish may be sockeye salmon. If enacted, this regulation would be bracketed by similar special provisions for Unalaska Bay (5 AAC 65. 022 (e)) and Kodiak Island (64.022 (2) (a)).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Historically, Mortensen's Lagoon has been the main salmon fishing spot for sport and subsistence fishers. However, between 2018 and 2021 Mortensen's has failed to reach its escapement goal for sockeye salmon and corresponding low catch rates have shifted fishing pressure to systems on the north side of Cold Bay (e.g. Kinzarof Lagoon and the outlet of Swan Creek). These north side systems are small, turbid, and difficult to survey to obtain an index of escapement leading to management concerns about the long-term sustainability of harvest in these systems. Additionally, under 5 AAC 01.425 (6) ADF&G closes subsistence fishing for salmon in the waters specified in 5 AAC 09.350 and 5

AAC 39.290 (e.g. Kinzarof Lagoon and within 500 yards of the Swan Creek outlet) during an open commercial salmon fishing period (which can overlap greatly with the prime subsistence fishing time in August). However, no regulations currently exist to exclude sport fishers from harvesting fish in these same areas which has led to conflict between user groups.

**PROPOSED BY:** Candace Nielsen (EF-F22-028)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 104**

**5 AAC 65.051. Waters closed to sport fishing in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.**

Repeal the closed water provisions for salmon fishing in Swanson Lagoon within the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area, as follows:

5 AAC 65.051(5) is repealed:

The following waters are closed to sport fishing in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Island Area:

- (5) **Repealed.** [SWANSON LAGOON AND ITS TRIBUTARIES ARE CLOSED  
(A) FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 31, TO SPORT FISHING FOR SALMON;  
(B) FROM AUGUST 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, TO SPORT FISHING FOR SOCKEYE SALMON.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Current regulations aimed at conserving Swanson Lagoon sockeye salmon are ineffective due to environmental conditions that annually impede salmon migration. In addition, there is very little, if any, sport fishing effort in this location that might affect sockeye salmon populations. The current regulations were instituted because of the Stock of Concern designation during the 2011 Board of Fisheries meeting. More recently, the Stock of Concern designation, sockeye salmon escapement goal, and corresponding commercial fisheries management measures in the Stock of Concern action plan were rescinded due to recognition that environmental conditions in this drainage preclude effective management of this stock. The Swanson Lagoon drainage is annually impaired by a berm that builds up at the mouth of the lagoon by local wind and wave action. The berm opens occasionally and allows fish passage; however, timing of the creation of a channel does not always coincide with timing of sockeye salmon migration. This occurs frequently enough to render regulations regarding the sport fishery ineffective in achievement of escapement goals when compared with naturally occurring phenomenon such as the sand berm at the mouth of the lagoon. Sport fishing harvest and effort estimates are unavailable through the Statewide Harvest Survey due to low response rates for this area and no reports of anglers fishing this area have been received by the department. This is likely due to the extremely remote location of this drainage. If these regulations are repealed, background bag and possession limits for the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area will remain in place: these are a bag limit of five sockeye salmon and 10 in possession. Given the isolated nature of the drainage there would likely be little or even no harvest of Swanson Lagoon sockeye salmon if these regulations were repealed.

\*\*\*\*\*

***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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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 Ikta 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

...

**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.**

...

**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.]

...

**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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.**

...

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 Kuvuyukak 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 Kuiu 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 Kuiu/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.

***North Alaska Peninsula Salmon Northern District (10 proposals)***

**PROPOSAL 120**

**5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods.**

Modify fishing periods in the Northern District, as follows:

Caribou Flats section to remain as is, closed indefinitely.

All areas southwest of Franks Point, i.e. Black Hills, Swanson’s Lagoon and others will remain as is.

June 1st to June 19th only Nelson River, Bear River, and Port Moller sections will be harvested, not to exceed 3 days per week. No less than 4 day complete closure each week of entire North Alaska Peninsula, including Bear River, Nelson River and Port Moller sections. Harvest can only occur if both Nelson River and Bear River have achieved their minimum periodic escapement goals.

June 20th to June 25th only Nelson River, Bear River, and Port Moller sections will be harvested, not to exceed 4 days per week. No less than 3 day complete closure each week of entire North Alaska Peninsula, including Bear River and Nelson River, Port Moller. Harvest can only occur if both Nelson River and Bear River have achieved their minimum periodic escapement goals.

June 26th to June 30th only Ilnik River, Nelson River, Bear River and Port Moller (no harvest in Three Hills) sections will be harvested, not to exceed 4 days per week. No less than 3 day complete closure each week of entire North Alaska Peninsula, including Bear River, Nelson River, and Port Moller sections. Harvest can only occur in these sections if both Nelson River and Bear River have achieved their minimum periodic escapement goals.

July 1st to July 5th only Ilnik River, Nelson River, Bear River, and Port Moller, sections will be harvested, not to exceed 4 days per week. No less than 3 day complete closure each week of entire North Alaska Peninsula, including Bear River and Nelson River. Harvest can only occur in these sections if both Nelson River and Bear River have achieved their minimum periodic escapement goals.

July 6th to July 15th only OPH, Ilnik River, Three Hills, Nelson River, Bear River and Port Moller sections will be harvested, not to exceed 4 days per week. No less than 3 day complete closure each week of entire North Alaska Peninsula, including Bear River, Nelson River, and Port Moller. Harvest can only occur in these sections if both Nelson River and Bear River have achieved their minimum periodic escapement goals.

Emergency orders by ADF&G will be allowed in the June North Alaska Peninsula harvest. Only Nelson River, Bear River, and Port Moller sections will be allowed harvest. No less than 2 day complete closure each week in these North Alaska Peninsula sections. Harvest can be considered only if both Nelson River and Bear River has achieved their minimum periodic escapement goals.



Emergency orders by ADF&G will be allowed in the July North Alaska Peninsula harvest. Only Nelson River, Bear River, and Port Moller sections will be allowed harvest. Harvest can be considered only if both Nelson River and Bear River has achieved their minimum periodic escapement goals.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Preservation for the Native Village of Nelson Lagoon, Nelson River sockeye escapement and harvest.

I have lived in Nelson Lagoon and fished Area M north and south since the mid 1970's, all what I state is true to the best of my recollection and what I have learned from ADF&G reports.

Many fisherman fishing Area M today have not been here so long to have witness what I have. I have much to explain, please take a moment to read, and bear with me.

The Native Village of Nelson Lagoon was founded because of fish returning to Nelson River.

In the recent years, the Native Village of Nelson Lagoon has suffered like never before.

Salmon returns to Nelson River are a matter of survival for the indigenous Aleut native peoples of Nelson Lagoon.

What many fail to grasp, is subsistence for Nelson Lagoon residents translates into fishing income. Without a substantial annual salmon harvest in Nelson River, the Native Village of Nelson Lagoon will cease to exist.

When annual harvests fail, Nelson River fisherman are forced move from the community to search for income, and in some instances, forced to sell the only known livelihood, their Limited Entry Permits. People in Nelson Lagoon know of nothing else but to harvest salmon in Nelson River to survive.

Nelson Lagoon has suffered 1 economic disaster in the past due to poor fish returns and many near disasters since. Currently returns are so dire that a typical Nelson River fisherman goes fishing each year to pay off cannery debts from the previous year or years operating and cost of living expenses.

If not for Peter Pan Seafoods carrying these debts (loans) year after year, Nelson Lagoon would have long been uninhabited.

Current ADF&G North Alaska Peninsula management routinely struggle to achieve minimum escapement goals during the June and late June fishery, only to finally achieve these minimum goals later in late July with a trickle of salmon, barely achieving minimum escapement season goals.

Critical to Nelson Lagoon's survival is the pre July harvest. Most sockeye salmon travel thru the Nelson River system in this narrow time window. Any fishing outside of Nelson River has a direct

impact on Nelson River. The farther away harvests occur in the North Alaska Peninsula, the longer direct impact is realized in Nelson River seasonal harvests. It takes 3-4 days for impacts to be realized by Nelson River. The majority of fish returning to Nelson River must navigate 100 miles thru harvests of Alaska North Peninsula sections OPH, Ilnik, Three Hills and Bear River.

If sockeye weir counts are not achieving their minimum escapement goals, sockeye harvests in Nelson River are curtailed or terminated, yet fishing harvests continue in OPH, Ilnik and Three Hills sections. Nelson River has been shut down due to the lack of minimum periodic escapement for as many as 20 consecutive days during the traditional harvest period for Nelson River.

Over the years, North Alaska Peninsula has seen increases in vessel sizes and vessel productivity. Changes to ADG&G fishing regulations pursuing \$\$\$ over preservation of sustainable harvests and escapements for Nelson River. Changes made to allow earlier fishing time in areas normally closed to fishing before Nelson River salmon peak (traditionally 4th of July). Changes allowing smaller rivers with minor escapements in comparison, dictating harvests for the entire North Alaska Peninsula. Changes made to allow for longer fishing harvests in North Alaska Peninsula. Changes to allow gear depth increases from well-established 45md to 70md, translating into 36% of added net in the water. Changes to minimum mesh size ensuring catch of even smaller salmon, increasing salmon harvests. All of these changes have impacted Nelson River harvests and escapements to diminish Nelson River's capacity to achieve modest periodic June escapement goals year after year.

Throughout history (ADF&G records from 1962 to present) accurately state that Nelson River section and Bear River sections combined (including Sandy River) make up, sometimes more than 90% of total escapement achieved in the entire North Alaska Peninsula. Nelson River at times making up near 40% of total escapement for the entire North Alaska Peninsula. OPH (IPH Meshik River), Ilnik River, Three Hills (Three Hills does not have a salmon return) sections combined have been as high as 30% escapement, but are consistent through-out history as being less than 20% of total North Alaska Peninsula escapements achieved. These systems are not lake spawning salmon returns, but river spawning salmon returns. OPH (IPH Meshik River), Ilnik River, and Sandy River will never have the capacity to achieve high escapements as Bear River (over 1,000,000 sockeye) and Nelson River (over 500,000 sockeye).

By July 15th of any given season, sockeye salmon returning to Nelson River have declined to where most Nelson River fisherman have either stopped fishing, or reduced effort to only making mean low water tides to ensure a better harvest for their efforts.

ADF&G North Peninsula management sockeye cumulative escapement goals for July 15th are Bear River minimum 130000 (48%) to 230000 (44%). Sandy River min 29000 (11%) to 67000 (13%), Ilnik min 28000 (10%) to 40000 (8%), Nelson River min 95000 (32%) to 185000 (35%).

ADF&G North Peninsula management sockeye cumulative escapement goals for July 20th are Bear River minimum 140000 (47%) to 250000 (48%). Sandy River min 32000 (11%) to 71000 (12%), Ilnik min 30400 (10%) to 45600 (8%), Nelson River min 85000 (31%) to 210000 (36%).

By these calculations, escapements do not warrant fish harvests in OPH, Ilnik and Three Hills (combined) achieving 90% of total fish harvested in a single season in North Alaska Peninsula.

When Nelson River and Bear River combined harvest sadly achieved 16% (5 year average) for total season harvest of the entire North Alaska Peninsula. 2021 resulted in Nelson River achieving a meager 3% of the near 2,800,000 total salmon harvested in the North Alaska Peninsula.

Current ADF&G management typically will open OPH, and or Ilnik, Three Hills sections on June 20th, close OPH a couple days later, while Ilnik, Three Hills and possibly Bear River remain harvesting for a duration of the rest of the week, insuring harvest of southbound salmon, then opening OPH again, repeating the harvest week after week until fishing has diminished thru July. Often Bear River has not achieved its minimum periodic escapement goals, and is shut down completely while fishing North of Bear River remains harvesting. Harvests in the North Alaska Peninsula have reached near 4,000,000 sockeye in a single season.

The problem with all this is that there are rarely any rest periods (windows) between harvests, certainly not long enough for salmon to return to Nelson River and Bear River untouched.

Nelson River and Bear River sections have always had a 3 day a week, to 4 day week after the 15th of June. Only after escapement levels are achieved, are additional days considered during any given week.

It takes 3-4 days for fish to travel from OPH to Nelson River, therefore I propose...

Windows be mandatory each week in the June and July North Alaska Peninsula.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark McNeley (EF-F22-056)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 121**

**5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons.**

Amend the fishing season in the Three Hills Section to increase potential fishing time and aligning sections to similar fishing periods, as follows:

Management actions that are already specified in 5 AAC 09.369 (i) for the Three Hills Section will remain the same but the earliest date that these actions can occur will begin on June 20 and not June 25.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Move the season opening date in the Three Hills Section from June 25 to June 20 to make it the same as the Ilnik and Outer Port Heiden Sections.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-F22-033)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 122**

**5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons.**

Amend fishing seasons to allow more commercial fishing time by allowing fishing periods in the Cinder River Section, as follows:

Open Cinder River for 36 hours from June 20 to July 31 as long as no conservation concern for sockeye salmon in the Ugashik or Cinder River systems.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** To allow opportunity for Area M fishermen to harvest sockeye salmon in the Cinder River Section from June 20 to July 31. Presently the section is currently closed to commercial salmon fishing in the salt water by regulation. In most years there has been surplus sockeye salmon escapement into the Cinder River above the escapement goal and current regulations do not allow effort to target these fish except inside the Lagoon which has not been logistically feasible.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-F22-034)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 123**

**5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons.**

Amend fishing seasons to allow more fishing time and area for set net gear in the Cinder River Section, as follows:

If the outside district does open in july there could potentially be some effort to target the under utilized Cinder River sockeye run. I hope the board considers opening the Cinder River outside section on July 1st up to 1/2 mile off the beach for set net gear which is allowed for area T bristol Bay permits and area M setnet permits in the over lap salmon fishery. By current regulations the outside Cinder River section only opens after August 1st for the over lap fishery. By then the sockeye run is pretty much over. Thank you for your consideration.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Hello chairman and board of fish. My name is Dia kuzmin 3rd generation fisherman born and raised in alaska. I fished in area M on the north side for 6 seasons and the last year tried Setneting. I would like the board to consider possibly opening the Cinder River outside section up to 1/2 mile for set net fishing in july. I checked the area last season inside the Cinder River lagoon section where it&apos;s open to fish during july. The area is to shallow to fish inside the lagoon. Even at high tide it was still very shallow. I was touching bottom even at full high tide couldn&apos;t find any suitable area to set my set net. There is almost zero fishing effort in Cinder River most years. It&apos;s one of the only sockeye salmon runs in the state that the salmon run is not utilized and most years it exceeds the high end escapement goals.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dia Kuzmin (EF-F22-036)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 124**

**5 AAC 09.310 (a)(1)(B). Fishing seasons – Northern District, Cinder River Section, 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods, and 5 AAC 09.330. Gear.**

Amend fishing seasons, fishing periods and gear to allow more commercial fishing time to all Registration Area M gear types in the Cinder River Section, as follows:

Open Cinder River for 36 hours from June 20 to July 31 as long as no conservation concern for sockeye salmon in the Ugashik or Cinder River systems.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** To allow opportunity for Area M fishermen to harvest sockeye salmon in the Cinder River Section from June 20 to July 31. Presently the section is currently closed to commercial salmon fishing in the salt water by regulation. In most years there has been surplus sockeye salmon escapement into the Cinder River above the escapement goal and current regulations do not allow effort to target these fish except inside the Lagoon which has not been logistically feasible.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-F22-045)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 125**

**5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.**

Amend closed waters to change the boundary line in the Outer Port Heiden Section, as follows:

**5 AAC 09.350(3)(B) East of a line from 57 05.97; 158 34.03W to 57 08.39N; 158 37.88W**

We propose pivoting the existing boundary line around the midpoint of the line so that the overall area of the change is "neutral", so no overall fishing area is gained or lost. This would "swing" the inshore end of the line approximately 1/2 mile up the coast to the NE, and move the offshore end of the line 1/2 mile to the SW, in the opposite direction.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The existing line is at a fairly steep angle to the beach, and we would like to modify it slightly to make it more perpendicular to the beach, and thus make for a more orderly line fishery on the ebb tides.

**PROPOSED BY:** Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-F22-054)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 126**

**5 AAC 09.350 Closed waters and 5 AAC 09.369 Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan**

Amend closed waters and *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* to reduce commercial salmon fishing time and area in the Outer Port Heiden Section, as follows:

This proposal seeks to restrict fishing in the northern portion of the Outer Port Heiden Section. The purpose of this area restriction is to direct more commercial fishing on local Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks, particularly the Meshik River and Ilnik River stocks, that

migrate within known channels. This closure will also improve fish quality because of a shorter transport from fishery to processor and also provide for the harvest of Meshik and Ilnik River sockeye salmon stocks.

The proposed line is about 1 statute mile North of North River (Reindeer Creek). The North River (Reindeer Creek) mouth can move as much as 3/8-1/2 statute mile from one year to the next and so the line proposed if adopted by the board will always have North River (Reindeer Creek) in the open area.

Substitute Language

**5 AAC 09.350. Closed Waters.** Salmon may not be taken in the following locations:

(3) Outer Port Heiden: waters of the Outer Port Heiden Section

(A) repealed 6/5/2016;

(B) east of a line from 57° 02.90' N. lat., 158° 37.66' W. long. to 57° 06.08' N. lat., 158°40.57' W. long.;

**5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan**

(1) The Outer Port Heiden Section is open from June 20 through July 31 to commercial salmonfishing in those waters west of a line from 57° 02.90' N. lat., 158° 37.66' W. long. to 57°06.08' N. lat., 158° 40.57' W. long.; based on the abundance of Meshik River sockeye salmon.

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

**Overescapement of sockeye salmon into the Meshik and Ilnik Rivers.**

Escapements into the Meshik River have exceeded the high end of the current escapement goal (86,000) 4 out of the last 5 years (2017-191,000, 2018-134,000, 2019-107,000, 2020-64,000, 2021-117,000). In the Ilnik River, sockeye salmon escapements have exceeded the high end of the current escapement goal (60,000) 4 out of the last 5 years (2017-238,000, 2018-81,000, 2019-75,000, 2020-41,000, 2021-69,000). The total escapement in 2017 was a record 238,000 sockeye salmon escaped to spawn. This escapement is nearly 4 times the upper end of the current escapement goal.

This proposal seeks to adjust the Section so that more local Northern Peninsula salmon stocks are harvested, resulting in more appropriate escapement to the Meshik and Ilnik Rivers.

Note also that WAS SIP indicated that Northern Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks contributed an average of 48% to the SW Ilnik harvest (3 years); 30% to the NE Ilnik harvest (3 years); and 21% to the Outer Port Heiden Section harvest (2 years).

**Quality of delivered fish that are harvested in the Outer Port Heiden Section.**

Most fishers are fishing very near the northern boundary of the Outer Port Heiden district. Delivery of these fish is delayed by the long travel distance from the point of harvest to the processor, resulting in degraded quality salmon.

Additionally, frequent very rough seas within the Outer Port Heiden Section makes it very difficult to fish and to transport fish to processor, resulting in fish being delivered that are poor quality. If nothing is done, escapements to the Meshik and Ilnik Rivers will continue to exceed the upper end of their respective escapement goals. Additionally, poor quality fish will continue to be delivered to processors because of the long travel distance and time.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee (HQ-F22-029)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 127**

**5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons.**

Amend fishing seasons to increase fishing time in the Caribou Flats Section, as follows:

- (a) (9) Caribou Flats Section

Only if the season ending escapement goal is met between June 20 and July 31 will the Caribou Flats Section open to drift gillnet gear.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Help control the sockeye salmon escapement into the Nelson River during years when the season ending escapement goal is met.

**PROPOSED BY:** Joe Hinton (EF-F22-064)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 128**

**5 AAC 05.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Amend Gillnet specifications and operations to reduce commercial salmon harvest in the North Peninsula using gillnet depth reductions, as follows:

Please consider reducing the max mesh depth for Area M North Peninsula from 70 meshes deep to a maximum of 45 meshes deep.

Deeper nets drag the bottom farther off the beach, fish don't have a chance to go under the net to return to their rivers and lakes.

Nets dragging the bottom slow when drifting. Nets have a greater chance to snag the bottom resulting in a 200ft set net.

Who would it effect: all Area M North Peninsula fishermen that choose to fish a 70 mesh net..

Who would benefit: all Area M North Peninsula salmon trying to return through 100 miles of deep net.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Nelson Lagoon River has been struggling to meet minimum escapement and seasonal harvests are dismal. There is a large fleet

who fish above Nelson River and we are witnessing the negative effects it is causing our fishery. I am a generational fisherman and have lived in Nelson Lagoon my entire life. I was brought up fishing in Nelson River and have been observing the changes over the years. Things aren't like they were before and I think maybe if there was less net in the water it might make a difference.

I propose to lessen the amount of net in the water in Area M North peninsula to the way it was before.

**PROPOSED BY:** Angela Johnson (EF-F22-092)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 129**

**5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Allow use of monofilament gillnet web in the Northern District, as follows:

Notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.250 (C) In the Northern District single filament gill net web may be used by set net gear.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** With recent ocean temperature changes, algae has been more prevalent and is stuck easily in knots of monofilament gill net web. Other areas have adopted monofilament gear combat algae and other vegetative debris and allowing the use of monofilament will give a option as a solution to this problem.

**PROPOSED BY:** Connor Murphy (EF-F22-024)  
\*\*\*\*\*

***South Alaska Peninsula Southeastern District Mainland Salmon (3 proposals)***

**PROPOSAL 130**

**5 ACC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* to allow more fishing time in the Northwest Stepovak Section as follows:

5 AAC 09.360;

3, Beginning July 1, sockeye salmon caught in NWSS will not be counted toward the Chignik allocation, Fishing periods in the NWSS after June 30 will be based on sockeye salmon escapement into Ozinski Lake .

4. If Ozinski lake is meeting its escapement goals the NWSS and Orzinski Bay may be opened as follows;

(a) The NWSS Section may not be open more than 96 hours in a 7- day period

(b) The orzinski Bay may be opened continually until midnight July 25

(c) purse seine and hand purse seine gear may operate after midnight July 10.



**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 ACC 09.360**

3.Fishing periods in NWSS after June 30 will be based on sockeye escapement into Orzinski Lake and there may not be more than 96 hours of fishing time during a 7- day period.

4.if the orzinski lake escapement meets or exceeds 25,000 sockeye salmon NWSS and orzinski bay may be opened as follows;

The 25,000 isn't even applicable to the escapement level stated in the NWSS, the orzinski lake SEG range is 15,000 -20,000 sockeye salmon , The problem is in 2021 season orzinski bay closed after 96 hours and was ahead of escapement and was getting more than 500 per day while we were fishing ,When it reopened the processor wouldnt send tenders so the setnet lost opportunity to fish. I would like the 96 hours per 7 days only apply to NWSS not to orzinski bay . the orzinski bay should be able to be open for setnet continuously as long as its getting its target escapement levels.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jim Smith

(EF-F22-016)

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jack Foster Jr. and Amy M. Foster (EF-F22-068)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 132**

**5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the *Southeastern District Mainland 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 *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* in response to the new Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F22-048)

\*\*\*\*\*

***South Alaska Peninsula Salmon June Management Plan (10 proposals)***

**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.

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

(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.

**PROPOSED BY:** Timothy Murphy (EF-F22-032)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**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)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 135**

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

Amend the *South Unimak and Shumigan Islands Management Plan* to reduce commercial salmon fishing time in the Shumagin Islands Section, as follows:

...

(X) The ADF&G will maintain a sockeye catch ratio approaching South Unimak at 82% and Shumagin Islands at 18%. If Shumagin Island Section fishery achieves 18% of the June Salmon Management Plan catch based on daily reports, the ADF&G shall shutdown this section until fish ticket reports total less than 18%.

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The South Unimak and Shumagin Island June Fishery has shifted, placing greater pressure on stocks in the Shumagins. In 1975 a sockeye GHL based on Bristol Bay forecast was implemented at 6.8% Unimak and 1.5% Shumagins. The percentages were based on historical catch data (1997 S. Pen AMR, p.2) This

GHL remained in place until it was removed in 2001. While the annual amount of sockeye caught varied, the catch ratio between the areas remained at approximately 81.93% Unimak (June) to 18.07% Shumagins (June) for 26 years. In addition to the GHL, the two areas percentages were spread over four time segments to assure that fishing pressure was even more evenly distributed.

This method of fishing while designed to allow a fishery based on Bristol Bay sockeye health, was also beneficial to alleviating pressure on Chignik sockeye transiting migratory pathways in the Shumagins.

Proposed now is that the Shumagin catch would be regulated in such a way that it would approximate 18% of the combined June Unimak and Shumagin fishery catch. If during an opening, the daily reports show the total Shumagin sockeye catch to have exceeded 18%, the Shumagin fishery will close until the appropriate ratio is met and then it may be reopened. This assures the bulk of the sockeye catch focuses more heavily on Bristol Bay sockeye stocks which are presently quite healthy. If a time should arise when Bristol Bay should need protection, then the entire GHL (from 1975-2000) could be implemented and attached to the Bristol Bay forecast as it once was.

The intent is to protect migratory pathways used by Chignik sockeye by returning the interception harvest effort to historical levels and distribution.

What would happen if nothing is changed?

If nothing is done this expanded mixed stock fishery will continue to prosecute larger numbers of eastbound Fish on stocks that are having a difficult time maintaining escapements and or yields.

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

Many other solutions have been considered however, the GHL and how it distributed catch is proven to be workable. Implementing a version of the previous system that was in effect for 20+ years and was based on historical catches is reasonable. Windows already implemented could remain in place and the expected result is that fishing pressure would move to the Unimak section (similar to the historical fishery) as closures in the Shumagins arise. Any west bound sockeye not caught in the Shumagins are expected to be available in the Unimak section.

This proposal could be expected to benefit the S. Pen sockeye escapement which has not been met in 2018, 2019, and 2020. Before the GHL was introduced in 1975, the S. Pen sockeye escapements also languished..

**PROPOSED BY:** Ben and Raechel Allen (EF-F22-069)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 136**

**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 implement a chum salmon harvest cap to reduce commercial fishing time, as follows:

ONC proposes that the Board of Fisheries amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, 5 AAC 09.365, to incorporate a harvest cap during the June fisheries using all gear types. More specifically, set a cap of 280,000 chum salmon and close the commercial fishery for the remainder of June once that cap is met. This request is consistent with historical records, where concerns over large commercial harvests of chum together with weak Yukon River fall chum runs, resulted in a cap limit that, if met, closed the fishery for the remainder of June.

Alaska Peninsula is one of six Fisheries on the migratory path of Coastal Western Alaska (CWA) chum salmon - Alaska Peninsula, Bristol Bay, AK Peninsula, Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim, Yukon, Norton Sound and Arctic. Therefore, based on preliminary estimates for CWA chum from 2021, the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June should account for approximately one 6th of the chum salmon for the season. Currently, the management plan does not identify any harvest limits for chum salmon. Establishing a cap would ensure that migrating chum reach their spawning grounds to the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region, as well as Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula, Southcentral Alaska, Japan, and Russia. ONC understands that while the request may present difficulties to commercial fishermen in the South Alaska Peninsula Management Area, we all, across user groups and Management Regions, have the shared interest and responsibility to protect the CWA chum salmon stock. When chum salmon are abundant, we all thrive; in times of hardships, we all must work together and share the burden of conservation to ensure abundant populations in the future.

ONC suggests incorporating the chum salmon harvest cap into a new section between (d) and (e). The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands commercial fisheries are limited to harvesting 280,000 chum salmon during the month of June using all gear types. If reached, it would result in a closure of the fishery for the remainder of June.

**Regulation of 5 AAC 09.365 South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan:**

“(a) The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries harvest both sockeye salmon and chum salmon in a mixed stock fishery during the month of June. The sockeye salmon are predominantly Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula origin. The chum salmon are bound for a number of areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, the Alaska Peninsula, and southcentral Alaska. These salmon stocks have historically been harvested along the south Alaska Peninsula during the month of June. This management plan is intended to be consistent with the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222) and the 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 Southwestern District, the East Pavlof Bay and the West Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District, and the Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District.

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

(d) In the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands 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) Commercial harvest of chum salmon will not exceed 280,000 fish to ensure that migrating chum reach their spawning grounds to the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region, as well as Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula, Southcentral Alaska, Japan, and Russia. Therefore, the fishing periods, as specified in (b) of this section, may not be fulfilled once this limit is met.**

**(f)** [(e)] 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.

**(g)** [(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.

**(h)** [(g)] Notwithstanding (d) of this section [(g), commercial salmon fishing is closed to purse seine gear in the waters of the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District, the Belkofski Bay Section of the Southwestern District, excluding those waters inside of a line between Vodapoini Point at 55\_ 01.88' N. lat., 162\_ 24.80' W. long., and Bold Cape at 55\_ 01.24' N. lat., 162\_ 16.40' W. long., and the South Central District.”

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Orutsararmiut Native Council (ONC) is the federally recognized Tribe for the Native Village of Bethel, Alaska. Bethel is located along the delta of the Kuskokwim River, approximately 90 miles inland from the Bering Sea and approximately 398 miles northwest of Anchorage. ONC serves approximately 4,500 Alaska Native residents from all villages throughout Yukon-Kuskokwim (YK) Delta, over 3,800 of which are enrolled as Tribal members.



ONC would like to address the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, 5 AAC 09.365. More specifically, we would like to establish a chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) commercial harvest cap of 280,000 for all gear types during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries.

The Alaska Peninsula consists of a mixed stock fishery during the month of June, where chum salmon populations are bound for a number of areas, including the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) region. ONC, and many subsistence users across the YK Delta, have concerns on the extreme disparity in harvest between the Alaska Peninsula commercial and Kuskokwim and Yukon River subsistence fisheries. This commercial fishery harvested approximately 1,168,601 chum in 2021<sup>1</sup>, while subsistence users on the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers harvested approximately 9,621<sup>2</sup> and 1,253<sup>3</sup> chum salmon, respectively. Tribes along the YK Delta are experiencing food security hardships and loss of culture when not allowed to fish, while the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands are harvesting an abundant amount of chum salmon for commercial uses. The stark contrast between the chum salmon commercial harvests on the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Commercial Fishery and subsistence harvests on the Kuskokwim is a direct result of the lack of harvest limits for chum salmon.

**References:**

- <sup>1</sup>Regional Report No. 4K22-01 - 2021 South Peninsula Salmon Annual Management Report and 2020 Subsistence Fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands Management Areas
- <sup>2</sup>Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) Draft Preliminary Kuskokwim River Salmon Harvest Estimates 2021 Postseason Surveys
- <sup>3</sup>Yukon River Salmon 2021 Season Summary and 2022 Season Outlook, Regional Information Report 3A22-01 ADF&G

**PROPOSED BY:** Orutsarmiut Traditional Native Council (HQ-F22-018)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 137**

**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:

ONC would like to reduce the current commercial fishing period hours for all gear types during the June fishery described in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, 5 AAC 09.365. Specifically, ONC proposes to amend section (d), to reduce total commercial fishing time to 100 hours. Alaska Peninsula is one of six Fisheries on the migratory path of CWA chum salmon; Alaska Peninsula, Bristol Bay, AK Peninsula, Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim, Yukon, Norton Sound and Arctic. Therefore, the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries should have a harvest window that accounts for approximately one 6th of the total harvest window of the Commercial June fishery.

These reduced harvest hours create fishing closures that will span over a longer period of time,

allowing passage of chum salmon stock through the Alaska Peninsula area and return to spawning grounds along Western Alaska. Below are our proposed fishing periods. Still, ONC is open to the Board of Fisheries decision on restructuring the fishing openers to account for reduced 100 harvest hours. All gear types and dates may be modified for the June commercial fishery.

**Regulation of 5 AAC 09.365 South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, specifically amendment to section (d):**

“... (d) In the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands 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;]

**(1) [(2)] for seine and drift gillnet gear,**

**(A) Beginning June 10, All daily fishing periods will be 16 hours in length, from 6:00 AM until 10:00 PM. The following fishing period will be 48 [six] hours later. After June 25th, the following fishing period will be 4 hours, not to exceed a total of 100 hours of commercial fishing.**

[(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.

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Orutsararmiut Native Council (ONC) is a federally recognized Tribal governing body for the Native Village of Bethel, Alaska. Bethel is located along the delta of the Kuskokwim River, approximately 90 miles inland from the Bering Sea and approximately 398 miles northwest of Anchorage. ONC serves approximately 4,500 Alaska Native residents from all villages throughout Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (YK Delta), over 3,800 of which are enrolled as Tribal members.

ONC is extremely concerned about the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of our Tribe and the YK Delta Region after experiencing the lowest chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) return on record in 2021. Therefore, ONC would like to address the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, 5 AAC 09.365. Specifically, ONC proposes to establish reduced fishing time for all gear types during the June fisheries in South Unimak and Shumagin Islands.

Both chum salmon and sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*) are harvested in the month of June along the south Alaska Peninsula; the sockeye salmon are predominantly Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula origin and the chum salmon, however, are bound for a number of areas, including the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) region. In 2021, the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June salmon commercial fishery experienced an abundant harvest of approximately 1,168,601 chum salmon<sup>1</sup>, while subsistence users on the Kuskokwim and Yukon River approximately harvested 9,621<sup>2</sup> and 1,253<sup>3</sup> chum salmon, respectively. This drastic difference of harvest between fisheries signifies that further protection is needed on the migratory route of Coastal Western Alaska (CWA) chum salmon to comply with the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries, 5 AAC 39.222. Therefore, it is critical to reduce commercial fishing periods in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands, where chum salmon stock is bound for the AYK region, among many other regions.

The Kuskokwim River faced a record low return of chum salmon in 2021 and yet again is expected to face another poor return in 2022. Declining stock of salmon creates unrest and stability in our community as food security declines further. It is of utmost importance that we act right away, to protect our livelihood and allow future generations to continue harvesting salmon.

<sup>1</sup>Regional Report No. 4K22-01 - 2021 South Peninsula Salmon Annual Management Report and 2020 Subsistence Fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Atka-Amlia Islands Management Areas

<sup>2</sup>Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) Draft Preliminary Kuskokwim River Salmon Harvest Estimates 2021 Postseason Surveys

<sup>3</sup>Yukon River Salmon 2021 Season Summary and 2022 Season Outlook, Regional Information Report 3A22-01 ADF&G

**PROPOSED BY:** Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council (HQ-F22-019)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 138**

**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 require the department to place observers onboard commercial salmon fishing vessels, as follows:

ONC would like to address necessary changes in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, 5 AAC 09.365. Specifically, ONC proposes to enhance the accountability of harvest data collected and facilitate information gathering by incorporating an onboard observer component into the management plan.

ONC firmly believes in 5 AAC 39.141, the Onboard Observer Program, and supports the findings in 5 AAC 39.141(a), where, “the Board of Fisheries finds that ... observers on board fishing vessels would greatly enhance management, primarily by facilitating information gathering and by improving regulatory compliance.” Additionally, 5 AAC 39.141 (e) states that, “onboard observers shall carry out such scientific and other duties as deemed necessary or appropriate to manage, protect, maintain, improve and extend the fish and aquatic plant resources of the State” which may be in direct support of the recently introduced Alaska

## Salmon Research Task Force Act.

To further consider this proposal, one must take into account the drastic difference of harvest between the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June salmon commercial fishery and subsistence fishery on the Kuskokwim River in 2021. This, and the expected low returns of chum salmon in 2022, will likely increase tensions between users, and subsistence users will expect higher accountability of commercial fisheries.

As stated the Regulations for the Board of Fisheries, Sec. 16.05.251 (a)(13), the Board of Fisheries may adopt regulations it considers advisable in accordance with AS 44.62 for “regulating, in a fishery, observers on board fishing vessels as defined in AS 16.05.475(d), that are registered under the laws of the state, as defined in AS 16.05.475(c)...”

The recommended changes include the insertion of a clause to incorporate onboard observers and amend subsequent order of stipulations. Amend 5 AAC 09.365 to read:

### **Regulation of 5 AAC 09.365 South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan:**

(a) The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries harvest both sockeye salmon and chum salmon in a mixed stock fishery during the month of June. The sockeye salmon are predominantly Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula origin. The chum salmon are bound for a number of areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, the Alaska Peninsula, and southcentral Alaska. These salmon stocks have historically been harvested along the south Alaska Peninsula during the month of June. This management plan is intended to be consistent with the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222) and the 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 Southwestern District, the East Pavlof Bay and the West Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District, and the Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District.

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

(d) In the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands 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) Certified observers will be onboard commercial fishing vessels to collect first-hand harvest data to assure effective monitoring, compliance, control and enforcement.**

**(f)** [(e)] 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.

**(g)** [(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.

**(h)** [(g)] Notwithstanding (d) of this section, commercial salmon fishing is closed to purse seine gear in the waters of the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District, the Belkofski Bay Section of the Southwestern District, excluding those waters inside of a line between Vodapoini Point at 55\_ 01.88' N. lat., 162\_ 24.80' W. long., and Bold Cape at 55\_ 01.24' N. lat., 162\_ 16.40' W. long., and the South Central District.

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Orutsararmiut Native Council (ONC) is the federally recognized Tribal governing body for the Native Village of Bethel, Alaska. Bethel is located along the delta of the Kuskokwim River, approximately 90 miles inland from the Bering Sea and approximately 398 miles northwest of Anchorage. ONC serves approximately 4,500 Alaska Native residents from all villages throughout Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (YK Delta), over 3,800 of which are enrolled as Tribal members.

The south Alaska Peninsula fishery consists of a mixed stock fishery during the month of June; the sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) are predominantly Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula origin and the chum salmon (*O. keta*), however, are bound for a number of areas, including the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) region. In 2021, the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June salmon commercial fishery experienced an abundant harvest of approximately 1,168,601 chum salmon<sub>1</sub>, while subsistence users on the Kuskokwim and Yukon River approximately harvested 9,621<sub>2</sub> and 1,253<sub>3</sub> chum salmon, respectively. The disparity in harvest between fisheries further divides users and creates animosity due to lack of trust.

Low returns of chum salmon are expected again this season, thus further decreasing food security and increasing the risk of community instability in our region. The alarming declines of salmon across the state, together with the research findings communicated through the roundtable discussions led by U.S. Senators Dan Sullivan and Lisa Murkowski, have increased our concern for the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of our Tribe and the YK Delta Region.

After experiencing the lowest chum salmon return on record on the Kuskokwim River, ONC firmly believes it is of utmost importance to have the most reliable harvest information possible. For this reason, ONC would like to address necessary changes in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, 5 AAC 09.365. Specifically, ONC proposes to enhance the accountability of harvest data collected and facilitate information gathering by incorporating an onboard observer component into the management plan. We find the need to protect our livelihood and allow future generations to continue harvesting salmon..

**PROPOSED BY:** Orutsarmiut Traditional Native Council (HQ-F22-020)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 139**

**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 restrict commercial salmon fishing time, as follows:

Rescind 5 AAC 09.365 and replace with the 2001-2003 management plan adopted by the BOF. Additionally, the restored management plan must also be 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 include 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 fisheries around capes and passages. 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 that are surplus to AYK escapement needs, priority AYK subsistence needs (as measured by Amounts reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses codified in 5 AAC 01.236(b)), and historical harvest levels by AYK sport and AYK commercial fisheries to ensure healthy and sustainable AYK salmon and AYK communities.

WASSIP should be used to inform mitigation actions until such time that newly developed genetic markers are incorporated into more relevant in-season 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 are intercepted should be eliminated entirely until such time that fisheries management decisions can be demonstrated to be sustainable.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The tribal communities of the Yukon River have experienced an unprecedented collapse of Yukon River salmon returns in recent years. The failure to meet various salmon escapement goals and the entire closure of reasonable

subsistence salmon fishing opportunities in 2021 requires management attention and action in the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Island fisheries management area. History has demonstrated that substantial quantities of Yukon River-bound salmon species and stocks are intercepted in commercial fishery operations.

The failure to meet escapement goals and not meeting amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence (5 AAC 01.236(b)) demonstrate that every Yukon-River bound salmon matters and should be conserved. So, that our salmon can return to the Yukon River and its tributaries to spawn and provide for priority customary and traditional uses. While, meeting the United States' Pacific Salmon Treaty obligations to Canada and our First Nations relatives.

2021 yielded an unprecedented, almost 90%, absence of Yukon River chum (summer and fall) Yukon River summer chum harvest averages 2M fish...in 2021 that number was 152,000. Yukon River fall chum harvest averages 998,000 fish...in 2021 that number was 102,000.

The fact that state and federal managers again predict a complete closure of Yukon River subsistence salmon fishing during the 2022 season is alarming. The lack of proactive and precautionary management actions to conserve Yukon River chum salmon stocks in Alaska Peninsula Management Area M commercial fisheries in 2020 and 2021 is highly problematic as well as unsustainable. The failure for more than a decade of ADF&G to conduct genetic mixed stock analysis and assessments of Area M commercial fisheries' interception of Yukon River Chinook salmon, chum salmon, and coho salmon bound for AYK spawning rivers and tributaries is irresponsible and unsustainable.

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

**PROPOSED BY:** Tribal Resources Stewardship Program, Tanana Chiefs Conference  
(HQ-F22-034)

\*\*\*\*\*

**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)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 141**

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. 5 AAC 09.330. Gear.**

Amend the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to require the department to manage the June fishery by emergency order to close those areas within the management plan. Amend **5 AAC 09.330. Gear.** to allow other gear types to be used in the commercial fishery, as follows:

Fishing season and periods would be operated by Emergency Order in Area M during the month of June **OR** Selective gear types (Seines, Dip Nets, Hook and Line and other gear types) that can selectively harvest sockeye releasing all other types of salmon bound for Arctic, Yukon and Kuskokwim areas may be used to harvest sockeye salmon.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like the Alaska Board of Fish to limit the number of AYK bound Salmon (Chinook, Chum and Coho) that can be incidentally harvested in the Aleutian Islands/Shumagin Islands/Alaska Peninsula area OR close the Area M fishery for the month of June. **Reason is:** Indigenous Peoples on the Yukon River are not allowed to harvest ANY OF THESE SALMON for sustenance that this area freely harvests commercially on their way to their spawning grounds **AND** spawning escapement for these salmon stocks are not being met.

**PROPOSED BY:** John H. Lamont Jr. (EF-F22-008)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 142**

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan and 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.**

Amend *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* and *Post-June Salmon Management Plan* to allow more fishing time for set gillnet gear only, as follows:

5AAC 09.365 Fishing time for the June fishery for set gillnet only.

6:00 am June 10 until 3:00 pm June 13th 81 hours

6:am June 15 until 10:00 pm June 17 64 hours

6am June 20 until 10:00 pm June 22 64 hours

6:am June 25 until 10:00 pm June 27 64 hours

6am June 29 until 6:00 pm June 30 36 hours

5AAC 09.366 Post - June Salmon Fishery for Set Gillnet only

6:00 am July 5 until 10:00 pm July 7 64 hours

6:00 am July 10 until 10:00 pm July 12 64 hours

6:00am July 15 until 10:00 pm July 17 64 hours

6:00 am July 20 until 10:00 pm July 22 64 hours

6:00 am July 25 until 10:00 pm July 27 64 hours

6:00 am July 29 until 6:00 pm July 30 36 hours

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like to separate the setnet scheduled opening in the June and post June schedule from the drift and seine openings. and would like to move some fishing time from the June fishery to the post June fishery as the setnet fishermen are struggling to catch salmon in the early part of the season the salmon are running offshore and Arnt in the bays or closer to shore till late June. I attempted to make the closures to coincide with the seine and drift schedule. this proposal is an attempt to keep fishing hours the same but to distribute more evenly through July.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jim Smith

(EF-F22-022)

\*\*\*\*\*

***South Alaska Peninsula Post-June Salmon Management Plan (5 proposals)***

**PROPOSAL 143**

**5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.**

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to close the set gillnet fishery in response to department immature salmon assessment, as follows:

- (i) The department shall conduct a seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section to assess the presence of immature salmon. If 100 or more immature salmon, per set, are present, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the seine fishery in an area to be determined by the department. If the seine fishery is closed in an area under this subsection, the set gillnet fishery

shall **also close** [Remain open] in that area. For the purposes of this subsection, "immature salmon, per set, are present" means the number of immature king, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon observed to be **caught** [GILLED] in the seine **set** [WEB].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** During the immature test fisheries, many immature Chinook, immature Sockeye and immature Chum salmon are caught but not necessarily gilled in the net. They aren't presently enumerated as immatures and should be accounted and considered for conservation purposes.

Also, recent changes in allowable gillnet mesh size now allow for smaller meshes that are not protective. 5 1/4" or greater was the standard to allow passage for immature fish through the area and should be the only allowable gillnet gear when closures are implemented for the presence of immatures.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ben Allen (EF-F22-071)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 144**

**5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.**

Amend the *Post-June Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to allow for fishing periods starting August 1 in the Southeastern and South Central Districts, as follows:

After July 31, if the department's preseason South Alaska Peninsula total pink run forecast is above 3 million fish, the department may give two 36-hour openers per week starting August 1 in the Southeastern and South Central Districts. The department would still have inseason emergency order authority and discretion to adjust fishing time and area.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The South Peninsula pink salmon fisheries are an important economic piece of the overall fishing activity in the region. In 2021, the total pink salmon harvest was 16.9 million fish and roughly \$15.3 million dollars in exvessel value. With additional information for department managers and improved regulatory structure, there is room to maximize opportunity in this fishery.

The department assesses the pink salmon index runs for South Alaska Peninsula with aerial surveys and catch information. Due to inclement weather conditions in August, the department often is unable to conduct consistent aerial stream surveys to assess local pink salmon escapement goals on the South Alaska Peninsula. The department could use a consistent fishery in early August to ascertain the strength of local pink and chum runs.

The department publishes a South Alaska Peninsula pre-season pink run forecast with an 80% confidence that the actual run will fall within their preseason forecast. If the board were to authorize a consistent early August fishery based on the preseason forecast, the harvest data could better inform managers of the inseason run strength when aerial surveys are not possible.

**PROPOSED BY:** Andrew Manos (EF-F22-081)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 145**

**5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.**

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula, as follows:

(d) Notwithstanding (c)(1) of this section, from July 6 through July 31, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, fishing periods as follows:

(1) the first fishing period will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 33 hours until 3:00 p.m. the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 63 hours and reopen under (2) of this subsection;

(2) following the closure under (1) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and close at **10:00 p.m.** [6:00 P.M.] the following day; commercial fishing will then close for **54 hours** [60 HOURS] and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Recent closures in June and July due to immature salmon numbers and/or declines in salmon runs in the surrounding areas have limited fishing time for the Alaska Peninsula fleet. Increasing July fishing opportunity by four hours per opening would provide stability to the fleet and region without the risk of harming local and migratory runs. Adjust the Post-June Salmon Management plan as follows: Starting July 10th, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and close at 10:00 p.m. the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 56 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later. This regulation change would increase July openings after the 10th by four hours, from 36 hours, to 40 hours, whilst still providing adequate closures between openings of 56 hours.

**PROPOSED BY:** Julian Manos (EF-F22-087)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 146**

**5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.**

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing periods, as follows:

Change the current management plan after the 10<sup>th</sup> of July so each open period would be extended 24 hours and the time between each period is reduced by 24 hours until the end of July.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The post June management plan in the Shumagin Islands is too restrictive after the 10<sup>th</sup> of July in terms of fishing time. Run timing of fish have shifted to earlier in the season than when the current plan was adopted. Both the Chignik’s first run of fish is over and the Bristol Bay fish have passed through this area. Loss of income to our community is devastating.

**PROPOSED BY:** Richard Eastlick (HQ-F22-005)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 147**

**5 AAC 09-366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.**

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing periods for set gillnet gear, as follows:

Setnet fishermen starting July 10 to the end of the season. Setnet fishermen will fish from Monday at 6 a.m. to Friday midnight, from Scotch Cap to Kupreanof Pt.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** More time for setnet fishermen. We are a slower fishery in volume. Bristol Bay are by us.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Hartman

(HQ-F22-011)

\*\*\*\*\*

***South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Management (2 proposal)***

**PROPOSAL 148**

**5 AAC 09.365 South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan; 5AAC 09.366 Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula; 5 AAC 09.360 Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend a suite of management plans to reduce commercial fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula area, as follows:

During the March-April 2022 Board meeting, the RC 104 captured the language to be evaluated as a management plan to protect the Chignik River Early-Run Sockeye Salmon stock by enacting restrictions to allow salmon to pass through those fisheries. That Board action and intent is parallel to the intent of this proposal. The framework below represents the management tools the Alaska Department of Fish and Game may utilize to manage the South Alaska Peninsula Management Area (Area M) commercial salmon fisheries to reduce take of fish bound to other watersheds. Parallel restrictions are in order to conserve Yukon and Kuskokwim Chum and Chinook salmon during this time of low abundance.

This framework does not restrict the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s emergency order authority to manage salmon stocks sustainably in the South Alaska Peninsula Management Areas and use this emergency order to close fisheries when deemed necessary to protect Yukon and Kuskokwim Salmon stocks of origin.

Based on Yukon and Kuskokwim preseason forecasts, if the lower bound of escapement goals are projected to not be met in one or both rivers, then fishing time would be reduced by 50% in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 09.365), the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula (5 AAC 09.366), and the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 09.360).

In addition to time restrictions, fishing area should be modified to reduce catch rates in areas where Chinook and Chum salmon are abundant and gear restrictions employed that may also reduce catch rates of Chinook and Chum salmon specifically.

Based on Yukon and Kuskokwim inseason management tools if the first inriver test fisheries and sonar fish passage monitoring projects confirm low Chinook or Chum salmon returns then the post-June South Alaska Peninsula Management Plans will be further reduced in fishing time and area and gear restrictions will be in order to support sustainable passage of all Yukon and Kuskokwim Bound Chinook and Chum salmon.

The Council understands conservative management options the Board is authorized to make include reduction of time, area, and methods and means. We did not provide prescribed recommendations or defined restrictions. During the Board meeting through the submitting and participation in the AC report, RC submissions, Public Testimony, and Committee of the Whole process, the Council will refine recommended specifics following public distribution of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game proposal analyses. We expect to have further defined restrictions to time, area, and gear types based on information made available by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game describing the known take of Kuskokwim and Yukon bound Chinook and Chum salmon. We will submit data requests to become more informed on the impacts intercept fisheries have on the referenced watersheds and stocks, which should assist educating the public and the public process during deliberations of this proposal.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal addresses the 3 management plans that regulate the South Alaska Peninsula Management Area (Area M) commercial salmon fisheries: the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 09.365), the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula (5 AAC 09.366), and the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 09.360).

5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan (a) The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries harvest both Sockeye Salmon and Chum Salmon in a mixed stock fishery during the month of June. The Sockeye Salmon are predominantly of Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula origin. The Chum Salmon are bound for a number of areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, the Alaska Peninsula, and Southcentral Alaska. These salmon stocks have historically been harvested along the south Alaska Peninsula during the month of June. This management plan is intended to be consistent with the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222) and the Policy for the Management of Mixed Stock Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.220).

These fisheries as noted in AAC 09.365 are a mixed stock salmon fishery and the Chum Salmon directed harvest include stocks bound for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region rivers. Additionally, these South Alaska Peninsula Management Area fisheries are known to catch Chinook and Chum salmon of mixed stock origin when targeting Sockeye Salmon. As the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) is aware, the Yukon and Kuskokwim Chinook Salmon returns have been severely depressed for over ten years and escapement goals on both rivers have not been met in recent years. The catastrophic Chum Salmon crash in 2021 resulted in severe subsistence harvest restrictions on the Kuskokwim River and complete closure to any salmon harvest on the Yukon River and still escapement goals were not met. Every single salmon is now needed to make it to the spawning grounds and the Area M commercial fishery is within the Alaska Department of Fish and Game authority to manage this mixed stock salmon fishery sustainably in order to help meet Chum and Chinook salmon escapement goals on the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Rivers. The

State of Alaska is also charged with Canada Yukon Salmon treaty obligations and that management authority should extend to sustainable management of all fisheries managed by ADF&G that catch Yukon bound salmon.

This proposal is being submitted to reduce the directed harvest and interception of Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Chinook Salmon stocks, which have been identified by Alaska Department of Fish and Game as Stocks of Yield Concern. Equal burden of conservation efforts should be applied throughout the range of these critically low Yukon and Kuskokwim salmon stocks. During times when subsistence fisheries are severely restricted or closed entirely on these rivers due to low salmon returns, we request the Alaska Board of Fisheries to adopt a modification of the existing regulations in a way that the Area M commercial salmon fisheries equally share the burden of conservation through the restrictions of equal magnitude. The intent of this proposal is to ensure all user groups managed by the State of Alaska are restricted from take of Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim stock of origin salmon during times while there are stocks identified by regulation as Stocks of Concern due to critically low returns.

If the regulations remain unchanged, then salmon essential to meeting escapement goals in these Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim rivers will continue to be harvested in Area M unabated and escapement goals, Treaty obligations, and basic subsistence salmon needs and mandated State and Federal subsistence priorities will not be met.

All other solutions to ensure every salmon needed to meet Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers Chinook and Chum salmon escapement goals are already being applied via complete closures to the harvest of any salmon on the Yukon River and Coast and severe subsistence fishing restrictions in place on the Kuskokwim River. And of course the inriver commercial fisheries have already been closed completely as well..

**PROPOSED BY:** Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
(HQ-F22-013)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 149**

**5 AAC 09.365 South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan; 5AAC 09.366 Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula; 5 AAC 09.360 Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend management plans for the South Alaska Peninsula area to reduce commercial fishing time, as follows:

During the March-April 2022 Board meeting, the RC 104 captured the language to be evaluated as a management plan to protect the Chignik River Early-Run Sockeye Salmon stock by enacting restrictions to allow salmon to pass through those fisheries. That Board action and intent is parallel to the intent of this proposal. The framework below represents the management tools the Alaska Department of Fish and Game may utilize to manage the South Alaska Peninsula Management Area (Area M) commercial salmon fisheries to reduce take of fish bound to other watersheds. Parallel restrictions are in order to conserve Yukon and Kuskokwim Chum and Chinook salmon during this time of low abundance.



This framework does not restrict the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's emergency order authority to manage salmon stocks sustainably in the South Alaska Peninsula Management Areas and use this emergency order to close fisheries when deemed necessary to protect Yukon and Kuskokwim Salmon stocks of origin.

Based on Yukon and Kuskokwim preseason forecasts, if the lower bound of escapement goals are projected to not be met in one or both rivers then fishing time would be reduced by 50% in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 09.365), the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula (5 AAC 09.366), and the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 09.360).

In addition to time restrictions, fishing area should be modified to reduce catch rates in areas where Chinook and Chum salmon are abundant and gear restrictions employed that may also reduce catch rates of Chinook and Chum salmon specifically.

Based on Yukon and Kuskokwim inseason management tools if the first inriver test fisheries and sonar fish passage monitoring projects confirm low Chinook or Chum salmon returns then the post-June South Alaska Peninsula Management Plans will be further reduced in fishing time and area and gear restrictions will be in order to support sustainable passage of all Yukon and Kuskokwim Bound Chinook and Chum salmon.

The Council understands conservative management options the Board is authorized to make include reduction of time, area, and methods and means. We did not provide prescribed recommendations or defined restrictions. During the Board meeting through the submitting and participation in the AC report, RC submissions, Public Testimony, and Committee of the Whole process, the Council will refine recommended specifics following public distribution of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game proposal analyses. We expect to have further defined restrictions to time, area, and gear types based on information made available by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game describing the known take of Kuskokwim and Yukon bound Chinook and Chum salmon. We will submit data requests to become more informed on the impacts intercept fisheries have on the referenced watersheds and stocks which should assist educating the public and the public process during deliberations of this proposal.

We further request that Alaska Department of Fish and Game implement a genetic testing program for the Area M commercial fisheries to identify stock of origin for effective management of Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Chinook and Chum salmon. Genetics data will aid in development of avoidance measures to ensure passage of Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim bound salmon.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

This proposal addresses the 3 management plans that regulate the South Alaska Peninsula Management Area (Area M) commercial salmon fisheries: the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 09.365), the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula (5 AAC 09.366), and the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 09.360).

5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan (a) The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries harvest both Sockeye Salmon and Chum Salmon in a mixed stock fishery during the month of June. The Sockeye Salmon are predominantly of Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula origin. The Chum Salmon are bound for a number of areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, the Alaska Peninsula, and Southcentral Alaska. These salmon stocks have historically been harvested along the south Alaska Peninsula during the month of June. This management plan is intended to be consistent with the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222) and the Policy for the Management of Mixed Stock Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.220).

These fisheries as noted in AAC 09.365 are a mixed stock salmon fishery and the Chum Salmon directed harvest include stocks bound for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region rivers. Additionally, these South Alaska Peninsula Management Area fisheries are known to catch Chinook and Chum salmon of mixed stock origin when targeting Sockeye Salmon. As the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) is aware, the Yukon and Kuskokwim Chinook Salmon returns have been severely depressed for over ten years and escapement goals on both rivers have not been met in recent years. The catastrophic Chum Salmon crash in 2021 resulted in severe subsistence harvest restrictions on the Kuskokwim River and complete closure to any salmon harvest on the Yukon River and still escapement goals were not met. Every single salmon is now needed to make it to the spawning grounds and the Area M commercial fishery is within the Alaska Department of Fish and Game authority to manage this mixed stock salmon fishery sustainably in order to help meet Chum and Chinook salmon escapement goals on the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Rivers. The State of Alaska is also charged with Canada Yukon Salmon treaty obligations and that management authority should extend to sustainable management of all fisheries managed by ADF&G that catch Yukon bound salmon.

This proposal is being submitted to reduce the directed harvest and interception of Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Chinook Salmon stocks, which have been identified by Alaska Department of Fish and Game as Stocks of Yield Concern. Equal burden of conservation efforts should be applied throughout the range of these critically low Yukon and Kuskokwim salmon stocks. During times when subsistence fisheries are severely restricted or closed entirely on these rivers due to low salmon returns we request the Alaska Board of Fisheries to adopt a modification of the existing regulations in a way that the Area M commercial salmon fisheries equally share the burden of conservation through the restrictions of equal magnitude.

The intent of this proposal is to ensure all user groups managed by the State of Alaska are restricted from take of Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim stock of origin salmon during times while there are stocks identified by regulation as Stocks of Concern due to critically low returns.

If the regulations remain unchanged then salmon essential to meeting escapement goals in these Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim rivers will continue to be harvested in Area M unabated and escapement goals, Treaty obligations, and basic subsistence salmon needs and mandated State and Federal subsistence priorities will not be met.

All other solutions to ensure every salmon needed to meet Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers Chinook and Chum salmon escapement goals are already being applied via complete closures to the harvest

of any salmon on the Yukon River and Coast and severe subsistence fishing restrictions in place on the Kuskokwim River. And of course the inriver commercial fisheries have already been closed completely as well..

**PROPOSED BY:** Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
(HQ-F22-014)

\*\*\*\*\*

***Alaska Peninsula Salmon Gear, Closed Waters and Description of Districts and Sections (3 proposals)***

**PROPOSAL 150**

**5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections, 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan & 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend districts and sections, *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* and *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* by including the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District into the South Central District, as follows:

Move the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District into the existing South Central District. Include and manage specified Sections of the South Central District with the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

**5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections**

(d) Southwestern District: waters on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula north and east of a line extending 115° from Cape Pankof Light (54° 39.60' N. lat., 163° 03.70' W. long.) and west of a line extending **152° from Moss Cape (55° 7.26' N. lat., 161° 56.30' W. long.)** [106° FROM ARCH POINT LIGHT (55° 12.30' N. LAT., 161° 54.30' W. LONG.) TO THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF THE SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT (LONGITUDE OF MCGINTY POINT: 160° 59.00' W. LONG.),] including Inner Iliasik, Outer Iliasik, [GOLOI, DOLGOI, POPERECHOI,] and Deer Islands, waters of Ikatan Bay, and waters of Isanotski Strait south of a line from the False Pass cannery dock (54° 51.35' N. lat., 163° 24.38' W. long.) to Nichols Point (54° 51.43' N. lat., 163° 23.23' W. long.);

[ (7) VOLCANO BAY SECTION: WATERS BETWEEN MOSS CAPE AND ARCH POINT, INCLUDING GOLOI, DOLGOI, AND POPERECHNOI ISLANDS; ]

(e) South Central District: waters on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula north and east of a line extending **152° from Moss Cape (55° 7.26' N. lat., 161° 56.30' W. long.)** [106° FROM ARCH POINT LIGHT (55° 12.30' N. lat., 161° 54.30' W. LONG.)] and west of a line extending south from McGinty Point (55° 27.37' N. lat., 160° 59.00' W. long.), including Ukolnoi and Wosnesenski Islands;

**(5) Volcano Bay Section: waters between Moss Cape and Arch Point, including Goloi, Dolgoi, and Poperechnoi Islands;**

## 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland and South Central District Salmon Management Plan

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide guidelines to the department for the management of the interception of Chignik River sockeye salmon caught in the Southeastern District Mainland and South Central District fishery conducted in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Northwest Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.18' N. lat. Except as specified in 5 AAC 09.330 (f) (3), before July 11, only set gillnet gear may be used in these sections. For the purpose of the management plan in this section, local runs include only those salmon in the waters

(1) beginning July 1, in the Northwest Stepovak Section described in 5 AAC 09.200(f);

(2) in the Stepovak Flats Section described in 5 AAC 09.200(f).

(b) In years when a harvestable surplus for the first (Black Lake) and second (Chignik Lake) runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000 fish, a commercial salmon fishery is not allowed in the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay north of a line from Elephant Point at 55° 41.92' N. lat., 160° 03.20' W. long. to Waterfall Point at 55° 43.18' N. lat., 160° 01.13' W. long., as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.18' N. lat., until the department projects that a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area described in 5 AAC 15.100. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least 600,000 fish and the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.18' N. lat., and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area.

(c) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000 fish but the first run fails to develop as predicted and it is determined that a total sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area of 600,000 or more fish may not be achieved, the commercial salmon fishery in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay north of a line from Elephant Point at 55° 41.92' N. lat., 160° 03.20' W. long. to Waterfall Point at 55° 43.18' N. lat., 160° 01.13' W. long., as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.18' N. lat., shall be curtailed until the department projects a harvest in the Chignik Area of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon through July 8 if that number of fish are determined to be surplus to the escapement goals of the Chignik River system. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area,

and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area is at least 600,000 fish and the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.18' N. lat.,** and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area.

(d) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond the escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000 fish and the department determines that the runs are as strong as expected, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.18' N. lat.,** and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area.

(f) The estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River has been determined to be 80 percent of the sockeye salmon harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.18' N. lat.,** and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section. Beginning July 1, all sockeye salmon taken in the Northwest Stepovak Section are considered to be destined for Orzinski Bay.

(g) The percentage of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the Southeastern District Mainland **and South Central District** fishery may be permitted to fluctuate above or below 7.6 percent of sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area at any time before July 25.

(h) The allocation method described in (a) - (g) of this section is in effect through July 25. The commissioner may not open the first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.18' N. lat.,** and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, before the first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Chignik Area. After July 25, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, commercial salmon fishing in the entire Southeastern District Mainland **and South Central District** area for local stocks.

(i) During the period from approximately June 26 through July 8, the strength of the second run of the Chignik River system sockeye salmon cannot be evaluated. In order to prevent overharvest of the second run, the department may disallow or severely restrict commercial salmon fishing in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line**

extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.18' N. lat., during this period, and from June 26 through June 30 in the Northwest Stepovak Section.

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

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

[(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.]

[(g) NOTWITHSTANDING (d) OF THIS SECTION, COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING IS CLOSED TO PURSE SEINE GEAR IN THE WATERS OF THE VOLCANO BAY SECTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT, THE BELKOFSKI BAY SECTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT, EXCLUDING THOSE WATERS INSIDE OF A LINE BETWEEN VODAPOINI POINT AT 55° 01.88' N. LAT., 162° 24.80' W. LONG., AND BOLD CAPE AT 55° 01.24' N. LAT., 162° 16.40' W. LONG., AND THE SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT.]

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District belongs in the South Central District. The South Central District should be managed with the SEDM Management Plan. These areas have just as heavy, if not heavier, interception of Chignik-bound sockeye as SEDM. They also intercept other east-bound sockeye stocks. That interception increases as the season moves into July. There is a long-standing allocation plan in the SEDM that accounts for and provides protection for the interception of Chignik-bound sockeye. It makes sense to align the Volcano Bay Section and the East and West Pavlof Sections of the Central District with SEDM as they share almost identical interception profiles and they are geographically aligned along the Peninsula in the migratory route of Chignik and other east-bound sockeye.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ben Allen

(EF-F22-061)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 151**

**5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.**

Amend gillnet specifications and operations to allow offshore anchoring of the up to 25 fathom seine web lead, as follows:

5 AAC 09.331. In the Unimak Southwestern, South Central and Southeastern Districts 25 fathoms of seine webbing may be used on the shoreward end of a set Gillnet. the lead must be retrieved when the set gillnet is hauled out of the water.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 5AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations in the unimak southwestern south central and southeast districts 25 fathoms of seine webbing may be used on the shoreward end of a setnet ; The shoreward end of the seine webbing must be attached to the beach above low tide. The problem is it is too rough and rocky to get ashore so i am unable to use my lead . I would like the regulation changed to say a setnet may have a 25 fathom seine lead attached at the shoreward end of the anchored setnet.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jim Smith (EF-F22-023)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 152**

**5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.**

Amend the closed water boundary in Stepovak Bay to increase commercial fishing area in the Stepovak Flats Section, as follows:

(36) Stepovak Bay

...

(B) from July 29 through September 30, waters north of a line extending east from **55°49.813' N. lat., 159°50.764' W. long. to a point 55° 48.191' N. lat., 159°37.678' W. long.;** [DENT POINT AT 55°47.25'N. LAT., 159°25.00'W. LONG. TO A POINT ON THE KUPREANOF PENINSULA AT 55°46.93'N. LAT., 159°38.70' W. LONG.;

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** To reduce closed waters in the Stepovak Bay section to allow more opportunity to harvest local pink and chum stocks while retaining protections for systems that are difficult to aerial survey due to discolored water.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sand Point Advisory Committee (EF-F22-058)

\*\*\*\*\*