

RECORD COMMENT

RC # 007

Matt Siemion
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Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Please place my comments regarding the Chignik finfish proposals for the December 5 & 6, 2013 in the public record.

PROPOSAL 38 – This proposal calls for the Western District of the CMA to be managed concurrently with the Central and Eastern Districts in JUNE based on the strength of Chignik's early run.

I urge the BOF to support this proposal for several reasons: 1.) WASSIP finding in all three study years showed that this is a terminal stock harvest area with the minimal presence of non Chignik- bound sockeye salmon stocks, 2.) this would help to spread out the Chignik fleet and thus ease the pressure at congested prominent fishing spots, 3.) and as long as the Western District is managed exclusively on Chignik-bound sockeye salmon there is no justifiable reason for not allowing fishing in this district when other outside areas in Chignik are open.

PROPOSAL 40 – This proposal is an ADF&G house-keeping action that would change a single word in the Chignik Management Plan pertaining to when commercial salmon fishing in the CMA could commence. This word change would change the word "shall" to "may."

I urge the BOF to support this house-keeping proposal. This word change would give the Department lee-way in determining whether or not it is prudent and in the best interest of the resource to open the CMA once 20k fish have escaped; this would resolve the concern that a CMA fishery could commence when there could be an actual escapement shortfall - due to the possibility of the escapement schedule calling for a greater number of fish through the weir.

PROPOSAL 41 – This proposal would redefine when a seine has stopped fishing; currently it is defined as the "rings on deck." This proposal would change the definition to when the ends of the seine are together and secured to the vessel.

I urge the BOF to support this proposal for several reasons. The main reason is that once the ends have been brought together and secured to the vessel, it becomes the chief objective to contain the fish that are in the seine; little thought, at this time, is given to the relative "impossibility" of new fish entering your net. Also this proposal would bring both Chignik and Kodiak under the same guidelines in this regard.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the above comments,

Matt Siemion
Chignik Permit Holder