

Comment on Proposals #13 & 14 – Chignik Jig Fishery Issues

In support of Proposal #13 to change the Chignik rollover date from to Aug 15

The Chignik communities are among the most vulnerable communities of the Gulf of Alaska. Please keep in mind that one of the primary purposes for the creation of the State water fishery was for the benefit of the local communities that are on the very doorstep of these fishery resources. Residents of the Chignik area find it frustrating that residents of other areas argue strongly for regulations that benefit them but disadvantage local Chignik communities. The change to October was NOT uncontested and the Chignik AC and Chignik residents are unanimously in favor of proposal 13.

Looking at the Chignik AC minutes both the larger and the smaller boats agreed that:

- 1) "Good proposal; the move to August 14 would be better for Chignik' s smaller guys to be able to harvest while they still have crew in town from salmon;" and,
- 2) "We need an opportunity to catch the fish before the tenders leave, jig guys could fish too when salmon shuts down and allows them to stay and fish. Increase local area participation."

In Opposition to Proposal #14 to remove super-exclusive registration for Chignik jig gear

The jig fishery is designed to be an entry level fishery. However, in Chignik, processor buyouts and fires have destroyed every land based processor which severely undermines any real entry level opportunity to genuinely new entrants from the local Chignik communities.

Trident is right now very seriously considering making the commitment to build a new land based processing plant in Chignik. Please do not remove the super exclusive registration requirement from the Jig fishery right on the eve of this very significant potential breakthrough for Chignik fishermen which we believe will jump start the local entry level cod jig fishery in Chignik.

Consider too that the implication of the term "entry level" fishery is that it is a good fishery to start in because costs and other barriers to entry are less than other fisheries but we must keep in mind that some jig fishermen are not new entrants at all and, in fact, are very well established fishermen that are very capable of negatively impacting entry level fishing opportunities far from the jig fishery closest to their own homes.

These same individuals, being more established, are also more capable of expending travel, lodging, and opportunity costs to come before you and argue that genuinely entry level opportunities in areas far from their local area should be reduced so that they can more easily expand their own fishing efforts.

Please reflect that future generations of local Chignik residents cannot be here to argue on their own behalf and they are counting on you to protect their interests in having meaningful entry level opportunities when they need them.

In Conclusion:

Please support proposal #13 to change the Chignik Jig rollover date to Aug 15; and, oppose proposal #14 and keep the Chignik Jig fishery super exclusive.

*Submitted by Chuck McCallum,
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