

RC# _____

AMENDMENT TO PROPOSAL #9

Chignik cod fishermen recommend that the Board amend proposal #9 to include additional closed waters within three miles from Steller sea lion haul-outs within the Chignik Area State waters.

Thus the amended proposal would amend 5 AAC 28.087(b) to read: ...

(b)

...

(4) In the Chignik Area, all state-waters, with the exception of state-waters within 20 nautical miles of sea lion rookeries, and three miles of sea lion haul-outs, shall be opened to pot and mechanical jigging gear

The effect of the proposal would be to:

- 1) leave Sptiz Island SSL haul-out as is with a three mile closure;
- 2) leave Mitrofanina Island SSL haul-out as is with a three mile closure;
- 3) leave Kak Island SSL haul-out as is with a three mile closure;
- 4) change Sutwik Island SSL haul-out from a 20 mile closure to a three mile closure.

This would make Chignik more consistent with other areas of the State with regard to the amount of closure around haul-outs and with regard to the total amount of closed waters as a proportion of the State water fishery.

The economic value to the Chignik area cod fleet of the waters currently closed due to the large 20 mile closure around the Sutwik Island SSL haul-out has increased significantly since this closure was put in place. Many more fishermen express a need to be able to fish this area during the parallel season than just a handful of years ago.

Alfred Atwood