

RC# 77

**Proposal:** Limit the Dolgoi Island area fishery (stat areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 283-26, and 284-36 thru 284-42) to a maximum June sockeye catch of 36,000 fish and in the July 1-25 period to 44,000 fish amounting to a grand total of 80,000 sockeye salmon.

**Issue:** In some years, the Dolgoi Island area fishery harvests excessive numbers of Chignik bound sockeye and other non-local sockeye salmon. Per the Wassip study in June, Chignik sockeye dominated the catch, averaging 43% of the harvest in years 2006 through 2008. East of WASSIP sockeye ranked second averaging 27% followed by Bristol Bay at 25%. Post June, Chignik comprised 51% of the Dolgoi catch, and East of WSSIP sockeye were second at 43%.

Combined, the June and post June catch averaged a 7.8% harvest rate on the Chignik sockeye run (2006-08; range: 3%- 15%). South Peninsula sockeye are a non-essential Dolgoi component averaging less than 600 sockeye salmon or 0.2% of the total catch as compared to the Chignik component which averaged 160,000 sockeye or 54% of the total catch, 2006-2008.

The Dolgoi Island fishery should be reasonably controlled to where excessive non-local sockeye catches do not occur especially when Chignik sockeye salmon are most vulnerable to the fishery.

The proposed June cap of 36,000 fish is above the 5-year average as well as the proposed July 1-25<sup>th</sup> cap of 44,000 and would not have had any impact on the fishery except in one of the last 5 years.

**What will Happen if Nothing is Done:** The Dolgoi Island fishery will remain a non-local stock interception fishery absent of any control to limit the interception rate on Chignik and other transient stocks including Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and Bristol Bay sockeye salmon.

**Who is likely to Benefit:** Chignik and other non-local impacted fisheries by excessive, unregulated Dolgoi fishing pre July 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Who is likely to Suffer:** Area M fishers in about one out of every 5 years to the extent that the fishery would close after a maximum 80,000 sockeye catch.

**Other Solutions:** Limit fishing in June and July to not more than one 24hr opening per week.

**Proposed By:** Concerned Chignik Salmon Fishers and Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association.