

CHIGNIK MANAGEMENT AREA COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHERY  
MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2002

By

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## ABSTRACT

The Chignik Salmon Management Area (Area L) encompasses all coastal waters and inland drainages of the northwest Gulf of Alaska between Kilokak Rocks and Kupreanof Point. The area includes the Chignik Lakes system and over 100 salmon producing streams and tributaries.

The management area is divided into five districts: Eastern, Central, Chignik Bay, Western, and Perryville. Purse and hand purse seines are the only legal gear types for the Chignik Management Area (CMA) commercial salmon fishery. Inseason commercial fishing time will be established by emergency order when salmon abundances are surplus to escapement goals. News releases will be issued prior to most anticipated openings to prepare the fleets and processors for an impending fishery. News releases will also be used to announce department test fisheries which are used to indicate run strength and generate revenue. The 2002 total sockeye salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka* forecasted return for the Chignik River system is 2.12 million fish. The 2002 projected chinook salmon *O. tshawytscha* harvest of 3,600 fish is dependent upon the amount of fishing time allowed during the sockeye salmon harvest in July. The 2002 projected coho *O. kisutch*, pink *O. gorbuscha*, and chum salmon *O. keta* commercial harvest is 185,000, 1,091,000, and 178,000 fish respectively.

In January 2002, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted regulatory language which establishes the criteria and management measures for a CMA salmon purse seine cooperative fishery. At the time of this publication, a cooperative has been officially formed for the 2002 season.

## INTRODUCTION

### *Area Description*

The Chignik Salmon Management Area (Area L) encompasses all coastal waters and inland drainages of the northwest Gulf of Alaska between Kilokak Rocks and Kupreanof Point (Figure 1). The area includes the Chignik Lakes system and over 100 salmon producing streams and tributaries.

The Chignik Management Area (CMA) is divided into five fishing districts: Eastern, Central, Chignik Bay, Western, and Perryville (Figure 2). The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) manages commercial fisheries within these districts to achieve escapement goals for all salmon species while allowing the harvest of fish that are surplus to spawning requirements (Appendix A).

Closed water areas applicable to the 2002 commercial salmon fishing season are described under 5 AAC 15.350 in the Chignik regulatory section of the 2001-2002 Westward Alaska commercial salmon regulation booklet. (Please note that in 1996 all longitude and latitude coordinates in the Chignik Management Area were converted to decimal minutes and are based on the North American Datum of 1983.)

### *Legal Gear Description*

Purse and hand purse seines are the only legal commercial salmon gear types for the CMA. In the Eastern, Central, Western, and Perryville Districts, no seine less than 100 fathoms or more than 225 fathoms in length may be used. No lead may be more than 75 fathoms in length and the aggregate length of the lead and seine may not be more than 225 fathoms. In the Chignik Bay District, seines may not be less than 100 fathoms or more than 125 fathoms in length. In all districts, no seine may be less than three fathoms nor more than 375 meshes in depth; in addition, up to 25 meshes of chafing gear with a maximum mesh size of seven inches may be used.

## CRITERIA FOR THE ISSUANCE OF EMERGENCY ORDERS AND NEWS RELEASES

Fishing time will be established by emergency order when salmon abundances are surplus to interim escapement goals. News releases will be issued prior to most anticipated openings to notify the fleets and processors of an impending fishery or to announce department test fisheries which are used to indicate run strength.

## TENDER AND PROCESSOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The tender and processor requirements are detailed in the Chignik, Kodiak, and Cook Inlet Areas Commercial Fishing Regulations.

5 AAC 15.355 states:

- a) The operator of a floating salmon processing vessel or tender, or a shorebased processing operation, and a company employing aircraft used for transporting salmon, shall report in person, or by radio or telephone, to a local representative of the department located in the management area of intended operation before the start of processing or buying operations. The report must include the location and the date of intended operation, and identify and describe each vessel or other method of transport employed in hauling or processing salmon.
- b) A commercial fisherman shall report, on an ADF&G fish ticket at the time of landing, the number of salmon taken but not sold.

Further, processors and tender operators will be required to report daily catch information to ADF&G by 10:00 AM. This can be accomplished either by radio (SSB or VHF) or telephone. Personnel at the Chignik ADF&G office will stand by on SSB 3.230 MHz and VHF channel 6, from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. The SSB call sign for Chignik is WON 29 "Chignik Weir", and the telephone number is 845-2243. If unable to contact the ADF&G Chignik weir, catch information must be given to ADF&G Cold Bay (532-2419) or Kodiak (486-1830) via telephone or single SSB. The call sign for Kodiak is WHM 29 (4.125 MHz) and for Cold Bay is and KXP 78 (4.125 MHz). **Failure to report is a violation of commercial fishing regulations (5 AAC 15.355). This regulation will be strictly enforced.**

## 2002 SALMON FORECASTS

### *Sockeye Salmon*

#### **Total Run**

The 2002 total sockeye salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka* forecasted return for the Chignik River system is 2.12 million fish (Appendix B). The early run that peaks in late June returns primarily to Black Lake. The late run that peaks in late July returns primarily to Chignik Lake. The total projected commercial harvest for both runs is 1.47 million sockeye salmon, of which approximately 1.21 million sockeye salmon are expected to be caught in the CMA.

#### **Black Lake (Early Run)**

The early run is projected to be 1.03 million sockeye salmon (Appendix B). The early run escapement goal is 400,000 sockeye salmon (Table 1) with a forecasted commercial harvest of 630,000 sockeye salmon.

### **Chignik Lake (Late Run)**

The late run is forecasted at 1.09 million sockeye salmon (Appendix B). The escapement goal for the late run is 250,000 sockeye salmon through August 31 (Table 1) which would allow a commercial harvest of approximately 840,000 sockeye salmon.

### **Cape Igvak and Southeastern District Mainland**

The fisheries in the Cape Igvak Section (Figure 1) of the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) and the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM; Figure 1) fishery of the Alaska Peninsula Management Area harvest Chignik bound sockeye salmon. The Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.360; Appendix C) and the SEDM Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 09.360; Appendix D) will be used to manage these fisheries. The Cape Igvak allocation of the available Chignik bound salmon harvest is 15% and the SEDM allocation is 6%.

### ***Chinook Salmon***

The 2002 projected chinook salmon *O. tshawytscha* harvest of 3,600 fish is dependent upon the amount of fishing time allowed to harvest sockeye salmon in July. This projection is based on the 1994-2001 average harvest in the CMA. The 10-year harvest average is not used because of unusually high returns in 1992 and 1993. The Chignik River system's chinook salmon minimum escapement goal is 1,450 spawners above the subsistence and sport fishing removals. If escapement in early July is weak and the escapement goal is not likely to be met, the Humes Point markers may be used to encourage escapement by removing fishing pressure from areas where chinook salmon mill in the Chignik Lagoon before entering the Chignik River. Historically, over 50% of the chinook escapement passes through the weir by July 11.

### ***Coho Salmon***

The CMA 2002 projected coho salmon *O. kisutch* harvest of 185,000 fish, is based on the 1992-2001 10-year harvest average. Ultimately, fishing time for coho salmon is related to the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye run, local pink *O. gorbuscha* and chum *O. keta* salmon runs, and subsistence concerns in the Western and Perryville Districts.

### ***Pink Salmon***

The CMA 2002 projected pink salmon harvest is 1,100,000 fish, which is based on the average harvest over the most recent 10-year period. A slightly larger harvest is expected in the Western and Perryville Districts than the Central and Eastern Districts.

## *Chum Salmon*

The CMA 2002 projected chum salmon harvest is 186,000 fish, which is based on the average harvest over the most recent 10-year period. The Western and Perryville Districts should experience the largest proportion of the catch.

## **2002 SOCKEYE SALMON MANAGEMENT**

### *Chignik Lagoon Regulatory Markers*

In 1996, the Governor and local processors requested changes in management strategies to help enhance product quality. In response, Chignik ADF&G management staff modified the management strategy to help alleviate some of the quality problems in the Chignik Lagoon and provide for an even flow of escapement. During most of 1996 - 2001, the department implemented the following schedule for the Chignik Bay District openings: 1) initial openings were only allowed north of a line drawn from Humes Point to the Chignik Island markers and 2) after 24 hours the fishery was opened to the Mensis Point markers, which is located in the mouth of the Chignik River. This management action seems to have improved quality because processors have indicated an overall increase in the quality of delivered fish. Quality likely improved because salmon holding between Humes and Mensis Points were given an extra day to migrate upriver and escape the fishery. As warranted during the 2002 salmon season, opening and closing the waters between the Humes and Mensis Points markers will continue to be utilized as a management tool.

### *The June and Early July Fishery*

ADF&G intends to give the fleet advance notice prior to any impending fishery by news releases. By regulation, the first commercial fishing period can occur on June 1. However, since 1982, the first fishery usually occurs after June 11. Prior to the first commercial salmon fishing period, the following requirements must be met:

- 1) a minimum escapement of 40,000 sockeye salmon through the weir by June 12, and
- 2) a strong buildup of salmon in Chignik Lagoon must be present as indicated by the ADF&G test fishing program.

Subsequent openings will be determined from several factors including commercial catches, test fishing results, and meeting established interim escapement goals (Table 1). During June, commercial salmon fishing will be allowed only in the Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts. Commercial salmon fishing, as described by the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan (Appendix A), will open and close concurrently in the Eastern, Chignik Bay, and Central Districts. During late June and early July (transition period), the Eastern District may close or be severely restricted in order to evaluate the run strength of the sockeye salmon destined to spawn in the Chignik Lakes system.

Between approximately July 9 and late July, pink and chum salmon openings in the Eastern, Western, and Perryville Districts will be permitted on a commercial test fishery basis. During this time period, the length of the opening will be based on inseason fishery performance (catch per unit effort data) as compared to historical catch records. Late July and August openings will be based on abundance estimates from aerial stream escapement surveys as well as on fishery performance.

Run timing and strength of the Chignik Lakes sockeye salmon will directly affect commercial fishing time allowed in the Eastern, Western, and Perryville Districts. If the early sockeye salmon run into Black Lake is weaker than forecasted, and the 400,000 salmon escapement goal through the Chignik River weir is not achieved, then the early July openings in all waters where Chignik bound sockeye salmon could be harvested may be reduced. Commercial fishery openings during the transition period between the two sockeye salmon runs (June 26 to July 9) will also be closely monitored to evaluate the Chignik Lake run strength to ensure the achievement of the 250,000 salmon escapement goal.

### ***Sockeye Escapement Goal from September 1 through September 14***

During the 1960s, the Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) of the University of Washington, established a sockeye salmon escapement goal of 250,000 for Chignik Lake through August 31. At that time, FRI recommended an escapement goal of 200,000 by July 31, and 50,000 for the month of August, but nothing was recommended for September. The September goal was not set because very little commercial fishing effort occurred after mid-August in the late 1960s and early 1970s when the goals were first established. However, since the 1970s, commercial fishing effort has increased resulting in higher salmon catches after August 31. This trend continued until recently, when commercial fishery restrictions were implemented to ensure that subsistence opportunities were met. Further reduction in commercial fishing activity can be attributed to deteriorating market conditions.

In the early 1990s even though the August sockeye salmon escapement goal of 50,000 fish was achieved or exceeded for most years, Chignik Lake subsistence users complained that they were unable to fulfill their subsistence needs. Also, from 1990-1994, the estimated September sockeye escapement was less than, or equal to, 10,000 sockeye salmon. Based on this data and local knowledge, the department concluded that the September sockeye escapement is the most significant contributor to the fall Chignik Lake subsistence fishery. This idea is embodied in the BOF commercial fishing regulation that states from the end of the transition period (typically mid-July) until September 14, the department shall open and close the fishery in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts based upon the Chignik Lake late run sockeye salmon escapement goals. Management actions may also be taken to protect or harvest local chinook, coho, pink, and chum and salmon runs.

Subsistence needs reportedly were more easily filled in 1995 and 1997-2000, but not in 1996. In 2001, the September and October Chignik Lake sockeye salmon abundance estimates were seemed adequate for subsistence needs. In 1999-2001, the tail end of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run provided ample subsistence opportunities with reports of sockeye salmon available for harvest through February. From the harvest data, subsistence reports, and local knowledge, a

20,000-25,000 sockeye salmon escapement from September 1 to September 15 should be adequate to fulfill spawning requirements and subsistence needs with a reasonable amount opportunity.

### ***Post September 14 Sockeye Salmon Commercial Fisheries Management Plan***

#### **Background**

In 1994, the BOF directed ADF&G, industry, and subsistence users to devise a workable plan that addressed the availability of late season sockeye salmon for subsistence use. This BOF action was in response to subsistence users that testified they were unable to meet subsistence needs from the post September 15 sockeye salmon escapement, destined to the Clark River and Home Creek in Chignik Lake. At the December 1996 Chignik Regional Planning Team (RPT) meeting, several members expressed the view that future late season closures should be determined from objective criteria developed by ADF&G in addition to recommendations from commercial fishers and subsistence users.

To answer this request and to assist in evaluating escapement and run strength after the weir is removed on September 5, objective criteria were developed by ADF&G. These criteria were distributed to as many resource users as possible in March 1997 and discussed at a June 1997 RPT/Chignik Seiners Association meeting. These discussions, in conjunction with the analysis of age composition data of Chignik Lake sockeye salmon during the fall of 1997, resulted in a post September 14 sockeye salmon management plan for the commercial fishery that objectively addresses subsistence needs for fish destined to the Clark River and Home Creek.

#### **Objective Criteria to Determine Late Sockeye Salmon Run Strength**

ADF&G utilizes several objective criteria to determine the strength of the late season Chignik River sockeye salmon run.

- 1) Compare aerial surveys in early September over the Clark River drainage and Hatchery Beach to aerial survey estimates of previous years.
- 2) Apply catch/escapement ratios from late August/early September to the post-weir catch to project escapement and compare this data to previous years' estimates.
- 3) Compare the commercial harvest (total catch and CPUE) from September 1-14 to previous years as an indicator of run strength.
- 4) Compare and analyze age-class data from the commercial fishery with historic databases. For the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run, a strong age 2.3 component appears necessary for a large volume of sockeye salmon to pass through the fishery. High proportions of other ages compared to age 2.3 fish indicate weakness in the late run.

## **Public Input to Determine Late Sockeye Salmon Run Strength**

ADF&G biologists gather recommendations and local knowledge from commercial and subsistence users regarding the late season sockeye salmon run strength through personal and telephonic interviews.

## **Sockeye Salmon Management Options**

As outlined in the BOF approved Chignik Salmon Management Plan (Appendix A), beginning September 15, openings in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts shall be a maximum of 48-hours per week, and shall be based upon evaluation of the sockeye salmon run strength and the Chignik Lake late season sockeye salmon subsistence needs.

Post September 14, fisheries management options include:

- 1) Allow up to 48-hours per week to be divided into one, two, three, or four commercial fishing periods, depending upon management needs. The fishing time could be distributed over 4 days within a 7 day period for 12-hour fishing periods each day.
- 2) A weekly fishing schedule of less than 48-hours, or if the run weakens at any point-reduce the fishing time.
- 3) Allow for a complete closure. Surveys of late season subsistence harvests indicate that, on average, about 3,500 “red fish” (heavily water marked sockeye salmon harvested on the spawning grounds) are taken in late fall and early winter in Chignik Lake waters. If projections indicate that this harvest level is not attainable, then appropriate action to restrict the commercial fishery shall occur.

## **2002 COHO SALMON MANAGEMENT**

### ***Western and Perryville Coho Salmon Management Plan***

#### **Background**

The Chignik Local Fish and Game Advisory Committee held a teleconference in April 1997 to discuss coho salmon subsistence concerns expressed by residents in the Perryville Village. Residents testified that coho escapement in recent years had diminished in the Kametlook River and other streams of the Western and Perryville Districts. Responding to the advisory committee’s request, ADF&G drafted a coho management plan that was discussed during the Regional Plan Team and Chignik Seiners Association June meeting, and again at a late June 1997 meeting that was attended mostly by fishers who primarily fish in the Western and Perryville Districts. As a result of these discussions and meetings, a coho management plan for the Western and Perryville Districts was first drafted and implemented in 1997. A modified plan remains in effect today (Appendix A). From the end of the transition period until approximately August 20, fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts will be based upon the department’s evaluation of the local pink and chum salmon runs and the Chignik Lake sockeye

salmon run. During this time frame, coho salmon are incidentally harvested when vessels are targeting pink and chum salmon. In addition, ADF&G will actively manage these districts based upon local coho salmon runs only if the runs are strong and provide harvestable surplus beyond escapement needs during this time frame.

### **Management from July 22-31**

During the January 2002 BOF meetings, a coho salmon harvest cap of 60,000 fish was adopted for the Western and Perryville Districts of the CMA. The cap was adopted to address interception concerns of coho salmon transiting the CMA destined for other management areas. The new coho salmon harvest cap was supported by the Chignik salmon fishers. From July 22 - 31, the non-terminal harvest areas in the Western and Perryville Districts of the CMA will be managed to prevent the commercial harvest from exceeding 60,000 coho salmon. If it appears that the harvest cap will be surpassed, ADF&G will restrict or close the non-terminal harvest areas within these districts until August 1 (Appendix A). The terminal harvest areas within the Western and Perryville Districts are defined as those portions of the Western and Perryville Districts north of a line from Cape Ikti 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., and waters in the Ivanof Bay Section of the Perryville District that are north of the latitude from Alexander Point at 55° 47.37' N lat., 159° 24.37' W long., to the Kupreanof Peninsula. The terminal harvest areas may be opened to commercial salmon fishing by emergency order if the salmon escapement goals for the local systems are being met. The ADF&G will require timely and accurate catch reporting from the fleet to assure the harvest cap is not exceeded.

### **Management on or about August 20**

The Western and Perryville Districts fisheries are managed more conservatively beginning the last week of August to address subsistence concerns voiced by residents of Ivanof Bay and Perryville.

The management options for this time frame include:

- 1) In 1999, the BOF approved a regulation that promoted inseason coho conservation. Beginning on or about August 20, openings in the Western and Perryville Districts shall be based on the evaluation of local coho salmon runs, in addition to the evaluation of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run.

However, the management plan may also be modified because of subsistence considerations in the Perryville Area. **The Perryville and Chignik Subsistence Workgroup is currently considering some proposed changes to the plan for approval as follows:**

- a) If the pink run is weak, the commercial salmon season shall be closed on August 15 unless there is an extremely strong coho run.
- b) If the pink run is strong and the coho run is below average, closures shall occur in the Western and Perryville Districts starting August 15.

- 2) Changes to the Chignik Salmon Management Plan shall occur because of subsistence considerations in the Perryville area.

If the Kametlook River escapement, is on track to achieve a total of 3,000 coho salmon (1,500 for spawning, 1,500 for subsistence), ADF&G shall allow commercial fishery openings after August 20 in the Castle Cape Section of the Western District in years of strong coho abundance. Also, ADF&G shall allow commercial fishing after August 20 within Ivanof Bay if there is a strong coho run to that bay.

- 3) The run strength will be estimated using comparative coho commercial catch data (previous 10 years) and available aerial survey data.
- 4) Subsistence users must implement self-imposed subsistence harvest restrictions on the Kametlook River to enhance the rebuilding process, including:
  - a) No subsistence harvests on critical spawning ground areas.
  - b) Continue protecting spawning and rearing habitat.
  - c) Continued community support for ADF&G enhancement project on the Kametlook River.

## **2002 PINK AND CHUM SALMON MANAGEMENT**

### ***Criteria for Establishing Fishery Openings and Closures***

Aerial surveys will be conducted to monitor pink and chum salmon escapements. If escapement goals are met, commercial fishery openings may occur. When feasible, a 24-hour advance notice will be given prior to any commercial fishery opening. Openings and closures will be announced over single SSB frequency 3.230 and 4.125 MHz and VHF radio channel 6. The management of the pink and chum salmon fisheries in the Eastern, Western, Central, and Perryville Districts will be independent of the sockeye salmon cooperative fishery allocative plan adopted at the January 2002 BOF meetings. The pink and chum salmon fisheries in these districts will continue to remain subject to the run timing and strength of the Chignik River systems sockeye salmon runs. All sockeye salmon commercially harvested in all districts of the CMA will be applied towards the sockeye salmon allocative plans.

### ***Openings in the Western and Perryville Districts***

#### **First Opening Date**

The first pink and chum salmon openings in the Western and Perryville Districts can occur beginning July 6. Recognizing that processors need high quality fish in a competitive salmon market, management strategies will be adjusted to harvest fish prior to migration to their natal streams, such as increasing fishing effort early in the run, if a harvestable surplus is available.

## **Openings on a Commercial Test Fishery Basis**

In early July, initial fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts will occur on a commercial “test fishery” basis which provides an early indication of the pink and chum run strength. Test fishery catch per unit effort results will be used to adjust the length of the commercial fishing periods. In the case where harvests are weak and instream goals are not met, restrictive management action may be required to ensure that the biological escapement goals will be achieved.

Because pink and chum salmon runs for many streams have different timing and chum salmon often return earlier than pink salmon, these two species will be evaluated by their individual run timing characteristics.

Run timing and strength of the Chignik Lakes sockeye salmon (Black Lake early run and Chignik Lake late run) will directly effect commercial fishing periods in the Eastern, Western, and Perryville Districts. If the early sockeye salmon run into Black Lake is weak, and the 400,000 salmon escapement goal through the Chignik River weir is not achieved, then fishery openings in all CMA waters where sockeye salmon could be harvested may be reduced. Commercial fishery openings during the transition period between the two sockeye salmon runs (June 26 to July 9) will also be closely monitored to evaluate the Chignik Lake run strength to ensure the achievement of the 250,000 salmon escapement goal.

### ***Actual Opening Time for all CMA Districts***

Fisheries will open simultaneously in all districts. The standard for concurrent openings, established in the Chignik Salmon Management Plan for the Eastern, Central, and Chignik Bay Districts during June are described in regulation (Appendix A). From July 6 to the end of the season, any CMA District that warrants an opening will be opened concurrent with the opening in the Chignik Bay District. One exception is if ADF&G determines that a surplus of pink and or chum salmon is available for harvest within selected bays in the Western or Perryville Districts while the Chignik Bay and Central Districts are closed. Restricted fisheries within bays targeting local pink or chum salmon will only be conducted if the systems within the bay are achieving their escapement goals and the openings can occur without intercepting significant numbers of sockeye salmon.

## **CMA COOPERATIVE PURSE SEINE SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

During the January 2002 BOF meeting, a new sockeye salmon allocative plan was adopted into regulation (Appendix E). The new plan provides the criteria and management measures for a salmon purse seine cooperative fishery in the CMA. This cooperative fishery plan requires that at least 51 Chignik Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) salmon permit holders to form a “**cooperative fleet**”. This cooperative fleet will be formed with the intent of reducing the number of actively participating vessels to decrease overhead expenses associated with commercial fishing and controlling the harvest rate to achieve a higher quality product. If the

cooperative fleet contains less than 85% of the fleet, 0.9% of the total sockeye salmon harvest will be allocated to the cooperative fleet for each CMA CFEC purse seine salmon permit holder who joins the cooperative fleet. If more than 85% of the fleet joins the cooperative, 1% of the total sockeye salmon harvest will be allocated to the cooperative fleet for each CMA CFEC purse seine salmon permit holder in cooperative. The remaining vessels that do not join the cooperative fleet will be identified as the “**competitive fleet**” and are allocated the remaining percent of the total sockeye salmon harvest.

The new CMA allocative salmon fishery may require ADF&G to develop new management actions, fishing schedules, and area closures which the CMA purse seine salmon fleet has not experienced in recent years. ADF&G will manage the CMA sockeye salmon fisheries to achieve, as close a possible, the established sockeye salmon allocation percentages between the cooperative fleet and the competitive fleet by the conclusion of the season. Ideally, the CMA salmon fisheries will be managed to keep the allocations “on track” throughout the entire season. ADF&G may manage the CMA allocative salmon fishery by opening and closing separate fishing periods and areas for the cooperative fleet and the competitive fleet. If one of the fleet’s total sockeye salmon harvest significantly exceeds their respective allocated percentage, that fleet may have fishing period time and area reductions or closures to allow the other fleet to achieve its allocation.

The management of the CMA salmon fisheries will be subject to escapement and harvest goals. The allocation established by the BOF is secondary to conservation concerns. Because this allocative fishery plan is new to the commercial salmon fisheries in Alaska, ADF&G requests the cooperation of the industry and fleet to make a smooth transition to this new management style.

In Accordance with 5AAC 15.359 (c.), Chignik Area cooperative purse seine permit holders must register with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries office in Chignik or Kodiak in order to participate in the Chignik Management Area commercial salmon fishery. The registration forms will be made available through the Chignik weir and Kodiak offices.

**Table 1.** Chignik River system sockeye salmon escapement goals for the early run (primarily Black Lake) and the late run (primarily Chignik Lake) by time period.

The numbers of fish presented in the escapement tables below were derived from averages over several years of escapements of various timing and magnitude. It should be noted that daily escapement levels will fluctuate considerably throughout the run. These tables serve only as a guide for achieving the total escapement for each run. Inseason variations from the figures listed below may be due to variations in actual timing and/or strength of the run.

<b>Early Run-400,000</b>		
<b>Escapement</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Lower</b>	<b>Upper</b>
June 12		40,000
June 14	50,000 -	65,000
June 16	75,000 -	100,000
June 18	125,000 -	150,000
June 20	175,000 -	200,000
June 22	225,000 -	250,000
June 25	275,000 -	325,000
June 30	350,000 -	400,000

<b>Late Run-250,000 Escapement to August 31</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Early Escapement Is Achieved</b>	<b>Early Escapement Is Not Achieved</b>
July 6		40,000
July 8		45,000 - 50,000
July 10	- 40,000	55,000 - 65,000
July 12	50,000 - 60,000	70,000 - 75,000
July 14	65,000 - 75,000	75,000 - 80,000
July 16	80,000 - 90,000	80,000 - 90,000
July 19	100,000 - 115,000	100,000 - 115,000
July 21	125,000 - 135,000	125,000 - 135,000
July 23	145,000 - 160,000	150,000 - 160,000
July 26	170,000 - 180,000	170,000 - 180,000
July 29	185,000 - 195,000	190,000 - 195,000
July 31	195,000 - 200,000	195,000 - 200,000
August 31	200,000 - 250,000	200,000 - 250,000

<b>Supplemental Escapement Objective for Subsistence Needs</b>		
<b>Late Run - 25,000 Escapement September 1 - 15</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Season Total</b>
September 1 - 15	25,000	225,000 - 275,000

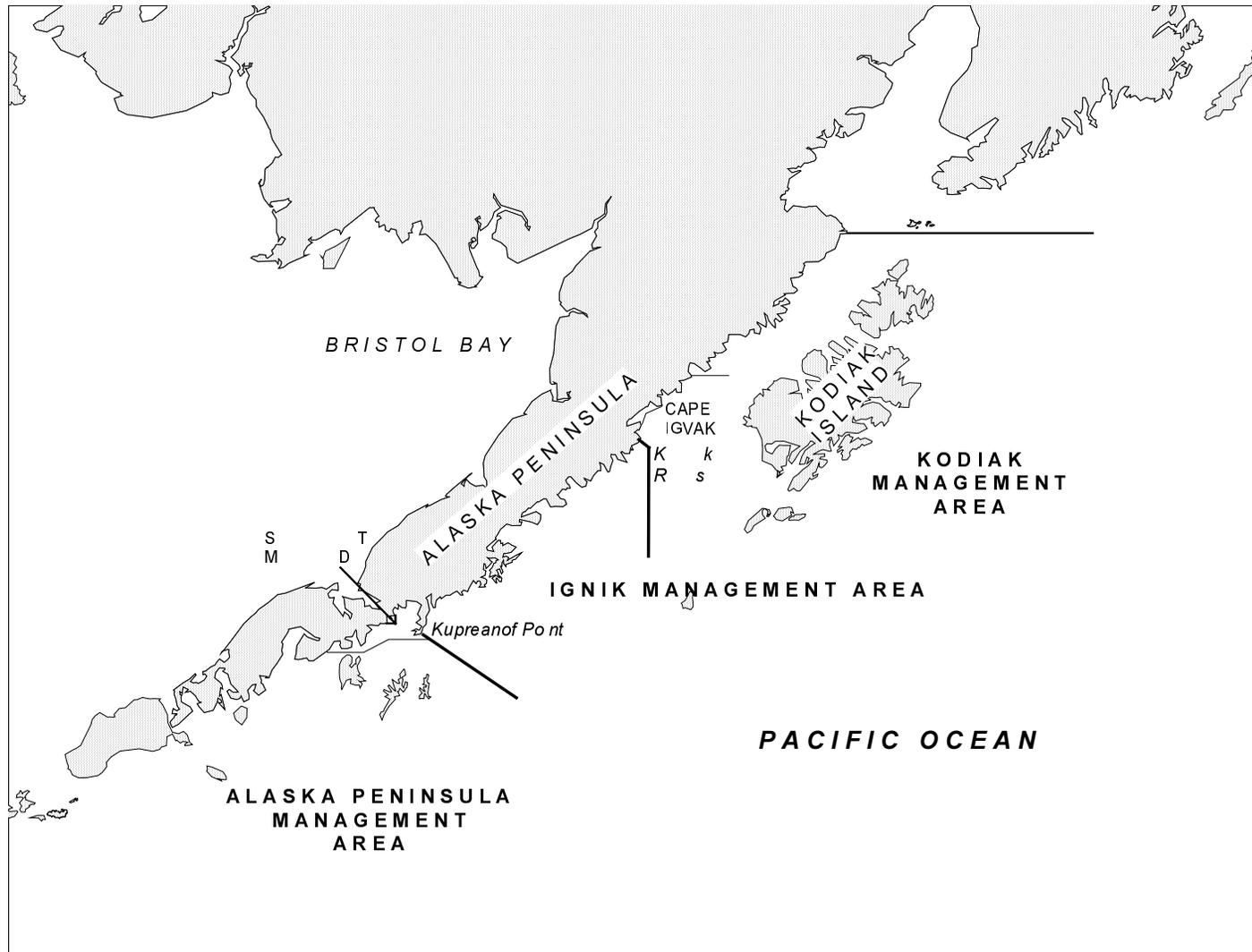


Figure 1 Map of the Alaska peninsula illustrating the relative locations of the Chignik, Kodiak, and Alaska Peninsula Management Areas

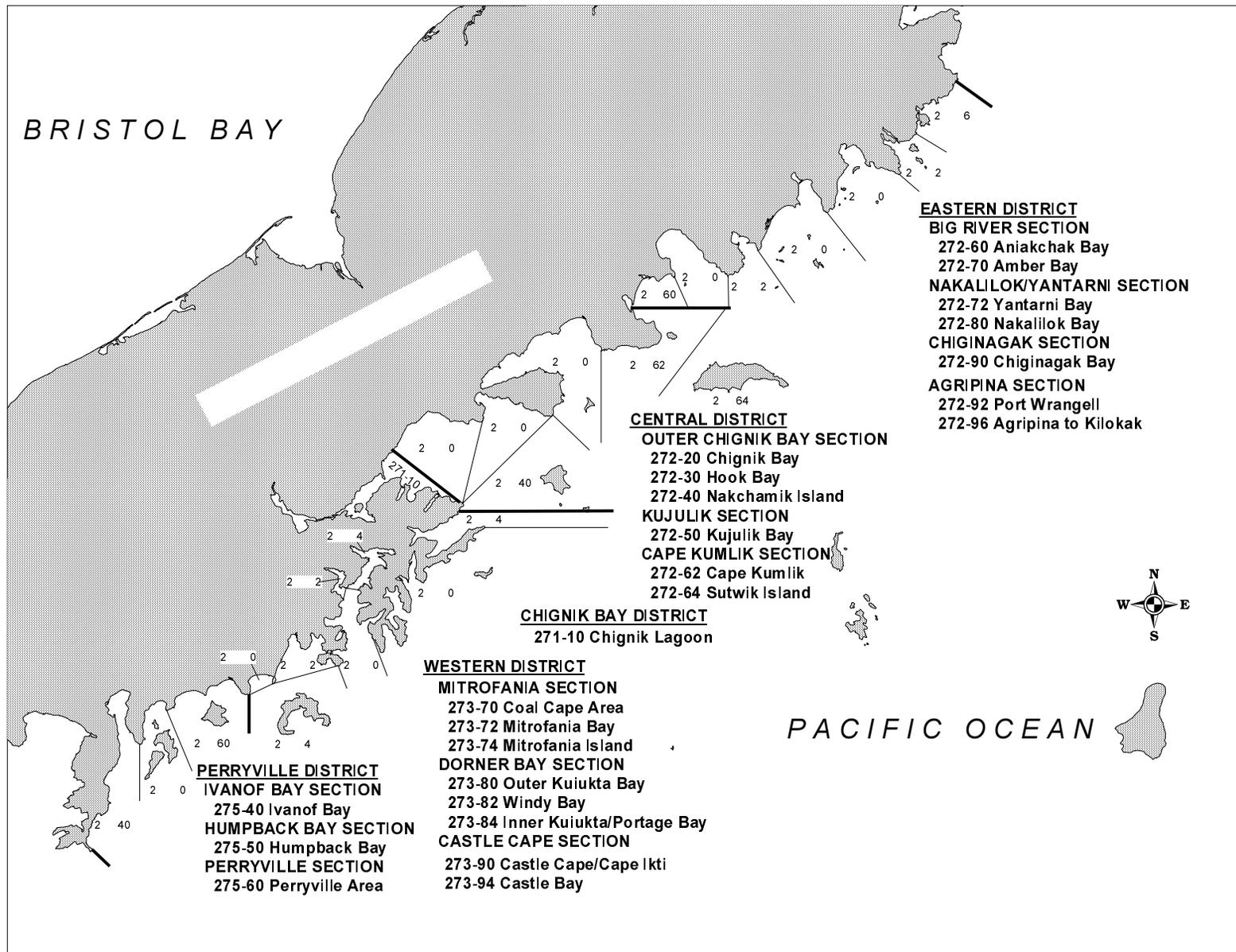


Figure 2. Map of the Chignik management Area illustrating district boundaries and statistical areas

## **APPENDIX**

5 AAC 15.357 CHIGNIK AREA SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN. a) The department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery in the Chignik Management Area in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan. The goal of the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan is to allow traditional fisheries in the area to be conducted on Chignik Area salmon stocks, and to achieve the department's biological escapement goals of both (lack lake early-run) and Chignik (lake late-run) sockeye salmon and local stocks of pink, chum, coho, and chinook salmon.

b) the Chignik Bay and Central Districts:

1) shall open concurrently, based upon escapement objectives of the Chignik lakes system sockeye salmon runs, except as specified below;

2) the first opening shall occur when the following requirements have been achieved:

A) a minimum escapement of 40,000 sockeye salmon by June 12, or until a subsequent interim escapement goal is achieved, and

B) a strong buildup of sockeye salmon in Chignik lagoon as indicated by the department's test fishing program;

3) during the period of transition from the predominance of the early-run to that of the late-run, typically late June through mid-July, the department shall open and close the fishery in these districts to harvest surplus early-run sockeye salmon without jeopardizing the late-run sockeye salmon escapement objectives;

4) from the end of the transition period until September 14, the department shall open and close the fishery in these districts based upon the Chignik lakes system sockeye salmon escapement goals. Management actions may also be taken to protect or harvest local pink, chum, chinook and coho salmon runs; and

5) beginning September 15, openings in these districts shall be a maximum of 48-hours per week and shall be based upon evaluation of the sockeye salmon run strength and the Chignik lake late season sockeye salmon subsistence needs.

c) the Eastern District:

1) during June, the Eastern District shall open concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, based upon achieving the (lack lake sockeye salmon escapement goals;

2) from approximately June 26 to July 8, the strength of the sockeye salmon late-run is being evaluated. To continue managing the (lack lake sockeye salmon harvest and escapement, while assessing the Chignik lake sockeye salmon run strength, commercial salmon fishing in Eastern District will, in the department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted during this period;

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-Continued-

3) from the end of the transition period until the end of the season, the Eastern District shall be managed based upon evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs, in addition to escapement objectives of the Chignik lakes system sockeye salmon

d) the Western and Perryville Districts:

1) the earliest the Western and Perryville Districts may open is July 6, except as specified below;

2) from approximately late June to mid-July (transition period), the strength of the sockeye salmon late-run is being evaluated. To allow for the assessment of the Chignik lake run strength, commercial salmon fishing in the Western and Perryville Districts will, in the department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted during this period;

3) from the end of the transition period until on or about August 20, openings in the Western and Perryville Districts shall be based on the evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs, in addition to evaluation of the Chignik lake sockeye salmon run; and from July 22 through July 31,

A) no more than 60,000 coho salmon may be taken in the Western and Perryville Districts, except in those areas designated as terminal harvest areas under ) of this paragraph;

) 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 Ikti 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., and

ii) waters in the Ivanof Bay Section of the Perryville District that are north of the latitude from Alexander Point at 55° 47.37' N. lat., 159° 24.37' W. long., to Kupreanof Peninsula; and

(4) beginning on or about August 20, openings in the Western and Perryville Districts shall be based on the evaluation of local coho salmon runs, in addition to the evaluation of the Chignik lake sockeye salmon run

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<b>Forecast Area: Chignik</b>			
<b>Species: Sockeye Salmon</b>			
Preliminary Forecast of the 2002 Run:		Forecast Estimate (thousands)	Forecast Range (thousands)
<b>Total Production:</b>			
<b>Early Run (Black Lake)</b>	Total Run Estimate	1,030	618-1,430
	Escapement Goal	400	350-400
	Harvest Estimate	630	
<b>Late Run (Chignik Lake)</b>	Total Run Estimate	1,090	505-1,670
	Escapement Goal	250	200-250
	Harvest Estimate	840	
<b>Total Chignik System</b>	Total Run Estimate	2,120	1,430-2,800
	Escapement Goal	650	550-650
	Harvest Estimate	1,470	

**These figures include harvests of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon by the Southeastern District Mainland and the Cape Igvak fisheries; approximately 1,210 thousand sockeye salmon are projected to be harvested in the Chignik Management Area.**

### Forecast Methods

The forecasts for Black Lake and Chignik Lakes 2002 runs were based on simple linear regressions between sibling relationships, between escapements and subsequent year-class returns, or median estimators of age class returns for brood years since 1977. In constructing and evaluating each of the regression models, standard regression diagnostic procedures were used. Regression models were only used in cases where the slope of the regression was significantly different from zero (P-value <0.25). The Black Lake age 0.3, 1.2, 1.3 and 2.3 components of the run and Chignik Lake age 1.2, 2.2, and 2.4 components of the run were estimated based on the abundance of their sibling returns in 2001. The Chignik Lake age 1.3 and 2.3 returns were forecasted based upon regression relationships with the abundance of spawners in their parent years. Following non-significant regression results, the median brood year return by age class was used to estimate all other age class components of the run. When regression relationships were used, the variance of the estimate was calculated from the error structure of the regression. When the median return by age class was used, the variances calculated from the mean distributions, by age, were applied to the estimate. The variances associated with individual estimates were summed to estimate 80% confidence intervals for each individual run and for the total Chignik system run.

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### ***Forecast Discussion***

The 2002 sockeye salmon run to the Chignik River is expected to be 2.12 million fish, which is approximately 800 thousand fish less than the run of 2001. The early run is expected to be approximately 280 thousand fish fewer than the early run in 2001. The late run is expected to be approximately 517 thousand fish fewer than the 2001 run. The 2002 sockeye salmon run to Chignik is expected to be approximately 726 thousand fish less than the recent 10-year average return.

Approximately 92% of the 2002 early run was forecasted using sibling relationships. The 2001 early run, using similar methods, was under forecasted by approximately 23%. The majority of the 2001 late run was forecasted using median values because there was no significant sibling relationships apparent for the major age class of the late run (age 2.3). The 2001 late run was under forecasted by approximately 43%. The age 1.3 sibling relationship was not significant for the 2002 late run forecast. Regression relationships were implemented, however, between parent escapement and the age 1.3 and 2.3 returns for the late run for the 2002 forecast. Available smolt data were analyzed and although significant regression relationships were not found, the abundance of the smolt that emigrated in 1999 was average to above average. The majority of these fish will return in 2002 as 3-ocean fish. The smolt that emigrated in 1999, however, were large and were extremely healthy, which may indicate better than average marine survival. Both runs were also forecasted together as one run as an alternative method, and the resultant 2002 forecast was approximately 246 thousand sockeye salmon higher than when both runs were forecasted separately and then combined. This method more accurately forecasted the total 2001 run (6% under forecast) than each run forecasted separately and then combined. It was not used to forecast the 2002 run, however, because of the loss of information of the relative magnitude of the two runs.

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The tendency to under forecast using the current methods, available smolt data, and the larger combined total Chignik River system forecast suggests the actual return may be between the point estimate and the higher 80% confidence interval. Given these ancillary data, our confidence in this forecast is fair.

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**Kenneth A. Bouwens**  
**Finfish Research Biologist**

**Kodiak**

5 AAC 18.360 CAPE IGVAK SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN.

a) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first (lack lake) and second Chignik (lake) runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000, there will be no commercial salmon fishery allowed in the Cape Igvak Section, as described in 5 AAC 18.200(g) (8), until a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area, as described in 5 AAC 15.100, is achieved. After July 8, after 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 and the harvest in the Cape Igvak Section will approach as near as possible 15 percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

b) 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, 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 may not be achieved, the Cape Igvak Section commercial salmon fishery will be curtailed in order to allow at least a minimum harvest in the Chignik Area of 300,000 sockeye salmon by July 9 if that number of fish are determined to be surplus to the escapement goals of the Chignik River system. After July 8, after 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 and the harvest in the Cape Igvak Section will approach as near as possible 15 percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

c) On 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 and the department determines the runs are as strong as expected, the department will manage the fishery in such a manner whereby the number of sockeye salmon taken in the Cape Igvak Section will approach as near as possible 15 percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

d) The total Chignik sockeye salmon catch constitutes those sockeye salmon caught within the Chignik Area plus 90 percent of the sockeye salmon caught in the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Alboay, and Weaveray Sections, as described in 5 AAC 09.500 (f), plus 90 percent of the sockeye salmon caught in the Cape Igvak Section. The harvest in the Cape Igvak Section at any time before July 25 may be permitted to fluctuate above or below 15 percent of the cumulative Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

e) This allocation method will be in effect through July 25. The first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Cape Igvak Section will not occur before the first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Chignik Area. After July 25, commercial salmon fishing in the Cape Igvak Section may be allowed on the local Kodiak Area stocks.

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f) During the period from approximately June 26 to July 9, the strength of the second run of Chignik River system sockeye salmon cannot be evaluated. In order to prevent over-harvest of the second run, commercial salmon fishing in the Cape Igvak Section will, in the department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted during this period.

g) The department shall announce commercial salmon fishing periods by emergency order. The department shall give at least one-day notice prior to the opening of a commercial salmon fishing period unless it is an extension of a fishing period in progress.

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5 AAC 09.360 SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT MAINLAND SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

a) This plan pertains to the management of the interception of Chignik River sockeye salmon caught in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery: East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Northwest Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, alboa ay, and eaver ay Sections before July 11, only set gill net gear may be used in these sections For the purpose of this plan, local runs include only those salmon in the waters:

- 1) beginning July 1, in the Northwest Stepovak Section described 5 AAC 09.200(f):
- 2) the Stepovak Flats Section as described in 5 AAC 09.200(f)

b) In years when a harvestable surplus for the first (lack lake) and second (Chignik lake) runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000, no commercial salmon fishery is allowed in the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, alboa ay, and eaver ay Sections, and in the Northwest Stepovak Section, as described in 5 AAC 09.200(f) excluding Orzinski ay of the Northwest Stepovak Section north of a line from Elephant Point at 55°41.92' N. lat., 160°03.2' W. long., to Waterfall Point at 55°43.18' N. lat., 160°01.13' W. long., until a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon is achieved in the Chignik Area, as 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 and the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, alboa ay, and eaver ay Sections and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible six percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

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 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 may not be achieved, the commercial salmon fishery in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, alboa ay, and eaver ay Sections and in the Northwest Stepovak Section, ), excluding Orzinski ay of the Northwest Stepovak Section 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., shall be curtailed in order to allow a harvest in the Chignik Area of 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 and the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, alboa ay, and eaver ay Sections and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible six percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch

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 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 taken in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, alboa ay, and eaver ay Sections and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible six percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch

e) The fishing schedule in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding the waters of Orzinski ay located 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., will not exceed four days during a seven day period. The maximum number of consecutive fishing days is two

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, alboa ay, and eaver ay Sections and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section. The sockeye salmon taken in the Northwest Stepovak Section beginning July 1 are considered to be 100% destined for Orzinski ay

g) The total Chignik sockeye salmon catch constitutes those sockeye salmon caught within the Chignik Area, plus 80 percent of the sockeye salmon caught in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, alboa ay, and eaver ay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, as described in 5 AAC 09.200(f), plus 90 percent of the sockeye salmon caught in the Cape Igvak Section of the Kodiak Area. The percentage of Chignik sockeye salmon may be permitted to fluctuate above or below six percent at any time before July 25.

h) This allocation method is in effect through July 25. The first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, alboa ay, and eaver ay Sections and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, may not occur before the first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Chignik Area. After July 25, commercial salmon fishing in the entire Southeastern District Mainland area may be allowed on 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 over-harvest of the second run, the department may disallow or severely restrict commercial salmon fishing in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, alboa ay, and eaver ay Sections during this period, and from June 26 through June 30 in the Northwest Stepovak Section

j) The department shall announce all commercial salmon fishing periods by emergency order. The department shall give at least 24 hour notice before the first opening of the season. After the season opening, the advance notice will be 12-hours, unless it is an extension of a fishing period in progress

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5 AAC 15.359 CHIGNIK AREA COOPERATIVE PURSE SEINE SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN. a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to establish the criteria and management measures for a salmon purse seine cooperative fishery in the Chignik Area

b) Chignik Area CFEC salmon purse seine permit holders may receive a permit issued by the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, to form an annual cooperative fishery only under the following conditions:

1) at least 51 CFEC salmon purse seine permit holders must, together, apply to the commissioner for a permit to fish as a cooperative fishery each year;

2) an application for an annual cooperative fishery permit must be submitted to the commissioner by April 1 in 2002, or March 1 in any year after 2002; the application must contain the name and CFEC permit number of each applicant; a copy of a cooperative fishery agreement containing the contractual terms upon which the cooperative will be operated must be submitted with the application, including articles of incorporation, corporate by-laws, partnership agreements, or other similar documents that contain the contractual terms of the cooperative;

3) a CFEC salmon purse seine permit holder who did not apply by the deadline specified in 2) of this subsection, may elect to participate in the cooperative fishery by registering with the department by April 15 in 2002, or March 15 in any year after 2002; a CFEC salmon purse seine permit holder who does not register by the applicable date specified in this paragraph may not participate in the cooperative fishery;

4) the contractual terms of the annual cooperative fishery agreement must

A) provide for participation in the cooperative fishery by registering permit holders who registered after the original deadline, as provided in 3) of this subsection, on the same terms as applicants who did apply by the original deadline;

) be consistent with state laws that apply to the salmon fishery resources of the state;

5) if an annual cooperative fishery permit is approved and issued by the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, for that year, all permit holders that applied by the original deadline or registered after the original deadline to participate in the cooperative fishery may only participate in that cooperative fishery;

6) a CFEC permit holder who participates in the annual cooperative fishery

A) in the Chignik Area may not participate in any other commercial salmon net registration area as either a permit holder or crew member from June 1 through August 31 of that year;

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) and who holds salmon net gear permits for more than one commercial salmon net registration area listed in 5 AAC 39.120(d), must designate the Chignik Area as the single area for salmon net fishing for that year as specified in 5 AAC 39.115 and 20 AAC 05.1940;

7) at least one CFEC purse seine permit holder who is a participant in the cooperative must be on board a purse seine vessel engaged in the taking and delivery of salmon for the cooperative

c) If an annual cooperative fishery permit application meets the qualifications and requirements of this section, the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, will issue a permit, which may contain registration requirements, reporting requirements, and other requirements or conditions that the commissioner determines necessary for conservation and management purposes

d) For each year that an annual cooperative fishery permit is issued under this section, the Chignik Area cooperative fishery shall be allocated a percentage of the annual Chignik Area commercial sockeye salmon harvestable surplus based on the number of permit holders participating in the cooperative as follows:

1) if participation in the cooperative is less than 85 percent of the registered Chignik Area CFEC purse seine permit holders, the allocation to the annual cooperative fishery will be nine-tenths of one percent of the harvestable surplus for each participant in the cooperative; and

2) if participation in the cooperative is 85 percent or more of the registered Chignik Area CFEC purse seine permit holders, the allocation will be one prorated share of the harvestable surplus for each participant in the cooperative

e) The commissioner may, by emergency order, open and close separate fishing periods and areas for the cooperative fishery and the open fishery as necessary to achieve the allocation established in c) of this section. The allocation established under c) of this section is secondary to escapement and harvest objectives, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, reduce or expand fishing opportunity to ensure escapement and harvest objectives

f) Notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 39.999, at its first meeting in the fall of each year, the board may, consider written requests for regulation changes of the provisions of this section that are sent to the executive director of the board at least 45 days before the meeting. If the board accepts a request, it will schedule the proposed regulation change as necessary to consider the merits of the request

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g) In this section,

1) “cooperative fishery” means a commercial purse seine salmon fishery in which, by agreement of the participants, the number of fishing vessels may be reduced with the intent of decreasing overhead expenses associated with commercial fishing and controlling the rate of harvest to achieve a higher quality product;

2) "open fishery" means a commercial purse seine fishery conducted by CFEC permit holders who do not participate in the cooperative fishery

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