ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

STAFF COMMENTS ON ALASKA PENINSULA / ALEUTIANS ISLANDS GROUNDFISH, HERRING, AND SALMON PROPOSALS

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES MEETING
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
FEBRUARY 6-11, 2007

The following staff comments were prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for use at the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, February 6-11, 2007 in Anchorage, Alaska and are prepared to assist the public and board. The stated staff comments should be considered preliminary and subject to change, if or when new information becomes available. Final Department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral testimony presented to the Board of Fisheries.

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Summary of Department Positions on Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands proposals

Committee and Proposal #		Dept Position *	Issue
Committee A	**178**	N	Establish set opening date for statewide Pacific cod season.
	179	N	Delay cod openings as needed for weather.
	180	S	Adopt reporting requirement
	181	O	Require season extension if 10 percent of Pacific cod GHL unharvested.
	182	N	Increase Pacific cod GHL for South Alaska Peninsula Area.
	183	N	Modify GHL for Pacific cod in state waters season.
	184	S	Restrict simultaneous vessel registration.
	185	N	Prohibit vessels greater than 58 feet.
Committee B	**186**	S	Change Sanak Island and Otter Cove descriptions.
	187	S/NA	Close Sanak Island Section during June.
	188	N	Reinstate pre-2001 South Unimak and Shumagin Island salmon management plan
	189	N	Return to regulations in effect prior to 2001 BOF meeting.
	190	N	Change South Peninsula June Management to 2001-2003 plan.
	191	N/O	Reinstate sockeye allocation based on 8.3 percent.
	192	N	Eliminate early June salmon fishery in Area M.
	193	N	Open portions of South Central District in June.
	194	N	Modify allowable drift gillnet depth.
	195	N	Allow drift gillnets in Southwestern, Southcentral, and Southeastern districts.
Committee C	**196**	N/O	Allow earlier openings for pink and chum salmon.
	197	N	Allow earlier openings for pink and chum salmon.
	198	N	Change Post-June fishing schedule.
	199	N/O	Adopt new South Peninsula management plan to protect non-local sockeye.
	200	O	Eliminate immature salmon seine test fishery.
Committee D	**201**	N/O	Link open periods to Orzinski Lake sockeye escapement.
	202	N/O	Allow harvest of Orzinski Lake sockeye.
	203	N	Change estimate of Chignik sockeye caught in Southeastern Mainland District.
	204	N	Modify Southeastern District Mainland plan allocation.
	205	N/O	Modify management plan for Southeastern District Mainland.
	206	N/O	Modify fishing periods for Southeastern District Mainland.
Committee E	**207**	N/S	Modify opening of Ilnik Section salmon fishery.
	208	S/NA	Modify opening of Ilnik Lagoon salmon fishery.
	209	S	Modify Northern District to protect Bear River sockeye stocks.
	210	N/O	Change boundary for sockeye season in Northern District.
	211	N/O	Modify Northern District season.
	212	N	Modify Northern District season.
	213	N/O	Reinstate 100,000 sockeye salmon cap in Northern District
	214	S	Modify Northwestern District and Urilia Bay fishing periods.
Committee F	**215**	S	Allow use of herring pounds in Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area.
	216	S	Require vessel registration for seine and gillnet herring fishery.
	217	S	Change description of Aleutian Islands area.
	218	S	Amend subsistence seine net season in Aleutians
	219	S	Adopt vessel registration requirement in Aleutians.
	220	S	Regulate use of net pens in Aleutian Islands area.
	221	S	Regulate use of net pens in Atka-Amlia area.
	222	S	Regulate use of net pens in Alaska Peninsula area.
	223	N/O	Allow two CFEC permit holders aboard vessels.
	224	N/O	Establish Krenitzin Island super-exclusive registration area.
	225	N	Modify king salmon bag and possession limit for Aleutian Islands Area.

*Position - N=Neutral, S=Support, O=Oppose, NA=No Action,
N/S=Neutral on Allocation-but Support, N/O Neutral on Allocation-but Oppose

COMMITTEE A – South Alaska Peninsula Groundfish (8 Proposals

COMMITTEE A – South Alaska Peninsula Groundfish (8 Proposals)

PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would amend the existing starting date for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season from seven days after the closure of the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area (WGOA) to March 15 or seven days after the closure of the federal WGOA, which ever comes later.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The commissioner shall open, by emergency order, a state-waters Pacific cod season in the South Alaska Peninsula Area seven days following the closure of the directed federal Pacific cod season in the WGOA.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod pot and jig fisheries would open on March 15 or seven days following the closure of the WGOA federal fishery, which ever comes later. Over the past 10 years, the average number of days between the close of the WGOA fishery and the opening of the state-waters fishery would have increased from 7-days to 14.8 days (Table 1).

BACKGROUND: The South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan states that the state-waters season will open seven days following the closure of the directed federal season in the WGOA. Since 1997, the earliest start date for the state-waters season was in 2003, when the season opened on February 24. The latest the state-waters fishery has opened is April 4, in 1997, the first year of the state-waters fishery. In eight of the last ten years, the state-waters season opened between March 1 and March 15.

Table 1. WGOA Pacific cod closure date, state-waters opening date, effect of Proposal 178 and number of days between WGOA closure and state-waters opening if Proposal 178 were in effect, 1997-2006.

	Date		Effect of Proposal 178	Days between WGOA closure &
Year	WGOA Closure	State-waters Opening	on Opening	State-waters opening [a]
1997	March 28	April 4	April 4	7
1998	March 3	March 10	March 15	12
1999	March 8	March 15	March 15	7
2000	March 4	March 11	March 15	11
2001	February 27	March 6	March 15	16
2002	February 26	March 5	March 15	17
2003	February 17	February 24	March 15	26
2004	February 23	March 2	March 15	20
2005	February 24	March 3	March 15	19
2006	March 2	March 9	March 15	13
Average	March 2	March 9	March 17	14.8

[a] if Proposal 178 were adopted.

Pacific cod form spawning aggregations in the Gulf of Alaska between January and April. This is when the fish are most concentrated and harvest rates are greatest. The percentage of Pacific cod that had spawned in samples of commercial landings reached 50% by early April in 2003 and late March in 2004 and 2005, data analysis for 2006 has not been completed (Figure 1). After spawning, Pacific cod tend to disperse from the spawning aggregations and harvest rates tend to decrease.

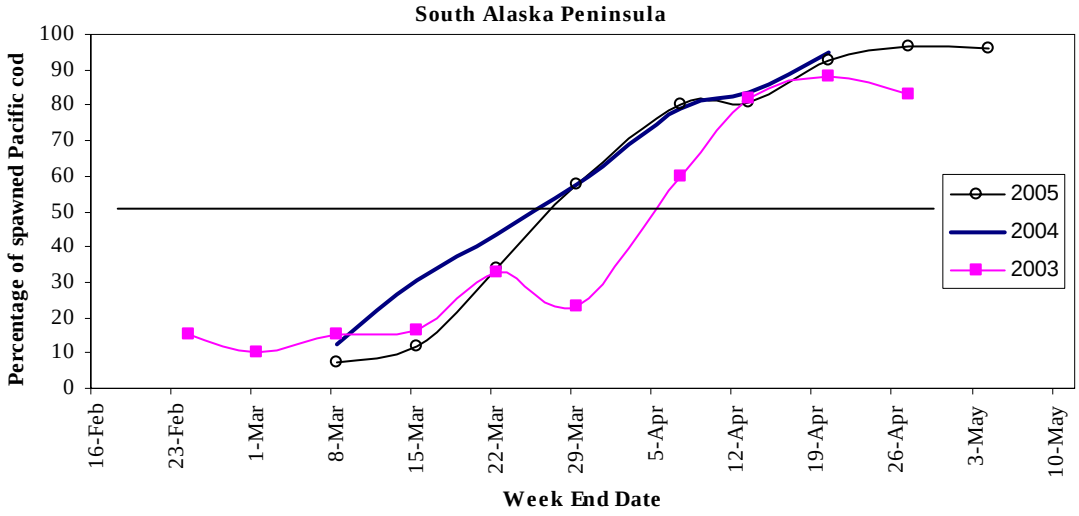

Figure 1. Percentage of spawned Pacific cod from the South Alaska Peninsula pot and jig fisheries, 2003-2005.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. The department could manage the state-waters Pacific cod season opening on March 15 or seven days after the close of the WGOA federal fishery. However, if this proposal is accepted, the pot storage requirements (5 AAC 28.571) would need to be modified. Currently groundfish pots can be stored at depths greater than 25 fathoms, with all bait and bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open for no more than seven days following the closure of the parallel season. If the state-waters season did not open seven days after the parallel-season closure, vessel operators would have to move their pots to shallow water storage within that seven day time period. If this proposal had been in effect during the last ten years, the fishery would have opened on March 15 in nine of those ten years, with the time between the federal closure and the state-waters season opening ranging from seven to 26 days.

COST ANALYSIS: The department believes that approval of this proposal could result in a direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. There may be increased costs associated with moving and storage of pots between the closure of the parallel season and the opening of the state-waters season.

PROPOSAL 179 - 5 AAC 28.XXX. Establish a new regulation as follows:

The start of the Area M state-waters Pacific cod season opening shall be delayed for 24 hours if the 4:00 a.m. National Weather Service 48-hour forecast, for Area M, contains gale force wind warnings for the opening date. The season opening delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis until weather forecast permits.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would provide marine weather criteria for delaying the start of the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod season.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The season opens seven days after the closure of the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area, regardless of the weather forecast.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The Board of Fisheries would establish criteria for a weather-related delay of the fishery opening, based on the National Weather Service (NWS) 48-hour forecast.

The opening of the state-waters fishery could be delayed if, on the morning of the scheduled fishery opening, the 4 a.m. NWS 48-hour forecast contained gale force or stronger wind warnings from any direction for the marine forecast zone applicable to Area M. Staff would issue a news release delaying the fishery opening for 24-hours. This process would be repeated until the 48-hour forecast did not contain gale force or stronger wind warnings.

BACKGROUND: Weather at the beginning of the state-waters Pacific cod fishery can hinder the ability of vessels to participate. Vessel length during the state-waters Pacific cod fishery is restricted to vessels less than or equal to 58-feet (Table 1).

Table 1. Number of vessels participating in the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod fishery by size and gear type 2004-2006.

	2004		2005		2006	
Vessel length	pot	jig	pot	jig	pot	jig
< 32'	0	1	0	2	0	1
32-39'	0	23	0	19	1	12
40-49'	10	23	8	17	10	9
50-58'	24	3	27	2	32	1
Total	34	50	35	40	43	23

The National Weather Service area 155 best approximates the majority of Pacific cod fishing areas, but does not cover the entire Area M. Currently there is a weather delay regulation for the Kodiak District Tanner crab fishery (5 AAC 35.510 (a)(2)), that has the

rolling 24 hour delay for up to 10 days if gale force winds are forecasted for the season opening.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. Currently there is a regulation (5 AAC 28.571 (b)(2)) that allow vessels to store pots, with all bait and bait containers removed and all doors secured fully open, deeper than 25 fathoms for up to seven days following the closure of the parallel Pacific cod season. If the state-waters season start were delayed by weather, the above regulation would need to be modified.

COST ANALYSIS: The department believes that approval of this proposal could result in a direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. There may be increased costs associated with moving and storage of pots.

PROPOSAL 180 - 5 AAC 28.58X. Reporting requirements for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state waters Pacific cod fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This regulation would require pot gear participants in the state-waters Pacific cod fishery to contact the department on a daily basis with catch information, to enable the department to more accurately manage the fishery.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are no current reporting requirement regulations for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If this proposal were adopted, fishery participants would be required to contact the department daily to report catch information.

Proposed regulatory language as follows:

5 AAC 28.58X. Reporting requirements for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.

In the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery, a validly registered vessel using pot gear must report each day to the department

(1) the number of pot lifts in the previous 24-hour reporting period;
(2) the pounds of Pacific cod retained for the previous reporting period; and
(3) any other information that the commissioner determines is necessary for the management and conservation of the fishery, as specified in the registration.

BACKGROUND: Vessels fishing for Pacific cod using pot gear during the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters fishery have high fishing power. During the last week of March in 2006 (last week of the fishery), there were 43 vessels participating. Based on landing data staff projected the average harvest rate to be 26,000 pounds/vessel/day. Based on this information the entire fleet had the capability to harvest 1.1 million pounds during one 24-hour period. In 2005, the last week of March (last week of the fishery), there were 39 vessels fishing with an estimated average harvest rate of 21,000 pounds/per vessel/day. The fleet had a harvest potential of 0.82 million pounds in a 24-hour time period. Harvest rates and vessel participation during the 2004 fishery were similar to 2005.

The amount of on-grounds fleet information the department has to manage this fishery is insufficient to accurately manage for the pot fleet guideline harvest level (GHL) cap. A large portion of the fleet delivers to tenders, and this delivery information is provided to the department as a hail weight. The tender hail estimates do not allow for determining the time of day the offload occurred, and if there was any additional harvest by a vessel

on the day of the offload. These factors result in a lack of precision in the data the department has to manage for the GHL.

Because the Pacific cod fishery GHL is based on the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Allowable Biological Catch (ABC), the total GHL (pot and jig gear combined) cannot be exceeded. Thus, in years when the pot fleet over-harvests the pot GHL, the difference is subtracted from the amount available to the jig fleet. When inseason management results in pot harvests that are less than the pot GHL, the pot fleet may not achieve their GHL cap of 85% of the total GHL.

Figure 1. Difference between pot gear GHL and harvest (in millions of pounds), 2000-2006.

As an example of the utility of inseason catch reporting from participants, harvest during the 2006 Kodiak District Tanner crab season was within one percent of the GHL and pot gear harvest during the 2006 Kodiak Area Pacific cod season was within five percent of the GHL; both of these fisheries rely heavily on inseason catch reporting from participants. The board has previously adopted regulation for inseason reporting, 5 AAC 35.558 Reporting Requirements For Registration Area J.

The department requested voluntary daily reports from vessel operators during the 2006 South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific cod season. Reporting worksheets were distributed during registration and buoy tag sales, along with an explanation of the information requested and the use of that information. Participation in the voluntary reporting program was low (approximately 10%); however, the department could have provided more information on the importance of the reporting program.

The department has made recent investments in equipment to increase communications with the fishing fleets in the Westward Region, including two satellite dispatch (tag phone) systems compatible with the two service providers, Matrix and Stratos, which the majority of the fleet uses. For those vessels that do not have dispatch systems, the department issues code sheets so that vessel operators can report using the single-side band radio or VHF radio, and still maintain confidentiality of the catch reports.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. With the development of better communications hardware (e.g., satellite phones), the department has increasingly relied upon daily reports received directly from vessels participating in fisheries. This allows the department more timely information on daily catch rates, participation levels, weather, and total poundage onboard.

COST ANALYSIS: The department believes that approval of this proposal could result in a direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery by requiring the purchase or upgrade of communication equipment.

PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Ken Mack

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would require the department to reopen the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod pot fishery if 10% or more of the pot fishing guideline harvest level (GHL) remained after the closure.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The commissioner shall, by emergency order, close the state-waters season for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area, for pots, when 85 percent of the total GHL has been taken by pots or on December 31, which ever comes first.
WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The department would be required to reopen the state-waters Pacific cod pot season if 10 percent or more of the pot GHL remains.

BACKGROUND: Because the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery GHL is based on 25% of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Allowable Biological Catch (ABC), the total GHL (pot and jig gear combined) cannot be exceeded. No jig allocation exists for the South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific cod fishery, but the pot fleet is capped at 85% of the area GHL, so the jig fleet has an expectation of access to at least 15% of the GHL. In years when the pot fleet over-harvests the GHL, the difference is subtracted from the amount available to the jig fleet. Had this proposal been in affect from 2000-2006, the state-waters fishery would have reopened in 2003, when pot gear harvest was 82 % of the pot cap (Table1).

Table 1. Allocation (GHL) and harvest in millions of pounds by gear type and year, 2000-2006.

YEAR	Pot Gear			Pot GHL difference	Jig Gear		
	Vessels	GHL[a]	Harvest[b]		Vessels	GHL[a]	Harvest
2000	67	12.90	***14.28***	1.38	28	2.28	0.76
2001	55	11.39	10.40	-0.99	69	2.01	***3.00***
2002	50	10.50	***10.70***	0.20	65	1.86	***2.05***
2003	41	9.69	7.93	-1.76	65	1.80	***3.63***
2004	45	10.60	***10.77***	0.17	51	1.90	1.67
2005	36	9.80	***10.20***	0.40	39	1.73	1.23
2006[c]	43	12.58	11.64	-0.94	11	2.22	0.08

[a] Pot gear is capped at 85% of the annual GHL, jig gear has no specified GHL cap in regulation.

[b] Bold/italics indicate harvest exceeding the GHL

[c] Based on landing data received by ADF&G through October 1, 2006.

The amount of on-grounds fleet information the department has to manage this fishery is low and harvest capacity is high. This results in a lack of precision in achieving the GHL.

As an example, in 2006, the pot season was closed on March 29, 2006 at 6:00 PM based on harvest projections. Processor reports following the closure indicated that the pot fleet had harvested approximately 10.2 million pounds, roughly 2.5 million pounds (19 %) under the pot fleet allocative cap. The fleet and processors requested that ADF&G reopen the season. The season was reopened on April 4, extended due to weather, and closed on April 8, 2006. Total harvest, after the reopening, was 11.8 million pounds. This was 0.78 million pounds (6%) under the pot cap.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal. The pot fleet cap is based on a percentage of the Western Gulf of Alaska ABC. It is possible that during years of low Pacific cod abundance, the pot fleet cap could be small, and a reopening based on 10% of a small GHL could be an unmanageable level. Fishermen using pot gear in the South Alaska Peninsula Area have high fishing power and the amount of timely information the department receives to manage the fishery is low. In some years, the fleet has averaged over one million pounds of Pacific cod per day. This harvest capacity makes managing a small GHL difficult, with a high likelihood of exceeding the pot gear GHL allocative cap.

Decisions to close fishing with pot gear during the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod season are based on the best available information. With limited information the department recognizes and acknowledges that management precision will be low. However, this proposal does not correct that problem. The department prefers that the BOF adopt tools to allow the department to more accurately manage the pot harvest, such as those suggested in Proposal 180.

If the board adopts this proposal staff would request guidance on reopening criteria such as time frame for reopening, weather criteria, etc.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in a direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 182 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the guideline harvest level (GHL) for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area from 25 to 50 percent of the federal acceptable biological catch (ABC) from the Western Gulf of Alaska Area (WGOA).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Currently the guideline harvest level for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery is 25 percent of the estimated ABC of Pacific cod from the federal WGOA.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The GHL for the state-waters Pacific cod fishery would increase from 25 to 50 percent of the federal WGOA ABC. Participants in the federal and parallel seasons would have decreased harvest opportunity for Pacific cod.

BACKGROUND: In 1996, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted state-waters Pacific cod management plans for fisheries in five management areas including the South Alaska Peninsula Area. The initial harvest level for the South Alaska Peninsula Area was set at 15% of the WGOA ABC. The percentage allocated from the WGOA ABC to the South Alaska Peninsula Area was designed to increase over time. If the 15% GHL was reached in any calendar year, the GHL would increase beginning the next calendar year to 20% of the WGOA ABC. If the 20% GHL was reached in any calendar year after it had been implemented, the GHL would be increased beginning the next calendar year to the maximum 25% of the WGOA ABC. The South Alaska Peninsula Area fishery achieved the final GHL step-up increment in 2000 and has remained at that level.

Prior to the creation of the state-waters fishery in 1997 less than 27% of the WGOA Pacific cod ABC was harvested from state waters annually. Allowable gear types in the federal/parallel fishery are pot, longline, jig and trawl, although most state waters in the South Alaska Peninsula Area are closed to non-pelagic trawling. During the 1997-2000 seasons, the average annual percentage of Pacific cod harvest from state waters, during the state-waters and parallel fisheries, was 33%. The annual percentage of Pacific cod harvest from state waters from 2000 to 2005 ranged from 43% to 61%. In 2006, through September, the percentage from state waters was near 70%.

Table 1. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific cod harvest, in pounds, from federal and state waters, 1997-2006.

Year	Federal/Parallel fishery federal waters	Federal/Parallel fishery state waters	State-waters fishery	Total from state waters	% of total harvest from state-waters
1997	53,748,347	9,850,571	9,524,706	19,375,277	26%
1998	44,784,981	8,596,111	8,630,512	17,226,623	28%
1999	39,664,603	8,643,758	11,821,979	20,465,737	34%
2000	33,961,964	12,641,670	15,044,104	27,685,774	45%
2001	23,017,093	6,090,637	13,455,619	19,546,256	46%
2002	26,176,698	7,242,899	12,746,106	19,989,005	43%
2003	17,538,284	13,429,949	11,560,663	24,990,612	59%
2004	17,008,135	14,271,554	12,442,442	26,713,996	61%
2005	16,030,828	9,753,948	11,436,172	21,190,120	57%
2006 [a]	10,254,385	13,323,190	11,715,820	25,039,010	71%

[a] Based on landing data received by ADF&G through October 1, 2006

Pacific cod occur from shore to 500 m and tagging studies have demonstrated movement between state and federal waters. Literature suggest that Pacific cod form spawning aggregations inshore during winter and early spring months, then disperse offshore during summer and fall months.

The highest densities of Pacific cod are typically found between 25 and 150 fathoms which, in many areas, straddle the boundary between state and federal waters. Distribution may vary depending on the location of the stock and the time of the year. Known migrations occur in late winter around spawning events. These migrations are controlled by temperature and food availability. Therefore, the year to year distribution of Pacific cod in state waters may vary widely dependent on a number of factors that are not easily quantified.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. The department has concerns for potential localized overharvest that could result from concentrating harvest effort on spawning aggregations, within state waters. Removals from state-waters fisheries are in addition to removals during parallel fisheries. Therefore the board should consider the impact of total Pacific cod harvest from state waters, and coordinate harvests with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Harvest of Pacific cod from state waters should be proportionate to the size of spawning aggregations that occur inshore in the late winter and early spring. Pacific cod removals from state waters have recently been increasing. The department does not know the impact of these increasing removals.

This proposal would also effectively restrict 50% of the ABC to vessels under 58-feet in length, and to pot and jig gear only, as current regulations have those restrictions for state-waters fisheries.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in a direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 183 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would increase the guideline harvest level (GHL) for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area from 25 to 50 percent of the federal acceptable biological catch (ABC) from the Western Gulf of Alaska Area (WGOA).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Currently the guideline harvest level for the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery is 25 percent of the estimated ABC of Pacific cod from the federal WGOA.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The GHL for the state-waters Pacific cod fishery would increase from 25 to 50 percent of the federal WGOA ABC. Participants in the federal and parallel seasons would have decreased harvest opportunity for Pacific cod.

BACKGROUND: In 1996, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted state-waters Pacific cod management plans for fisheries in five management areas including the South Alaska Peninsula Area. The initial harvest level for the South Alaska Peninsula Area was set at 15% of the WGOA ABC. The percentage allocated from the WGOA ABC to the South Alaska Peninsula Area was designed to increase over time. If the 15% GHL was reached in any calendar year, the GHL would increase beginning the next calendar year to 20% of the WGOA ABC. If the 20% GHL was reached in any calendar year after it had been implemented, the GHL would be increased beginning the next calendar year to the maximum 25% of the WGOA ABC. The South Alaska Peninsula Area fishery achieved the final GHL step-up increment in 2000 and has remained at that level.

Prior to the creation of the state-waters fishery in 1997 less than 27% of the WGOA Pacific cod ABC was harvested from state waters annually. Allowable gear types in the federal/parallel fishery are pot, longline, jig and trawl, although most state waters in the South Alaska Peninsula Area are closed to non-pelagic trawling. During the 1997-2000 seasons, the average annual percentage of Pacific cod harvest from state waters, during the state-waters and parallel fisheries, was 33%. The annual percentage of Pacific cod harvest from state waters from 2000 to 2005 ranged from 43% to 61%. In 2006, through September, the percentage from state waters was near 70%.

Table 1. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific cod harvest, in pounds, from federal and state waters, 1997-2006.

Year	Federal/Parallel fishery federal waters	Federal/Parallel fishery state waters	State-waters fishery	Total from state waters	% of total harvest from state-waters
1997	53,748,347	9,850,571	9,524,706	19,375,277	26%
1998	44,784,981	8,596,111	8,630,512	17,226,623	28%
1999	39,664,603	8,643,758	11,821,979	20,465,737	34%
2000	33,961,964	12,641,670	15,044,104	27,685,774	45%
2001	23,017,093	6,090,637	13,455,619	19,546,256	46%
2002	26,176,698	7,242,899	12,746,106	19,989,005	43%
2003	17,538,284	13,429,949	11,560,663	24,990,612	59%
2004	17,008,135	14,271,554	12,442,442	26,713,996	61%
2005	16,030,828	9,753,948	11,436,172	21,190,120	57%
2006 [a]	10,254,385	13,323,190	11,715,820	25,039,010	71%

[a] Based on landing data received by ADF&G through October 1, 2006

Pacific cod occur from shore to 500 m and tagging studies have demonstrated movement between state and federal waters. Literature suggest that Pacific cod form spawning aggregations inshore during winter and early spring months, then disperse offshore during summer and fall months.

The highest densities of Pacific cod are typically found between 25 and 150 fathoms which, in many areas, straddle the boundary between state and federal waters. Distribution may vary depending on the location of the stock and the time of the year. Known migrations occur in late winter around spawning events. These migrations are controlled by temperature and food availability. Therefore, the year to year distribution of Pacific cod in state waters may vary widely dependent on a number of factors that are not easily quantified.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. The department has concerns for potential localized overharvest that could result from concentrating harvest effort on spawning aggregations, within state waters. Removals from state-waters fisheries are in addition to removals during parallel fisheries. Therefore the board should consider the impact of total Pacific cod harvest from state waters, and coordinate harvests with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Harvest of Pacific cod from state waters should be proportionate to the size of spawning aggregations that occur inshore in the late winter and early spring. Pacific cod removals from state waters have recently been increasing. The department does not know the impact of these increasing removals.

This proposal would also effectively restrict 50% of the ABC to vessels under 58-feet in length, and to pot and jig gear only, as current regulations have those restrictions for state-waters fisheries.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in a direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 184 - 5 AAC 28.556. South Alaska Peninsula Area Registration.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would limit a vessel operator's ability to register and fish in other groundfish registration areas while actively participating in the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulations state that a vessel cannot be registered for more than one groundfish registration area at a time, 5 AAC 28.020(b)(1). However, the existing parallel groundfish fishery registration regulation, 5 AAC 28.556 (b), states that a vessel that is registered for the South Alaska Peninsula Area under 5 AAC 28.020 for a groundfish fishery, other than a state-waters season for Pacific cod shall also be considered registered for that fishery in the Kodiak, Chignik, Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands and Chukchi-Beaufort Areas.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Vessels would not be allowed to participate simultaneously in other groundfish registration areas.

Proposed regulatory language as follows:

5 AAC 28.556. South Alaska Peninsula Area Registration. (f) A vessel registered for the state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area may not simultaneously be registered to participate in a groundfish fishery outside of the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

BACKGROUND: Fishermen in the South Alaska Peninsula groundfish management area have registered to simultaneously participate in the state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area and the parallel walleye pollock fishery, which is managed in a slightly larger area (federal area 610; Figure 1) than the South Alaska Peninsula Area. Federal Area 610 extends into the Chignik Management Area.

The department has received requests to allow vessels to fish in walleye pollock fisheries outside of the federal area 610 while actively participating in the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery. This proposal would only allow groundfish fishing in one fishery management area at a time, however it would continue to allow simultaneous participation in the state-waters Pacific cod fishery and the parallel walleye pollock fishery in the same management area.

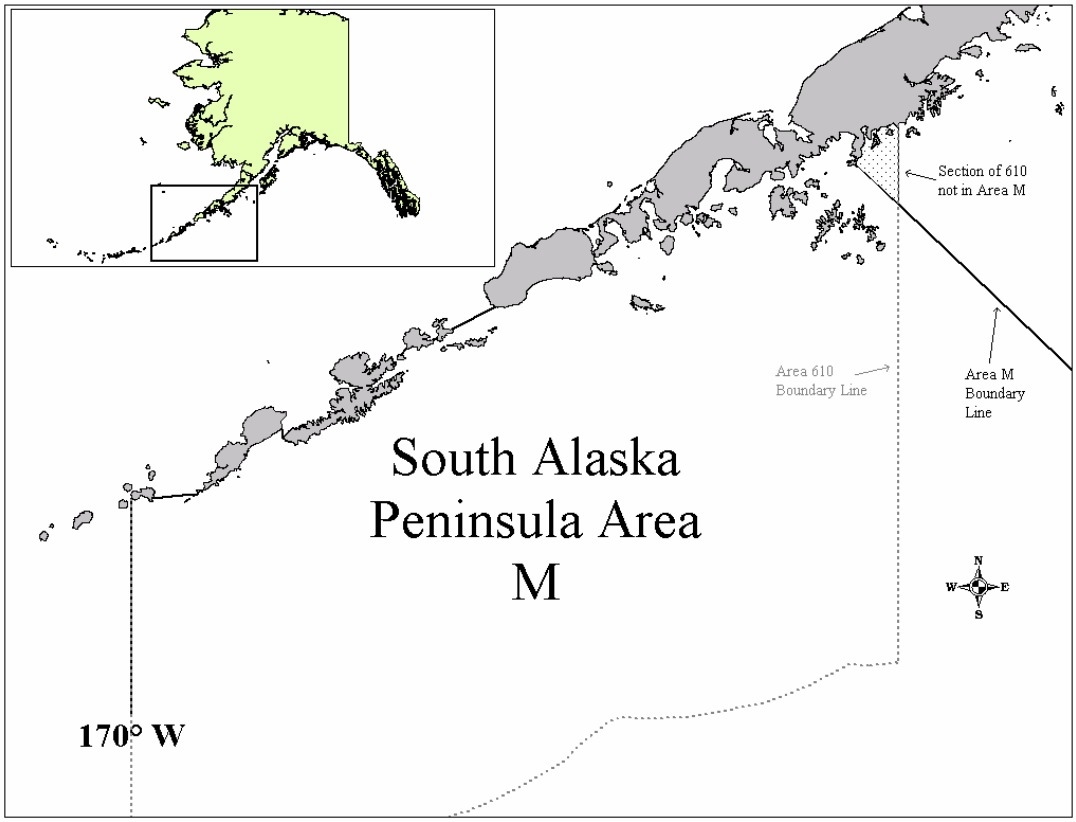

Figure 1. Map of the South Alaska Peninsula Area M and Federal Area 610.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in a direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would limit participation in the parallel Pacific cod fishery to vessels 58-feet in length and smaller.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Currently there is no vessel size restriction for vessels participating in the parallel fishery in state waters. Allowable gear types during the parallel fishery are pot, longline, jig and trawl, although most state waters in the South Alaska Peninsula Area are closed to non-pelagic trawling. There is a 58-foot vessel size limit in place for the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod pot and jig gear fisheries (5 AAC 28.577 (e)(3)(D)) and the South Peninsula District Tanner crab fishery (5 AAC 35.590 (b)).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Vessels greater than 58-feet in length would be prohibited from fishing in state waters during the parallel Pacific cod fishery. This could potentially increase the length of the fishery, due to limiting harvest by larger vessels.

BACKGROUND: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering rationalization of groundfish in federal waters in the Gulf of Alaska.

The federal/parallel Pacific cod fishery in the Western Gulf of Alaska is fully utilized in most years. Harvest of Pacific cod is primarily by pot gear (58% in 2006) and trawl gear (41%) with limited harvest by longline and jig gears. Up to 20 percent bycatch of Pacific cod must be retained in other fisheries throughout the year. Pacific cod harvests from the Western Gulf of Alaska, excluding the state-waters fishery harvest, have averaged 30.6 million pounds the last four years (2002-2005) with 37% from the parallel fishery. The percentage of harvest by vessels greater than 58-feet in state waters during the parallel fishery has increased from 6% in 2002 to 25% in 2005 (Table 1). Harvest in 2006 by vessels greater than 58-feet, based on fish ticket data received by the department through October 1, 2006, increased to 41%.

Table 1. 2002-2006 Pacific cod harvest, parallel season, Federal Fisheries Area 610 (in whole pounds).

	Total	Vessels 58' and under			Vessels over 58'		
Year	Pounds	Pounds	Percentage	Number	Pounds	Percentage	Number
2002	7,313,754	6,889,327	94%	153	424,427	6%	14
2003	13,515,217	11,235,062	83%	124	2,280,155	17%	31
2004	14,333,283	9,994,637	70%	127	4,338,646	30%	33
2005	9,834,508	7,345,539	75%	122	2,488,970	25%	27
2006 [a]	15,347,618	9,055,095	59%	78	6,292,523	41%	33
Average	12,068,876	8,903,932	76%	121	3,850,074	24%	28

[a] Based on landing data received by ADF&G through October 1, 2006.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that adoption of this proposal would result in additional direct cost for a private person to participate.

COMMITTEE B – Salmon: June Fishery
(10 Proposals)

COMMITTEE B – Salmon: June Fishery (10 Proposals)

PROPOSAL 186 - 5 AAC 09.200 (c)(2)(3). Description of Districts and Sections.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would change the description of the Sanak Island and Otter Cove sections. The Sanak Island Section would be redefined to include the waters closed annually, in June, by managers (Figure 1). The remaining portion of the Sanak Island Section would then be included as a part of the Otter Cove Section.

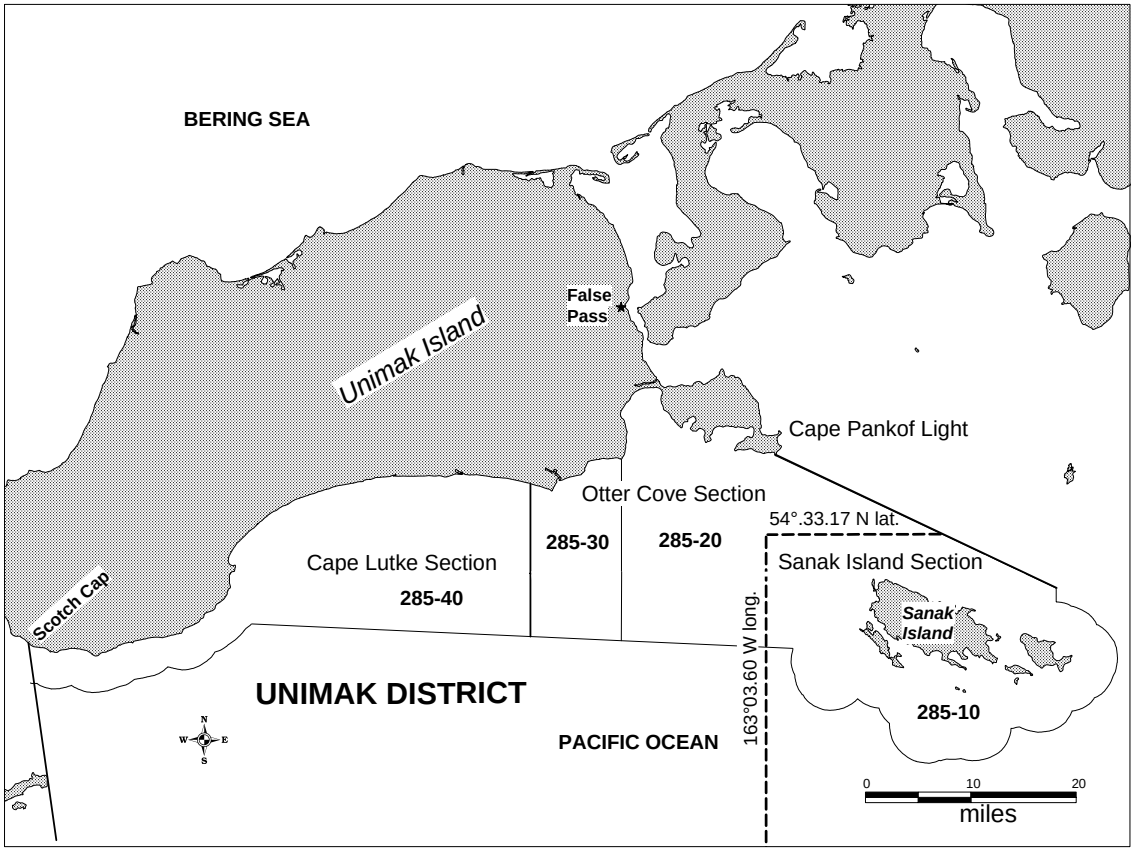

Figure 1.-Map indicating the proposed new Sanak Island Section boundaries.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Portions of the Sanak Island and Otter Cove sections are currently open under the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery Management Plan (5 AAC 09.365). Since 1992, managers have closed, through Emergency Orders, portions of both sections in order to minimize the harvest of chum salmon during the June Fishery.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED Adoption of this proposal would change the description of the Sanak Island and Otter Cove sections of the

Unimak District of Area M. Redefining these sections would bring the regulatory definition in line with current management practices.

Proposed regulatory language would read as follows:

5 AAC 09.200. DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICTS AND SECTIONS.
(c)(2) Otter Cove Section: waters of the Unimak District east of the longitude of Rock Island (163º 38.00'W. long.) excluding the waters of the Sanak Island Section (5 AAC 09.200 (c)(3)).

(c)(3) Sanak Island Section: waters of the Unimak District east of the longitude of [ROCK ISLAND (163º 38.00' W. LONG.)] **Cape Pankof (163º 03.06' W. long.)** and south of [54º 30.00'N. LAT.] **the latitude of 54º 33.17' N. lat.**

BACKGROUND: A portion of the Sanak Island Section is closed to commercial salmon fishing during the South Alaska Peninsula June Fishery because, in some years, relatively poor ratios of sockeye salmon to chum salmon have been harvested in this area.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. Redefining the Sanak Island Section will require amending the description of the Otter Cove Section.

COST ANAYLSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 187 - 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would close the Sanak Island Section to commercial salmon fishing from June 1 through June 30. This would codify existing management practices.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Currently the Sanak Island Section is open during the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery. Annually, the department issues an emergency order to close portions of the Sanak Island Section to commercial salmon fishing from June 1 through June 30. The department has closed this portion of the Sanak Island Section, since June, 1992.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Adoption of this proposal would close the Sanak Island Section of the Unimak District during the South Unimak and Shumagin Island June Fishery (5AAC 09.365). This would eliminate the need to issue an annual emergency order.

Proposed regulatory language would read as follows:

5 AAC 09.350. Closed Waters
(38) Sanak Island Section:

(A) from June 1 through June 30, waters of the Unimak District east of the longitude of **Cape Pankof (163º 03.06' W. long.)** and south of **the latitude of 54º 33.17' N. lat.**

(B) after June 30, waters within 500 yards of the terminus of any salmon stream;

BACKGROUND: A portion of the Sanak Island Section is closed, by emergency order, annually to commercial salmon fishing during the South Alaska Peninsula June fishery. In some years, relatively poor ratios of sockeye salmon to chum salmon have been harvested in this area. A companion proposal (proposal 186) to modify the description of the Sanak Island Section has also been proposed.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. If proposal 186 is not approved, the department recommends taking **NO ACTION** on this proposal.

COST ANAYLSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal is would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 188 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Seiners Association.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal requests reinstatement of South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June salmon management plans that were in effect prior to 2001. The proposal appears to request a return to the 1998 through 2000 management plan but may be requesting some combination of management plans from 1975 through 2003.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulation, 5 AAC 09.365(a)-(e) allows the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries to commence as early as June 7. Fishing time is limited to four 88-hour periods interspersed by 32-hour closures, with the final fishing period being 64-hours in duration. These periods are open concurrently for seine, drift gillnet and set gillnet gear types.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would restore portions of several management plans that were in effect from 1975 through 2003. Prior to 2004 the management plan for the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands was changed substantially at least every three years. Because this proposal requests reinstatement of several conflicting plans between 1975 though 2003, the department can not predict what effects these combined plans might have on the fisheries.

BACKGROUND: From 1975-2000, fishing time in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries was limited by provisions in the management plan that included sockeye salmon allocations (season harvest totals and weekly season limits), chum salmon caps, sockeye to chum salmon ratios, time limits and the season start date. During several seasons, from 1975-2000, the Shumagin Islands guideline harvest level (GHL) was reached while the South Unimak GHL was not entirely harvested.

A chum cap was first established in 1986 at 400,000 chum salmon. Except for 1987, (when there was no chum cap) the cap was set at a specific number and was changed several times over the years. In 1998, a “floating” chum salmon cap was established that could range from 350,000 to 650,000 depending on the harvest projection of Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim chum salmon.

During the January 2001 Board of Fisheries meeting the harvest guidelines for sockeye salmon and the chum salmon cap that were part of the allocation to the June fisheries for many years was rescinded. Table 1 lists a complete history of regulations for the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries.

Table 1. History of regulations for the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June commercial salmon fisheries, 1962-2003.

Year	South Unimak	Shumagin Islands
1962-66	5 days per week	5 days per week
1967-70	7 days per week	7 days per week
	1971-726:00 A.M. Monday - 6:00 A.M. Saturday	7 days per week
1973[a]	Four 13 hour fishing periods per week	Four 13 hour fishing periods per week.
1974	No fishery	No fishery
1975-83[b]	6.8% of predicted Bristol Bay catch.	1.5% of predicted Bristol Bay catch.
1984-89[b]	No more than 96 hours per 7 day period and no more than 72 hours of consecutive fishing time in each fishery (windows).	
1986[b]	6.8% allocation minus June 26-30 segment Windows No fishing before June 11	1.5% allocation minus June 26-30 segment Windows No fishing before June 11
	A 400,000 chum salmon ceiling placed on both fisheries combined.	
1987[b]	Same as during 1984-85 for both fisheries.	
1988-89[b]	6.8% of predicted Bristol Bay catch Windows	1.5% of predicted Bristol Bay catch Windows
	A 500,000 chum salmon ceiling placed on both fisheries combined.	

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Table 1. (page 2 of 4)

Dates	South Unimak	Shumagin Islands
June 1 - 11	5%	9%
June 12 - 18	29%	28%
June 19 - 25	51%	41%
June 26 - 30	15%	22%
	100%	100%

1990-91 The chum salmon ceiling was increased from 500,000 to 600,000.

The "Window Regulations" implemented in 1984 to limit the amount of fishing time that could be allowed were deleted.

The season was delayed until June 13 and the time period sockeye allocations for both fisheries were changed as follow:

June 13-18	35%
June 19-25	45%
June 26-30	20%

The gear depth for seines was limited to 375 meshes of which mesh size may not exceed 3-1/2 inches except for the first 25 meshes above the lead line which may not exceed 7 inches.

The gear depth on gillnets along the South Peninsula was limited to no more than 90 meshes.

Seine leads may not exceed 150 fathoms for the entire Alaska Peninsula.

1992-93 The chum salmon cap was increased from 600,000 to 700,000 fish. Fishing time for set gillnet gear could not be less than 16 hours unless a 16 hour period would result in a harvest that exceeded the cap for chum salmon. The other regulations were the same as in effect for 1990 and 1991.

1994 Sockeye salmon time period allocations eliminated. ADF&G was given flexibility to open fishery prior to June 13 if sockeye to chum salmon ratios are favorable.

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Table 1. (page 3 of 3)

Dates	South Unimak	Shumagin Islands
1995-97	The amount of fishing time for seine and drift gillnet gear after June 24 is limited if the sockeye to chum salmon ratio is two to one or less.	
	The Board of Fisheries stated its intent that the remaining under the chum salmon harvest ceiling supersedes attempts to reach the sockeye guideline harvest levels.	
	The fisheries could not be extended into July regardless of weather during late June.	
	Fishery cannot begin prior to June 11.	
	Removed mesh size requirements for gillnets.	
1998-00	The chum salmon cap was lowered from 700,000 to a “floating cap” that can range between 350,000 and 650,000.	
	A commercial fishery for all gear types may open on June 10 if sockeye to chum salmon ratios are favorable.	
	In the Unimak District the shoreward end of set gillnet must be within one half mile of shore.	
	All salmon caught must be retained and reported.	
	Use of aircraft to locate salmon prohibited for the entire Alaska Peninsula for the entire season	
2001-2003	Eliminated the sockeye salmon guideline harvest levels.	
	Eliminated the chum salmon guideline harvest levels.	
	Limited fishing time to no more than 16 hours per day by any gear group.	
	Limited total fishing time by seine and drift gillnet gear to no more than 48 hours in a floating seven day period with no more than two 16-hour periods on consecutive days in any seven day period.	

-continued-

Table 1. (page 4 of 4)

Dates	South Unimak	Shumagin Islands
	From June 10 through June 24 in the South Unimak and/or Shumagin Islands fisheries, set gillnet gear may fish on consecutive days for 16-hour periods as long as the set gillnet sockeye to chum salmon ratios in that fishery are equal to or greater than the recent 10-year average for that fishery. If the set gillnet sockeye to chum salmon ratio falls below the recent 10-year average in either fishery, that fishery will be closed for one period. From June 10 through June 24, daily fishing periods for set gillnet gear will be from 6:00 AM until 10:00 PM. Purse seine and drift gillnet fishing periods through June 24 will occur at the same time in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries. After June 24, in either the South Unimak or Shumagin Islands fisheries if the ratio of sockeye to chum salmon by all gear combined is two to one or less on any day, the next fishing period shall be of six hours duration for all gear in that fishery. If the sockeye to chum salmon ratio is two or greater, a six hour fishing period can be extended to a maximum of 16 hours. The South Unimak or Shumagin Islands fisheries shall close for all gear groups if the ratio of sockeye to chum salmon is two to one or less for two consecutive fishing periods.	
2004-present	Fishery to begin at 6:00 a.m. on June 7. Fishing periods are 88-hours in length separated by 32-hour closures. The fishery closes at 10:00 p.m. on June 29. The last fishing period is 64-hours in duration. Concurrent fishing time for all gear types. Area open to fishing expanded to include the entire Unimak and Southwestern districts, East and West Pavlof Bay, Bechevin Bay and Shumagin Islands sections. Eliminated all sockeye to chum salmon harvest ratio requirements.	

[a] Both fisheries were closed in 1973 by emergency order during June 25-28 because the Bristol Bay run appeared lower than escapement requirements.

[b] Each sockeye allocation is broken down into time period guideline harvest levels.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

The department does not have reliable commercial harvest stock composition data from the South Peninsula June fisheries. If the allocation plan is changed, the department will need guidance from the board on future management of these fisheries.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 189 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Fisheries Management Plan; 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan; 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal is unclear in its purpose, the issue statement requests the board return to pre 2001 management, but is not specific as to which plan should be implemented. In the 1960s the fishery was open five to seven days per week and if the board returned to 1998-2000 management the fishery would have a floating chum cap and would not open till June 10. The proposal may be requesting the reinstatement of the 1998-2000 South Unimak and Shumagin Islands management plan, and the changes to the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) and Post-June management plans that the board made when it last discussed these fisheries.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulation, 5 AAC 09.365(a)-(e) allows the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries to commence as early as June 7. Fishing time is limited to four 88-hour periods interspersed by 32-hour closures with the final fishing period being 64-hours in duration. These periods are open concurrently for seine, drift gillnet and set gillnet gear types.

Under 5 AAC 09.366 the Post-June fishery begins no earlier than July 6. From July 6 to July 21 there may be a maximum of six 24-hour fishing periods interspersed by 48-hour closures, and from July 22 to July 31 there may be three 36-hour fishing periods interspersed by 48-hour closures. Fishing time in addition to the 24-hour periods may be allowed in terminal fishing areas, is based on local stock run strength (harvest data, escapement counts, and aerial surveys). The terminal areas during July 6 through July 21 include: Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay sections and the East and West Pavlof Bay sections north of the latitude of Black Point. The terminal areas during the July 22-31 time period include those areas specified for the July 6 through 21 period as well as the Deer Island, Belkofski Bay, Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay sections, Stepovak Flats Section from July 26 through July 28, and the area near Suzy Creek (ADF&G statistical area 281-65) after July 25.

The Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan, 5 AAC 09.360, has allocative ties to the Chignik Management Area. In June, 80% of the sockeye salmon harvested in the SEDM are considered to be destined for the Chignik Management Area (CMA). From July 1 to July 25, salmon harvested in the Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS) are considered to be 100% local origin while sockeye salmon harvested in the remainder of SEDM are considered to be 80% Chignik bound. The SEDM is allocated 6% of the total CMA bound sockeye salmon harvest through July 25.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would restore the management plan in the South Peninsula June fishery that was in effect from 1998 through 2000. It would restore a chum salmon cap and the sockeye salmon harvest guideline would be 8.3% of the Bristol Bay forecasted inshore sockeye

salmon harvest. The fisheries could not open until at least June 10. It would decrease fishing time for the Area M salmon fleet in most years.

This proposal may also be seeking to reinstate the regulations governing the SEDM fishery from 1998 through 2000. The current management plan for the SEDM has been amended since 2000.

This proposal may also be seeking reinstatement of the management plan that governed the South Peninsula Post-June fishery that was in effect from 1998-2000. This would reinstate a 60,000 coho salmon harvest cap in non-terminal South Peninsula waters.

BACKGROUND: From 1975-2000, fishing time in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries was limited by provisions in the management plan that included sockeye salmon quotas (season totals and within season limits), chum salmon caps, sockeye to chum salmon ratios, time limits and the season start date. During several seasons, from 1975-2000, the Shumagin Islands guideline harvest level (GHL) was reached while the South Unimak GHL was not entirely harvested.

A chum cap was first established in 1986 at 400,000 chum salmon. Except for 1987, (when there was no chum cap) the cap was set at a specific number and was changed several times over the years. In 1998, a “floating” chum salmon cap was established that could range from 350,000 to 650,000 depending on the harvest projection of Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim chum salmon.

During the January 2001 Board of Fisheries meeting the harvest guidelines for sockeye salmon and the chum salmon cap that were part of the allocation to the June fisheries for many years were rescinded.

Until 1974, the South Peninsula Post-June salmon fishery was open five days per week, with a season closure on August 10 to allow adequate escapement and maintain product quality. During 1974 and 1975, the fisheries were severely restricted to rebuild pink salmon runs. From 1976-1991, the salmon fisheries were managed by emergency order based on local stock run strength.

In 1991, the BOF established the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula (5 AAC 09.366). Under this plan, commercial salmon fishing from July 6-19 was restricted to terminal fishing areas and was based on local stock run strength. The balance of the South Peninsula, which during previous seasons had been open to fishing, remained closed. The BOF decided that local pink and chum salmon could be caught in terminal areas early in the season, without sacrificing product quality, while still allowing migratory salmon to pass through South Peninsula waters. The terminal areas included Zachary Bay, the northern portion of Pavlof Bay, and the Cold Bay, Thin Point, Canoe Bay, and Morzhovoi Bay sections. The BOF concluded that after July 19, South Peninsula fishermen needed to harvest pink salmon in their traditional cape fishing areas to maintain product quality. From July 20 until the close of the season, the entire South Peninsula could be opened to commercial salmon fishing by emergency order

based on local run strength (except in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery through July 25). That version of the Post-June Salmon Management Plan was fully implemented during the 1993-1997 commercial fishing seasons. In January 1998, the BOF made significant changes to the Post-June Salmon Management Plan including; the establishment of daily fishing times, the July 6 to 21 and July 22 to 31 terminal harvest areas, the August through September local stock abundance management guidelines, the 60,000 coho salmon cap, and the immature salmon test fishery. The BOF made only minor changes to the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula in 2001 including clarifying the definition of immature salmon during the department's July test fishery. In February 2004, the BOF repealed the 60,000 coho salmon harvest cap from non-terminal areas for the July 22-31 period.

In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan, Kodiak Management Area, which replaced a set fishing schedule. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to the allocation of Chignik sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and the definition of local stocks. The proportion of sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM (excluding areas designated as 100% local stocks) considered to be Chignik bound has remained at 80% based primarily on a 1961 tagging study conducted in the East Stepovak Section. In 1998, the board stipulated that sockeye salmon harvested in the NWSS beginning July 1 would not be counted toward the Chignik bound sockeye salmon allocation. In addition, beginning July 1, fishing time in the NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than four days per week with no more than two consecutive fishing days during a seven-day period. In 2005 the BOF stipulated that from July 1 through July 10, if the Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon escapement objectives have been exceeded, in addition to gillnet gear, the department may open the waters of Orzinski Bay to fishing with purse seine and hand purse seine gear. Finally, the department does not have any stock compositions data in the SEDM fishery to measure the contribution of individual stocks.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. This proposal is unclear on its intent. The department would need guidance from the BOF for rewriting the management plans.

Although this proposal mentions the June South Peninsula, the Post-June, and the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) management plans, it does not address any particular issue regarding these three plans. Proposals 196 through 206 will more clearly deal with topics related to the Post-June and SEDM management plans.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 190 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Virgil Umphenour

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would reinstate the management plan that was in effect before the Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting in January 2004.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulation, 5 AAC 09.365(a)-(e) allows the fishery to commence as early as June 7. Fishing time is limited to four 88-hour periods interspersed by 32-hour closures with the final fishing period being 64-hours in duration. These periods are open concurrently for seine, drift gillnet and set gillnet gear types.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would restore the management plan that was in effect from 2001-2003. It would limit seine and drift gillnet gear to three 16-hour fishing periods in a floating seven-day period. Prior to June 24, fishing with set gillnet gear may be allowed for 16-hour periods each day if the resultant sockeye to chum harvest ratio by that gear type equals or exceeds the most recent 10-year average for that area. From June 24 until the end of June, fishing by all gear types occurs simultaneously and openings are limited to three 16-hour openings in a floating 7-day period. This management plan would substantially reduce fishing opportunity for the Area M salmon fleet.

BACKGROUND: In February 2004 the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted the current regulations for Area M which are less restrictive than actions taken during the 2001 board cycle.

In the North Alaska Peninsula chum salmon escapement from 1997-2006 averaged 550,959 fish, with a 2006 escapement of 576,043. The North Alaska Peninsula (Northwestern and Northern districts combined) chum salmon BEG range is 219,600 to 454,200 fish and has been met or exceeded in each of the past ten years. The escapement in the Northern District in 2006 was above the 5-, 10-, and 20-year averages. Due to poor market conditions and limited effort, North Alaska Peninsula chum salmon have been underexploited in recent years. The North Peninsula chum salmon runs are considered healthy.

Chum salmon runs in the AYK and Bristol Bay areas have improved to the point where the department has recommended their removal from the stocks of concern category.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 191 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Fisheries Management Plan; and 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Johnson

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to reinstate the 8.3% Bristol Bay forecasted inshore sockeye salmon harvest allocation to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery that was in effect before prior to 2001. This proposal would also seek to incorporate the Northern District sockeye salmon harvest, prior to July 15, as a part of this allocation.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulation, 5 AAC 09.365(a)-(e) allows the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery to commence as early as June 7. Fishing time is limited to four 88-hour periods interspersed by 32-hour closures with the final fishing period being 64-hours in duration. These periods are open concurrently for seine, drift gillnet and set gillnet gear types.

The department has always managed the Northern District salmon fisheries completely separate from the South Peninsula fisheries. Fisheries in the Northern District are managed on the basis of salmon abundance as determined by escapement and catch-per-unit-effort information in each section of the Northern District as specified in 5 AAC 09.369(b).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The intent of this proposal is to restore the 8.3% Bristol Bay forecasted inshore sockeye salmon harvest allocation to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery. It would also add in the Northern District sockeye salmon harvest prior to July 15 as a part of the 8.3% allocation. The Northern District has not previously been tied to a Bristol Bay allocation.

BACKGROUND: During the January 2001 Board of Fisheries meeting the harvest guidelines for sockeye salmon and the chum salmon cap that were part of the allocation to the June fisheries for many years were rescinded. During the February 2004 Board of Fisheries meeting, the board agreed that actions to further restrict the Area M June fishery that were taken during the 2001 board cycle, were unnecessary and caused undue hardship on the fishermen of the area. Also, prior South Unimak and Shumagin Island management plans were through June 30 not July 15, and did not include North Peninsula fisheries.

The department does not currently have commercial harvest stock composition data from the South Peninsula June or North Peninsula fisheries that measures the contribution of any individual stock.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal with regard to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery. The department **OPPOSES** this proposal because it would severely restrict the department's

ability to control Northern District salmon escapements. The Northern District has never been part of the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands 8.3% June allocation and this would severely reduce the sockeye salmon harvest throughout the Northern District, including terminal fisheries in Nelson Lagoon and Inner Port Heiden sections. The peak of the Northern District sockeye salmon fisheries is usually in early July, and if this proposal is adopted, there will be significant foregone harvest opportunity on North Peninsula sockeye salmon stocks, specifically at Nelson, Bear, Sandy, Ilnik, and Meshik rivers.

Past tagging, migration, and genetic studies indicate that Bristol Bay sockeye salmon are well offshore of North Peninsula fisheries. This is supported in recent years by the Port Moller test fishery, which annually documents the Bristol Bay run migration, the bulk of which passes well outside of current fishing areas of the Northern District. Scale pattern analysis in the past documented Ugashik River sockeye salmon caught in the Ilnik Section and Bristol Bay stocks in the North Peninsula. However, specific season harvest estimates were not available from these reports. In 2006, the department initiated the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP). Genetic samples were collected from fisheries on the North and South Peninsula and other locations in western Alaska. The results of this program will not be available until a later date.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 192 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Austin Ahmasuk.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would create a new management plan that would delay the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery until June 15. Fishing periods would consist of 12-hour openings followed by 12-hour closures. It further seeks the establishment of escapement goals based on the Alaska Peninsula commercial fisheries.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulation, 5 AAC 09.365(a)-(e) allows the fishery to commence as early as June 7. Fishing time is limited to four 88-hour periods interspersed by 32-hour closures with the final fishing period being 64-hours in duration. These periods are open concurrently for seine, drift gillnet and set gillnet gear types. There is no escapement goal management criteria specified in the current regulations.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would amend the management plan for the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery and reduce harvest opportunity by changing the start date to June 15 and fishing schedule of 12-hour openings followed by 12-hour closures. This would reduce harvest opportunities to 180 hours (57%) from the 416 hours available in the current management plan.

This proposal also seeks the "establishment of escapement goals based on the relative prosecution of Alaska Peninsula commercial fisheries". The proposal is vague on this point, the intent of these escapement goals is unclear, and no criteria are established in the proposal as to the formation of escapement goals.

BACKGROUND: During the January 2001 Board of Fisheries meeting, the harvest guidelines for sockeye salmon and the chum salmon cap that were part of the allocation to the June fisheries for many years were rescinded. In February 2004 the Board of Fisheries adopted the current regulations for Area M which are less restrictive than actions taken during the 2001 board cycle.

The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery has never been managed on the basis of local area escapement goals or on escapement goals from outside Area M.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

In 2006, the department initiated the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP). Genetic samples were collected from fisheries on the North and South Peninsula and other locations in western Alaska. The results of this program will not be available until a later date.

The department is not clear on how the plans preamble should be amended or what escapement goals the author is requesting the department to establish.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

<u>PROPOSAL</u> 193 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

<u>PROPOSED BY</u>: Sand Point Advisory Committee.

<u>WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?</u> This proposal seeks expansion of the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June salmon fisheries into additional waters of the South Central District.

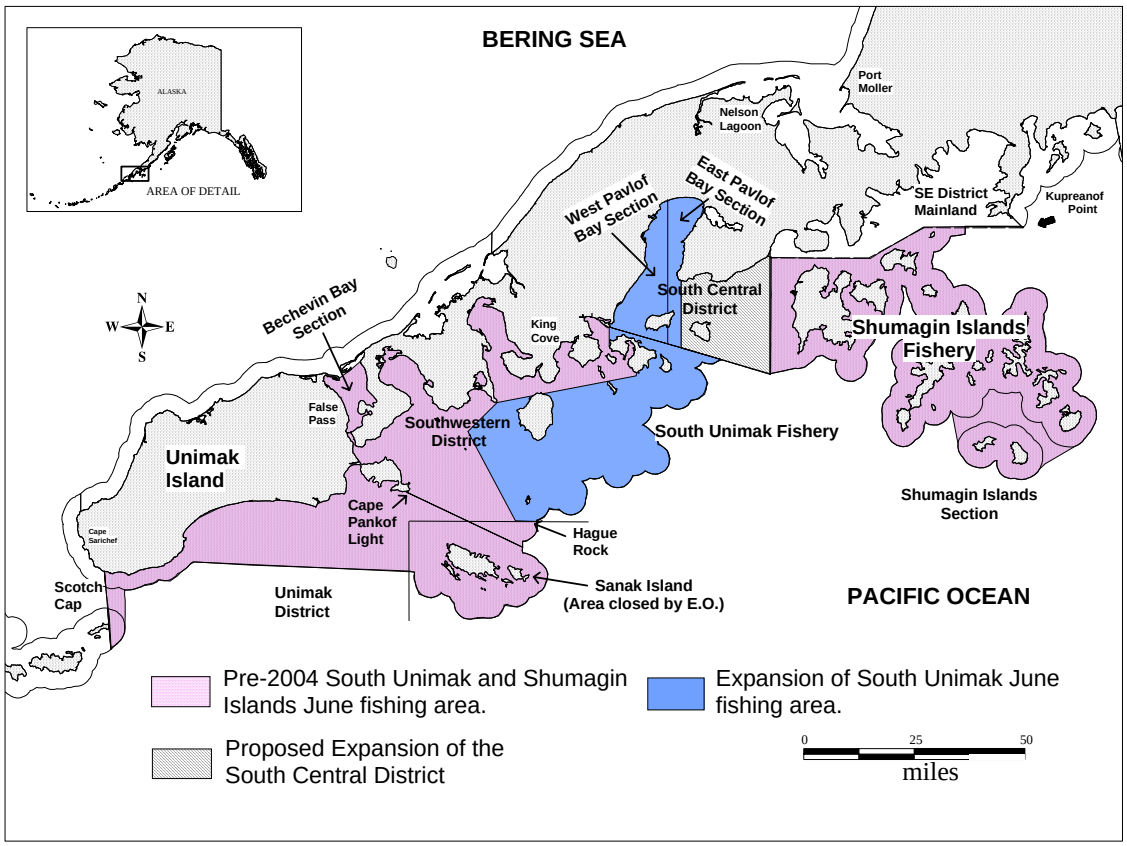


Figure 1.-Map of the expanded area of the South Unimak June Fishery, added during the 2004 BOF meeting.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> The current South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon management plan, 5 AAC 09.365(b)(c) allows fishing in the Unimak District, the Southwestern District, the East and West Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District, and the Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District (South Unimak Fishery), and the Shumagin Islands Section (Shumagin Fishery).

<u>WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?</u> If this proposal is adopted, waters that are currently closed during June in the South Central District would be open to purse seine and set gillnet gear. If the new area attracts substantial seine and set gillnet effort then all permit holders might benefit from dispersing the fleet to additional waters.

If adopted, the proposal would allow commercial salmon fishing in waters where the salmon stock composition of the harvest is unknown. This proposal would allow the fleet more room and opportunity to harvest salmon in the June fishery.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1977, limited fishing effort occurred in the South Central District and in some portions of the Southwestern District. From 1977 through 2003, regulations did not allow the South Unimak June fishery to occur in the South Central District. In 2004, the BOF expanded the South Unimak fishery to include the entire Southwestern District and the West Pavlof and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District. The BOF opened waters as far east as Cape Tolstoi, in part, to separate the South Unimak and the Shumagin Islands/Southeastern District Mainland fisheries.

Table 1.-South Central District harvest, in number of salmon, June 1-30, by species and gear, 2004 to 2006. [a]

Year	Chinook		Sockeye		Coho		Pink		Chum	
	Seine	Set gillnet	Seine	Set gillnet	Seine	Set gillnet	Seine	Set gillnet	Seine	Set gillnet
2004	1	38	1,513	11,559	0	2	225	176	45	406
2005	27	25	10,781	46,399	0	10	7,367	892	140	451
2006	33	96	34,932	80,947	0	68	12,125	1,266	1,316	1,537
Average	20	53	15,742	46,302	0	27	6,572	778	500	798

[a] Drift gillnet gear not allowed in this area.

Table 2.-Southwestern District harvest, in numbers of salmon, June 1-30, by species and gear, 1997 to 2006.

Year	Chinook			Sockeye			Coho			Pink			Chum		
	Seine	Drift Gillnet	Set Gillnet	Seine	Drift Gillnet	Set Gillnet	Seine	Drift Gillnet	Set Gillnet	Seine	Drift Gillnet	Set Gillnet	Seine	Drift Gillnet	Set Gillnet
1997	465	416	130	126,537	183,597	94,364	26	13	21	259,881	3,302	3,539	27,279	25,512	6,021
1998	133	253	92	43,880	142,605	44,978	15	22	16	69,105	1,608	777	21,402	36,176	5,422
1999	804	216	103	188,154	75,399	33,706	1	0	0	16,363	2	15	44,800	15,821	5,268
2000	485	285	49	67,549	164,810	51,099	20	98	6	110,166	1,952	277	18,028	24,128	6,261
2001	9	49	21	14,600	50,085	8,841	0	2	0	20,449	6,444	1,282	4,375	13,007	1,747
2002	148	75	78	67,150	73,908	27,949	0	0	0	30,452	1,149	268	42,596	37,686	9,674
2003	56	56	76	45,950	61,216	30,366	0	4	5	43,775	15,283	6,700	16,587	20,659	4,962
2004	67	147	55	81,987	91,335	60,355	66	71	20	57,172	5,149	907	12,983	22,240	2,719
2005	228	128	148	78,336	67,760	74,231	17	19	5	317,983	32,451	14,193	25,095	32,635	4,951
2006	86	84	81	79,828	20,251	66,095	6	206	34	109,428	13,010	6,871	6,163	6,274	3,248
Averages															
1997-2003	300	193	78	79,117	107,374	41,615	9	20	7	78,599	4,249	1,837	25,010	24,713	5,622
2004-2006	127	120	95	80,050	59,782	66,894	30	99	20	161,528	16,870	7,324	14,747	20,383	3,639

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 194 - 5 AAC 09.331(a)(3). Gillnet Specifications and Operations.

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Adoption of this proposal, as submitted, would repeal the 90 mesh depth restriction for drift gillnets in the Northwest, Unimak, and Southwestern districts during the salmon season. The issue statement in the proposal refers only to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Management Plan, and seeks to eliminate the restrictions on the maximum legal depth of drift gillnets in that fishery.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulation, 5 AAC 09.331(a)(3) requires that gillnets used in the Northwestern, Unimak and Southwestern districts, be limited to a depth not exceeding 90 meshes.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If this proposal were adopted, it would remove limitations on the maximum depth of drift gillnet gear in the Northwestern, Unimak, and Southwestern districts. This proposal is addressing a gear specification that was implemented in 1990.

Increasing the depth of drift gillnet gear would likely result in increased catching power for the drift gillnet fleet during the South Unimak June fishery and would alter the specifications of legal drift gillnet gear used throughout the salmon fishing season in the Northwestern, Unimak, and Southwestern districts.

BACKGROUND: Concerns over harvests of chum salmon in the 1980s, and weak Yukon River chum salmon runs resulted in the adoption of gear restrictions, prior to the 1990 salmon season, that limited the depth of gillnet and seine gear and mesh size of seine gear.

The legal depth of drift gillnet gear was unlimited, in regulation, until the 1990 salmon season when a regulation was adopted that limited drift gillnet gear in the Northwestern, Unimak, and Southwestern districts to 90 meshes. Prior to the 1995 salmon season, the mesh size requirements for drift gillnets were also repealed.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The board may want to consult the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement concerning gear depth differences in adjoining districts within a management area.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in a direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery unless they choose to increase the depth of their fishing gear.

PROPOSAL 195 - 5 AAC 09.330(d), (e), (f). Gear.

PROPOSED BY: Joe Hinton.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? As written, adoption of this proposal would make drift gillnets a legal fishing gear in the Southwestern, the South Central, and the Southeastern districts of Area M throughout the salmon season (Figure 1). While the language of this proposal is unclear, the author's intent appears to have this proposal apply only during June and to amend only the fisheries in the South Unimak, Southwestern, and South Central districts.

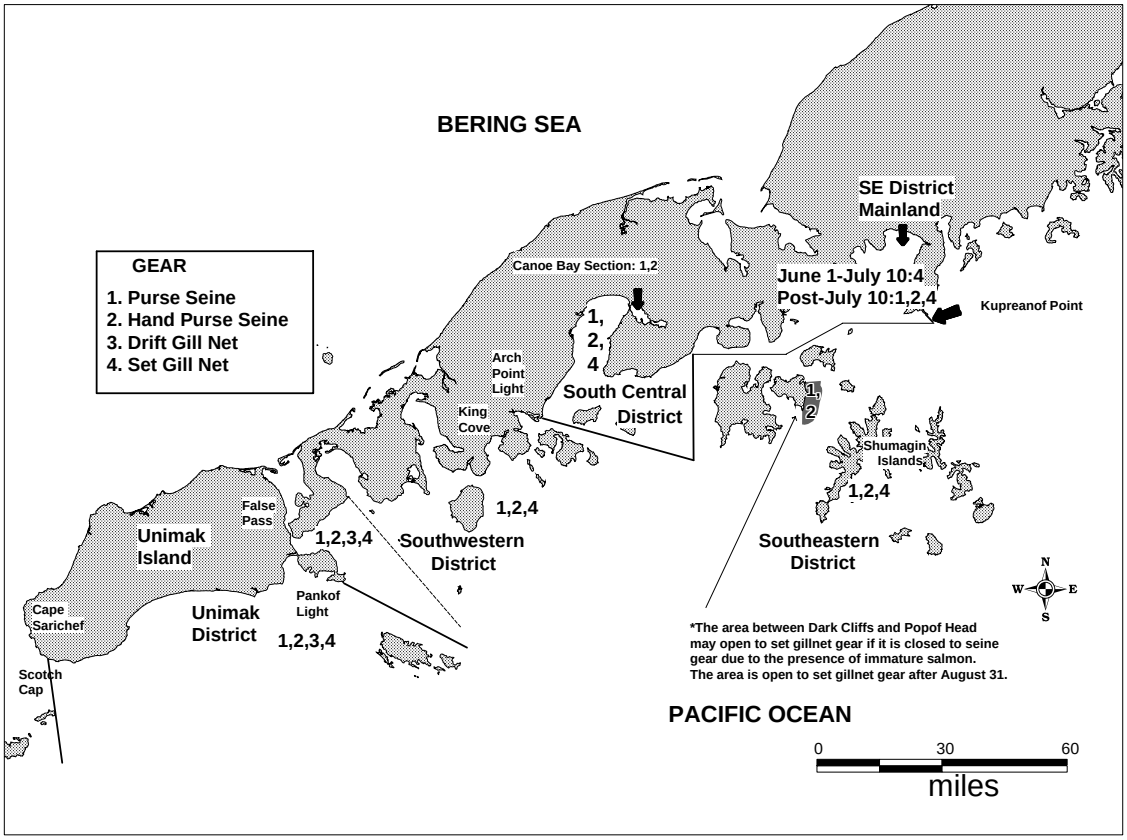


Figure 1.-Map of the South Alaska Peninsula with fishing districts and allowable gear depicted.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulations, 5 AAC 09.330(d),(e),(f) excludes drift gillnets as legal commercial fishing gear in the Southwestern, the South Central, and in the Southeastern districts except (d)(1) where drift gillnet gear may be used west of a line from Kenmore Head to Hague Rock to the easternmost tip of the Sanak Islands.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal, if adopted, would significantly expand the area in which drift gillnets may be used to harvest salmon. Drift gillnet fishermen would be able to fish in additional portions of the Southwestern District, and in the entire South Central and Southeastern districts of Area M. Adoption of this proposal would create substantial new fishing areas

available to this gear type, and could potentially shift drift gillnet effort from the Northern District to the South Central, Southwestern, and Southeastern districts.

BACKGROUND: There are no historical records of this gear type being utilized in the Southwestern, South Central and Southeastern districts. Figure one shows the current distribution of allowable gear types used in the South Peninsula .

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. If this proposal were approved, the department would require guidance from the board on the future management of all South Peninsula management plans. For example, 5 AAC 09.366, Post June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula, in (f)(1) the department is directed to manage on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks, whereas gillnet gear targets mostly sockeye salmon.

The department recognizes the possibility that if adopted, this proposal may redistribute fishing effort from the North Peninsula to the South Peninsula. This would change all South Peninsula fisheries and related fishing periods.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

COMMITTEE C – Salmon: Post June Fishery
(5 Proposals)

COMMITTEE C – Salmon: Post June Fishery (5 Proposals)

PROPOSAL 196 - 5 AAC 09.366(f)(2). Post June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula

PROPOSED BY**:** Sand Point Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? As written, this proposal is unclear. As interpreted by the department, the intent of the proposal is to expand the boundaries of the existing East and West Pavlof Bay terminal harvest area. If adopted, this proposal would expand the East and West Pavlof Bay section's terminal harvest areas by approximately 5 square nautical miles during the period from July 6 through July 21. This proposal also seeks to designate a part of the Mino Creek – Little Coal Bay Section as a terminal harvest area 16 days earlier than what is presently stipulated in the Post-June Salmon Management Plan. Figure one shows Pavlof Bay in the South Central District and illustrates the current and proposed boundaries of the East and West Pavlof Bay sections.

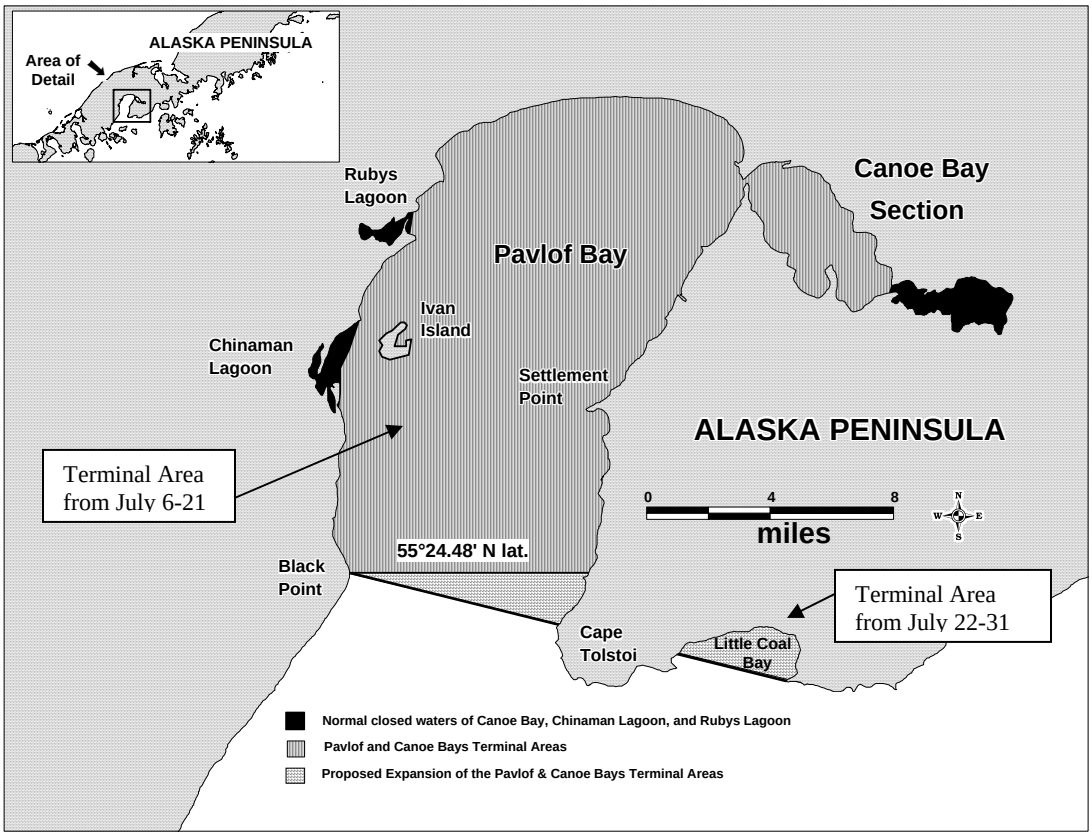


Figure 1. Map of the Pavlof Bay area of the South Alaska Peninsula showing the current boundary for the Pavlof Bay Terminal Area and the proposed extension of the terminal area (line from Black Point to eastern side of Little Coal Bay).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulation, 5 AAC 09.366(f)(2) defines terminal harvest areas in the East and West Pavlof Bay sections as

the waters north of the latitude of Black Point (55° 24.48' N. lat). The current Post-June Salmon Management Plan allows fishing based on the abundance of pink and chum salmon, in this terminal harvest area between July 6 and July 21.

Beginning on July 22, 5 AAC 09.366(g) allows terminal harvest areas to be opened by emergency order from July 22 through July 31 in (3) the Mino Creek – Little Coal Bay and East Pavlof Bay sections of the South Central District, fishing periods are established based on the abundance of local pink and chum salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal, if adopted, would expand the East and West Pavlof Bay sections terminal area by approximately 5 square nautical miles. There are no historical catch data available from the proposed expanded area in East and West Pavlof Bay sections. It is therefore not possible to determine how adoption of this proposal would impact harvest in the proposed expanded area.

This proposal, if adopted, would also reclassify a portion of the Mino Creek - Little Coal Bay Section as a terminal harvest area 16 days earlier then presently allowed. The authors state that implementation of this proposal would give harvesters increased access to earlier arriving runs of pink and chum salmon in Little Coal Bay.

BACKGROUND: The authors propose that earlier pink salmon returns are occurring and therefore, reclassification of Little Coal Bay as a terminal harvest area beginning July 6 is warranted. Aerial survey data (1997-2006) for the four streams located in Little Coal Bay indicate that a small percentage of each stream's escapement objectives are met before July 22 (Table 1).

Table 1.-Individual escapement objectives, the 10-year average (1997-2006) indexed pink salmon escapement, and percentage of objective reached for the time period July 6-21.

Stream #	**283-62.02**	**283-62.03**	**283-62.04**	**283-62.05**
Escapement objective [a]	2,500	1,500	20,000	80,000
10-year average escapment before July 22	0	0	1,500	4,650
Percentage of objective met	0	0	7.5	5.8

[a] Escapement objectives are used to assist department staff with inseason management decisions. An overview of these objectives can be found in McCullough 2001. Alaska Peninsula Management Area salmon systems: managers manual.

There are no documented pink or chum salmon streams in the proposed expanded area of East and West Pavlof Bays.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this allocative proposal. The department **OPPOSES** this proposal because an increased harvest area in the West and East Pavlof Bay sections is not needed to harvest early runs of salmon into the Canoe Bay and Pavlof Bay sections. The department has documented few pink salmon into the Little Coal Bay area prior to July 22.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 197 - 5 AAC 09.366(d). Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to amend section (d) of the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula, which establishes the duration and frequency of fishing periods. This proposal seeks to replace the current fishing schedule with one that would increase fishing time allowed during the July 6 through July 20 period by approximately 45 hours.

This proposal would also amend the July 21 through 31 fishing schedule to base fishing time during this period on local salmon stocks.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.366(d) the Post-June fishery begins no earlier than July 6. From July 6 to July 21 there may be a maximum of six 24-hour fishing periods interspersed by 48-hour closures, and from July 22 to July 31 there may be three 36-hour fishing periods interspersed by 48-hour closures.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The current management plan allows 249 hours of fishing time during July (141 hours are during 6 July through 21 July). This proposal would increase fishing time during the July 6 through July 21 time period to 195 hours (an increase of 54 hours). The current management plan also allows 108 hours of fishing during July 22 to 31. This proposal would have the department exercise emergency order authority to set fishing periods, based on local salmon stocks, after July 20. This could increase or decrease fishing time during the July 21 to 31 time period.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1979, the July South Peninsula fishery was generally open five days per week. From 1979 until 1992, the entire South Peninsula was generally open to commercial salmon fishing 2 to 5 days per week from July 6 through July 19.

The Board of Fisheries adopted the Post-June Management Plan prior to the 1992 season. The plan essentially limited fishing from July 6 through July 19 to designated terminal areas. From 1993 through 1997, harvests in the July 6 through July 19 period in the South Alaska Peninsula were significantly lower than pre-1993 harvests for the same period. One of the reasons for closing most of the South Peninsula during July 6 through 19 was the board's desire to minimize July coho salmon harvests.

Beginning in 1998, the board allowed 24-hour fishing periods for the South Alaska Peninsula followed by 48-hour closures during July 6 to July 21. For the period from July 22 through 31: fishing time was limited in non-terminal areas to three periods not to exceed 36 hours in duration and interspersed by closures of at least 48 hours (outside of the Southeastern District Mainland prior to July 26). The amount of fishing area considered "terminal" was increased during the July 22 to 31 time period as more local pink and chum salmon gained in run strength. The terminal areas during the July 22-31 time period included the northern portion of Pavlof Bay (north of the latitude of Black

Point), the southern portion of Zachary Bay, the Cold Bay, Morzhovoi Bay, Thin Point, Canoe Bay, Deer Island, Belkofski Bay, and Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay sections, the Stepovak Flats Section from July 26-28, and the area near Suzy Creek after July 25.

In 2001, the BOF made minor changes to the management plan including clarifying the definition of immature salmon during the department's July test fishery. For the purposes of the test fishery, immature salmon were defined as those Chinook, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon that were gilled in the seine web during the test fishery. The BOF also changed the southern boundary of the Suzy Creek terminal harvest area.

During the February 2004 BOF meeting, few changes were made to the management plan. One noteworthy adjustment was the repeal of the 60,000 coho salmon harvest cap from non-terminal areas for the July 22-31 period.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. If this proposal is approved, the department will need guidance on which species the department should base management decisions on, in non-terminal areas, from July 6-31.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 198 - 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Eastlick.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? If adopted, this proposal would amend the fishing schedule for the Post June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. The proposed schedule would consist of 72-hour openings, interspersed with 24-hour closures throughout the month of July. The first fishing period of this schedule would occur at 12:00 noon on July 6. In addition to providing an overall increase of fishing time, this proposal would provide additional daylight hours for setting and removing gear. The current management plan has two fishing periods that open at midnight and two fishing periods that close at midnight. The fishing schedule proposed here has a total of six periods and all would open and close at noon and would likely result in easier set gillnet deployment and retrieval.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.366(d) the Post-June fishery begins no earlier than July 6. From July 6 to July 21 there may be a maximum of six 24-hour fishing periods interspersed by 48-hour closures, and from July 22 to July 31 there may be three 36-hour fishing periods interspersed by 48-hour closures in non-terminal areas. The current fishing schedule is structured to maximize fishing hours. Only two periods begin at 12:01 a.m., and the remaining seven periods begin at 9:00 p.m. and 12:00 noon.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The current management plan allows for 252 hours of fishing time. This proposal would increase fishing time to 432 hours (an increase of 180 hours).

Table 1.-Overview of current and proposed fishing periods, with estimated total daylight fishing hours. Daylight estimates are based on sunrise/sunset estimates for July 2007 in Sand Point, AK.

Current Management Plan	Fishing Periods	Hours per period	Potential Daylight Hours	Total Hours
July 6-21	6	24	96	144
July 22-31	3	36	81	108
		Total hours	177	252
Proposed Fishing Schedule				
July 6-31	6	72	306	432

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1979, the July South Peninsula fishery was generally open five days per week. From 1979 until 1992, the entire South Peninsula was generally open to commercial salmon fishing 2 to 5 days per week from July 6 through July 19.

The Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted the Post-June Management Plan prior to the 1992 season. The plan essentially limited fishing from July 6 through July 19 to designated terminal areas. From 1993 through 1997, harvests in the July 6 through July 19 period in the South Alaska Peninsula were significantly lower than pre-1993 harvests for the same

period. One of the reasons for closing most of the South Peninsula during July 6 through 19 was the board's desire to minimize July coho salmon harvests.

Beginning in 1998, the Board allowed 24-hour fishing periods for the entire South Alaska Peninsula followed by 48-hour closures during July 6 through July 21. For the period from July 22 to 31, fishing time was limited in non-terminal areas, outside of the Southeastern District Mainland (prior to July 26), to three periods not to exceed 36 hours in duration and interspersed by closures of at least 48 hours. The amount of fishing area considered terminal was increased from July 22 through 31. The terminal areas during the July 22 to 31 time period included the northern portion of Pavlof Bay (north of the latitude of Black Point), the southern portion of Zachary Bay, the Cold Bay, Morzhovoi Bay, Thin Point, Canoe Bay, Deer Island, Belkofski Bay, and Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay sections, the Stepovak Flats Section from July 26 to 28, and the area near Suzy Creek after July 25.

In 2001, the BOF made minor changes to the Management Plan including clarifying the definition of immature salmon during the department's July test fishery. For the purposes of the test fishery, immature salmon were defined as those Chinook, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon that were gilled in the seine web during the test fishery. The BOF also changed the southern boundary of the Suzy Creek terminal harvest area.

During the February 2004 BOF meeting, few changes were made to the management plan. One noteworthy adjustment was the repeal of the 60,000 coho salmon harvest cap from non-terminal areas for the July 22 to 31 period.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. If this proposal is approved, the department will need guidance on which species the department should base management decisions on, in non-terminal areas, from July 6 to 31.

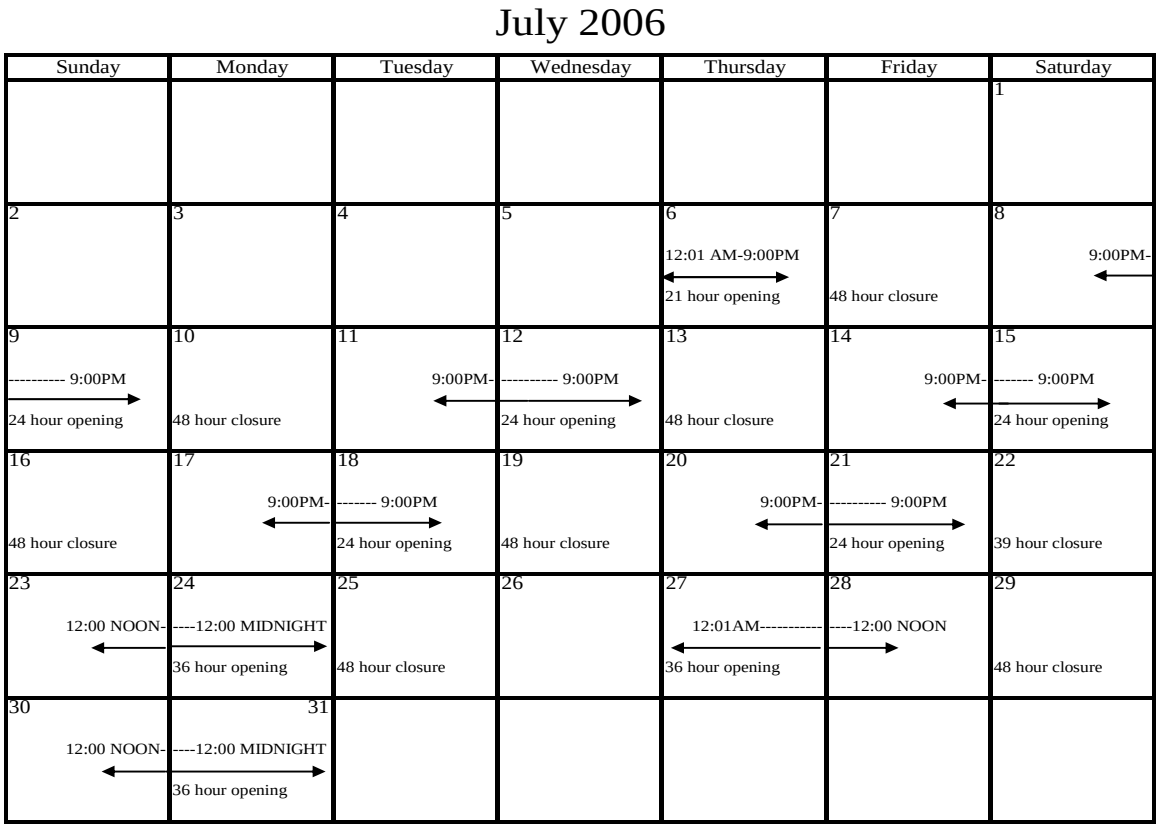
COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

<u>PROPOSAL</u> 199 - 5 AAC 09.3XX. Sockeye Salmon Management Plan.

<u>PROPOSED BY</u>: Chignik Seiners Association

<u>WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?</u> This proposal seeks to create new regulations concerning the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula (5 AAC 09.366). Specifically, it seeks to link the post-June South Peninsula salmon harvests in the Southeastern, South Central, and Southwestern districts to the Chignik Area sockeye salmon runs.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> The Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula (5 AAC 09.366) was adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) in 1991 and was most recently amended in 2004. The first post-June fishing period, for both terminal and non-terminal areas occurs on, or shortly after, July 6 (Figure 1). Under the current plan, commercial salmon fishing from July 6 to 21 in non-terminal areas of the South Alaska Peninsula outside the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) are restricted to a maximum of six 24-hour fishing periods, interspersed by 48-hour closures (Figure 1).



July 6-21: Maximum 6 openings of 24 hours each
July 22-31: Maximum 3 openings of 36 hours each

Figure 1.-The post-June commercial fishing schedule for the South Peninsula, 2006.

From July 6 through July 21, additional fishing time may be allowed in terminal fishing areas, based on local stock run strength. These terminal areas include: Zachary Bay, Canoe Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay sections and the East and West Pavlof Bay sections north of the latitude of Black Point. Thin Point Cove and Morzhovoi Bay sections open to commercial fishing when an acceptable abundance of sockeye salmon are present (Figure 2).

From July 22 through July 31, commercial salmon fishing in the South Peninsula non-terminal areas, (excluding the SEDM from July 22 through July 25) may be allowed for a maximum of three 36-hour fishing periods interspersed by 48-hour closures. These fishing periods will not start before noon on July 23. The terminal areas are expanded to include: Deer Island, Belkofski Bay, Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay sections, Stepovak Flats Section from July 26 through July 28, and an area near the mouth of Suzy Creek (ADF&G statistical area 281-65) after July 25 (Figure 2).

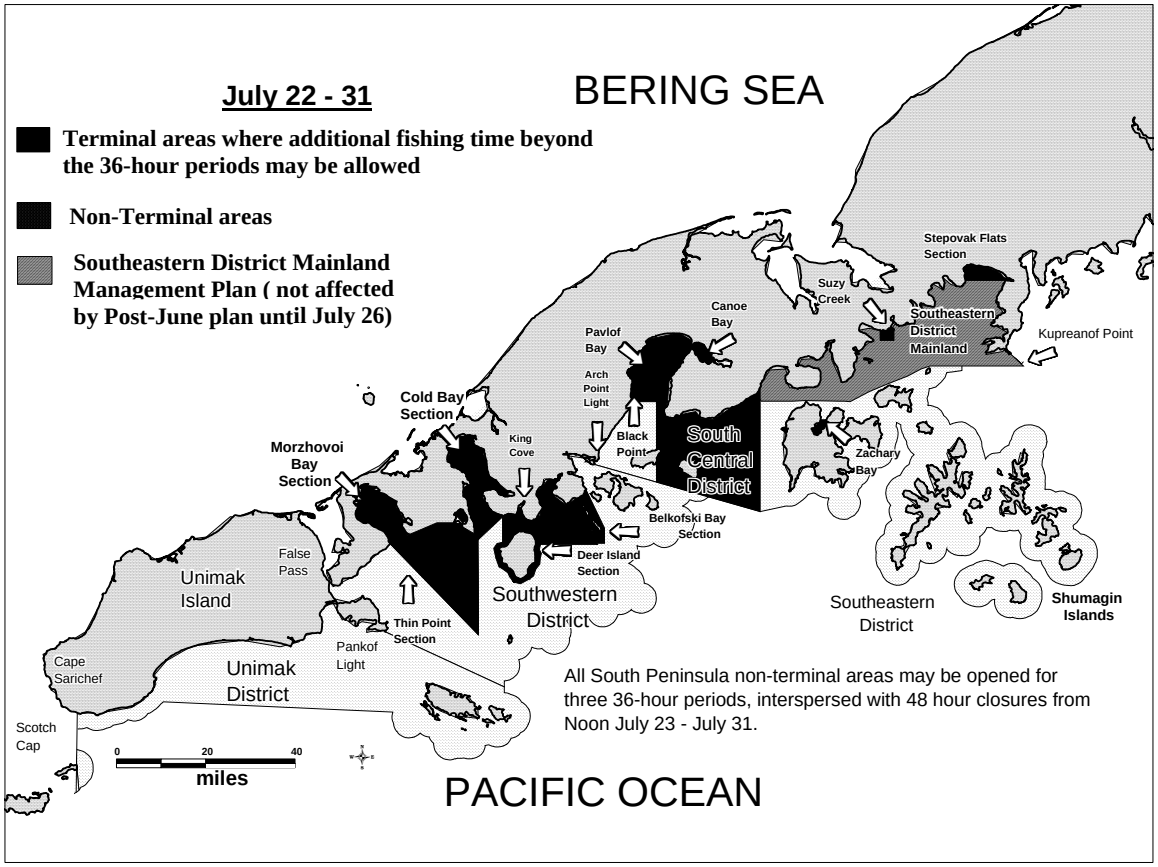


Figure 2.-Map of terminal harvest areas in the South Peninsula, July 22-31.

From August 1 though August 31 fishing periods in the South Peninsula are based on the abundance of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon. From September 1 through September 31, fishing periods are based on the abundance of coho salmon stocks, with consideration given to late pink and chum salmon stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, this proposal would create new regulations within the Post-June Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 09.366). Specifically, it would link the post-June South Peninsula salmon harvests, from July 5 through September 30, in the Southeastern, South Central, and Southwestern districts to the Chignik Area sockeye salmon late-run. It would also link the SEDM salmon harvest, from July 26 through September 30 to the Chignik Area sockeye salmon late-run.

If adopted, this proposal would restrict the harvest of sockeye salmon in the South Peninsula from July 5 through July 25, excluding certain terminal harvest areas and the Unimak District, to a percentage of the Chignik Area sockeye salmon harvest. This proposal would allow, from July 26 through August 10, targeted pink and chum salmon fisheries, but would restrict managers from closing pink and chum salmon fisheries based on the incidental harvest of sockeye salmon during this time frame. Sockeye salmon harvest incidental to the pink and chum salmon harvest would be counted towards the total allocation, but not until after August 10, at which point the allocation may be exceeded and commercial fishing in South Alaska Peninsula waters, outside certain terminal harvest areas and the Unimak District, could be closed for the season. If the allocation is not exceeded, commercial salmon fishing periods could be allowed from August 11 through September 30 in order to achieve the allocation.

Commercial salmon fishing in the SEDM is currently allocatively tied to the Chignik Management Area (CMA) from June 1 through July 25 (5 AAC 09.360). If adopted, this proposal would create a new allocation, from July 26 through September 30 in the SEDM area, excluding Orzinski Bay. This proposal would allow targeted pink and chum salmon fisheries within SEDM from July 26 through August 10, but would restrict managers from closing pink and chum salmon fisheries based on the incidental harvest of sockeye salmon during this time frame. Sockeye salmon harvest incidental to the pink and chum salmon harvest would be counted towards the new allocation, but not until after August 10, at which point the allocation may be exceeded and commercial fishing in the SEDM could be closed for the remainder of the season. If the allocation is not exceeded, commercial fishing periods could be allowed from August 11 through September 30 in order to achieve the allocation.

This proposal does not provide guidelines for the management of salmon in designated terminal sockeye salmon fisheries from July 5 through September 30. Furthermore, it does not provide a management plan or guidelines for the management of salmon in the Unimak District from July 5 through September 30.

BACKGROUND: Until 1974, the South Peninsula Post-June salmon fishery was generally open five days per week, with a season closure on August 10 to allow adequate escapement and maintain product quality. During 1974 and 1975, the fisheries were severely restricted to rebuild pink salmon runs. From 1976-1991, the salmon fisheries were managed by emergency order based on local stock run strength. During these years, the July 6-18 fishing periods were based on chum salmon run strength, while the post July 18 fishing periods were based primarily on pink salmon, and in some areas on chum salmon run strength.

Fishing continued into late August in years of strong pink salmon runs. Migratory salmon were also harvested during these openings and, in some years, are believed to have contributed substantially to the total post-June harvest. Before 1992, the South Peninsula waters east of Rock Island (near Cape Lazaref on the south shore of Unimak Island) were opened to commercial salmon fishing about July 6, except in the SEDM fishery, which followed a separate management plan (5 AAC 09.360). Beginning September 1, fishing periods were based on local coho salmon run strength, and sometimes on chum salmon runs in certain locations (e.g., Volcano Bay).

In 1991, the BOF established the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula (5 AAC 09.366). Under this plan, commercial salmon fishing from July 6-19 was restricted to terminal fishing areas and was based on local stock run strength. The balance of the South Peninsula, which during previous seasons had been open to fishing, remained closed. The BOF decided that local pink and chum salmon could be caught in terminal areas early in the season, without sacrificing product quality, while still allowing migratory salmon to pass through South Peninsula waters. The terminal areas included Zachary Bay, the northern portion of Pavlof Bay, and the Cold Bay, Thin Point, Canoe Bay, and Morzhovoi Bay sections. The BOF concluded that after July 19, South Peninsula fishermen needed to harvest pink salmon in their traditional cape fishing areas to maintain product quality. From July 20 until the close of the season, the entire South Peninsula could be opened to commercial salmon fishing by emergency order based on local run strength (except in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery through July 25).

The Stepovak-Shumagin Setnet Association sued the BOF in early 1992, to stop the implementation of the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula (5 AAC 09.366). On July 10, 1992 an injunction was granted staying the enforcement of the new management plan. On July 13, management of the post-June fisheries reverted back to pre-1992 regulations. In March 1993, the Alaska State Superior Court reconsidered the 1992 injunction and reinstated the plan. That version of the Post-June Salmon Management Plan was fully implemented during the 1993-1997 commercial fishing seasons. In January 1998, the BOF made significant changes to the Post-June Salmon Management Plan including; the establishment of daily fishing times, the July 6 to 21 and July 22 to 31 terminal harvest areas, the August through October local stock abundance management guidelines, the 60,000 coho salmon cap, and the immature salmon test fishery. The BOF changed the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula in 2001. The BOF clarified the definition of immature salmon during the department's July test fishery. For the purposes of the test fishery, immature salmon were defined as those Chinook, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon that were gilled in the seine web during the test fishery. The BOF also changed the southern boundary of the Suzy Creek terminal harvest area to be consistent with the southern boundary of the NWSS at 57° 37.33' N. lat. In February 2004, the BOF repealed the 60,000 coho salmon harvest cap from non-terminal areas for the July 22-31 period.

The current management plan, with some modification, went into effect in 1998.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department is **OPPOSED** to limitations of management flexibility that are necessary to achieve escapement goals and harvest opportunity on local salmon stocks. The post-June South Peninsula salmon fishery has never been managed on allocation criteria.

If this proposal is adopted as written, in some years the commercial salmon fishing in the South Peninsula would be restricted to Orzinski Bay, the Thin Point and Morzhovoi Bay sections, and the Unimak District after August 10. These restrictions would severely reduce the department's ability to control escapement and provide harvest opportunities in the remainder of the South Peninsula. These restrictions would further reduce the department's ability to provide harvest opportunity by concentrating the South Peninsula salmon fishing fleet into terminal harvest areas and the Unimak District.

If adopted, the department requests guidance from the board on what criteria would constitute a commercial fishing stoppage in the Chignik Management Area. The department would also seek guidance from the board regarding the South Peninsula management plan during years when commercial fishing stoppage occurs in the Chignik Management Area.

If this proposal is adopted, the board would need to establish four new management plans concerning the post-June salmon fisheries in the South Peninsula; 1) management criteria regarding the Unimak District from July 1 through September 30, which this proposal does not address, 2) a South Peninsula management plan, excluding the SEDM, terminal sockeye salmon harvest areas, and the Unimak District, would address the allocation criteria as specified in this proposal and guidelines for the establishment of fishing periods from July 5 to 25, July 25 through August 10, and August 11 through September 30, 3) a SEDM management plan, excluding Orzinski Bay, that addresses the allocation criteria as specified in this proposal and guidelines for the establishment of fishing periods from July 26 through August 10 and from August 11 through September 30, and, 4) a management plan that establishes guidelines for the designated terminal sockeye salmon harvest areas (Morzhovoi Bay and Thin Point sections) from July 1 through September 30.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 200 - 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to repeal the test fishery language in the Post-June Salmon Management Plan.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Post-June Salmon Management Plan, 5 AAC 09.366(i), states that the department shall conduct a seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section to assess the abundance and presence of immature salmon. If 100 or more immature salmon, per set, are present, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the seine fishery in an area to be determined by the department. If the seine fishery is closed in an area under this subsection, the set gillnet fishery shall remain open in that area. For the purposes of this subsection, "immature salmon, per set, are present" means the number of immature Chinook, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon observed to be gilled in the seine web.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal, if adopted, would potentially increase fishery-dependent mortality levels of immature salmon. The department would not conduct test fisheries in the Shumagin Islands Section and the number of immature salmon caught by seine gear may increase.

The department would have no advanced notice of immature salmon concerns in the Shumagin Islands until July 6 when the South Peninsula is scheduled to open to commercial salmon fishing and department observers were able to assess the fishery.

BACKGROUND: Immature salmon harvests were first brought to the department's attention in 1963. The presence of immature salmon in South Peninsula waters has warranted restrictions to commercial fishing in some years. These restrictions were applied to all gear types in affected areas during late June into July in 1993, 1968, 1969, 1974, 1979, and for purse seine fishing only during 1989 to 1992, 1999, and 2001 seasons. No closures due to immature salmon concerns have been required since 2001.

Immature salmon have been most prevalent in the Shumagin Islands Section and the concern for catching immature salmon is restricted to purse seine gear. Under current regulations, seine mesh size may not exceed 3-½ inches except for the first 25 meshes above the lead line, which may not exceed 7 inches. Set gillnet gear has larger mesh size (minimum of 5-¼ inches) which allows the immature salmon to pass through. After 1979, regulations were adopted curtailing only purse seine fishing in affected areas. Immature salmon usually migrate out of the Shumagin Islands area by July 23, although 1992 closures remained in effect until July 29.

In 1990, an ADF&G test-fishing program was instituted in the Shumagin Islands to determine the presence and abundance of immature salmon in South Peninsula waters prior to commercial purse seine fishing periods in July. In the Shumagin Islands Section, most purse seine fishing effort occurs in the near shore waters of Popof Island from

Popof Head to Red Bluff. The department has established three test fishing sites at popular set locations in this area.

After test-fishing operations cease, the department continues to monitor the commercial fishery with on-the-water surveys for any immature salmon catch.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department **OPPOSES** this proposal because of conservation and economic concerns. The specific stock composition of the immature salmon taken in the post-June fishery is unknown, although it is likely that the fishery takes immature salmon from multiple stocks. The immature salmon are not marketable and their catch results in a loss of adult salmon in future years. The department uses the test fishery to provide advanced notice to Area M fishermen concerning time, area, and gear restrictions for the scheduled July 6 opening. Lacking the advanced notice would cause confusion among the fishermen and unnecessary delays in closing areas that could potentially harvest hundreds of thousands of immature salmon, salmon that are not sold or processed.

COST ANALYSIS: Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

COMMITTEE D – Salmon: Southeastern District Mainland (6 Proposals)

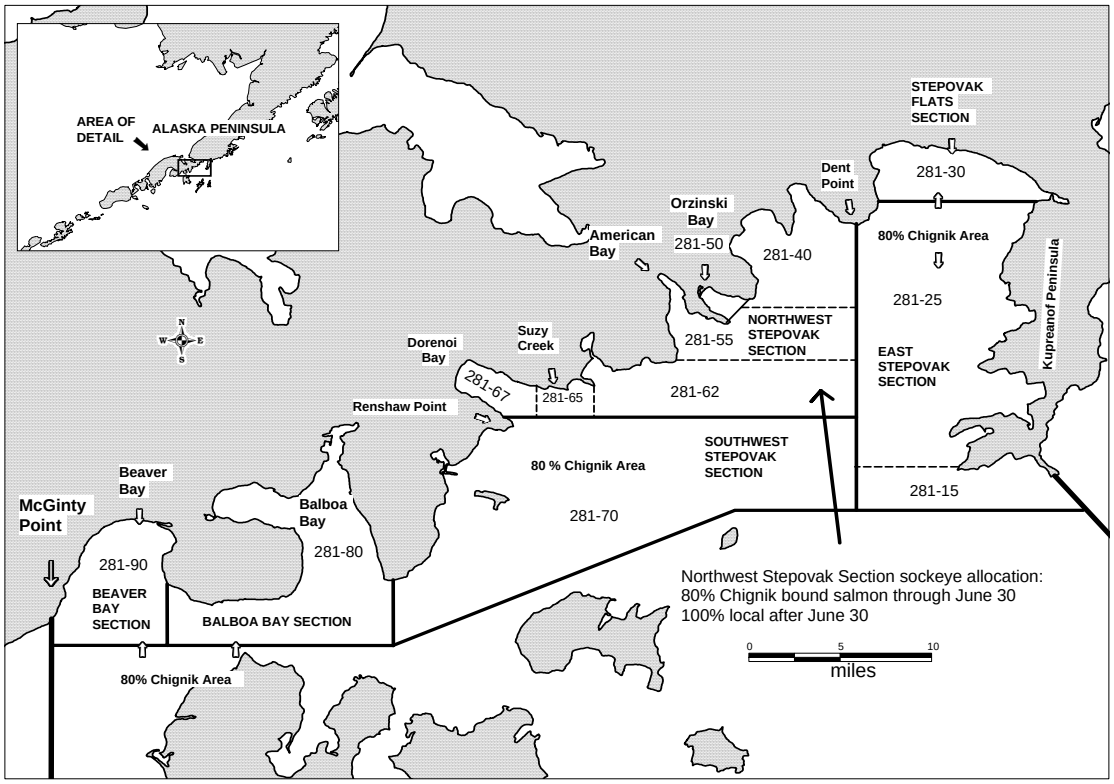
COMMITTEE D – Salmon: Southeastern District Mainland (6 Proposals)

PROPOSAL 201- 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Mark Wagner.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would amend the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Management Plan in two ways. The proposal requests the entire Northwest Stepovak Section be managed as a single unit, that the exception for management of Orzinski Bay separately be repealed. And beginning July 1, if interim escapement goals are exceeded at Orzinski Lake weir, the salmon fishing periods in the Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS) (as described in 5 AAC 09.360 (e)) will be amended to allow continuous fishing. However, when escapements return to being met, but not exceeded, then the four 24-hour fishing periods in a 7-day period, with no more than 48-hours of continuous fishing during a seven-day period, would reapply to the entire NWSS.

Map of the Southeastern District Mainland fishery from Kupreanof Point to McGinty Point with the salmon fishing sections defined.



WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Beginning July, 1 the fishing schedule in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay 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., may not be opened for more than four 24-hour periods with no more than 48-hours continuous fishing during a seven-day period. Furthermore, from July 1 through July 10, if the department determines that the Orzinski Lake sockeye

salmon escapement objectives have been exceeded, in addition to gillnet gear, the department may open the waters of Orzinski Bay to fishing with purse seine and hand purse seine gear. This management plan is in effect through July 25.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The NWSS would be managed as a single unit; Orzinski Bay would not be exempted and could not be managed independently, as it is under the current management plan. When and if Orzinski Lake exceeds its interim escapement objectives, the Northwest Stepovak Section would open to continuous fishing concurrently with Orzinski Bay. When Orzinski Lake is within its interim goals the NWSS would be managed to allow a maximum of four 24-hour fishing periods in a 7-day period with no more than 48-hours of continuous fishing during a seven-day period.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1992 the NWSS was managed on local salmon stocks during the entire season. From 1992-1995, the area managed on local salmon stocks was reduced to include only Orzinski Bay within the Northwest Stepovak Section. In 1996, the BOF changed the Northwest Stepovak Section back to 100% local stock management, similar to the pre-1992 SEDM management plan to help alleviate crowding conditions that existed in Orzinski Bay from 1992-1995. During the 1996 and 1997 seasons, the entire Northwest Stepovak Section was managed on the basis of Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon, but only from July 1-25.

During the January 1998 meeting, the BOF stipulated that only Orzinski Bay will be managed entirely on Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon, however, all sockeye caught in the Northwest Stepovak Section beginning July 1 would be considered local, would not be counted against the Chignik sockeye salmon allocation. The estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River for other sections within SEDM, and for the NWSS prior to July 1, has been determined to be 80% (The 80% allocation was based on a 1961 tagging study conducted in the East Stepovak Section).

In 1998, the board also stipulated that beginning July 1, fishing time in the NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than four days per week with no more than two consecutive fishing days during a seven-day period. Currently, the department does not have any stock composition data in the SEDM fishery to measure the contribution of individual stocks.

In 2005 the BOF stipulated that from July 1 through July 10, if the Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon escapement objectives have been exceeded, in addition to gillnet gear, the department may open the waters of Orzinski Bay to fishing with purse seine and hand purse seine gear.

Table of the adult sockeye salmon inseason escapement objectives for Orzinski Lake.

Date	Cumulative Escapement Objective
15-Jun	0
1-Jul	1,500 to 2,000
9-Jul	3,750 to 5,000
16-Jul	7,500 to 10,000
23-Jul	11,250 to 15,000
7-Aug	15,000 to 20,000
Season Total	15,000 to 20,000

Table of Southeastern District Mainland fishery regulatory history, 1970-2006.

Year	Changes to the Management Plan
Pre-1974	Set weekly fishing periods, usually 5 days per week.
1974-77	Day for day fishing with Chignik.
1978	3 days per week, seine gear prohibited before July 10.
1979-84	5 days per week, 60,000 catch ceiling (until Chignik catches 1 million) After 7/10 entire SEDM managed on local stocks.
1985-91	Assures minimum harvest in Chignik of 600,000 sockeye salmon, restricts fishing in SEDM during overlap period (6/26-7/9), allows 6% (6.2%-1985-87) allocation of total Chignik sockeye salmon harvest through 7/25, permits openings in Stepovak Flats and Northwest Stepovak Sections based on local runs.
1992-95	Area managed on local sockeye salmon runs reduced to include only Orzinski Bay (Stepovak Flats Section not effected), 7% allocation of Chignik bound sockeye salmon established prior to the 1992 fishing season.
1996-present	Area managed on local sockeye runs increased to include the Northwest Stepovak Section beginning July 1, 6% Chignik bound sockeye salmon allocation re-established prior to the 1996 season. Beginning July 1, only Orzinski Bay was managed entirely on its local sockeye salmon run. However, all sockeye salmon caught in the Northwest Stepovak Section beginning July 1 are considered 100% local fish and are not counted toward the 6% allocation. The remainder of the SEDM sockeye salmon harvest was allocated as 80% Chignik bound fish. Changes in 1998 included a minimum Chignik Management harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon by July 8 and 600,000 by July 25. The maximum allowable fishing time in the Northwest Stepovak Section (excluding Orzinski Bay) during July 1-25 is four days within a seven day period, with no more than two consecutive fishing days in a week.
2005-present	Beginning in 2005, if the department determines that the Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon escapement objectives have been exceeded during the July 1 through July 10 timeframe using set gillnet gear, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, the waters of Orzinski Bay to fishing with purse seine and hand purse seine gear.

Over the past 5 years (2001-2005), between July 1 through July 25, the NWSS has been open an average of 211 hours and Orzinski Bay has been open 414 hours. In that time, the total NWSS averaged a harvest of 83,317 sockeye salmon, of which 26,745 came from Orzinski Bay.

Table of 2001 to 2006 Orzinski escapement data.

Orzinski Escapement Data					
Year	Escapement Objective	Date 20,000 Reached	Escapement on July 25	Final Escapement	Amount Overescaped
2001	15,000 to 20,000	27-Jul-01 [a]	19,406	22,047	2,047
2002	15,000 to 20,000	12-Jul-02 [a]	31,056	39,056	19,056
2003	15,000 to 20,000	2-Jul-03 [a]	49,416	58,707	38,707
2004	15,000 to 20,000	1-Jul-04 [a]	59,027	74,165	54,165
2005	15,000 to 20,000	23-Jul-05 [a]	32,699	43,866	23,866
2006	15,000 to 20,000	N/A [a]	4,571	18,000	-2,000
01-05 Average			38,321	47,568	27,568

[a] Date Orzinski Reached 20,000 adult sockeye salmon.

In the past 5 years (2001-2005) Orzinski Lake has averaged 47,568 adult sockeye salmon escapement. The department established escapement goals between 15,000 and 20,000 adult sockeye salmon. Thus over the past 5 years Orzinski weir has over escaped an average of 27,568 adult sockeye salmon.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative nature of this proposal. The department is **OPPOSED** to the limitation of management flexibility which is necessary to achieve escapement and harvest allocations.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 202 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Management Plan..

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal specifies that at times when over escapement is occurring in Orzinski Lake, the department shall open all of the Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS; as described in 5 AAC 09.200 (f)(5)) concurrent with Orzinski Bay openings. This proposal would still allow Orzinski Bay openings to occur independently of the remainder of the NWSS.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Beginning July, 1 the fishing schedule in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay 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., may not be opened for more than four 24-hour periods with no more than 48-hours continuous fishing during a seven-day period. Furthermore, from July 1 through July 10, if the department determines that the Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon interim escapement objectives have been exceeded, in addition to gillnet gear, the department may open the waters of Orzinski Bay to fishing with purse seine and hand purse seine gear.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? When and if Orzinski Lake exceeds its interim sockeye salmon escapement objectives, the Northwest Stepovak Section would open to fishing concurrently with Orzinski Bay.

BACKGROUND: Prior to 1992 the Northwest Stepovak Section was managed on local salmon stocks during the entire season. From 1992-1995, the area managed on local salmon stocks was reduced to include only Orzinski Bay within the Northwest Stepovak Section. In 1996, the BOF changed the Northwest Stepovak Section to 100% local stocks, similar to the pre-1992 SEDM management plan to help alleviate crowding conditions that existed in Orzinski Bay from 1992-1995. During the 1996 and 1997 seasons, the entire Northwest Stepovak Section was managed on the basis of Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon, but only from July 1-25.

During the January 1998 meeting, the BOF stipulated that only Orzinski Bay will be managed entirely on Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon, however, all sockeye caught in the Northwest Stepovak Section beginning July 1 would be considered local, would not be counted against the Chignik sockeye salmon allocation. The estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River for other sections within SEDM, and for the NWSS prior to July 1, has been determined to be 80% (The 80% allocation was based on a 1961 tagging study conducted in the East Stepovak Section).

In 1998, the board also stipulated that beginning July 1, fishing time in the NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than four days per week with no more than two consecutive fishing days during a seven-day period. Currently, the department does not have any stock composition data in the SEDM fishery to measure the contribution of individual stocks.

In 2005 the BOF stipulated that from July 1 through July 10, if the Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon escapement objectives have been exceeded, in addition to gillnet gear, the department may open the waters of Orzinski Bay to fishing with purse seine and hand purse seine gear.

In the past 5 years (2001-2005) Orzinski Lake has averaged 47,568 adult sockeye salmon escapement. The department established escapement goals between 15,000 and 20,000 adult sockeye salmon. Thus over the past 5 years Orzinski Lake has over-escaped an average of 27,568 sockeye salmon.

Table of 2001 to 2006 Orzinski Escapement Data.

Orzinski Escapement Data					
Year	Escapement Objective	Date 20,000 Reached	Escapement on July 25	Final Escapement	Amount Over-escaped
2001	15,000 to 20,000	27-Jul-01 [a]	19,406	22,047	2,047
2002	15,000 to 20,000	12-Jul-02 [a]	31,056	39,056	19,056
2003	15,000 to 20,000	2-Jul-03 [a]	49,416	58,707	38,707
2004	15,000 to 20,000	1-Jul-04 [a]	59,027	74,165	54,165
2005	15,000 to 20,000	23-Jul-05 [a]	32,699	43,866	23,866
2006	15,000 to 20,000	N/A [a]	4,571	18,000	-2,000
01-05 Average			38,321	47,568	27,568

[a] Date Orzinski reached 20,000 adult sockeye salmon.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department is **OPPOSED** to any limitations of management flexibility which is necessary to achieve escapement. Furthermore, the department would ask for guidance on the definition of over-escapement.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 203 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would reduce the estimate of sockeye salmon considered to be destined for the Chignik Area and harvested under the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Salmon Management Plan, from 80% to 40%.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In June, 80% of the sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM are considered to be destined for the Chignik Area. From July 1 to July 25, salmon harvested in the Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS) are considered to be 100% local origin while sockeye salmon harvested in the remainder of SEDM are considered to be 80% Chignik bound. The SEDM is allocated 6% of the total Chignik bound sockeye salmon harvest through July 25.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? A 50% reduction of SEDM harvested sockeye salmon considered to be Chignik bound would double the amount of sockeye salmon allowed to be harvested in the SEDM.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan (Kodiak Management Area) which replaced a set fishing schedule. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to the allocation of Chignik sockeye salmon stocks and defining the meaning local stocks. The proportion of sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM (excluding areas designated as 100% local stocks) considered to be Chignik Area bound has been determined in regulation to be 80%, based on a 1961 tagging study conducted in the East Stepovak Section. In 1998, the board stipulated that sockeye salmon harvested in the NWSS beginning July 1 would not be counted toward the Chignik bound sockeye salmon allocation. In addition, beginning July 1, fishing time in the NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than four days per week with no more than two consecutive fishing days during a seven-day period. Finally, the department does not have any stock composition data in the SEDM fishery to measure the contribution of individual stocks.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspect of this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 204 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Seiners Association.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal, if adopted, would reconfigure the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Management Area sockeye salmon allocation from 6% of the total Chignik harvest (i.e., 80% of most of the SEDM + 90% Igvak + Chignik Area sockeye salmon harvest), to 7.6% of just the Chignik Area sockeye salmon harvest (no 80% SEDM, or 90% Igvak stocks added into the calculation). The proposals intent is to retain all other provisions of the management plan, changing only how the SEDM allocation is calculated.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulations state that the department shall manage the SEDM fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Northwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay sections, approximate six percent of the total Chignik Area bound sockeye salmon harvest. Further, the management plan addresses gear, local and non-local stocks, Chignik sockeye salmon run timing through the SEDM, and other biological and harvest criteria for SEDM fisheries.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The proposal recommends changing the SEDM 6% allocation of the total Chignik Area bound sockeye salmon harvest to a 7.6% allocation of the Chignik Area sockeye salmon harvest. The mathematical adjustment could be derived in the following manner:

$$T = C + I + S \qquad (1)$$

Where;
T = the total Chignik sockeye salmon harvest before July 26,
C = the Chignik Area sockeye salmon harvest before July 26,
I = the Igvak Section sockeye salmon harvest bound for Chignik (90% of the Igvak total harvest) before July 26,
S = the SEDM Section sockeye salmon harvest bound for Chignik (80% of the SEDM total harvest) before July 26.

by current regulation

$$I = 0.15T \qquad (2)$$

and

$$S = 0.06T \qquad (3)$$

In other words, 15% of the total Chignik sockeye salmon harvest can be taken in the Igvak Section, and 6% in the SEDM Section. Therefore equation (1) can be re-written as:

$$T = C + 0.15T + 0.06T \qquad (4)$$

Rearranging and simplifying we get:

$$C = 0.79T \quad (5)$$

In other words, approximately 21% of the total Chignik sockeye salmon harvest is harvested outside the Chignik Area, so 79% is harvested within the Chignik Area.

Equation (5) can be rewritten as:

$$T = C/0.79 \quad (6)$$

Combining equations (3) and (6) we get:

$$S = 0.06(C/0.79) = 0.075949C \text{ or about } 0.076C \quad (7)$$

Thus, instead of the SEDM harvest being estimated from 6% of the total Chignik Area bound sockeye salmon harvest, the SEDM harvest would be calculated using 7.6% of only the Chignik Area sockeye salmon harvest. Managers would then divide the number by 80% to reach the actual SEDM harvest, taking into account the local sockeye salmon stocks.

The current calculation of the SEDM allocation depends upon the total Chignik bound harvest (Chignik, SEDM, and Cape Igvak). In years when either Cape Igvak or SEDM exceeds their allocation (e.g. Cape Igvak in 2004 and 2005) would result in a larger value for the total Chignik Area bound harvest, thus an increased harvest in SEDM (Table 1). Likewise in years when either Cape Igvak or SEDM does not obtain their allocation (e.g. Cape Igvak in 2002 and 2003) results in a smaller value for the total Chignik Area bound harvest, thus a decreased harvest in SEDM.

Table 1. Different methods for calculating the allowable SEDM harvest allocation.

Year	Chignik Harvest [a]	Projected Allocation[b]	Proposal 204 Allocation [c]
2000	1,494,209	113,559	113,559
2001	745,104	56,627	56,627
2002	851,031	64,678	64,678
2003	855,179	64,993	64,993
2004	681,120	51,765	51,765
2005	1,098,718	83,502	83,502

[a] Chignik harvest numbers based on in season numbers.
[b] Projected SEDM allocation, calculated using 6% of total Chignik bound harvest, includes SEDM, Cape Igvak and Chignik harvest of Chignik bound sockeye salmon.
c Prop 204 calculation using 7.6% of the Chignik Area Harvest.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan (Kodiak Management Area), which replaced a set fishing schedule with a percent allocation of total Chignik Area bound sockeye

salmon. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to the percent allocation of Chignik sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and the definition of local stocks. Currently the SEDM Chignik Area bound sockeye salmon allocation is 6.0% of the total Chignik Area bound sockeye salmon harvest. That is 80% of the sockeye salmon caught in SEDM through July 25 except for those sockeye caught in the NWSS from July 1-25, plus 90% of Cape Igvak and all of the Chignik Area sockeye salmon catch through July 25.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. If adopted, this proposal would somewhat simplify the SEDM management plan by removing the 90% Chignik Area bound sockeye salmon harvest in the Cape Igvak fishery from the SEDM allocation calculation. If this proposal is adopted, the SEDM harvest of Chignik Area bound sockeye salmon will still vary above or below the annual allocation. However, the harvest at Cape Igvak would not influence the overall SEDM harvest percentage.

If adopted the department would like guidance from the board on how to calculate the Chignik Area harvest when excess escapements occur due to an inability of Chignik fishermen to harvest excess salmon because of limited processor capacity or harvest slow downs/work stoppages when disagreements with the department occurred. These scenarios have led to overescapement in the past.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 205 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Roger Rowland

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposals intent is to link most SEDM fishing periods during the entire salmon season with the sockeye salmon return to the Chignik Area. The proposal includes three parts to calculate the Chignik Area bound sockeye salmon harvest in the SEDM: 1) in June, 80% of the sockeye salmon harvested in the entire SEDM would be considered Chignik Area bound, 2) from July 1 to August 1, only sockeye salmon harvested in Orzinski Bay would be considered to be 100% local origin while sockeye salmon harvested in the remainder of SEDM, including most of the NWSS, would be considered 80% Chignik Area bound, and 3) (this portion of the proposal is unclear as the time period of July 1 through August 1 has already been addressed in #2) from July 1 (perhaps from August 2?) through October 31 (or perhaps through September 30 as by regulation when the salmon season closes), the entire SEDM, including Orzinski Bay, would be managed with 80 percent of the sockeye salmon harvested to be considered Chignik Area bound. The department is not able to determine the exact language of the proposed allocation during time period #3 or what area the author is referring to. This proposal may also be requesting that the SEDM season be extended through October 31.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

In 5AAC 09.360 SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT MAINLAND SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN:

In June, 80% of the sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM are considered to be destined for the Chignik Area. From July 1 to July 25, salmon harvested in the Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS) are considered to be 100% local origin while sockeye salmon harvested in the remainder of SEDM are considered to be 80% Chignik bound. The department manages the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon taken in SEDM approaches 6% of the total Chignik Area bound sockeye salmon catch.

After July 25 the SEDM is managed under the Post-June salmon management plan and commercial salmon fishing can be opened based on the strength of local stocks. The Post-June salmon management plan and the fishing season ends on September 30.

In 5AAC 09.366 POST-JUNE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA:

From July 25 through July 31 that portion of the Northwest Stepovak Section near Suzi Creek is considered a terminal harvest area and fishing periods are established based on the abundance of local pink salmon stocks.

From July 26 through July 28, the Stepovak Flats Section of the SEDM is considered a terminal harvest area and fishing periods are established based on the abundance of local chum salmon stocks.

From August 1 through August 31, fishing periods are based on the abundance of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon stocks.

From September 1 through September 30, fishing periods are based on abundance of coho salmon stocks, although the department may consider the abundance of late pink and chum salmon stocks.

In 5 AAC 09.310(f). FISHING SEASONS:
…salmon may be taken only from June 1 through September 30.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Although unclear, adoption of this proposal may result in decreased fishing time for Area M fishermen and also decrease salmon harvests in the SEDM. If the SEDM fishing time is linked to an allocation of Chignik Area bound sockeye salmon through October 31 it is likely that the harvest of SEDM local coho, pink and chum salmon would be affected. In years with low late run sockeye salmon returns to Chignik and low returns of coho, pink and chum salmon to SEDM, effects would likely be small as SEDM fishing time would be limited. In years with low late run Chignik sockeye salmon returns and high coho, pink and chum salmon returns SEDM Area M fishermen would likely have limited harvest opportunity on local stocks and excess escapements would result. Finally, if the proposal is requesting a fishing season extension through October 31, and if adopted, the SEDM would be the only location in Area M with the salmon season extending through October.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the Cape Igvak, Salmon Management Plan (Kodiak Management Area), which replaced a set fishing schedule. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to the allocation of Chignik sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery.

Prior to 1992, the NWSS was managed on local salmon stocks during the entire season. From 1992-1995, the area managed on local stocks was reduced to include only Orzinski Bay within the NWSS. In 1996, the BOF changed the NWSS to 100% local stocks, similar to the pre-1992 SEDM management plan to help alleviate crowding conditions that existed in Orzinski Bay from 1992-1995.

During the 1996 and 1997 seasons, the entire NWSS was managed on the basis of local salmon stocks from July 1-25. During the January 1998 meeting, the BOF stipulated that only Orzinski Bay will be managed entirely on local stocks (i.e., Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon), however, all sockeye caught in the NWSS beginning July 1 would be considered local, would not be counted against the Chignik Area sockeye salmon allocation, and fishing time would be determined by Orzinski Bay escapement. The allocation of sockeye salmon considered to be Chignik bound by regulation for the remainder of the SEDM would be 6%.

In 1998, the board also stipulated that beginning July 1, fishing time in the NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than four days per week with no more than two consecutive fishing days during a seven-day period. After July 25 commercial salmon

fishing can be opened in the entire SEDM area based on local stocks. The department does not have stock composition data in the SEDM fishery to measure the contribution of individual stocks.

In 2005 the BOF stipulated that from July 1 through July 10, if the Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon escapement objectives have been exceeded, in addition to gillnet gear, the department may open the waters of Orzinski Bay to fishing with purse seine and hand purse seine gear.

Past regulations, fishing seasons and management plans, had conflicting season ending dates. In general the Area M fishing seasons closed on September 30 while some management plans had the fishing season closing on either September 30 or October 31. During some years, especially in the Southeastern District, the fishing season ending date was clarified as ending on October 31 by emergency orders.

When the season ending date confusion was discussed with regional and headquarters staff, it was determined that 5 AAC 09.310 Fishing Seasons would take precedence over the management plans dates.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** to any allocative aspects of this proposal. The department is unclear on the intent of parts of this proposal. This proposal does not appear to provide a mechanism to control escapement into Orzinski Lake if over-escapement occurs and does not provide the department flexibility in the harvest of other local stocks. It is unclear whether the author intends to keep the 6% Chignik Area allocation throughout the salmon season (September 30 or October 31). The proposal is also unclear on whether the season should be extended to October 31. The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal if it limits harvest opportunity of local coho, pink and chum stocks or if it limits the department's flexibility in managing the fishery. The department does request board guidance on what species to manage for if the season is extended through October 31.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 206 - 5 AAC 09.360. District Mainland Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Roger Rowland

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal, if adopted, would extend the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Management Plan through the entire salmon season and link SEDM fishing periods throughout the season with the sockeye salmon return to the Chignik Area.

This proposal requests that after July 25, the entire Southeastern District Mainland area would have a maximum of four 24-hour openings per week in non-terminal harvest areas with a minimum of one 24-hour closure between openings. If the Chignik Management Area (CMA) daily escapement objectives fall behind schedule for one week, or if Chignik fishermen are not allowed to fish that week because of escapement concerns, then the next week's opening in the SEDM shall be reduced to two 24-hours openings in non-terminal harvest areas with a minimum of one 96 hour closure between openings. If the CMA escapement continues to be behind schedule or if Chignik fishermen still are unable to fish, then the next week's openings in the SEDM shall be reduced to one 24-hour opening in non terminal harvest areas. From August 20 through September 1, the SEDM shall have a maximum of two 24-hour openings with a minimum of one 96 hour closure between openings per week. After September 1, the SEDM shall have a maximum of one 24-hour fishing period per week.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? From July 1 through July 25, salmon harvested in the Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS) are considered to be 100% local origin while sockeye salmon harvested in the remainder of SEDM are considered to be 80% Chignik Area bound. The SEDM is allocated 6% of the total Chignik Area bound sockeye salmon harvest through July 25. Beginning July 1, fishing time in the NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than four days per week with no more than two consecutive fishing days during a seven-day period. From July 6 through July 21 that portion of the Northwest Stepovak Section (NWSS) located near the mouth of Suzi Creek is considered a terminal harvest area and fishing periods can be established based on the abundance of local pink salmon stocks. From July 26 through July 28, the Stepovak Flats Section of the SEDM is considered a terminal harvest area and fishing periods can be established based on the abundance of local chum salmon stocks, after July 31 there are no defined terminal or non terminal locations. After July 25 the SEDM is managed with the remainder of the South Alaska Peninsula, under the Post-June Salmon Management for the South Alaska Peninsula and commercial salmon fishing is based on local stocks.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? Adoption of this proposal would likely result in decreased fishing opportunity for Area M fishermen, decrease salmon harvests in the SEDM, and increased local stock escapements to SEDM streams.

BACKGROUND: In 1985, the board developed a management plan for SEDM based on the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan (Kodiak Management Area) which replaced a

set fishing schedule. Since then, the board has made modifications to the management plan including changes to the allocation of Chignik Area sockeye salmon stocks to the fishery and the definition of local stocks. The proportion of sockeye salmon harvested in SEDM (excluding areas designated as 100% local stocks) considered to be Chignik Area bound has been determined in regulation to be 80% based primarily on a 1961 tagging study conducted in the East Stepovak Section. In 1998, the board stipulated that sockeye salmon harvested between July 1 and July 26 in the NWSS would not be counted toward the Chignik Area bound sockeye salmon allocation. In addition, beginning July 1, fishing time in the NWSS, excluding Orzinski Bay, may not be more than four days per week with no more than two consecutive fishing days during a seven-day period. After July 25 commercial salmon fishing can be opened in the entire SEDM area based on local stocks, it falls into the South Peninsula post June management plan. Finally, the department does not have any stock compositions data in the SEDM fishery to measure the contribution of individual stocks.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** to any allocative aspects of this proposal. The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal since it will inhibit the department's flexibility to provide harvest opportunity for local coho, pink and chum stocks. If this proposal is adopted the department will need guidance from the board on SEDM terminal and non-terminal areas post July 31 and daily Chignik sockeye salmon escapement objectives (the Chignik Management Area does not have daily escapement goals). Chignik sockeye salmon management is based on interim escapement objectives and the objectives time periods vary during the season.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

COMMITTEE E – Salmon: North Peninsula
(8 Proposals)

COMMITTEE E – Salmon: North Peninsula (8 Proposals)

PROPOSAL 207 - 5 AAC 09.369(j)(1). Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal, if adopted, would allow the department to open the outer portion of the Ilnik Section to commercial salmon fishing as early as June 20 and would change the commercial salmon fishing season opening date from June 25 to June 20.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulations; 5 AAC 09.310 (a)(3)(C) and 5 AAC 09.369 (j)(1) open the commercial salmon fishing seasons in the Ilnik Section outside of Ilnik Lagoon on June 25. Prior to July 21, the Ilnik Section northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point is managed on the basis of Meshik and Ilnik river sockeye salmon stocks while that portion of the Ilnik Section located southwest of Unangashak Bluffs is managed on the basis of Ilnik River sockeye salmon stocks. If concern exists for sockeye salmon in the Ugashik River (Bristol Bay Management Area), management actions can be taken in the Ilnik Section (5 AAC 09.369(j)(1)(B)). The current regulation does not allow the department to open the Ilnik Section, except inside Ilnik Lagoon, prior to June 25.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would allow the department increased flexibility to control the sockeye salmon escapement into Ilnik and Meshik rivers by providing additional harvest opportunity on these stocks. The Ilnik and Meshik rivers have exceeded their escapement objectives in recent years prior to the June 25 opening date. When a strong escapement is occurring at the Ilnik and Meshik rivers, allowing harvest opportunity between June 20 and June 24 would reduce the escapement into these rivers.

Proposed regulatory language would be as follows:

5 AAC 09.310 (a)(3)(C) from June **20** ~~[25]~~ through September 30, throughout the entire Ilnik Section; and 5 AAC 09.369 (j)(1) nothwithstanding 5 AAC 09.320(a)(3), from June **20** ~~[25]~~ through July 20,

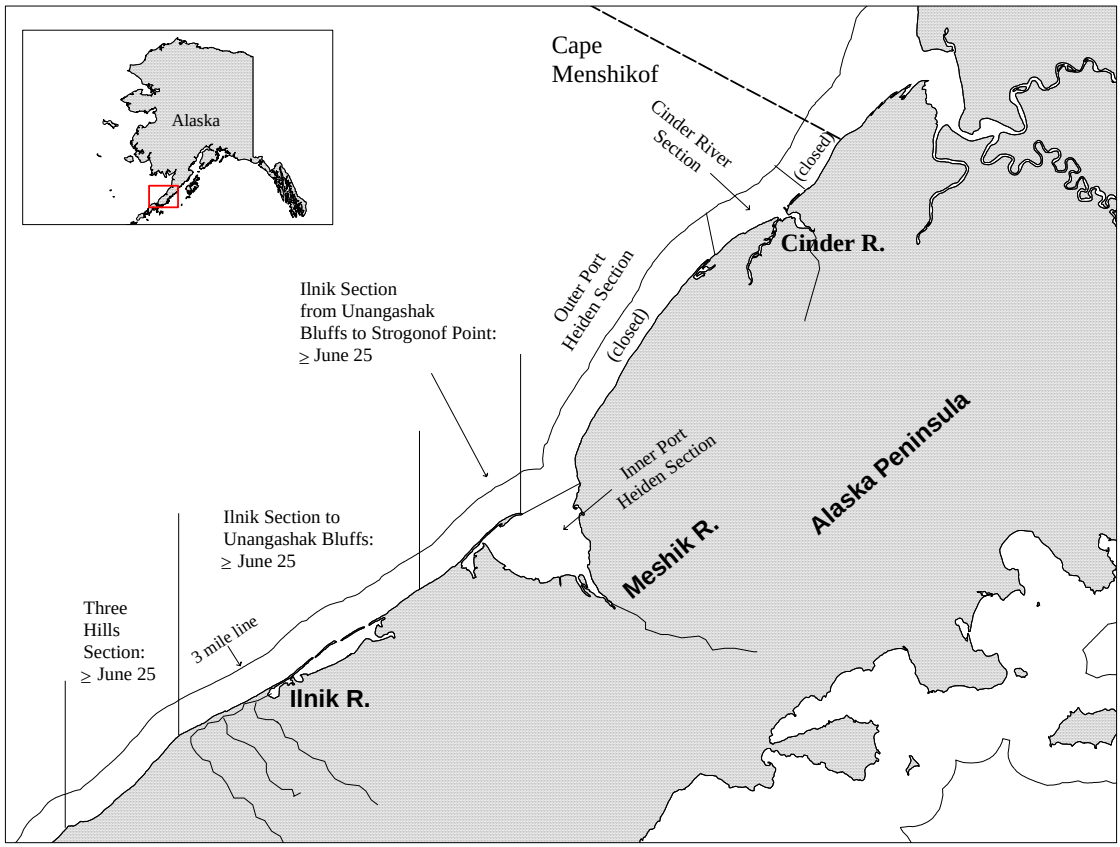


Figure 1.-Map of part of the North Alaska Peninsula from the Three Hills Section to Cape Menshikof.

BACKGROUND: The Ilnik Section contains three sub-areas that are actively managed by the department: the Inner Ilnik Lagoon, the upper Ilnik Section northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point, and the southern Ilnik Section southwest of Unangashak Bluffs. Ilnik Lagoon was historically fished by set gillnet gear but has not been fished since 1998. The northern portion of the Ilnik Section extends from Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point and management is based on the Meshik and Ilnik rivers sockeye salmon runs prior to July 20. Prior to 2004, this area was closed to commercial salmon fishing until July 15. The southern portion of the Ilnik Section is located southwest of Unangashak Bluffs to the Three Hills Section boundary, and is managed based on Ilnik River sockeye salmon runs through July 20. From 1998 to 2003, that portion of the Ilnik Section located southwest of Unangashak Bluffs could open to commercial salmon fishing from June 25 to July 5, if certain escapement thresholds were met at the Ilnik River. If fishing did occur between June 25 and July 4, there were a number of limitations imposed: a 100,000 sockeye salmon cap, fishing was not permitted for more than 24 consecutive hours, at least a 24 hour closure between fishing periods, and that portion of the Ilnik Section located northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point would not open to commercial salmon fishing until July 25 instead of July 15.

The escapement at Ilnik River has exceeded the sockeye salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) range in all three years that the current management plan has been in effect.

The average escapement at Ilnik River from 2004-2006 was 108,000 sockeye salmon, well above the SEG range of 40,000-60,000 fish. In all of the past three years, the SEG range has been met or exceeded at the Ilnik River prior to the regulatory opening on June 25. The Meshik River sockeye salmon escapement, as measured by aerial surveys, has also substantially exceeded the SEG range (10,000-20,000 sockeye salmon) in recent years. The average escapement into the Meshik River systems has averaged 119,800 sockeye salmon since 2004.

Table 1.- Ilnik and Meshik rivers sockeye salmon escapement, 2002-2006.

	Number of sockeye salmon			
Year	Ilnik R. escapement on 20-Jun	Ilnik R. escapement on 25-Jun	Ilnik R. season ending escapement	Meshik R. season ending escapement
2002	16,128	22,345	43,000	54,100
2003	35,269	51,156	69,000	114,000
2004	37,505	55,504	82,000	103,700
2005	35,109	75,744	154,000	113,100
2006	35,576	55,973	88,000	142,610
2004-06 Avg.	**36,063**	**62,407**	**108,000**	**119,803**

Past tagging, migration, and genetic studies indicate that most Bristol Bay sockeye salmon are well offshore of North Peninsula fisheries. This is supported in recent years by the Port Moller test fishery which annually documents the Bristol Bay run migration. Scale pattern analysis in the past documented Bristol Bay sockeye salmon caught in the Ilnik Section. In 2006, the department began the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), which uses genetic markers to differentiate between stocks in commercial fishery samples collected throughout western Alaska. These samples will provide information on the migration of local and non-local stocks; however, the results may not be available for a number of years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** the opportunity for Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon fishermen to harvest salmon in excess of escapement requirements; however, if non-local (i.e., Bristol Bay) salmon stocks are present in the Ilnik Section from June 20-24, they would be harvested along with local sockeye salmon.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 208 - 5 AAC 09.320(a)(3). Fishing Periods.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? If the BOF were to approve proposal 207, this companion proposal would change the existing fishing periods for waters within the Ilnik Lagoon portion of the Ilnik Section under 5 AAC 09.320 (a)(3) to coincide with the fishing periods of the rest of the Ilnik Section. This would help clarify regulations so that fishing periods beginning June 20 would be the same between Ilnik Lagoon and the remaining portion of the Ilnik Section.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? In the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Ilnik sections, salmon may be taken only from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, except that before June 25 in that portion of the Ilnik Section within Ilnik Lagoon and all waters inside the Seal Islands, salmon may be taken from noon Monday until 11:59 p.m. Wednesday. The Ilnik Lagoon portion of the Ilnik Section is open to commercial salmon fishing during early June. However, since 1998, the department has provided significant fishing time inside Ilnik Lagoon but no effort has occurred. The weekly fishing schedule inside Ilnik Lagoon is almost 60 hours per week.

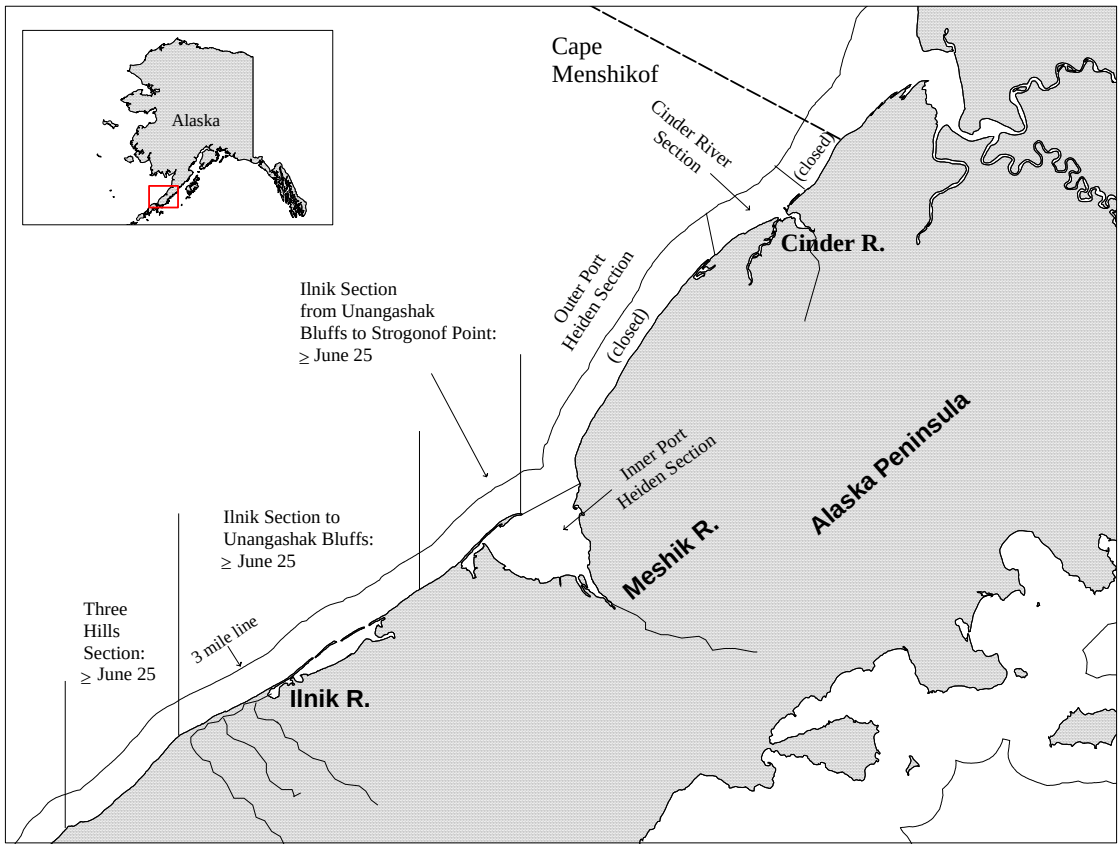


Figure 2.-Map of part of the North Alaska Peninsula from the Three Hills Section to Cape Menshikof.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? In that portion of the Ilnik Section within Ilnik Lagoon and all waters inside the Seal Islands, the weekly fishing period between June 20 and June 25 would change from a noon Monday until 11:59 p.m. Wednesday schedule to a 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Wednesday schedule. The amount of fishing time inside Ilnik Lagoon would remain the same. This would align the fishing periods from June 20-24 within the entire Ilnik Section to avoid confusion among the fleet.

Proposed regulatory language would be as follows:

5 AAC 09.320 (a)(3) in the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Ilnik sections salmon may be taken only from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, except that before June **20** ~~[25]~~ in that portion of the Ilnik Section within Ilnik Lagoon and all waters inside the Seal Islands, salmon may be taken only from noon Monday until 11:59 p.m. Wednesday.

BACKGROUND: Prior to June 25, the portion of the Ilnik Section within Ilnik Lagoon and all waters inside the Seal Islands have a different weekly fishing schedule compared to the remaining portion of the Ilnik Section. If proposal 207 passes this proposal would specify by regulation that all areas of the Ilnik Section have the same opening and closing time beginning June 20.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it, if proposal 207 passes. If proposal 207 is not approved, the department recommends taking **NO ACTION** on this proposal. This proposal will clarify regulations to avoid confusion so that the entire Ilnik Section has similar opening and closing times beginning June 20.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 209 - 5 AAC 09.369 (j)(3). Northern District Fisheries Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would add the late (post July 31) Bear River sockeye salmon run to the stocks that are used to manage the Ilnik Section after August 15. This proposal modifies the regulation to protect the late Bear River sockeye salmon run after August 15.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Under 5 AAC 09.369 (j)(3), After August 15 the Ilnik Section is managed on the basis of abundance of coho salmon stocks that migrate into river systems within the Ilnik Section. The late Bear River sockeye salmon run is not a stock specified in the management plan for the Ilnik Section after August 15.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would include the late run of Bear River sockeye salmon as a stock that is managed in the Ilnik Section after August 15. This would give added protection to the late Bear River sockeye salmon run that is the targeted stock in the Ilnik Section after August 15.

Proposed regulatory language would be as follows:

5 AAC 09.369 (j)(3) after August 15, fishing periods may be modified in the Ilnik Section based on the abundance of coho salmon stocks in the Unangashak and Ilnik rivers, as well as the Ocean River coho salmon when the Ocean River flows directly into the Bering Sea, **and the late Bear River sockeye salmon run.**

BACKGROUND: The Ilnik Section has several healthy coho salmon stocks that have experienced directed fishing in the past. However, in many years considerable drift gillnet effort has occurred in the Ilnik Section after August 15 that target sockeye salmon bound for the Bear River. In 2004, due to the worst Bear River late run on record, the Ilnik Section and other nearby sections were closed to commercial salmon fishing for 25 days during August. If a coho fishery had been allowed in the Ilnik Section in 2004, after August 15, while the Bear River and Three Hills sections were closed, drift gillnet permit holders could have fished in the Ilnik Section and caught sockeye salmon that were needed to meet the Bear River late run escapement needs (117,000-195,000 sockeye salmon post July 31). While the Ilnik Section fishery is based on the abundance of coho after August 15, most if not all, of the effort targets the more valuable sockeye salmon bound for Bear River. The Ilnik Section should remain closed along with the Bear River and Three Hills sections after August 15 if the department has concerns for the late Bear River sockeye salmon run. These three areas are managed concurrently from July 20 to August 15 and this would also make the management consistent between all three sections after August 15 during years when there is concern for meeting the escapement objective for the late Bear River sockeye salmon run. If the Bear River late run is meeting

escapement objectives after August 15, management of the Ilnik Section will be based on the coho salmon bound for Ilnik Lagoon.

This proposal permits the department to conserve sockeye salmon bound for Bear River after August 15 if another poor run occurs as in 2004. Enabling the fishery manager to close the Ilnik Section to commercial salmon fishing after August 15 will increase the probability that the late-run Bear River sockeye salmon escapement objectives are met. A directed set gillnet coho salmon fishery could still occur inside the Ilnik Lagoon if there is interest by the industry.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. The department considers this proposal a housekeeping measure. The department does not believe there are any allocative aspects to this proposal since it applies to the Ilnik Section after August 15.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 210 - 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections.

PROPOSED BY: Roland Briggs

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The intent of this proposal is unclear although the department believes this proposal would reduce most of the fishing area on the North and South Alaska Peninsula to within one mile of land from May 1 to June 30. This proposal mentions the Three Hills, Ilnik, and Port Heiden sections of the North Peninsula as areas of concern, but, as written, this proposal applies to the entire Alaska Peninsula salmon management area, including the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries. This proposal would reduce the amount of fishing area within the Alaska Peninsula management area by approximately 66 percent, from May 1 to June 30. The Three Hills and Ilnik sections open to commercial salmon fishing on June 25. This proposal is requesting that fishing not be permitted beyond one mile from shore from June 25-June 30 in this area. The proposal also references the Port Heiden area in which only the Inner Port Heiden Section is currently open to commercial salmon fishing and is considered a terminal fishery. The Outer Port Heiden Section has been closed to commercial salmon fishing since 1990. The proposal is unclear and may be requesting that sections closed to commercial salmon fishing such as the Outer Port Heiden and Caribou Flats sections be open to commercial salmon fishing from May through June 30 within one mile of the beach.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? During the commercial salmon fishing season, commercial fishing is permitted within state waters throughout most of the Alaska Peninsula. Within the Three Hills and Ilnik sections, the gillnet fleet is allowed to fish inside of 3 miles when the season opens on June 25. The Outer Port Heiden Section is closed to all commercial salmon fishing.

Existing management plans on the Alaska Peninsula have been adopted by the BOF that allow fishing outside of one mile from shore. This would severely limit the fishing area in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries, Southeastern District Mainland, and North Peninsula fisheries. Meshik and Ilnik rivers have had surplus sockeye salmon escapements in recent years. This proposal would further increase the already excessive escapement levels into North Peninsula rivers as the fishing area would be reduced to within 1 mile of shore from June 25 to June 30.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Adoption of this proposal would change the fishing area in the entire Alaska Peninsula prior to July 1 to within one mile of land. In the Three Hills and Ilnik sections this proposal would only allow fishing within one mile of shore for six days, since existing regulations currently open the sections to commercial salmon fishing on June 25. Beginning July 1 fishing would be permitted out to three miles from shore again. There would likely be no effect on the Outer Port Heiden and Caribou Flats sections which are already closed by regulation (5 AAC 09.310 (a)(2)(B) and (9)) unless this proposal is requesting a May 1 opening date and fishing within one mile of shore prior to July 1 in these two areas already closed to commercial salmon fishing.

BACKGROUND: State waters are defined in regulation and typically allow fishing out to the three mile boundary line. The Outer Port Heiden Section was closed to commercial salmon fishing in 1990 due to the potential interception by Area M and Area T overlap fishermen intercepting coho salmon bound for Inner Port Heiden (Meshik River) during August and September. In 2005 and 2006, the Inner Port Heiden Section has had a small commercial salmon fishery during June for Chinook and sockeye salmon that local Area T (Bristol Bay) permit holders participate in. There has been a surplus of sockeye salmon entering into Meshik, Cinder, and Ilnik rivers in recent years that is underutilized.

Onshore winds often make fishing close to shore on the North Peninsula impossible due to seas conditions, numerous sand bars and a hazardous coastline. Limiting commercial fishing to within one mile of land from June 25-30 would also reduce the harvest during days with onshore winds and many vessels would not be able to participate in the fishery, therefore allowing more fish to enter local rivers.

Past tagging, migration, and genetic studies indicate that Bristol Bay sockeye salmon are well offshore of North Peninsula fisheries. This is supported in recent years by the Port Moller test fishery which annually documents the Bristol Bay run migration, the bulk of which passes well outside of current fishing areas of the Northern District. Scale pattern analysis in the past documented Bristol Bay sockeye salmon caught in the Ilnik Section. In 2006, the department began the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) which uses genetic markers to differentiate between stocks in commercial fishery samples collected throughout western Alaska. These samples will provide information on the stock composition of the harvest of local and non-local stocks; however the results will not be available for a number of years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department is **OPPOSED** to the reduction of fishing area which may result in surplus escapement and lost harvest opportunity.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 211 - 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing Seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Roland Briggs

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal, if adopted as written, would amend the commercial fishing regulations to those used during the 2001-2004 regulations for the entire Alaska Peninsula Management Area, thus changing all Area M management plans; however the proposal specifically mentions the Ilnik Section. The Ilnik Section southwest of Unangashak Bluffs would open to commercial salmon fishing as early as June 25 and that portion of the Ilnik Section northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point would open to commercial salmon fishing as early as July 15. This proposal would change the opening date in that portion of the Ilnik Section northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point from June 25 back to July 15.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The entire outer portion of the Ilnik Section, including that portion located southwest of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point opens to commercial salmon fishing on June 25, if Ilnik and Meshik river sockeye salmon escapements warrant (5AAC 09.369 (j)).

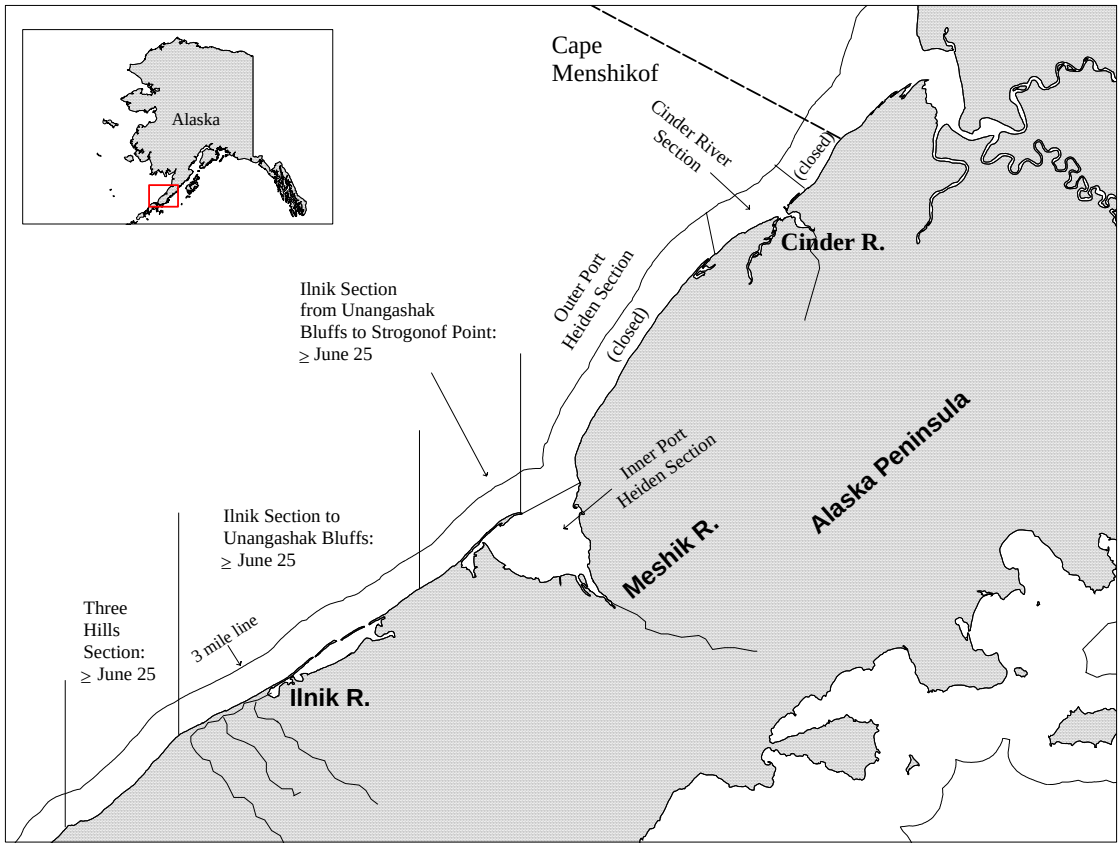


Figure1.-Proposed affected area of the North Alaska Peninsula from the Three Hills Section to Cape Menshikof.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal applies to the entire Alaska Peninsula Management Area and specifies that

portion of the Ilnik Section located northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point and if adopted the opening of that area would be delayed by 21 days, making July 15 the earliest possible opening date. This would likely increase the salmon escapement at Meshik and Cinder rivers which already annually exceed the escapement objectives (Figure 1).

BACKGROUND: Between 2001 and 2004, the Ilnik Section management plan had separate opening dates for that portion of the Ilnik Section southwest of Unangashak Bluffs (June 25) and northeast of Unangashak Bluffs (July 15). Between June 25 and July 4 there was a sockeye salmon harvest cap in that portion of the Ilnik Section southwest of Unangashak Bluffs of 100,000 fish, a maximum of 24 hours of continuous fishing, followed by at least a 24-hour closure, and if fishing did occur between June 25 to July 4, that portion of the Ilnik Section northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point would remain closed to commercial salmon fishing from July 15 to July 25. By reverting back to the 2001-2004 regulations in the Ilnik Section, this proposal would delay the season opening date in that portion of the Ilnik Section located northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point from June 25 to July 15, which would amount to a 21-day season opening delay.

The Meshik and Cinder rivers escapement goals have been exceeded in recent years, and in 2004 the Board of Fisheries allowed earlier fishing in that portion of the Ilnik Section northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point to try and control the escapement into the Meshik River specifically, as well as Cinder River. Reducing the fishing time in recent years in that portion of the Ilnik Section southwest of Unangashak Bluffs would also have increased the escapement into Ilnik River which has been well above escapement goals.

Past tagging, migration, and genetic studies indicate that most Bristol Bay sockeye salmon are well offshore of North Peninsula fisheries. This is supported in recent years by the Port Moller annual test fishery which uses genetics to determine the Bristol Bay run migration, the bulk of which passes well outside of current fishing areas of the Northern District. Scale pattern analysis in the past documented Bristol Bay sockeye salmon caught in the Ilnik Section. In 2006, the department began the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) which uses genetic markers to differentiate between stocks in commercial fishery samples collected throughout western Alaska. These samples will provide information on the stock composition of the harvest of local and non-local stocks; however the results will not be available for a number of years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department is **OPPOSED** to the reduction of fishing area and management flexibility which may result in over-escapement and lost harvest opportunity.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 212 - 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing Seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Roland Briggs

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal, if adopted, would close the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial salmon fishing, which by regulation is already closed to commercial salmon fishing.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The Outer Port Heiden Section has been closed to commercial salmon fishing since 1990 (5AAC 09.310 (a)(2)(B)).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? No changes would be expected as the Outer Port Heiden Section is already closed to commercial salmon fishing.

BACKGROUND: The Board of Fisheries closed the Outer Port Heiden Section to commercial salmon fishing in 1990 due to concern for the interception during August and September of coho salmon bound for the Meshik River and due to the increased number of Area T and Area M overlap fishermen participating in the Outer Port Heiden Section fishery. The Outer Port Heiden Section is an effective area to harvest the Meshik River salmon run, but in 1990 there was concern that the number of Area M and Area T permit holders fishing in the overlap area would increase during August and September and make controlling the coho salmon escapement into Meshik River difficult. The Ilnik Section, the area to the southwest of the Outer Port Heiden Section has had many regulation changes over the past 20 years related to the potential interception of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon and excess local escapements. Prior to July 20, the Ilnik Section is currently managed on the basis of Ilnik and Meshik river sockeye salmon stocks, as well as concerns for the conservation of Ugashik River (Bristol Bay Management Area) sockeye salmon stocks 5 AAC 09.369 (j)(1)(B).

Past tagging, migration, and genetic studies indicate that Bristol Bay sockeye salmon are well offshore of North Peninsula fisheries. This is supported in recent years by the Port Moller test fishery which annually documents the Bristol Bay run migration, the bulk of which passes well outside of current fishing areas of the Northern District. Scale pattern analysis in the past documented Bristol Bay sockeye salmon caught in the Ilnik Section. In 2006, the department began the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) which uses genetic markers to differentiate between stocks in commercial fishery samples collected throughout western Alaska. These samples will provide information on the stock composition of the harvest of local and non-local stocks; however the results will not be available for a number of years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: If adopted, this proposal would not change existing regulations that have been in effect since 1990. The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

<u>PROPOSAL</u> 213 - 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

<u>PROPOSED BY</u>: Kurt Johnson

<u>WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?</u> This proposal, if adopted, would base the management of that portion of the Ilnik Section located northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point on Kvichak River sockeye salmon stocks beginning June 25. From June 25 through July 4, there would be a weekly 100,000 sockeye salmon cap, and fishing would be limited to a maximum of 24 hours of continuous fishing followed by at least a 24-hour closure. Beginning July 5, there would be no sockeye salmon harvest cap or limits of fishing duration. As written this proposal has the Ilnik Section managed on the basis of Kvichak River sockeye salmon stocks from June 25 to September 30, the end of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Ilnik Section.

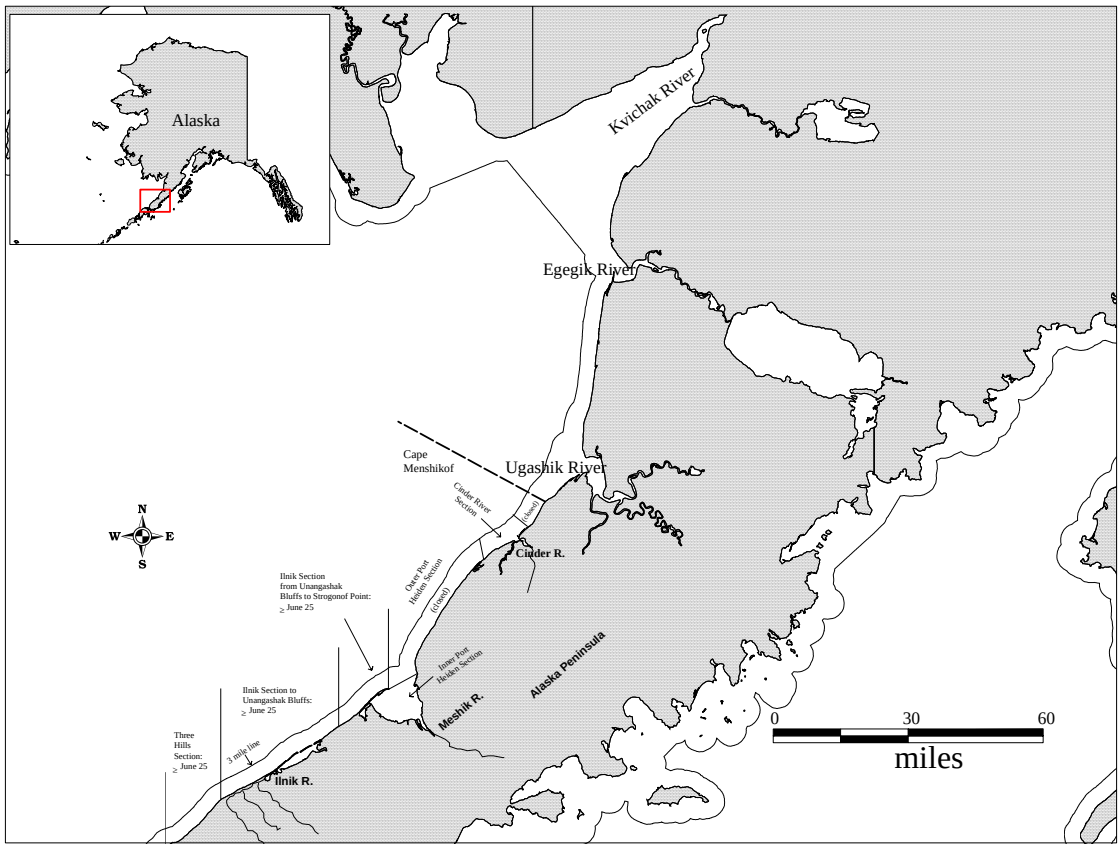


Figure 1.- Map of part of the Alaska Peninsula from the Three Hills Section to the Kvichak River.

<u>WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?</u> From June 25 to July 20, that portion of the Ilnik Section northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point is managed based on Ilnik and Meshik river sockeye salmon stocks (5 AAC 09.369(j)(1)(i)(ii)). Management actions may also be taken in the Ilnik Section if a conservation concerns exist in the Egegik District for Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks (5 AAC

09.369(j)(B)). There are currently no weekly sockeye salmon harvest caps or limits on fishing time in the Ilnik Section.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? That portion of the Ilnik Section northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point would not be managed on the basis of local salmon stocks but rather on Kvichak River sockeye salmon bound for a system that is located over 135 nm from Strogonof Point. If adopted this proposal would amend the current management plan and establish a weekly sockeye salmon harvest cap of 100,000 fish and establish mandatory fishing windows prior to July 5 in that portion of the Ilnik Section northeast of Unangashak Bluffs (Figure 1). After July 5 there would be no harvest cap or fishing windows. In most years this proposal would limit the harvest of Meshik River sockeye salmon since fishing time in that portion of the Ilnik Section northeast of Unangashak Bluffs would be restricted. This would likely result in more fish entering the Meshik River than already occurs. Since this proposal considers only the Kvichak River sockeye salmon stocks, over-escapement of sockeye salmon returning to Meshik, Cinder, and Ilnik rivers could occur. In August, the Ilnik Section would not be managed on the basis of coho salmon stocks bound for the Ilnik Section but on the Kvichak River sockeye salmon stocks.

BACKGROUND: The northern portion of the Ilnik Section, located between Unangashak Bluffs and Strogonof Point, is currently managed based on Meshik and Ilnik river sockeye salmon stocks between June 25 and July 20. Prior to 2004, this area was closed to commercial salmon fishing until July 15. That portion of the Ilnik Section located southwest of Unangashak Bluffs is managed on the Ilnik River sockeye salmon stocks prior to July 20. From 1998 to 2003, that portion of the Ilnik Section located southwest of Unangashak Bluffs could open to commercial salmon fishing from June 25 to July 5 if certain escapement thresholds indicative of a strong run were met at the Ilnik River. If fishing did occur between June 25 and July 4, fishing was not permitted for more than 24 consecutive hours and there had to be at least a 24-hour closure between fishing periods. There was also a 100,000 sockeye salmon cap, and if the cap was reached that portion of the Ilnik Section located northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Strogonof Point could not reopen to commercial salmon fishing until July 25.

Past tagging, migration, and genetic studies indicate that Bristol Bay sockeye salmon are well offshore of North Peninsula fisheries. This is supported in recent years by the Port Moller test fishery which annually documents the Bristol Bay run migration, the bulk of which passes well outside of current fishing areas of the Northern District. Scale pattern analysis in the past documented Bristol Bay sockeye salmon caught in the Ilnik Section. In 2006, the department began the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) which uses genetic markers to differentiate between stocks in commercial fishery samples collected throughout western Alaska. These samples will provide information on the stock composition of the harvest of local and non-local stocks; however the results will not be available for a number of years.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department is **OPPOSED** to reducing fishing area which may result

in over-escapement and lost harvest opportunities. The present management plan also allows for management actions in the Ilnik Section when concerns arise for the conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks. If adopted, the department requests BOF guidance to clarify the duration of this regulation, since as written the department would manage a portion of the Ilnik Section for Kvichak River sockeye salmon through September 30.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 214 - 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons and 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing Periods.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? If adopted, this proposal would amend the fishing season in the Northwestern District, and also amend the fishing periods in the Urilia Bay Section of the Northwestern District. Adoption of this proposal would reduce confusion by making the regulations similar to those in the rest of Area M.

There were errors in the suggested language of Proposal 214, as printed in the regulatory proposal book. To provide in regulation, the way the department currently manages the Urilia Bay Section of the Northwestern District, will require amending Fishing Seasons and Fishing Periods.

Substitute regulatory language is as follows:

5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons. ..(b) In the Northwestern District salmon may be taken only from June 1 through [AUGUST 10] **September 30**, except that

(1) in the Dublin Bay Section, salmon may be taken only from July 10 through [AUGUST 10] **September 30**;

[(2) IN THE BECHEVIN BAY SECTION, SALMON MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30;]

[(3) BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, THE SALMON FISHING SEASON WILL BE OPENED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;]

[(4) IN THE URILIA BAY SECTION, THE SALMON FISHING SEASON WILL BE OPENED BY EMERGENCY ORDER];

5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods. ..(b) In the Northwestern District, salmon may be taken during [AN] **the** open season [AFTER AUGUST 31] **from September 1 through September 30** only during fishing periods established by emergency order. **In the Northwestern District, before** [Before] September 1, salmon may be taken [IN THE NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT ONLY] during the open season in the

(1) …

(2) …

(3) Urilia Bay Section, [FROM 6:00 A.M. MONDAY UNTIL 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY] **only during fishing periods established by emergency order;**

(4) …

(5) …

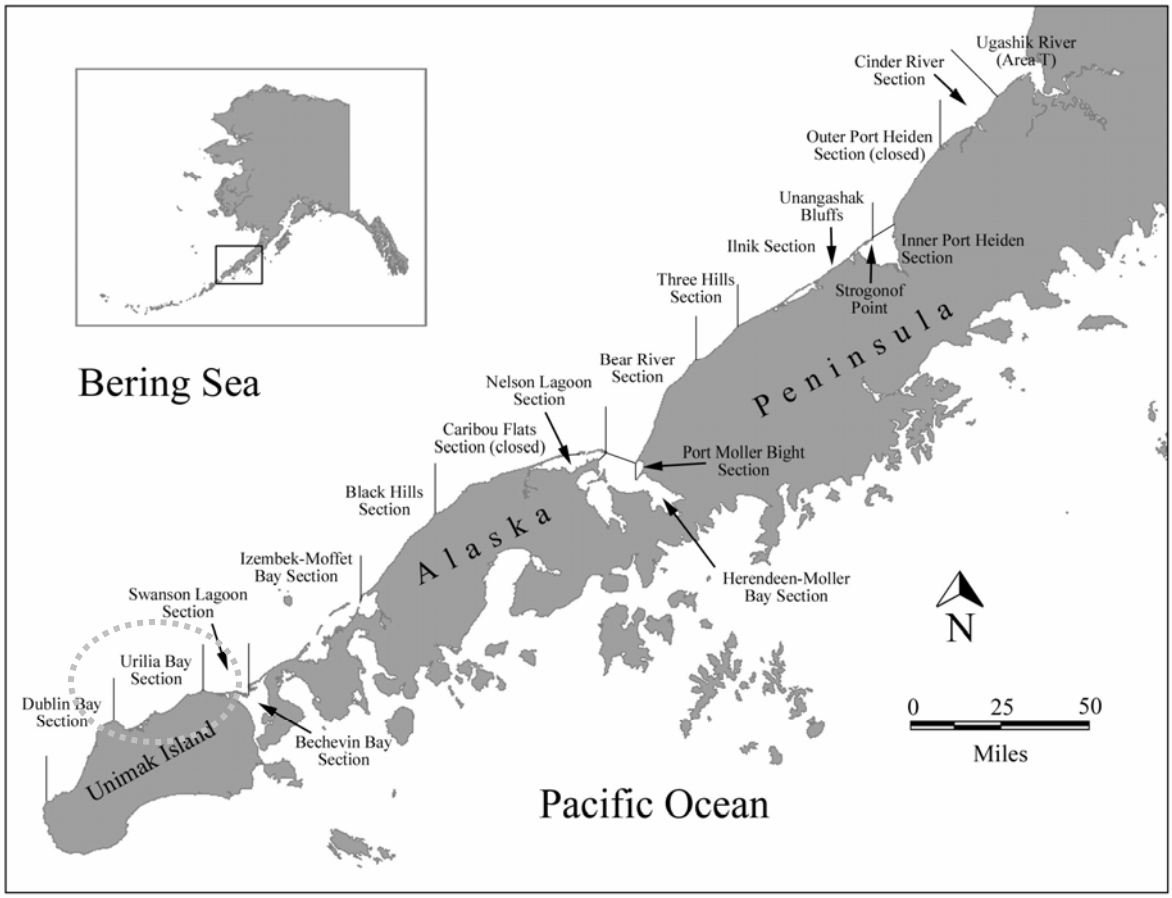


Figure 1.-Map of the Alaska Peninsula with North Alaska Peninsula management sections depicted. Urilia Bay section is highlighted.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulation for the Urilia Bay Section, 5 AAC 09.310(b), states the Northwest District fishing season ends on various dates for different sections.

The current regulation, 5 AAC. 09.320(b)(3) Fishing Periods, requires that Urilia Bay fishing periods be opened by EO and once opened, establishes the fishing period to be from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Thursday.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, management of the Urilia Bay Section of the Northwestern District would become less confusing and fewer emergency orders would likely be required to provide fishing opportunity on local stocks.

BACKGROUND: Currently, management of the Urilia Bay Section requires an EO to first open the fishing season. Subsequent EOs are required to open and close fishing periods throughout the season.

The first available fishing opportunity in Urilia Bay typically occurs between June 15 and June 30. Once an acceptable number of fish are escaped into the local streams, an EO is

authored to open the fishing season and another EO is issued to allow a fishing period to occur. The current regulations allow a fishing period of 84 hours and the nature of this fishery is such that significant portions of the run may be harvested. Once a fishing period has occurred, the department attempts to survey the system before additional fishing opportunities are allowed.

Having the season open by EO is unnecessarily confusing as both the department and the fishermen, who traditionally fish in Urilia Bay, do not expect the area to open until adequate numbers of fish are escaped. This proposal, if accepted, will codify the management practices that are now used in this system.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. The department considers this proposal as a housekeeping measure.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in a direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

COMMITTEE F – Herring and Salmon: Miscellaneous (11 Proposals)

COMMITTEE F – Herring and Salmon: Miscellaneous (11 Proposals)

PROPOSAL 215 - 5 AAC 27.6XX. Herring pounds and other devices for holding live commercially–caught herring before processing in the Alaska Peninsula–Aleutian Islands Area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal, if adopted, would create a new regulation in the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Management Area for the commercial herring fishery to control the use of herring pounds (net pens), to hold live fish prior to processing, under the requirements of a Commissioner's Permit.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are no area wide Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area regulations concerning the use of herring pounds to hold commercially-harvested herring prior to processing. Currently in the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery, the department may reserve up to 100 tons from the herring seine fishery allocation for the purposes of an experimental herring seine and pound fishery conducted in compliance with the terms of a permit issued by the commissioner (5AAC 27.655 (c)).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The department would have the authority to institute registration and reporting requirements, as well as other limitations as requirements regarding construction and operation of pounds (net pens) used to hold live herring prior to processing.

Proposed regulatory language would read as follows:

5 AAC 27.6XX. **Herring pounds and other devices for holding live, commercially-caught herring before processing in the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area. In the Alaska Peninsula Aleutian-Islands Area, a herring pound or other device may be used to hold live herring before processing, only under the conditions specified in a commissioner's permit.**

BACKGROUND: There has been an increase interest in direct marketing and herring food products by commercial herring permit holders. In the search for new markets it was discovered that herring held in pens until their stomachs were emptied and then processed made a better food quality product than herring processed using traditional harvest methods. Historically, quality concerns associated with feeding herring (i.e., belly burn) have occurred in the food and bait fishery. Feed problems were overcome in the past by using holding pounds, where seine-caught herring were held in pens until their stomachs emptied. Recently at least two purse seine permit holders have indicated an interest in herring pounds. These fishermen contacted the department prior to their operations and they wanted to be certain that they operated legally. There were no prohibitions to this practice found in regulation. Within the Alaska Administrative Code, Title 5 Chapter 41, Transportation, Possession and Release of Live Fish; Aquatic Farming, there are provisions concerning live fish. However, 5 AAC 41.001, Applications of This Chapter, states in part

that "the provisions of this chapter do not apply to the transportation, possession, or release of fish taken for commercial fishing, sport, or subsistence purposes". It appears that pounds could meet the definition of a commercial fishing vessel. 5 AAC 39.130, Reports Required of Processors, Buyers, Fishermen, and Operators of Certain Commercial Fishing Vessels; Transportation Requirements, subsection (k)(1), contains definitions that seem to apply to pounds. It states in part that "commercial fishing vessel" means a floating craft powered, towed, rowed, or otherwise propelled, which is used for or equipped to be used for (A) commercial fishing; or (B) fish processing; fish transport; fish storage, including temporary storage". In order to abide by this regulation, some fishermen have licensed their net pen as a commercial fishing vessel.

The department was concerned about timely and accurate reporting of the herring harvests. With the catch of two or more fishermen going into the same net pen, the ability to correctly report the harvest of each fisherman was in question. There were also questions concerning the legal ownership of the fish once they were place in a pound. The department asked that fisherman registers their pound, be responsible for counting herring as they were put into the net, and complete a separate fish ticket for each fisherman putting fish into the pound. The fish tickets could be amended when the fish were removed from the pound with more accurate counts and accounting for dead loss, or could be amended at the processing plant with more accurate fish weight information.

There have been no significant problems encountered with operation of pounds since the experimental fishery was established by the board in 2004 (5AAC 27.655 (c)). There are advantages to use of the pounds. Fish were handled in small sets, reducing scale loss, bruising, and mortality. Processing in small amounts was efficient throughout the procedure, from the time of death to freezing. Fishermen reported that markets for food herring may be higher than current bait prices.

Currently, only in the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery, the department reserve up to 100 tons from the herring seine fishery allocation for the purposes of an experimental herring seine and pound fishery conducted in compliance with the terms of a Commissioners Permit (5AAC 27.655 (c)).

In the pound fishery, seine-caught herring were transferred to a holding pound and retained for several days for gut clearance. One 40'x 40' pound was moored in the South Channel between Iliuliuk Harbor and Captains Bay. Fishing operations occurred during the purse seine fishing periods. In 2004, due to the low abundance of herring in Unalaska Bay, few herring were put into a pound. In 2005 and 2006 no herring pounds were utilized.

<u>DEPARTMENT COMMENTS</u>: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. The department views this proposal as a housekeeping measure.

At the October 2006 Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, the board accepted ACR 8 which became proposal 257 and will discuss this proposal at the March 2007 Statewide Finfish board meeting. Proposal 257 requests statewide regulations governing the use of net pens. The department does not know if that discussion will include herring pounds.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional cost for a private person to participate in this fishery unless they chose to construct a pound.

PROPOSAL 216 - 5 AAC 27.6XX. Registration.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal, if adopted, would require all Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area herring seine and herring gillnet permit holders to register each vessel that will be used to commercially harvest herring with the department area management biologist, at least 48 hours before the season opens or before beginning commercial herring fishing. Vessels can be registered in Dutch Harbor, Cold Bay, Sand Point or other place specified by the department.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Currently, buyers, tender operators, or buyers agents must report in person and register with a local representative of the department upon arrival in the registration area before commencing operations and before changing location of their operation (5 AAC 27.662). Seine and set net permit holders in the food and bait fishery are also required to register (5 AAC 27.610 (f)). However, sac roe permit holders are not required to register. Although all sac roe fishing periods are by emergency order, a registration requirement would provide the department with improved fishing effort notification prior to the fishing period.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This will allow the department to manage the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Island commercial herring fishery more efficiently by knowing where and when all herring permit holders intend to fish. This would also move all permit holder registration requirements into one regulation.

Proposed regulatory language would read as follows:

5 AAC 12.3XX. Registration. Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area seine and gillnet commercial herring permit holders and each vessel that the permit holder will use, shall register by contacting the department area management biologist in Dutch Harbor, Cold Bay, Sand Point, Port Moller or any place specified by the department, at least 48 hours before the season opens or before beginning commercial herring fishing.

BACKGROUND: In the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area herring fishery timing and availability of herring has changed in recent years. Aleutian Islands herring were previously categorized into an early summer run (late June to late July) and a late summer run (late August to early September). From 1980 through 2004, herring arrived in the Dutch Harbor area about July 1 and have been present through mid-September. Since 2005 herring seem to arrive latter in July and in more scattered schools. In recent years most commercial fishermen have formed combines to harvest the food and bait allocation in the Dutch Harbor area. The 2002-2006 commercial herring food and bait fishery in the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Management Area was characterized by limited markets and agreements between fishery participants to limit overhead costs and avoid large deliveries that would exceed daily processing capacities. The department requested that fishermen ensure a market exists for their catch before attempting to harvest any fish. Because of these agreements, longer fishing periods were allowed and

participants were able to search for appropriate size herring schools before attempting a harvest. Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area sac roe fisheries permit holders are not required to register. Requiring all permit holders in sac roe, and food and bait fisheries to register will allow the department to determine effort levels prior to fishing periods

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. The department views this proposal as a housekeeping measure.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 217 - 5 AAC 01.350. Description of Aleutian Islands Area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would amend the description of the eastern boundary of the Aleutian Islands Area in the subsistence salmon fishing regulations to be the same as in the commercial salmon fishing regulations.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Currently the description of the eastern boundary of the Aleutian Islands Area differs slightly between the commercial salmon fishing regulations (5AAC 12.100) and the subsistence salmon fishing regulations. Salmon may be taken under subsistence regulations at any time except for the 24-hours before and 12-hours after a commercial salmon fishing period.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? By changing the description of the Aleutian Islands area in the subsistence salmon fishing regulations to be the same as that of the commercial salmon fishing regulations, there would be less confusion to fishermen, the department, or enforcement as to which area is being referenced in news releases and emergency orders.

Proposed regulatory language would read as follows:

5 AAC 01.350. Description of Aleutian Islands Area.

The Aleutian Islands Area includes [ALL] **the** waters of Alaska **in the Aleutian Islands** west of [THE LONGITUDE OF THE TIP OF] Cape Sarichef **Light** [EAST OF 172° E. LONG., AND SOUTH OF 58° N. LAT.,] **and west of a line extending from Scotch Cap through the easternmost tip of Ugamak Island,** including the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands.

BACKGROUND: Due to the inconsistency between the commercial and subsistence salmon fishing regulations, confusion exists in regard to which areas are open to subsistence fishing especially near the boundary between the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. The department views this as a housekeeping measure.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in a direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The Alaska Board of Fisheries has found that finfish in the Aleutians Islands Area and the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands support customary and traditional uses (5 AAC 01.366).

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence use? The Board of Fisheries made an administrative finding in January 1998 regarding the amount of salmon and other finfish reasonably necessary for subsistence use in the Aleutian Islands Area, but did not adopt this finding as a regulation. Staff recommends that the board adopt a finding in regulation regarding the amount necessary for subsistence uses of salmon and other finfish in the Aleutian Islands Management Area.

Proposed regulatory language would read as follows:

Proposal X. 5 AAC 01.366. Customary and Traditional Uses of Fish Stocks.

5 AAC 01.366. CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL SUBSISTENCE USES OF FISH STOCKS AND AMOUNTS NECESSARY FOR SUBSISTENCE USES. **(a)** The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) finds that halibut and all other finfish in the Aleutian Islands Area and the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence.

(b) The board finds that:

(1) 13,500 – 23,000 salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses in the Aleutian Islands Management Area;
(2) 200,000 – 330,000 usable pounds of finfish other than salmon are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses in the Aleutian Islands Management Area and the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands.

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? The Alaska Board of Fisheries will need to make this finding as it deliberates on this proposal.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is an Alaska Board of Fisheries determination. The harvestable surplus for these stocks exceeds documented levels of subsistence harvests.

PROPOSAL 218 - 5 AAC 01.360. Fishing Seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would amend the Aleutian Islands salmon regulations to allow additional subsistence fishing opportunity by purse seine subsistence fishermen. This proposal would make the subsistence salmon fishing regulations in the Aleutian Islands similar to the rest of Area M.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Current regulations in the Aleutian Islands do not allow, from June 1 through September 15 subsistence fishing using a seine vessel during a commercial salmon fishing period nor within a 50-mile radius of an area open to commercial fishing. Regulations also restrict gear during June 1 through September 1 to gillnet gear only.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? By repealing restrictive Aleutian Islands purse seine subsistence regulations the department will allow additional subsistence fishing opportunity. Also by making the regulations similar to the balance of Area M there would be no confusion to fishermen, the department, or enforcement as to the purse seine subsistence regulations.

Proposed regulatory language would read as follows:

5 AAC 01.360 Fishing seasons. (a) In the Unalaska District, salmon may be taken for subsistence purposes from 6:00 a.m. until….

(1) that from June 1 through September 15, a salmon seine vessel may not be used to take salmon for subsistence use 24 hours before[, DURING,] or **12** [24] hours after an open commercial fishing period within **an** [A 50-MILE RADIUS OF THE] area open to commercial salmon fishing;

(2) as may be specified on a subsistence fishing permit; or

(3) [THAT FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 15, A PURSE SEINE VESSEL MAY BE USED TO TAKE SALMON ONLY WITH A GILLNET AND NO OTHER TYPE OF SALMON GEAR MAY BE ON BOARD THE VESSEL WHILE SUBSISTENCE FISHING.]

(4) in the waters closed to subsistence fishing for salmon specified in 5 AAC 01.375.

(b) In the Adak, Akutan, Atka-Amlia Islands, and Unimak Districts, salmon may be taken at any time.

BACKGROUND: During years when a significant commercial fishery occurs in the Aleutian Islands Area, the present regulation may not provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence users to meet their needs using seine gear. The current regulation closes a larger area, and for a longer period of time, than is necessary to ensure that subsistence caught fish are not illegally sold in the commercial fishery.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. The department views this proposal as housekeeping.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

SUBSISTENCE REGULATION REVIEW:

1. Is this stock in a non-subsistence area? No.

2. Is the stock customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence? Yes. The Alaska Board of Fisheries has found that finfish in the Aleutians Islands Area and the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands support customary and traditional uses (5 AAC 01.366).

3. Can a portion of the stock be harvested consistent with sustained yield? Yes.

4. What amount is reasonably necessary for subsistence use? Staff recommends that the board make a finding regarding the amount necessary for subsistence uses of salmon and other finfish in the Aleutian Islands Management Area (reference proposal 217 subsistence regulatory review).

5. Do the regulations provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? The Alaska Board of Fisheries will need to make this finding as it deliberates on this proposal.

6. Is it necessary to reduce or eliminate other uses to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence use? This is an Alaska Board of Fisheries determination. The harvestable surplus for these stocks exceeds documented levels of subsistence harvests.

PROPOSAL 219 - 5 AAC 12.3XX. Registration.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal, if adopted, would require an Aleutian Islands Management Area salmon purse seine permit holder to register each vessel that will be used by the permit holder to fish in the Aleutian Islands.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? This would be a new regulation.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, this regulation would assist management by facilitating the estimation of effort levels in the Aleutian Islands commercial salmon fishery.

Proposed regulatory language would read as follows:

5 AAC 12.3XX. Registration. An Aleutian Islands Management Area purse seine permit holder, and each vessel that the permit holder will use, shall register by contacting the department area management biologist in Dutch Harbor, Cold Bay, Sand Point or any place specified by the department, at least 48 hours before the season opens or before beginning commercial salmon fishing.

BACKGROUND: 5 AAC 12.310 and 5 AAC 12.320 provide set fishing seasons and fishing periods in the Aleutian Islands by regulation. There are currently no requirements for Aleutian Islands Area seine permit holders to register with the department. Commercial fishing effort in the Aleutian Islands is sporadic and at times it may take days for information to reach area finfish management staff in Sand Point or Cold Bay, as to where commercial fishing is occurring in the Aleutians. Without registration, the department cannot determine accurate fishing effort levels on the resource until processor tender reports or fish tickets have been turned into the department, a process that can take several days. Registration would allow the department to accurately estimate the commercial fishing effort that the resource may be subject to.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. The department views this proposal as a housekeeping measure.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 220 - 5 AAC 12.3XX. Net pens and other devices for holding live, commercially–caught salmon before processing in the Aleutian Islands Area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Create a new regulation for the Aleutian Islands Management Area of the Area M commercial salmon fishery to control the use of net pens, or similar devices, to hold live fish prior to processing, under the requirements of a Commissioner's Permit.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are no Aleutian Islands Management Area regulations concerning the use of net pens to hold commercially-harvested salmon prior to processing. Salmon net pens are allowed in Kodiak Area salmon fishery under the terms of a Commissioner's Permit (5 AAC 18.392).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The department would have the authority to institute registration and reporting requirements, as well as other limitations regarding construction and operation of net pens used to hold live salmon prior to processing.

Proposed regulatory language would read as follows:

> **5 AAC 12.3XX. Net pens and other devices for holding live, commercially-caught salmon before processing in the Aleutian Islands Area. In the Aleutian Islands Area, a net pen or other device may be used to hold live salmon before processing, only under the conditions specified in a commissioner's permit.**

BACKGROUND: In other management areas there has been an increase in interest in direct marketing by commercial salmon fishery permit holders. In the search for new markets it was discovered that there was a demand for high quality, fresh or fresh frozen salmon. Some permit holders in adjacent management areas have installed small processing operations aboard their seine vessels. In order to process the fish in a freshest state, salmon were sometimes held alongside the vessel in the purse seine. The fish were bled and processed as they were removed from the seine.

Currently there are no prohibitions for the use of net pens found in the Aleutian Islands commercial salmon regulations. Within the Alaska Administrative Code, Title 5 Chapter 41, Transportation, Possession and Release of Live Fish; Aquatic Farming, there are provisions concerning live fish. However, 5 AAC 41.001, Applications of This Chapter, states in part that "the provisions of this chapter do not apply to the transportation, possession, or release of fish taken for commercial fishing, sport, or subsistence purposes". It appears that net pens could meet the definition of a commercial fishing vessel. 5 AAC 39.130, Reports Required of Processors, Buyers, Fishermen, and Operators of Certain Commercial Fishing Vessels; Transportation Requirements, subsection (k)(1), contains definitions that seem to apply to net pens. It states in part that "commercial fishing vessel" means a floating craft powered, towed, rowed, or otherwise propelled, which is

used for or equipped to be used for (A) commercial fishing; or (B) fish processing; fish transport; fish storage, including temporary storage". In order to abide by this regulation, some fishermen have licensed their net pen as a commercial fishing vessel.

The department is concerned about timely and accurate reporting of the salmon harvests. With the catch of two or more permit holders utilizing the same net pen, the ability to correctly report the harvest of each fisherman is in question. There are also questions concerning the legal ownership of the fish once they are placed in a net pen. In the Kodiak Management Area the department asked that the fisherman register as a fish transporter, be responsible for the net pen, also be responsible for counting salmon as they were put into the net, and complete a separate fish ticket for each fisherman putting fish into the net pen. The fish tickets could be amended when the fish were removed from the pen with more accurate counts by species and accounting for dead loss, or could be amended at the processing plant with more accurate fish weight information.

There are significant advantages to the use of the net pens. Fish can be handled individually, reducing scale loss and bruising. The fish can be bled, chilled, and tendered quickly to a processing plant. Fishermen can attain a much higher price per pound than fish taken and tendered in traditional ways.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. The department views this proposal as a housekeeping measure. Fishermen want the ability to experiment with this technique and do not favor specific regulations. Allowing use of net pens by a Commissioner's Permit allows the department the ability to work with the operators to ensure proper handling and reporting of their salmon harvests.

At the October 2006 Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, the board accepted ACR 8 which became proposal 257 and will discuss this proposal at the March 2007 board meeting. Proposal 257 requests statewide regulations governing the use of net pens.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery unless they chose to construct a fish pen.

PROPOSAL 221 - 5 AAC 11.3XX. Net pens and other devices for holding live, commercially–caught salmon before processing in the Atka–Amlia Island Area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Create a new regulation for the Atka-Amlia Islands Management Area of the Area F commercial salmon fishery to control the use of net pens, or similar devices, to hold live fish prior to processing, under the requirements of a Commissioner's Permit.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are no Atka-Amlia Island Management Area regulations concerning the use of net pens to hold commercially-harvested salmon prior to processing. Salmon net pens are allowed in the Kodiak Area salmon fishery under the terms of a Commissioner's Permit, (5 AAC 18.392).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The department would have the authority to institute registration and reporting requirements, as well as other limitations regarding construction and operation of net pens used to hold live salmon prior to processing.

Proposed regulatory language would read as follows:

> **5 AAC 11.3XX. Net pens and other devices for holding live, commercially-caught salmon before processing in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area. In the Atka-Amlia Islands Area, a net pen or other device may be used to hold live salmon before processing, only under the conditions specified in a commissioner's permit.**

BACKGROUND: In other management areas there has been an increase in interest in direct marketing by commercial salmon fishery permit holders. In the search for new markets it was discovered that there was a demand for high quality, fresh or fresh frozen salmon. Some permit holders in adjacent management areas have installed small processing operations aboard their seine vessels. In order to process the fish in a freshest state, the salmon were sometimes held alongside the vessel in the purse seine. The fish are bled and processed as they are removed from the fishing gear.

Currently there are no prohibitions for the use of net pens found in the Atka-Amlia Islands commercial salmon regulations. Within the Alaska Administrative Code, Title 5 Chapter 41, Transportation, Possession and Release of Live Fish; Aquatic Farming, there are provisions concerning live fish. However, 5 AAC 41.001, Applications of This Chapter, states in part that "the provisions of this chapter do not apply to the transportation, possession, or release of fish taken for commercial fishing, sport, or subsistence purposes". It appears that net pens could meet the definition of a commercial fishing vessel. 5 AAC 39.130, Reports Required of Processors, Buyers, Fishermen, and Operators of Certain Commercial Fishing Vessels; Transportation Requirements, subsection (k)(1), contains definitions that seem to apply to net pens. It states in part that "commercial fishing vessel"

means a floating craft powered, towed, rowed, or otherwise propelled, which is used for or equipped to be used for (A) commercial fishing; or (B) fish processing; fish transport; fish storage, including temporary storage". In order to abide by this regulation, some fishermen have licensed their net pen as a commercial fishing vessel.

The department is concerned about timely and accurate reporting of the salmon harvests. With the catch of two or more permit holders going into the same net pen, the ability to correctly report the harvest of each fisherman is in question. There are also questions concerning the legal ownership of the fish once they were place in a net pen. In the Kodiak Management Area the department asked that the fisherman register as a fish transporter, be responsible for the net pen, be responsible for counting salmon as they were put into the net, and complete a separate fish ticket for each fisherman putting fish into the net pen. The fish tickets could be amended when the fish were removed from the pen with more accurate counts by species and accounting for dead loss, or could be amended at the processing plant with more accurate fish weight information.

There are significant advantages to the use of the net pens. Fish can be handled individually, reducing scale loss and bruising. The fish can be bled, chilled, and tendered quickly to a processing plant. Fishermen can attain a much higher price per pound than fish taken and tendered in traditional ways.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. The department views this proposal as a housekeeping measure. Fishermen want the ability to experiment with this technique and do not favor specific regulations. Allowing use of net pens by a Commissioner's Permit allows the department the ability to work with the operators to insure proper handling and reporting of their salmon harvests.

At the October 2006 Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, the board accepted ACR 8 which became proposal 257 and will discuss this proposal at the March 2007 board meeting. Proposal 257 requests statewide regulations governing the use of net pens.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 222 - 5 AAC 09.3XX. Net pens and other devices for holding live, commercially–caught salmon before processing in the Alaska Peninsula Area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Create a new regulation for the Alaska Peninsula Management Area of the Area M commercial salmon fishery to govern the use of net pens, or similar devices, to hold live fish prior to processing, under the terms of a Commissioner's Permit.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are no Alaska Peninsula Management Area regulations concerning the use of net pens to hold commercially-harvested salmon prior to processing. Salmon net pens are allowed in the Kodiak Area salmon fishery under the terms of a Commissioner's Permit (5 AAC 18.392).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? The department would have the authority to institute registration and reporting requirements, as well as other limitations regarding construction and operation of net pens used to hold live salmon prior to processing.

Proposed regulatory language would read as follows:

> **5 AAC 09.3XX. Net pens and other devices for holding live, commercially-caught salmon before processing in the Alaska Peninsula Area. In the Alaska Peninsula Area, a net pen or other device may be used to hold live salmon before processing, only under the conditions specified in a commissioner's permit.**

BACKGROUND: In other management areas there has been an increase in interest in direct marketing by commercial salmon fishery permit holders. In the search for new markets it was discovered that there was a demand for high quality, fresh or fresh frozen salmon. Some permit holders in adjacent management areas have installed small processing operations aboard their seine vessels. In order to process the fish in a freshest state, the salmon were sometimes held alongside the vessel in the purse seine. The fish are bled and processed as they are removed from the fishing gear.

Currently there are no prohibitions for the use of net pens found in the Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon regulations. Within the Alaska Administrative Code, Title 5 Chapter 41, Transportation, Possession and Release of Live Fish; Aquatic Farming, there are provisions concerning live fish. However, 5 AAC 41.001, Applications of This Chapter, states in part that "the provisions of this chapter do not apply to the transportation, possession, or release of fish taken for commercial fishing, sport, or subsistence purposes". It appears that net pens could meet the definition of a commercial fishing vessel. 5 AAC 39.130, Reports Required of Processors, Buyers, Fishermen, and Operators of Certain Commercial Fishing Vessels; Transportation Requirements, subsection (k)(1), contains definitions that seem to apply to net pens. It states in part that "commercial fishing vessel" means a floating craft powered, towed, rowed, or otherwise propelled, which is used for or

equipped to be used for (A) commercial fishing; or (B) fish processing; fish transport; fish storage, including temporary storage". In order to abide by this regulation, some fishermen have licensed their net pen as a commercial fishing vessel.

The department is concerned about timely and accurate reporting of the salmon harvests. With the catch of two or more permit holders going into the same net pen, the ability to correctly report the harvest of each fisherman is in question. There are also questions concerning the legal ownership of the fish once they were place in a net pen. In the Kodiak management area the department asked that the fisherman register as a fish transporter, be responsible for the net pen, be responsible for counting salmon as they were put into the net, and complete a separate fish ticket for each fisherman putting fish into the net pen. The fish tickets could be amended when the fish were removed from the pen with more accurate counts by species and account for dead loss, or could be amended at the processing plant with more accurate fish weight information.

There are significant advantages to the use of the net pens. Fish can be handled individually, reducing scale loss and bruising. The fish can be bled, chilled, and tendered quickly to a processing plant. Fishermen can attain a much higher price per pound than fish taken and tendered in traditional ways.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it. The department views this proposal as a housekeeping measure. Fishermen want the ability to experiment with this technique and do not favor specific regulations. Allowing use of net pens by a Commissioner's Permit allows the department the ability to work with the operators to insure proper handling and reporting of their salmon harvests.

At the October 2006 Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting, the board accepted ACR 8 which became proposal 257 and will discuss this proposal at the March 2007 board meeting. Proposal 257 requests statewide regulations governing the use of net pens.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 223 - 5 AAC 09.330. Gear.

PROPOSED BY: James Smith

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to allow two Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) salmon set gillnet permit holders to fish and possess two aggregate legal limits of gear aboard one salmon fishing vessel in Area M.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? There are no regulations that restrict the number of CFEC permit holders aboard a salmon fishing vessel. 5 AAC 39.240 outlines the amount of fishing gear allowed aboard a salmon fishing vessel. A salmon fishing vessel may have only one legal limit of salmon fishing gear in the aggregate and unhung gear sufficient for mending purposes.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would allow two aggregate lengths of set gillnet gear to be used when two Area M CFEC set gillnet permit holders are aboard the same vessel, in most of the Alaska Peninsula Management Area.

BACKGROUND: The legal limit of gear for Alaska Peninsula set gillnet vessels is 200 fathoms, except for Inner Port Heiden Section and Ilnik Lagoon where more restrictive lengths are in regulation, with enough unhung gear sufficient for mending purposes.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department is **OPPOSED** to the use of additional fishing gear in some locations as it might lead to gear conflicts and congestion.

COST ANALYSIS: The department does not believe that approval of this proposal would result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.

PROPOSAL 224 - 5 AAC 12.XXX. Aleutian Islands.

PROPOSED BY: Akutan Fisheries Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would establish a super-exclusive registration area as a sub-area of Area M in the Krenitzin Islands which would be limited to three drift and seven set gillnet permits fished from vessels with a maximum length of 42 feet. The newly created super-exclusive registration area would be contained roughly within the current Akutan District of the Aleutian Islands Area. It would have as its western boundary the longitude 166° 05.00' W. long which crosses the existing Akutan District boundary and would encompass part of the Unalaska District. It would have as its eastern boundary the longitude 165° 00.00' W. long which is west of the current Akutan District line at Cape Sarichef (164° 55.70' W. long) and Scotch Cap (164° 47.60' W. long).

The commercial salmon fishing season would be open from May 15 to June 25. Open fishing periods would be daily from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., seven days a week. Gear specifications for drift gillnets would be the same as 5 AAC 09.331 (a)(1) where the aggregate length of drift gillnets on a salmon fishing boat or in use by such boat shall be no more than 200 fathoms in length; and (a)(3) no drift gillnet may exceed 90 meshes in depth. Mesh size specified as being no smaller than five inches and no larger than five and one half inches. Set gillnet gear specifications are the same as 5 AAC 09.331 (b)(1) where a set gillnet may be no more than 100 fathoms in length; the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by a CFEC permit holder may be no more than 200 fathoms; and no more than two gillnet sites may be operated by a CFEC permit holder. There would be no mesh size restriction; like 5 AAC 09.331 (b)(1)(C), net depth is limited to 90 meshes or fewer; no more than 25 fathoms of net may be used as a hook with the remainder of the net set in a substantially straight line; 25 fathoms of seine web on the shoreward end may be used as a lead; and the net must be attached to the beach above the high tide line.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The proposed area would be mostly contained within the Akutan District (5 AAC 12.200 (a)) of the Aleutian Islands Area. Current regulations state that salmon may be taken only from July 10 through September 30 in the Aleutians Islands Area (5 AAC 12.310). Between July 10 and July 18, weekly fishing periods are from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 p.m. Friday and between July 19 and September 30, fishing periods are established by emergency order (5 AAC 12.320). Salmon may be taken only by purse seine, hand purse seine, and beach seine (5 AAC 12.330) and seine vessel lengths are limited to 58 feet overall length (Sec. 16.05.835 (a)). In the Atka-Amlia Area (Area F), set gillnet vessels are limited to 29 feet in overall length (5 AAC 11.342)

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The proposal seeks to create a new super-exclusive registration area in the Akutan District of the Aleutians Islands Area. Currently the commercial salmon fishing season in the Akutan District is open from July 10 to September 30. The proposal would open the season 56 days earlier on May 15, and run until June 25. It would open a portion of the Aleutian Islands to gear types which are currently not allowed (drift and set gillnets) and

close the area to use of seines during the proposed season. The resulting new fishery would target mixed salmon stocks of predominantly non-local origin.

BACKGROUND: There is very limited salmon escapement or commercial harvest information for the area. The ADF&G Habitat Division has only two anadromous streams documented in the Akutan District, both in Akutan Bay. One has pink salmon, and the other pink and coho salmon. Other, undocumented, sockeye, pink, and coho salmon streams in the area are likely to exist.

A tagging study was performed in Sarana Bay on Akutan Island on June 20, 1939. A total of 42 sockeye and 41 chum salmon were tagged and subsequently only three tags were recovered; two of the sockeye salmon tags were recovered in the Nushagak area of Bristol Bay, both on July 21, and one chum salmon tag was recovered on July 15 around the Shumagin Islands.

There has been no commercial salmon harvest reported in the Akutan District since 1970 (as far back as the current commercial fishticket database has information). The closest geographically situated fisheries to the proposed area are on the south side of Unimak Island in the Cape Lutke Section (part of the Area M June fishery) and on the north side of Unimak Island in the Dublin Bay Section (which does not open to commercial salmon fishing until July 10 by regulation). There was no harvest in the Cape Lutke Section between 1970 and 1990. Since 1991, the catch per unit effort (CPUE) for sockeye salmon among drift gillnet permits fished prior to June 26 in the Cape Lutke Section has ranged from 322 fish in 2001 to 1,093 fish CPUE in 1993 (Figure 1). Drift gillnet chum salmon CPUE ranged from 52 fish in 2000 to 338 fish in 1991. For the set gillnet fishers, sockeye salmon CPUE prior to June 26 in the Cape Lutke Section ranged from 83 fish in 1997 to 1,067 fish in 2003. Chum salmon CPUE for set gillnet fishers ranged from 6 fish in 1996 to 60 fish in 1994. Average CPUE for drift gillnet permits for the Cape Lutke Section prior to June 26 has been 455 sockeye and 151 chum salmon between 1997 and 2006, and 395 sockeye and 204 chum salmon between 2002 and 2006 (Figure 1). For set gillnet permit fishers, the average CPUE between 1997 and 2006 was 387 sockeye and 26 chum salmon. Between 2002 and 2006 the average CPUE for set gillnet fishers was 687 sockeye and 37 chum salmon.

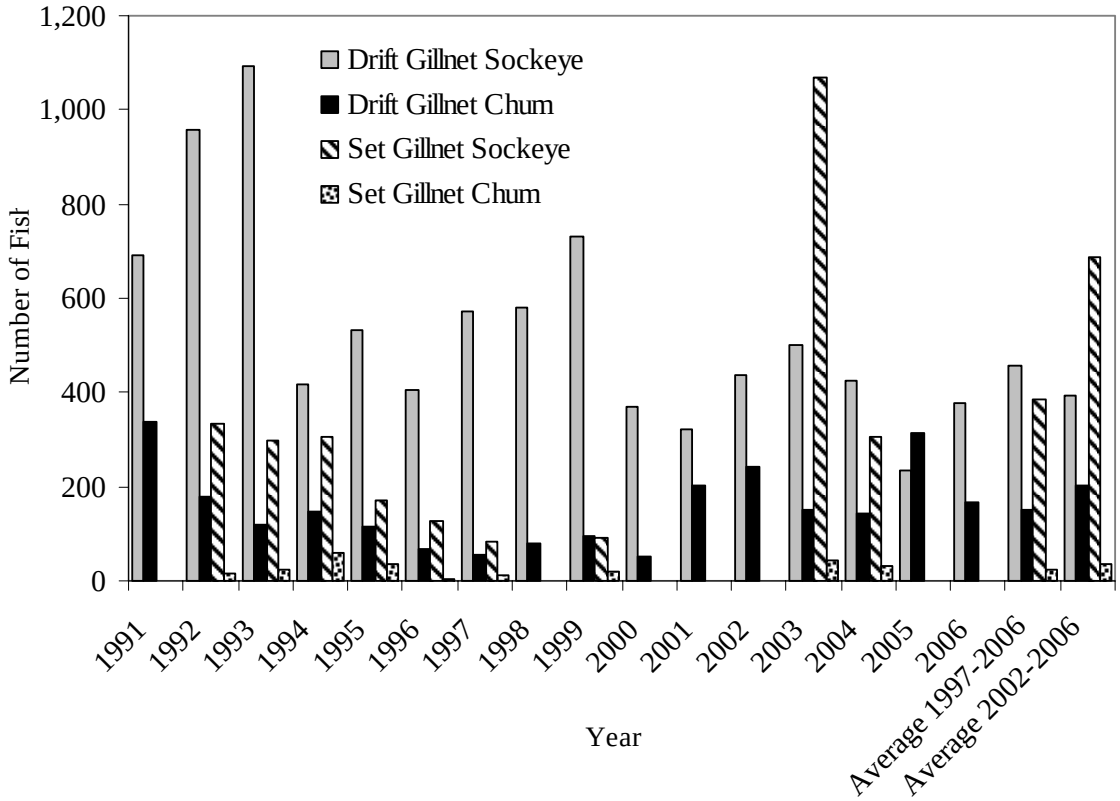


Figure 1.-Cape Lutke Section sockeye and chum salmon catch per unit effort prior to June 26 by gear type and year, 1991-2006.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal. However, the department is **OPPOSED** to the concept of this fishery in general on the grounds that it will be a new fishery targeting migrating salmon stocks of A-Y-K, Bristol Bay, North Peninsula, and other unknown origins and so carries with it the potential resulting implications to the management of other fisheries. Anecdotal evidence suggests the existence of small, local sockeye salmon stocks which are important for subsistence harvest and could be adversely impacted by a new commercial fishery in the area.

If the BOF chooses to adopt the proposal, then the department recommends the following:

Making area, gear, and vessel provisions of this fishery as similar as possible to Alaska Peninsula Management Area provisions would help insure that regulations are better adhered to. For instance, the department recommends eliminating the drift gillnet mesh size restriction for consistency with other nearby fisheries such as the South Unimak June fishery (5 AAC 09.331 (a)(2)(B)). Immature salmon passing through the area are not thought to be an issue at the proposed time of year.

Rather than define the eastern boundary of the proposed area as 165° 00.00’ W. long. and the western boundary as 166° 05.00’ W. long., the department recommends the new area conform to established salmon fishing district lines (Figure 2). The current Akutan District has as its eastern boundary the longitude of Cape Sarichef (164° 55.70’ W. long) on the north side of Unimak Island, and a line from Scotch Cap (54° 24.17’ N. lat, 164° 47.60’ W. long) to the easternmost tip of Ugamak Island (54° 12.87’ N. lat, 164° 46.00’ W. long) on the south side of Unimak Island. The proposed 165° 00.00’ longitude eastern boundary line passes within 1.7 nmi of Unimak Island and inside the 3-mile state waters management zone, and so creates a “donut hole” off the eastern tip of Unimak Island. The current Akutan District’s western boundary bisects Akutan Pass. The proposed western boundary at 166° 05.00’ W. long. would encompass a portion of the Unalaska District and cut numerous established commercial fishing statistical areas into two or more parts.

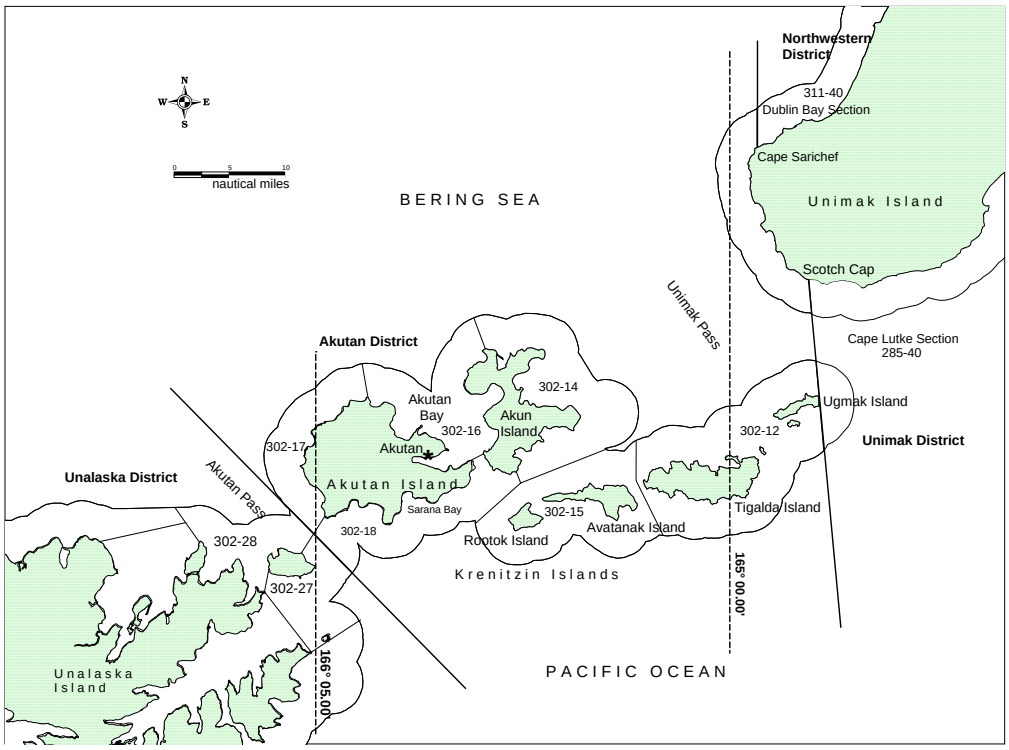


Figure 2.-Map depicting current district and section lines between Unimak and Unalaska islands with the proposed Krenitzin Island boundaries indicated (dashed lines).

The department would need to a fund port sampling project to assess biological characteristics of the harvest, including genetic stock composition. The amount of staff time would be contingent upon how the fishery is structured by the BOF. Making the fishery an experimental fishery for a defined number of years will give the department time to assess the feasibility and viability of the new area.

<u>COST ANALYSIS</u>: The department believes that approval of this proposal would result in a direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery. The Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission charges permit processing fees. Vessels, gear, insurance, and supporting material would have to be purchased by the participants in the new fishery.

PROPOSAL 225 - 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area.

PROPOSED BY: Gerald Swihart

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would make the king salmon bag and possession limits for Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands salt waters the same as those in place for the salt waters of the Kodiak management area. This action would reduce the daily bag and possession limit for **king salmon taken in salt waters** of the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands area from 3 fish to 2 fish; remove the reference to a 28" size requirement and remove the 5 fish annual limit and harvest record requirements.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulations for king salmon in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands area salt waters are: 3 daily, 3 in possession, only 2 daily and in possession may be over 28" in length. There is an annual limit of no more than 5 fish and a harvest record is required.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal would liberalize the salt-water king salmon sport fish harvest by rescinding the annual limit of 5 fish. The proposal would restrict the harvest by reducing the daily bag and possession limit from 3 fish to 2 fish. The new regulations would allow 2 fish daily and in possession, no size limit, no annual limit. If implemented, the 2 fish daily bag and possession limit, with no annual limit, is unlikely to result in a significant increase in the king salmon harvest.

BACKGROUND: King salmon annual limits, in both fresh and salt waters of the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands regulatory area went into effect in 2001. From 2001 to 2005, saltwater harvest estimates for the regulatory area ranged from 85 to 335 king salmon, averaging 190 fish per year. Generally, over half of the harvest is reported from Unalaska. Saltwater fishing effort for all species in the regulatory area during the same time period has averaged 8,800 angler days. During the 2006 season, 7 vessels were registered as charter boats. Both the angling effort and number of charter boats is relatively low.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The Department is **NEUTRAL** regarding the allocative aspects of this proposal. The department supports consistency in harvest regulations wherever possible, especially between adjacent management areas. The Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands regulatory area is remote and difficult to access and sport fishing effort is relatively small. Local king stocks have been abundant and are managed inseason using weir counts and aerial surveys to ensure that escapement goals are being met.

COST ANALYSIS: The Department does not believe that approval of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in this fishery.