

ALASKA PENINULA / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(c) The commissioner shall open, by emergency order, a state waters cod season in the South Alaska Peninsula area **on March 15**, or seven days following the closure of the directed federal cod season in the Federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area, **which ever comes later**.

ISSUE: Establish a set starting date for the Area M state waters cod season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-039)

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

The start of Area M state waters 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.

ISSUE: The area M state cod season start with nice weather.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local boats will continue to try and set gear in dangerous weather conditions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-041)

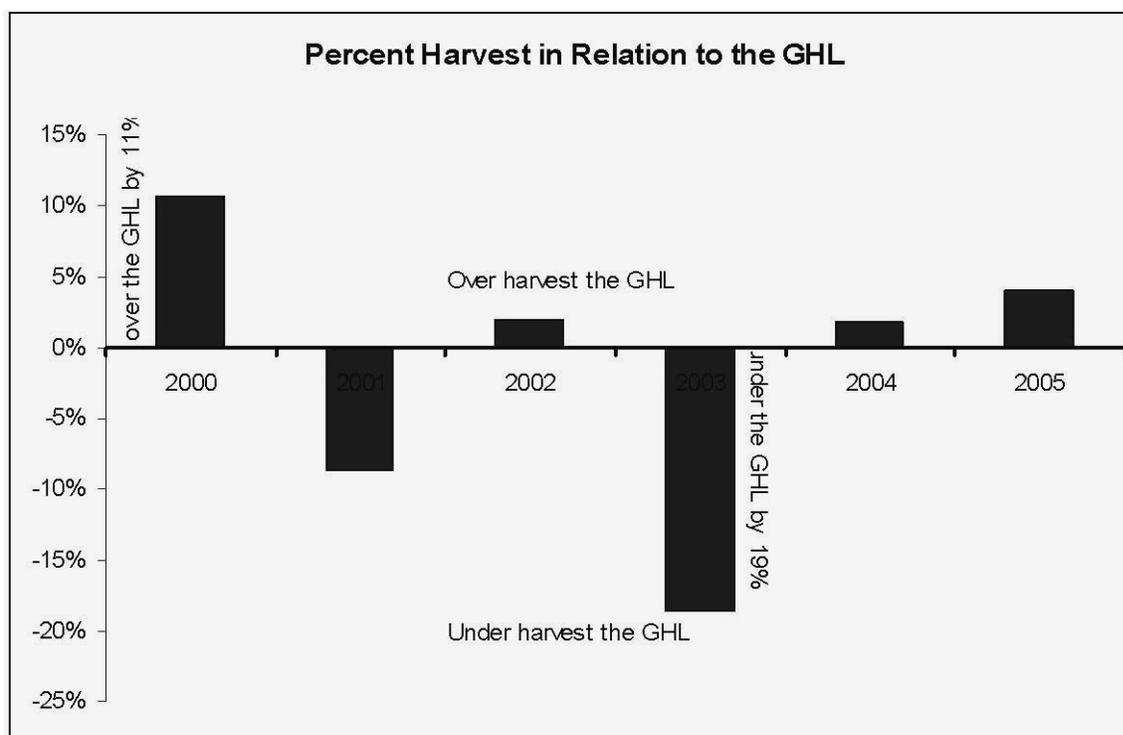
PROPOSAL 180 – 5 AAC 28.58X. Reporting requirements for South Alaska Peninsula state waters fishery. Adopt a new regulation as follows:

5 AAC 28.58X. Reporting requirements for South Alaska Peninsula state waters fishery.

In the South Alaska Peninsula 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 24-hour 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.

PROBLEM: Vessels fishing for Pacific cod using pot gear during the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters fishery have high fishing power. During some years, the fleet has averaged over one million pounds of cod per day. However, the amount of on-grounds fleet information the department has to manage this fishery is low compared to other similar Pacific cod fisheries. This results in a lack of precision in achieving the targeted guideline harvest level (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 guideline, the difference is subtracted from the amount available to the jig fleet. When pot harvests are less than the GHL, the pot fleet may not achieve their guideline harvest level.

With the development of better communication hardware (e.g., satellite phones), the department has increasingly relied upon daily reports received directly from vessels participating in other fisheries within the region. This allows the department more timely information on daily catch rates, participation levels, weather, and total poundage onboard.

The department requested voluntary daily reports from vessel operators during the 2006 South Alaska Peninsula Pacific cod season. Reporting worksheets were distributed while vessels were

purchasing buoy tags. Participation in the voluntary program was low (approximately 10 percent); however, the department could have provided more information on the importance of the reporting program.

The department has made recent investments to increase communications with fishing fleets in the Westward Region. Last year, a fixed site satellite phone with Matrix service was installed in the Kodiak office and an additional satellite phone with Stratos service is currently being installed.

As an example of the utility of inseason catch reporting from participants, harvest during the Kodiak Tanner crab season was within one percent of the GHL and pot gear harvest during the Kodiak Pacific cod season was within five percent of the GHL; both of these fisheries rely heavily on inseason catch reporting from fishing vessels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Management precision will continue to be low, and the potential for under harvest or over harvest will continue to exist.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both pot and jig gear participants

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some fishermen may need to purchase additional communication equipment.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-138)

PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

If 10 percent or more of the GHL is not harvested, there will be a mandatory extension or reopening.

ISSUE: State-water Pacific cod are, at times, underharvested. There is no certainty that the department will extend the season or reopen if closed before the GHL is harvested.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Loss of economic opportunity for Pot fishermen.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Pot cod fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allow the department to decide whether to reopen or extend. Uncertainty.

PROPOSED BY: Ken Mack

(SW-06F-005)

PROPOSAL 182 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(e)(1) the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula area is **50** [15] percent of the estimated total allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska Area.

ISSUE: We would like more cod quota moved into the Area M state waters cod fishery.

sWHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local fishermen will continue to lose fishing opportunities to large outside crabbers, longliners and trawlers in the federal fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local small boat cod fishermen in Area M.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee

(HQ-06F-040)

PROPOSAL 183 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

During a state waters season, the guideline harvest level for Pacific cod in the South Alaska Peninsula Area M is 50 percent of the estimated allowable harvest of Pacific cod for the federal Western Gulf of Alaska area 610.

ISSUE: Large vessels with crab rationalized quotas had higher harvest rates of Pacific cod during the 2006 federal and state parallel season in area 610. The probability of Pacific cod rationalization by NPMC in the Western Gulf area 610 will take Pacific cod stocks in state waters away from state.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? More vessels will fish Pacific cod in federal and state parallel season of area 610 before moving on to fish their crab rationalization quotas of the Bering Sea.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will cause a slower rate of harvest and promote a cleaner harvest because of gear type allowed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Small local vessels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Large vessels.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee

(SW-06F-003)

PROPOSAL 184 - 5 AAC 28.556. South Alaska Peninsula Area Registration. Although vessels have participated in two simultaneous groundfish fisheries within the same area, this proposal would clarify that a vessel fishing groundfish involved in the state-waters Pacific cod fishery and other groundfish fisheries simultaneously in other management areas is not allowed. This proposal creates a new subsection 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.

ISSUE: Registration for the parallel groundfish fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area allows vessels to be simultaneously registered for the parallel groundfish fishery in the remainder of the Westward Region. The state-waters Pacific cod fishery registration is specific to the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

Fishermen in the South Alaska Peninsula groundfish management area have registered to participate in both the state-waters Pacific cod fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula Area and simultaneously in the parallel walleye pollock fishery in the same area. Recently the department has received requests to allow vessels to fish in walleye pollock fisheries outside of the South Alaska Peninsula Area while actively participating in the South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Regulations allowing simultaneous participation in other groundfish fisheries may be ambiguous.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Regulations will be clear for the public.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fishermen that wish to participate simultaneously in multiple groundfish registration areas.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-06F-144)

PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 28.577. South Alaska Peninsula Area Pacific Cod Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

The commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, the parallel season during which the use of vessels larger than 58-feet is prohibited.

ISSUE: Bering Sea crab rationalization has allowed large vessels to delay the harvest of crab in January-February, until after they have cleaned up the federal/state parallel Pacific cod season quota of Western Gulf area 610. These vessels fish pots and harvest high 90s of state waters Pacific cod which they need no LLP's for.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? More large crab pot vessels will fish the federal/state parallel Pacific cod season of Western Gulf area 610 before moving on to Opilio.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will cause a slower rate of harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 58-foot vessels and local communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Large pot vessels.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: King Cove Advisory Committee (SW-06F-002)

PROPOSAL 186 - 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections. This proposal changes the description of the Sanak Island and Otter Cove Sections of the Unimak District of Area M.

5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections.

(c)(2) Otter Cove Section: waters of Unimak District east of the longitude of Rock Island (163° 38.00' W. long.) , **excluding the waters of the Sanak Island Section**; [AND NORTH OF 54° 30.00' N. LAT.]

(3) Sanak Island Section: waters of the Unimak District east of the longitude of **Cape Pankof Light (163° 03.70' W. long.)** [ROCK ISLAND (163° 38.00' W. LONG.)] and south of **54° 33.17' N. lat. (latitude of Hague Rock)** [54° 30.00' N. LAT.].

ISSUE: An area around Sanak Island is closed to commercial fishing during the South Alaska Peninsula June Fishery because, in some years, large numbers of chum salmon have been harvested in this area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The description of the closed area around Sanak Island will continue to be difficult to describe in emergency orders and may lead to confusion. This will codify existing management practices.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone will benefit by placing existing management practices into regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo, but modifying the boundaries in regulation will be clearer and more readily identifiable for commercial fishermen working in this area.

PROPOSAL 187 - 5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters. This proposal closes the Sanak Island Section of Area M to commercial salmon fishing from June 1 through June 30. This will codify existing management practices.

5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.

(38) Sanak Island Section from June 1 through June 30.

ISSUE: Annually, this area is closed, by emergency order, to commercial fishing during the South Alaska Peninsula June Fishery because, in some prior years, large numbers of chum salmon have been harvested in this area. A companion proposal to modify 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections would redefine the Sanak Island Section boundaries.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department would continue to issue an emergency order each season to close the waters around Sanak Island to commercial salmon fishing in June.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone will benefit by placing existing management practices into regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo, but placing this closure in regulation will simplify management by making it unnecessary to draft an emergency order every season to close the waters around Sanak Island.

PROPOSAL 188 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Re-instate the pre-2001 Area M South Peninsula June sockeye management plan, which was in effect from 1975-2003 in order to protect Chignik bound sockeye from new and unallocated interception in the Shumagin Islands.

ISSUE: At the last Area M Board of Fisheries meeting in February of 2004, the board eliminated the Area M South Peninsula June fishery management plan that gave Area M fishermen an 8.3 percent allocation of Bristol Bay sockeye – 6.8 percent to South Unimak, and 1.5 percent to the Shumagin Islands. Unfortunately, the board did not consider the downstream effects that this would have on areas other than Bristol Bay. Prior to 2004, the majority of the sockeye harvested in the South Peninsula June fishery came from South Unimak. When the board eliminated the Bristol Bay allocation plan, the June harvest effort in Area M shifted away from South Unimak and toward the Shumagin Islands, and now the majority of the sockeye

harvested in the South Peninsula during the June Fishery comes from the Shumagin Islands. A 1987 tagging study showed that roughly 18 percent of the sockeye harvested in the Shumagin Islands in June are Chignik bound. This means there has been a drastic increase in the interception of Chignik bound sockeye in the Area M South Peninsula June sockeye fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Area M fishers will continue this new and alarming trend of intercepting large and unprecedented numbers of Chignik bound sockeye in the Shumagin Islands during the June fishery. A new and unallocated interception fishery only puts more stress on the small Chignik sockeye run, which has been suffering from very poor returns for several years, which in turn puts even more stress on the fishermen and residents of the economically depressed Chignik region.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Several Chignik fishermen will be working together on high quality programs including the delivery of live fish, etc. We receive almost \$1.00 per pound on average, while other adjacent areas receive only around \$0.60 per pound. If we were allowed to catch more of our own fish in our own area, than we would bring higher revenues to the Chignik region and the State as a whole.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Chignik fishermen, their families, and the entire Chignik region.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Area M fishermen would go back to the management plan they operated under for almost 30 years. A management plan that was very lucrative for them.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Seiners Association (HQ-06F-117)

PROPOSAL 189 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan; and 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.
Amend these regulations as follows:

Consider returning to the regulations that were in place prior to the 2001 Board of Fisheries meeting.

ISSUE: Area M.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Area M will not share the burden of conservation for Bristol Bay stocks and AYK stocks.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resources in Bristol Bay and AYK.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Area M users.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Going back to the regulations that were in place prior to the 2004 Board of Fisheries meeting. These were considered too restrictive.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee (SW-06F-017)

PROPOSAL 190 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Change South Peninsula June Management Plan back to what it was for the 2001-2003 fishery.

ISSUE: Poor runs of chum salmon to the AYK, North Peninsula, and Bristol Bay areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? High harvests of migrating chum in the South Peninsula June fishery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of the chum salmon north of South Peninsula, all the predators that utilize chum salmon, i.e. bears, wolf, eagles, etc. The moose calf that will not be eaten because there are enough chum for the predators.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? N/A.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Close the fishery as all the stocks are migrating to fully allocated fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Virgil Umphenour (I-06F-023)

PROPOSAL 191 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Sumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan; and 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. Amend these regulations as follows:

The combined sockeye salmon catch in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery and the Northern District salmon fishery before July 15 is not to exceed 8.3 percent of the total predicted Bristol Bay harvest.

ISSUE: Reinstate an 8.3 percent allocation of Bristol Bay sockeye guideline in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan and the Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Kvichak River will not achieve its minimum escapement goal in the future because of the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fisheries Management Plan and the Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan do not restrain the interception and possible overharvesting of Bristol Bay runs.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the quality of the Bristol Bay harvest will be better if caught in the full terminal districts. This would allow a longer harvest time frame, earlier

fishing with less chaos.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Bristol Bay fishermen, by letting them fish in the larger regular terminal districts when the Kvichak can meet its minimum escapement goal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Johnson

(HQ-06F-110)

PROPOSAL 192 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. Create a regulation to include the following:

Enact further restrictions in Area M by eliminating the early June commercial salmon fishery. Commercial salmon fishing should not occur until June 15 of each year, and should only continue under a windows management scenario of 12 hours on and 12 hours off. Salmon should be allowed to pass unmolested through Area M for alternating periods to allow salmon migration to occur without being harvested. The new regulation should also indicate the relative importance of stream origin, and establish escapement goals based upon the relative prosecution of Alaska Peninsula commercial fisheries.

ISSUE: Commercial fishing in Area M. Shockingly low salmon returns in the Norton Sound region, including numerous designations of “stocks of concern” by the department, combined with liberalized fishing opportunity in Area M have raised questions of appropriate allocation. It is expected that when the board meets in early 2007, salmon genetic information will be available to definitively prove that western Alaskan salmon are in transit, present and caught in the commercial Alaska Peninsula salmon fisheries.

The Norton Sound region is primarily inhabited by subsistence users who now experience severe subsistence salmon fishing restrictions never before realized until this modern day when several related events occurred in the restructuring of commercial fishing. In general, subsistence fishermen harvest approximately one million salmon statewide, commercial salmon catches have been as high as 217 million (but can vary by as much as 60 million from year to year), and recreational fishermen catch approximately two million salmon per year. With that distribution in harvest, there has been an inequity in the nature of regulations which govern salmon, an inequity that the board has not yet reconciled. Commercial salmon catcher vessels are very efficient at prosecuting salmon migrating in Area M and should be regulated according to applicable Alaskan law.

Allocation is a key regulatory mechanism the board employs to provide for Alaskans, and although the sustainable salmon fishery policy prescribes a comprehensive approach to salmon fisheries of the State of Alaska, to-date it is not apparent that regulations have been adopted to conserve western Alaskan salmon populations.

On March 7, 2005 the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced that it would seasonally close the trawl, pot and hook-and-line fisheries off Cape Sarichef (50 CFR Part 679, RIN 0648-AQ46). On December 20, 2004 the NMFS also issued additional protection measures for Stellar Sea Lions, which included vast areas west of and including False Pass and resulted in revised closures for Pacific cod and Pollock (50 CFR part 679, RIN 0648 AS41). It

is estimated that salmon bycatch either associated with or unrelated to those closures have decreased because of improvements in technology and management. The coincidence of slight and sudden improvements in Norton Sound chum salmon and sockeye salmon returns occurring in time with the NMFS closures cannot be ignored, as they are likely related. However, even if the NMFS closures are related to the slight improvements in salmon returns to Norton Sound, this is of minor significance because the improvements have been so small.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the problem is not solved the department and the board may underestimate the connection between the commercial fisheries in the Aleutians and Western Alaska and continue to manage mixed stock fisheries with incorrect information regarding migration time, river of origin, and level of prosecution.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would improve the quality of the resource harvested by allowing for its comprehensive management. The department has ignored the importance of conservation in the Aleutian Islands commercial fishery. Genetic information will definitively show to the board that commercial exploitation has been a significant casual factor in the decline of Western Alaskan salmon. Oceanic survival is not well known and can, at best, be described with the barest of information to prove its relation to Western Alaskan salmon productivity. Without question, environmental factors have changed, but very little information exists to show how salmon have responded to generally warmer winter seasons, and longer summer seasons.

Inriver habitats have generally improved with warmer winter seasons and longer summer seasons. Alaska Statute 16.05.870 requires the department to identify the stream of origin or stream of importance for anadromous fish. The stream origin identification must be known and is best accomplished through genetic study but can be done via other means as well. Methods for the proper identification of stream origin of salmon migrating through Area M and a timeline for implementation must be decided at this board meeting. Current stream catalogs are out of date and do not adequately address the information needs to carryout that section of law and also do not allow the board to comprehensively manage Western Alaskan salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All residents of Western Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Area M commercial fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Austin Ahmasuk (A-06F-004)

PROPOSAL 193 - 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(b) The South Unimak fishery takes place in the Unimak District, the Southwestern District, [THE EAST PAVLOV BAY AND THE WEST PAVLOV SECTIONS OF] the South Central District, and the Bechevin Bay section of the Northwestern district.

ISSUE: A portion of the South Central District is closed in June. Opening these areas will give Sand Point and King Cove fishermen more fishing opportunities.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued lost fishing areas and fishing opportunities in Area M.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen, processors and communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-038)

PROPOSAL 194 - 5 AAC 09.331(a)(3). Gillnet specifications and operations. Amend this regulation as follows:

Remove the regulation to allow the driftnet fleet additional catching power to restore lost harvest share. This would restore regulation that was in place before 5 AAC 09.331(a)(3) was adopted.

ISSUE: Loss of harvest share by drift gillnet in the South Unimak June Fishery. Poor fishery performance over the past several years.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued poor performance of the driftnet fleet in the South Unimak June Fishery. Poor economic returns to fishers, processors, and local economies.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Driftnet fleet, local processors, local governments through increased tax revenue.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some reallocation between gear types possible. Most setnetters and purse seiners have left the South Unimak Fishery due to poor harvests.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Proposing some additional length of net considered. However, we think that fishing deeper in the water column will be a more politically acceptable way to address the issue.

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen (HQ-06F-086)

PROPOSAL 195 - 5 AAC 09.330. Gear. Amend this regulation as follows:

Add drift gillnets to subsections (d), (e), and (f) of 5 AAC 09.330. This lets drifters fish in areas where other gear types fish.

ISSUE: Very poor sockeye catches in the South Unimak fishery and especially low catches by

the drift gillnet fleet. Everyone else can move around to where fish are except the drift fleet which is stuck in South Unimak.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? South Peninsula sockeye fishery is becoming not worth doing for the drifters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Drift fishermen in the June Fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Seiners and setnetters in areas where drift boats cannot fish presently. They would have more competition.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? More fishing time or fish earlier in June.

PROPOSED BY: Joe Hinton (HQ-06F-087)

PROPOSAL 196 - 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. Amen this regulation as follows:

(f) (2) That part of the south central district between Black Point (55°24.48 N. lat.) and Seal Cape (55°21.56 N. lat., 161° 20.00 long.); fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks.

ISSUE: Pink and chum runs in the South Peninsula continue to come in earlier. Lack of open areas in the first half of July continue to cause under utilization of local chum and pink stocks.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Pink and chum stocks will continue to be under utilized.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, earlier openings help to target brighter pink and chum salmon stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen, processors and communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-034)

PROPOSAL 197 - 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. Amend this regulation as follows:

Delete section (d) and replace with: notwithstanding (e)(1) of this section, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order; five 39-hour fishing periods (7:00 a.m. to 10:00p.m.) interspersed by 33-hour closure from July 6 through July 20. From July 21 through July 31,

fishing periods shall be based on the abundance of local sockeye, coho, pink and chum salmon stocks.

ISSUE: Local pink and chum runs are returning earlier. We would like the commercial fishing openings schedule for the Post-June Management Plan to be canceled.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local pink and chum runs continue to come in earlier. Area M fishermen and communities will continue to lose fishing time and money. Quality of local salmon stocks will continue to be low if we have to wait to catch them later in the terminal areas.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The quality of the fish is best before or when the fish first reach fresh water.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen, processors and communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-035)

PROPOSAL 198 - 5 AAC09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. Amend this regulation as follows:

Post June fishing would start on July 6 at 12:00 noon for 72 hours, close for 24 hours then reopen for another 72 hour period. This pattern would continue until the end of July.

ISSUE: In July we do not have enough time to fish in the Shumagin Islands. Also, the timing (midnight) is not good for setnet operations (setting nets and anchors).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? People can get hurt (safety) and if the net goes out wrong or gets hung up you are not fishing like you should but you cannot see the problem until hours later when there is daylight.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by staying on the gear and working less white gilled (old) fish will be picked before we have to pull the net out of the water.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The fishermen of Area M.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, interception at this time of year is very low and escapements have been met.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Start on July 2 because the last few years (warming) run timing is early. Rejected—board might think I ask for too much.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Eastlick (HQ-06F-065)

PROPOSAL 199 - 5 AAC 09.3XX. Sockeye Salmon Management Plan. Create a new regulation as follows:

The board should assign a management responsibility to the post-June South Peninsula salmon fishery so that the interception of non-local sockeye are not only recognized and preserved, but regulated to provide a conservation responsibility.

Proposed Draft Management Plan:

5AAC 09.XXX Sockeye Salmon Management Plan for the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern Districts Post-July 5 fishery and the Southeastern District Mainland Post-July 25 fishery.

The purpose of the plan is to address the traditional sockeye salmon harvest/fishery that occurs post-July 5 in the Southeastern, South Central, and Southwestern Districts and post-July 25 in the Southeastern District Mainland. The board recognizes that the sockeye harvested in those waters and times are predominately non-local fish, destined to terminal areas which include Kodiak, Upper Cook Inlet, and Chignik and of these, Chignik is geographically the closest and likely, the major contributor. The board believes that a conservation and allocation linkage to Chignik sockeye salmon best serves the fishery. Further, the board recognizes that local salmon stocks are present in these waters and at these times with escapement and harvest objectives.

- (a) In the Southeastern, South Central, and Southwestern districts, the department shall manage the post July 5 fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested will approach as near as possible xx percent of the total post-July 5 sockeye catch in the Chignik Management Area.
 - a. Excluded from this are sockeye salmon taken in specified terminal sockeye harvest areas as provided for in 5 AAC 09.366.
 - b. From July 25 through August 10 (for the local pink/chum fishery), the number of sockeye salmon harvested during this period will be included in the cumulative post July 5 sockeye harvest numbers but those numbers will not be used for management decisions until the end of this period.
 - c. This plan is suspended, in any year, if commercial salmon fishing in the Chignik Management Area stops for reasons other than escapement.
- (b) In the Southeastern District Mainland, the department shall manage the post-July 25 fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested will approach as near as possible xx percent of the total post-July 25 sockeye catch in the Chignik Management Area.
 - a. Excluded from this are sockeye salmon taken in the specified terminal sockeye harvest area of Orzinski Bay (5 AAC 09.360).
 - b. From July 26 through August 10 (for the local pink/chum fishery), the number of sockeye salmon harvested during this period will be included in the cumulative post-July 25 sockeye harvest numbers but those numbers will not be used for management decisions until the end of this period.
 - c. This plan is suspended, in any year, if commercial salmon fishing in the Chignik Management Area stops for reasons other than escapement.

We propose the following method for determining allocations:

A) Post-July 5 Southeastern (excludes SEDM), South Central, and Southwestern Districts Allocation:

1. South Peninsula Data Base 1987-2006 (20 years): annual sockeye salmon catch numbers for Area M, South Alaska Peninsula for the post July 5 period excluding numbers of sockeye salmon harvested in designated terminal sockeye harvest areas and the entire SEDM and Unimak District. Compute the 16-year average after deleting the two highest and two lowest catch years.

2. Data Base 1987-2006 (20 years): Annual sockeye salmon catch numbers for the Chignik Management Area for the post July 5th period. Compute the 16-year average after deleting the two highest and two lowest catch years.

3. Compute the combined post July 5 Southeastern (excludes SEDM), South Central, and Southwestern Districts allocation as a percentage of the post July 5 Chignik harvest: Divide the 16 year average obtained from step one above by the 16 year average obtained from step #2 above.

B) Post-July 25 Southeastern District Mainland Allocation.

1. SEDM Data Base 1987-2006 (20 years): Annual sockeye salmon catch numbers for Area M, Southeastern District Mainland for the post-July 25 period excluding the sockeye catch in terminal harvest area of Orzinski Bay. Compute the 16-year average by dropping the two highest and the two lowest catch numbers.

2. Chignik Data Base 1987-2006 (20 years): Annual sockeye salmon catch numbers for the Chignik management area for the post July 25 period. Compute the 16-year average by dropping the two highest and the two lowest catch numbers.

3. Compute SEDM post-July 25th allocation: Divide the average obtained from step one above by the average obtained from step two above.

ISSUE: No management plan exists that addresses the non-local sockeye component of the Post June Sockeye Management Plan for the South Peninsula (except for the Unimak District and the SEDM before July 26). These Area M fisheries have been expanding and targeting non-local sockeye salmon resulting in a substantially increased negative impact on Chignik sockeye commercial and subsistence fisheries. Chignik's second run has been abnormally weak in recent years to the point that escapements have been compromised and non-traditional fishery closures have been implemented for conservation. The Post-June Area M sockeye fishery has neither a conservation management responsibility nor any stock accountability and therefore should be regulated to prevent further expansion and assigned a conservation/ management responsibility to the closest significant non-local stock, that being Chignik sockeye salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The problems above will continue. The second run (Chignik Lake) may become a stock of concern and if it does, then lack of management responsibility in these identified fisheries will place a serious and critical burden on Chignik's late run.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Chignik subsistence and terminal fishers and other terminal stock fishers including those operating in Upper Cook Inlet and Kodiak.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Area M fishermen will have some constraints but the allocation plan is fair because it acknowledges interception fisheries and bases the allocation plan on a 20 year history.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Seiners Association (HQ-06F-115)

PROPOSAL 200 - 5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula. Amend this regulation as follows:

Remove 5 AAC 09.366(i). There would be no new regulation.

ISSUE: We would like section (i), the immature salmon seine test fishery, removed from the post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In certain years the seine fleet will continue to lose fishing time.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Seiners, processors and communities of the South Peninsula.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? If test fishery is left in place, then the test fishery should be managed on 100 immature of any one species. Rejected all salmon fisheries in the state should have test fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-037)

PROPOSAL 201 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

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 more than four 24-hour periods with no more than 48-hours continuous fishing during a seven-day period. **When escapement goals are exceeded at Orzinski Lake then the four 24-hour periods are lifted and replaced by continuous fishing. When escapement goals return to being met, but not exceeded, then the four 24-hour fishing periods in a 7-day period reapply.**

ISSUE: The overescapement of sockeye salmon to Orzinski Lake in the Northwest Stepovak section of the Southeastern Mainland district of Area M is a major concern for the local fishermen. Over the last four years, 2002 through 2005, escapement into Orzinski Lake has averaged 53,949 adult sockeye. The department escapement goal for Orzinski Lake is 20,000 adult sockeye. Under the present management plan, Area M fishermen are restricted to no more

than four days fishing in a seven-day period outside of Orzinski Bay in the Northwest Stepovak section. This has allowed overescapement to occur at an alarming rate. The management plan should be able to provide flexibility to insure that overescapement is controlled.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The belief is that overescapement over a number of years to a salmon system will damage and eventually cripple that salmon system.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Area M fishermen who fish in the Northwest Stepovak section for the local sockeye to Orzinski Lake.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. From July 1 forward, the Northwest Stepovak section is managed on a local stock basis and concerns about overescapement should outweigh any differences of opinion.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leave the present plan as is and hope that the recent four-year overescapement does not continue. I rejected that as not a solution. Under this proposal, no additional fishing time will occur unless overescapement is warranted.

PROPOSED BY: Mark Wagner (HQ-06F-012)

PROPOSAL 202 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Add to section (e); at times when over escapement is occurring in Orzinski Lake, the department shall open the outside waters of the Northwest Stepovak section concurrent with Orzinski Bay openings.

ISSUE: The chronic over escapement of sockeye salmon into Orzinski Lake.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued lost fish into Orzinski Lake. And potential harm to the Orzinski Lake sockeye run.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen, processors and communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-036)

PROPOSAL 203 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

(f) The estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River has been determined to be **40** [80] percent of the sockeye salmon harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak sections.

ISSUE: The estimate of Chignik bound salmon caught is too high, in the Southeast District Mainland. The estimate should be changed to 40 percent.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Area M fishermen will continue to lose fishing opportunities in the Southeast District Mainland.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen, processors and communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Advisory Committee (HQ-06F-033)

PROPOSAL 204 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Instead of a six percent allocation based on the combined pre-July 26 harvest in the Chignik Area and 80 percent of the harvest in designated areas of the SEDM and 90 percent of the Igvak Section harvest, the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections and the Northwest Stepovak Section (pre-July 1) will be managed so that the assigned Chignik harvest will approach as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon catch in the Chignik Management Area. The change from a 6 percent to a 7.6 percent allocation is solely a mathematical adjustment. It provides no net loss or gain to the SEDM harvest of assigned Chignik sockeye salmon from using the Chignik Area sockeye salmon catch only rather than the total sum of the Chignik Area and assigned interception area catches.

ISSUE: The Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Salmon Management Plan provides for a six percent allocation on the total Chignik sockeye catch. The 6 percent is calculated on the combined pre-July 26 sockeye harvest from the Chignik Management Area, the Kodiak Igvak Section and designated areas within the SEDM as assigned by stock.

Management errors in the Igvak and SEDM fisheries have inadvertently resulted in higher allocations of Chignik bound sockeye salmon than intended. The problem is that when an allocation overage occurs in one or more of the two intercept areas, the amount of the overage is used in calculating the inseason allocation, which effectively increases the allocation to both interception areas. In the past under conservative management, there was not a problem but in 2004 and 2005 management decisions resulted in excessive allocation overages triggering even more overages simply because of the mathematical formula applied in the allocation.

Neither Igvak nor the SEDM fishery should be rewarded by harvesting Chignik bound sockeye salmon beyond the intended allocation of 15 percent and 6 percent, respectively, as occurs now

due to the cyclic nature of a mathematical formula, easily correctable.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The pre-July 26 SEDM and the Igvak fishery will continue to be rewarded when management error occurs which results in a harvest beyond the assigned allocation in one or the other fisheries or both. Such overages disadvantage fishers in the Chignik Management Area as occurred as recently as in 2004 and 2005.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Chignik fishers because currently they are penalized when allocation overages occur in the pre-July 26 Igvak and SEDM fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who believe that interception fishers should be further rewarded by management errors when an allocation overage occurs.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Seiners Association (HQ-06F-116)

PROPOSAL 205 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

From July 1 through August 1, Orzinski Bay only shall be managed as 100 percent local sockeye stocks.

From July 1 through October 31, the remainder of the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) shall be managed considering 80 percent of the sockeye harvest to be Chignik bound.

Prior to July 1, 80 percent of the entire SEDM sockeye harvest shall be considered Chignik bound.

ISSUE: There continues to be excessive interception of Chignik bound second run fish in the Stepovak Bay portion of Area M after the June fishery. With chum and pink prices at all-time lows, sockeye salmon are the most desired species and therefore the most targeted by setnetters and seiners in Area M.

The second run in Chignik has been extremely depressed, and in 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2005, Chignik has experienced very low catches in late July through the end of the season and even shortfalls of escapement. We feel that more restrictions are necessary in the SEDM fishery to be fair to Chignik and share in the burden of conservation.

This proposal is aimed at reducing the harvest area targeting local Orzinski bound sockeye and recognizing that the vast majority of sockeye harvested in the SEDM are Chignik bound.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Chignik will continue to have little or no harvests of their own late sockeye run and escapements will begin or continue to be compromised. Further economic losses to the already economically depressed Chignik region.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS

PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Higher quality sockeye are harvested in the CMA—by allowing more Chignik bound sockeye to reach the Chignik area, more high quality fish will be processed and delivered to the marketplace.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Chignik fishermen and the entire Chignik region will benefit by more sockeye being allowed to reach their own area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Area M fishermen may lose some harvest opportunity but prior to 1998, Orzinski Bay was the only section considered to be 100 percent local, so this would actually be a reversal to previous board policy.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo—allows continued erosion of the Chignik late run and allows SEDM fishermen to continue aggressively intercepting Chignik bound late run sockeye with no conservation burden whatsoever while Chignik fishermen sit on the beach waiting for escapement.

PROPOSED BY: Roger Rowland (SW-06F-037)

PROPOSAL 206 - 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

We would like to propose weekly fishing periods, essentially allowing windows fish to get through while still allowing local pink and chum to be harvested. We would like to see weekly fishing periods tied to our escapement and ability to harvest. We propose the following:

After July 25, the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) can have a maximum of four 24-hour openings per week in non-terminal harvest areas with a minimum of 24 hours closure between openings.

If CMA daily escapement goals 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-hour openings in non-terminal harvest areas with a minimum of 96 hours closure between openings.

If CMA escapement continues 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.

After August 20, the SEDM shall have a maximum of two 24-hour openings with a minimum of 96 hours closure between openings per week.

After September 1, the SEDM shall have one 24-hour opening per week.

ISSUE: Currently the management of the SEDM after July 25 considers only the existence of “local” pink and chum stocks. Since the prices are at all-time lows for these species, fishermen concentrate and target the higher valued sockeye salmon.

The Chignik area late run is the only sockeye run of any reasonable size in the region that occurs after July 25. Chignik is only 80 miles away from the SEDM while the North Peninsula rivers and Kodiak Island runs are over 300 miles away. Chignik Lake sockeye average around

6.5 pounds while the SEDM harvest averages around 6.5 pounds (North Peninsula average is around 5.7 pounds). The entire July 1 through July 25 period is considered to be at least 80 percent Chignik bound sockeye in the SEDM. Logically the post-July 25 sockeye component should be at least that if not more, since the Orzinski run is over around August 1 and the Bristol Bay run is long gone.

We ask the board to recognize that sockeye is the driving species in the SEDM fishery and have the department and board focus their management concerns on sockeye. We request that the board address the fact that Chignik has had little or no harvest of it's own returns after mid-July in four out of the past six seasons, while Area M fishermen have been allowed to fish up to seven days a week targeting non-local sockeye, the majority of which we believe are Chignik bound.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Chignik will continue to have little or no harvests of their own late sockeye run, and escapements will begin or continue to be compromised. Further economic losses to the already economically depressed Chignik region.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Higher quality sockeye are harvested in the DMA—by allowing more Chignik bound sockeye to reach the Chignik area, more high quality fish will be processed and delivered to the marketplace.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Chignik fishermen and the entire Chignik region will benefit by ore sockeye being allowed to reach their own area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? SEDM seiners and setnetters shall lose some opportunity to harvest Chignik bound sockeye but they will still be able to harvest their local pinks, chums and silvers available for harvest.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo—allows continued erosion of the Chignik late run and allows SEDM fishermen to continue aggressively intercepting Chignik bound late run sockeye with no conservation burden whatsoever while Chignik fishermen sit on the beach waiting for escapement.

PROPOSED BY: Roger Rowland (SW-06F-036)

PROPOSAL 207 - 5 AAC 09.369(j)(1). Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. This proposal seeks to open the commercial salmon fishing season within the Ilnik Section southwest of Unangashak Bluffs if Ilnik River sockeye salmon abundance warrants, and northeast of Unangashak Bluffs if Meshik and Ilnik rivers sockeye salmon stocks warrant, as early as June 20.

5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

- (j) In the Ilnik Section,
 - (1) notwithstanding 5 AAC 09.320(a)(3), from June **20** [25] through July 20,
 - (A) commercial salmon fishing would be permitted in the Ilnik Section
 - (i) southwest of Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Ilnik River sockeye salmon; and
 - (ii) northeast of Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Meshik River and Ilnik River sockeye salmon;

ISSUE: The existing regulation governing the commercial salmon fishing season in the Ilnik Section does not allow the department to open the Ilnik Section, except inside Ilnik Lagoon, prior to June 25. Providing harvest opportunity earlier than June 25 will allow the department to further control the sockeye salmon escapement into the Ilnik and Meshik rivers. In some years, the season ending escapement goal is met at Ilnik and Meshik rivers prior to June 25, the earliest date that portions of the Ilnik Section can open to commercial salmon fishing. The existing conservation provision for Ugashik River stocks found under 5 AAC 09.369(j)(1)(B), within the Ilnik Section would still apply.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The sockeye salmon escapement levels at Ilnik and Meshik rivers will continue to be above escapement levels during healthy runs and lost harvest opportunity on the resource will continue. Harvest will continue to impact Ilnik and Meshik river late running stocks and early run stocks will not be exploited.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen may harvest additional Ilnik and Meshik river sockeye salmon that are currently not being harvested between June 20-24. It will improve the department's ability to control the escapement at Ilnik and Meshik rivers to within the SEG's.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Reopening the Outer Port Heiden Section or a portion of it, which has been closed since 1990 to commercial salmon fishing, to more effectively harvest Meshik and Cinder River bound salmon. This likely would not adequately control the Ilnik river sockeye salmon escapement and there could be more non-local sockeye salmon stocks present in this area since it is closer to Bristol Bay.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-149)

PROPOSAL 208 - 5 AAC 09.320(a)(3). Fishing Periods. This proposal would modify the fishing period inside Ilnik Lagoon and all waters inside the Seal Islands beginning June 20 from 6:00 a.m. Monday to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday.

5 AAC 09.320 Fishing Periods.

(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.

ISSUE: This is a companion proposal to the department proposal seeking to open the Ilnik Section to commercial salmon fishing on June 20 and if that proposal is adopted, this proposal would clarify existing regulations so that the fishing times are similar between Ilnik Lagoon and the remaining portion of the Ilnik Section beginning June 20. Ilnik Lagoon and waters inside the Seal Islands have been commercially fished by set gillnet gear in past years, although no fishing has occurred since 1998. This proposal allows for similar starting and closing fishing

times for Ilnik Lagoon and the remaining portion of the Ilnik Section beginning June 20.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There might be differential opening and closing times within portions of the Ilnik Section beginning June 20.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone will benefit because this will clarify regulations and avoid confusion so that the entire Ilnik Section has similar fishing times beginning June 20 if the companion proposal is adopted.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo. Will add confusion to the regulations by having different fishing periods within portions of the Ilnik Section beginning June 20.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-150)

PROPOSAL 209 - 5 AAC 09.369(j)(3) Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. Adoption of this proposal modifies the regulation to protect the Bear River sockeye salmon run after August 15.

5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

(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, and the Ocean River when the Ocean River flows directly into the Bering Sea, **unless concern exists for the late Bear River sockeye salmon run.**

ISSUE: The existing regulation, 5 AAC 09.369(j)(3), governing commercial salmon fishing in the Ilnik Section states that after August 15, fishing periods may be modified based on the abundance of coho salmon stocks in the Unangashak and Ilnik Rivers. In 2004, the lowest late (post July 31) Bear River sockeye salmon run on record occurred. The Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections were closed to commercial salmon fishing for 25 days from August 1-25 to provide needed sockeye salmon escapement into Bear River. In recent years of poor coho salmon market conditions, commercial fishermen have not directly targeted coho salmon in the Ilnik Section, and all coho salmon harvested are incidental to sockeye salmon. Allowing a coho salmon fishery in the Ilnik Section after August 15, 2004 would have provided harvest on sockeye salmon bound for Bear River when the fish were needed to meet escapement objectives.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Commercial fishermen will continue to question whether fishing periods in the Ilnik Section after August 15 are based on coho or sockeye salmon abundance.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Area M fishermen, since this may help the late Bear River

sockeye salmon run meet escapement objectives.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one as this management practice already occurs.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Another solution that was considered was to institute a larger gillnet mesh size restriction in the Ilnik Section after August 15 to allow for a coho salmon harvest, but this would be difficult to enforce and sockeye salmon would still likely be harvested.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-151)

PROPOSAL 210 - 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections. Amend this regulation as follows:

Bring boundary into one mile from May 1 – June 30 for sockeye season.

ISSUE: Ability to go out three miles in Port Heiden, Three Hills and Ilnik fishing sections for sockeye season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued interception of fish.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Terminal fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one as fishermen can adequately harvest terminal fisheries.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Past solutions, under current board, have reverted 30 years.

PROPOSED BY: Roland Briggs (HQ-06F-083)

PROPOSAL 211 - 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons. Amend this regulation as follows:

Revert to previous regulations used in 2001-2004 Seasons.

For Ilnik Section: Season open from June 25 through September 30 in all waters of Southwest of Unangashak Bluff (159° 10.80° W. long) and east of Three Hills (159° 50.00° W. long).

ISSUE: Interception of Bristol Bay salmon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued interception of Bristol Bay salmon.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The terminal fisheries of Bristol Bay.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one as this will strengthen the terminal fisheries and fishermen can return to terminal fisheries.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Close other Ilnik.

PROPOSED BY: Roland Briggs (HQ-06F-084)

PROPOSAL 212 - 5 AAC 09.310. Fishing Seasons. Amend this regulation as follows:

Revert to previous limits. Outer Port Heiden closed / no open season.

ISSUE: Outer Port Heiden section. Intercepting Bristol Bay bound fish.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued interception of Bristol Bay bound fish.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Better management of the Bristol Bay resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one as all fishermen can return to previous terminal fisheries harvesting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Roland Briggs (HQ-06F-085)

PROPOSAL 213 - 5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

That portion of the Ilnik section northeast of Unangashak Bluffs to Stroganoff Point is managed on a basis of the Kvichak River conservation concerns. Before July 5 in the Ilnik section northeast of Unangashak Bluffs, a weekly total harvest cap of 100,000 sockeye salmon will be allowed. Fishing will be limited to a maximum of 24 hours continuous fishing and must be followed by at least 24-hour closure.

ISSUE: For the North Peninsula Management Plan reinstate the 100,000 sockeye salmon cap, and reinstate the maximum 24 hours continuous fishing followed by at least a 24-hour closure guideline.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Kvichak River and/or the Ugashik River will not achieve it's minimum escapement goal in the future because the North Peninsula Management Plan does not restrain the interception and possible overharvesting of Bristol Bay runs.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The Kvichak River will achieve it's minimum escapement goal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Johnson (HQ-06F-111)

PROPOSAL 214 - 5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods. The proposed change will establish a fishing season in the Northwestern District, and open periods in the Uria Bay Section by emergency order.

5 AAC 09.320. Fishing periods. ..

(b) In the Northwestern District, salmon may be taken during the [AN] open season from September 1 through September 30 [AFTER AUGUST 31] only during fishing periods established by emergency order. In the Northwestern District, before September 1, salmon may be taken [IN THE NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT ONLY] during the open season, unless modified by emergency order, except as follows:

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

ISSUE: The regulations governing commercial salmon fishing seasons and periods in the Northwestern District of Area M are different from those used in the rest of Area M. Adoption of this proposal, along with a companion proposal to amend 5 AAC 09.310 Fishing Seasons for the Northwestern District, will reduce confusion by making the regulations more like those in the rest of Area M.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Northwestern District will remain the only part of Area M without an established fishing season. Opening and closing fishing seasons by emergency order is unnecessarily confusing when all other parts of Area M have set fishing seasons and fishing periods are opened by emergency order.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Having consistent regulations will benefit everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-152)

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. This proposal seeks to allow the use of herring pounds under the requirements of a

Commissioner's Permit.

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.

ISSUE: Create regulations for the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area commercial herring fishery to govern the use of herring pounds, or similar devices, to hold live fish prior to processing. Currently, there are no regulations that define and allow commercially captured herring to be held alive in herring pounds, or other devices. This practice is allowed in the Dutch Harbor Food and Bait herring fishery (5 AAC 27.655(c)) and requirements for uses are defined under an annually issued Commissioner's Permit. Interest in using herring pounds to hold live fish prior to processing has been expressed by commercial herring fishing permit holders and processors.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvest reporting may be compromised and confusion will exist about allowable practices.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, use of pounds or other devices for holding live herring until they are processed could lead to an increased in product quality. Fish would be fresher when processed and additional steps, such as bleeding and icing, may be facilitated.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All commercial fishermen, processors, the department, and enforcement personnel, through adoption of regulations concerning herring pounds.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-146)

PROPOSAL 216 - 5 AAC 27.6XX. Registration. This proposal requires an Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area herring seine and herring gillnet permit holder to register each vessel that will be used by the permit holder.

5 AAC 27.6XX. Registration. An Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area seine and gillnet commercial herring permit holder shall register each vessel that the permit holder will use by contacting the department area management biologist in Dutch Harbor, Cold Bay, Sand Point or other place specified by the department, at least 48 hours before the season opens or before beginning commercial herring fishing.

ISSUE: Registration will facilitate the management of the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands Area commercial herring fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department would continue to manage the Alaska Peninsula-Aleutian Islands commercial herring fishing with little or no timely information on effort levels.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The department will obtain timely information to help manage herring fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo, but requiring fishermen to register with the department will assist management by making it easier to estimate effort levels in the fishery.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-147)

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

5 AAC 01.350. Description of Aleutian Islands Area. The Aleutians Islands Area includes [ALL] the waters of Alaska in the Aleutian Islands west of [THE LONGITUDE OF THE TIP OF] Cape Sarichef Light (164° 55.70' W. long.) and west of a line extending from Scotch Cap (54° 24.17' N. lat., 164° 47.60' W. long.) through the easternmost tip of Ugamak Island (54° 12.87' N. lat., 164° 46.00' W. long.), [EAST OF 172° E. LONG., AND SOUTH OF 58° N. LAT.] including the waters surrounding the Pribilof Islands.

ISSUE: The description of the eastern boundary of the Aleutian Islands Area differs between the subsistence salmon fishing regulations and the commercial salmon fishing regulations 5 AAC 12.100.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The description of the Aleutian Islands Area will differ between the subsistence and commercial salmon fishing regulations leading to confusion.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishermen, fishery managers, and enforcement personnel.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo, but modifying the boundaries in regulation will be clearer and more readily identifiable for subsistence fishermen working in these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-141)

PROPOSAL 218 - 5 AAC 01.360. Fishing seasons. This proposal would amend the regulation to allow for an extended subsistence fishing season using seine gear.

5 AAC 01.360. Fishing seasons.

(a)(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;

(a)(3) repeal [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.]

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

ISSUE: 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 sold in the commercial fishery

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Subsistence fishermen who use seine gear will continue to have limited opportunity to harvest their subsistence salmon during years with significant commercial fishing.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishermen who use seine gear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo, but modifying the subsistence fishing closure will provide more opportunity for subsistence fishing.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-142)

PROPOSAL 219 - 5 AAC 12.3XX. Registration. This proposal requires an Aleutian Islands Area salmon seine permit holder to register each vessel that will be used by the permit holder.

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

ISSUE: Registration will facilitate the management of the Aleutian Islands commercial salmon fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department would continue to manage the Aleutian Islands commercial salmon fishing based on little or no timely information

on effort levels.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The department will obtain timely information to help manage salmon fisheries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo, but requiring fishermen to register with the department will assist management by making it possible to estimate effort levels in the fishery in a timely manner.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-140)

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

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.

ISSUE: Currently, there are no regulations that define and allow commercially captured salmon to be held alive in net pens, or other devices. This practice is allowed in the Kodiak Area (Area K) and requirements for uses are defined under an annually issued Commissioner’s Permit (5 AAC 18.392). Interest in using net pens to hold live fish prior to processing has been expressed by commercial salmon fishing permit holders and processors. This proposal seeks to allow the use of net pens only under the requirements of a Commissioner’s Permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvest reporting may be compromised and confusion will exist about allowable practices.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, use of net pens or other devices for holding live salmon until they are processed could lead to an increase in product quality. Fish would be fresher when processed and additional steps, such as bleeding and icing, may be facilitated.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All commercial fishermen, processors, the department, and enforcement personnel, with clear regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-143)

PROPOSAL 221 - 5 AAC 11.3XX. Net pens and other devices for holding live, commercially-caught salmon before processing in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area. This proposal would create regulations for the Atka-Amlia Islands Area (Area F) commercial salmon fishery to govern the use of net pens, or similar devices, to hold live fish prior to processing.

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.

ISSUE: Currently, there are no regulations that define and allow commercially captured salmon to be held alive in net pens, or other devices. This practice is allowed in the Kodiak Area (Area K) and requirements for uses are defined under an annually issued Commissioner’s Permit (5 AAC 18.392). Interest in using net pens to hold live fish prior to processing has been expressed by commercial salmon fishing permit holders and processors. This proposal seeks to allow the use of net pens only under the requirements of a Commissioner’s Permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvest reporting may be compromised and confusion will exist about allowable practices.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, use of net pens or other devices for holding live salmon until they are processed could lead to an increase in product quality. Fish would be fresher when processed and additional steps, such as bleeding and icing, may be facilitated.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All commercial fishermen, processors, the department, and enforcement personnel, with clear regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-145)

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

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.

ISSUE: Currently, there are no regulations that define and allow commercially captured salmon to be held alive in net pens, or other devices. This practice is allowed in the Kodiak Area (Area K) and requirements for uses are defined under an annually issued Commissioner’s Permit (5 AAC 18.392). Interest in using net pens to hold live fish prior to processing has been expressed by commercial salmon fishing permit holders and processors. This proposal seeks to

allow the use of net pens only under the requirements of a Commissioner's Permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvest reporting may be compromised and confusion will exist about allowable practices.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, use of net pens or other devices for holding live salmon until they are processed could lead to an increase in product quality. Fish would be fresher when processed and additional steps such as bleeding and icing may be facilitated.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All commercial fishermen, processors, the department, and enforcement personnel, with clear regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06F-148)

PROPOSAL 223 - 5 AAC 09.330. Gear. Amend this regulation to include:

(f) No more than two setnet CFEC permit holders with aggregate limits of set gillnet gear can be aboard a salmon fishing vessel in Area M.

ISSUE: This would allow a registered commercial fishing vessel in Area M to have two CFEC set gillnet permit holders with total aggregate limits of gear on board.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Safety concerns could arise for young setnet permit holders in adverse weather or long travel distances.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Setnet permit holders will be able to fish off boats that have ice and RSW instead of skiffs which do not.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Setnet families who invest and participate in the Area M salmon fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Make it legal for one vessel to be able to tow another permitted vessel. It would be harder and a skiff would be too heavy for long distances.

PROPOSED BY: James Smith (SC-06F-008)

PROPOSAL 224 - 5 AAC 12.XXX. Aleutian Islands. Establish a super-exclusive registration area as follows:

The Krenitzin Islands sub-portion of Area M will be a super-exclusive registration area, limited to a small number of CFEC limited entry gillnet permits, three drift and seven set gillnet

permits. Salmon may be taken only from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. seven days a week, May 15 to June 25. Vessels may not exceed 42 feet overall. Gear specifications and operations: set gillnets may be no more than 100 fathoms in length; the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by a CFEC permit holder may not be more than 200 fathoms; no more than two gillnet sites may be operated by a permit holder; a set gillnet must be operated in a substantially straight line, with no more than the 25 fathoms of the offshore end may be set in any configuration; there is no maximum nor minimum mesh size; the maximum depth of a set gillnet may not exceed 90 meshes; 25 fathoms of seine webbing may be used as a lead, and must be attached to the shoreward end of the lead or gillnet must be attached to the beach above high tide; during hours of darkness, each set gillnet must be marked with at least one red light on seaward end of the net.

The aggregate length of drift gillnets on a salmon fishing vessel shall be no more than 200 fathoms in length; no drift gillnet may exceed 90 meshes in depth; drift gillnet mesh size maximum of no more than five and a half inches, minimum mesh size of no less than five inches.

ISSUE: The residents of Akutan are attempting to expand participation in local fisheries. The CDQ group APICDA, has provided funds to purchase halibut quota shares and assisted in purchasing larger vessels than the skiffs which have been used. Our access to halibut and ground fish resources in our area is limited. We need access to more resources in order to successfully participate in commercial fishing ventures.

We would like the board to establish a super exclusive sub-portion of Area M, structured something like what was approved and implemented in the Atka-Amlia islands (Area F) several years ago.

Gear would be limited to set gillnet and drift gillnet, to be fished on vessels that do not exceed 42 feet. Gear specifications and operations would include, set gillnets must be no more than 100 fathoms in length ; the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by a CFEC permit holder may not may not be more than 200 fathoms; no more than two gillnet sites may be operated by a permit holder, a set gillnet must be operated in a substantial straight line, with no more than 25 fathoms of the offshore end may be set in any configuration; there is no maximum nor minimum mesh size; the maximum depth of a set gillnet may not exceed 90 meshes; 25 fathoms of seine webbing may be used as a lead; and must be attached to the shoreward end of the set gillnet; the shoreward end of the lead or set gillnet must be attached to the beach above high tide; during hours of darkness, each set gillnet must be marked with at least on red light on the seaward end of the net. The aggregate length of drift gillnets on a salmon fishing vessel shall be no more than 200 fathoms in length; no drift gillnet may exceed 90 meshes in depth.

Other portions of Area M already allows this type of gear to be fished. However the eastern Aleutians have not been authorized to do so. To simplify this process the board could simply adopt the rules and regulations set forth in another Area M districts and apply them to the Krenitzins.

This would allow a small number of Alaskan residents, who live within the boundaries, an opportunity to participate in a sustainable salmon fishery. The CFEC would then have to determine the number of limited / interim type permits that would be allowed. It has been proposed, to ask CFEC to consider issuing three drift and seven set gillnet permits maximum.

The area would encompass the statewater three mile limit around the Krenitzins from the east

end of Tigalda Island in Unimak pass at 165.00.00W. long., to the Baby Islands in Akutan pass at 166.05.00W. long. as a separate salmon net registration area.

The fishery would be limited to May 15 through June 25. Local knowledge has shown that these dates would have little or no impact on the resource and local stock biomass.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There would be continued lack of opportunity for local harvesters to participate in a local salmon fishery, with the accompanying loss of harvestable resource and revenues to the local economy.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Any salmon harvested as a part of this program will be processed in conformance with the Aleutia brand quality standards.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local Krenitzin Island residents if adopted as a super-exclusive designation would likely discourage non-local residents from participating in the proposed fishery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Based solely on the Krenitzins population, this proposal would have a minor effect on resources and other users based on the amount of fish harvested and species composition.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The board might consider establishing an experimental fishery to analyze stock composition through scale analysis, via a commissioner permit. This could be a short term viable alternative, but a local salmon fishery is the only real long term program that can meet the social and economic needs of Akutan.

PROPOSED BY: Akutan Fisheries Association (HQ-06F-027)

PROPOSAL 225 - 5 AAC 65.020. Bag limits, possession limits, and size limits for Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Area. Amend this regulation as follows:

The regulations regarding the king salmon salt water sport fishing limit should be the same as the chinook salmon salt water sport fishing limits Kodiak, Alaska.

ISSUE: Salt water king salmon limit. Sport fishing for the Aleutian Islands.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Under utilization of the resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Gerald Swihart (HQ-06F-017)
