

Amend the Dolgoi Island Area Salmon Management Plan

Proposal: Amend the current management plan covering the Dolgoi Island area (geographically specified in the 2012 WASSIP Study (stat areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 283-26, and 284-36 thru 284-42)) to provide fishing opportunity on local pink and chum salmon stocks while ensuring that the area is regulated to prevent an excessive pre July 26th harvest of non-local fish, namely on Chignik bound sockeye salmon. The regulation would read: The Department shall manage the Dolgoi Island area fishery pre July 26th to where fishing in the Dolgoi Island area (specified above) will close when fish ticket records first tabulate to a sockeye harvest of over 120,000 fish. Except that after July 9th, the area north of a line from Moss Cape to Cape Tolstoi may open for local-stock harvest irrespective of the 120,000 sockeye restriction.

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

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

While the Dolgoi Island fishery should be regulated to prevent an excessive harvest of non-local sockeye especially when Chignik sockeye salmon are most vulnerable to the fishery, it is important not to dismiss the need to provide harvest opportunity on local pink and chum stocks in particular the Pavloff Bay stocks. The proposal as presented is intended to meet these goals.

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

Who is likely to Benefit: Chignik and other non-local impacted fisheries by excessive, unregulated Dolgoi Island area fishing on sockeye salmon in the pre July 26th fishery.

Who is likely to Suffer: Area M fishers to the extent that the Dolgoi Island area fishery would close south of a line from Moss Cape to Cape Tolstoi when fish ticket records first tabulate to a pre July 26th sockeye salmon harvest of at least 120,000 sockeye salmon.

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

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