

Evidence, as attached,

of the Department's willingness to impose a FORMAL registration requirement for the Eastern District in the Chignik Management Area and further, that the probable cost of a landing requirement for the SEDM would not result in an additional direct cost.

See the 2nd page of Proposal 25 (attached) as submitted by ADF&G in 2008.

Submitted by: George Anderson

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 15.357(c)(1). Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would amend the regulation where the Eastern District in the CMA is always open concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central districts during June.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? During June, the commercial salmon fishery opens concurrently with the Chignik Bay, Central and Eastern districts, and the openings are based on achieving the Black Lake sockeye salmon escapement goals.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED? This proposal, if adopted, would allow ADF&G to better document effort and manage the fishery by opening or closing the Eastern District independently from the Chignik Bay and Central districts when Black Lake sockeye salmon escapement objectives are achieved.

Proposed regulatory language as follows:

5 AAC 15.357 (c). Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan. (1) during June, the commercial salmon fishery may [SHALL] open concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central districts, and the openings shall be based on achieving the Black Lake sockeye salmon escapement goals;

BACKGROUND: The current regulation opens the Eastern District concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central districts during June. Historically, the majority of fishing effort in the Eastern District occurs during June, when fishers are targeting early-run Chignik River sockeye salmon as they enter the CMA. However, given the remote location and reduction in fleet size, fishing effort in the Eastern District can be sporadic, and ADF&G often does not know the amount of effort occurring in this district. Early season management actions rely heavily on commercial harvest information from the Eastern District and other outlying locations as this is often the best indication of sockeye salmon run timing and magnitude. Consequently, obtaining accurate and timely fishery information is necessary for effective management during June. Opening the Eastern District upon request would allow ADF&G to better document effort, track and obtain fishery performance data, and make informed decisions.

Post June, the Eastern District is managed independently of the Chignik Bay and Central districts based on ADF&G's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks as well as sockeye salmon returning to the Chignik River.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: ADF&G submitted this proposal in an attempt to obtain accurate and timely fishery information from Eastern District fishers, which is necessary for effective management of the Black Lake sockeye salmon run during June. ADF&G has successfully used similar strategies of opening the Eastern, Western, and Perryville districts, upon request, when salmon are in excess to escapement requirements during the

CMA salmon season, when effort is low or sporadic. However, after discussing this proposal with the public, ADF&G is considering an amended version of this proposal which may provide the desired outcome without changing a long standing regulation.

Proposed amendments as follows:

- 1) Require fishers to formally register with the local ADF&G management staff prior to harvesting salmon in the Eastern District.
- 2) Require salmon tenders in the Eastern District to report commercial fish ticket harvests to the local ADF&G staff within 24 hours after delivery from individual harvesters.
- 3) Develop an informal agreement between fishery stakeholders and ADF&G which specifically outlines the methods and means for directly reporting Eastern District harvests to ADF&G management staff in a timely manner. This agreement would be implemented at the annual ADF&G/industry pre-season stakeholder meeting in Chignik.

ADF&G asks for guidance from the BOF to further develop this proposal such that public concerns are addressed while still allowing for the desired harvest information requested by ADF&G.

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.