

PROPOSAL 176 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Amend Southeastern District Mainland commercial salmon set gillnet fishery season opening times and fishing periods, as follows:

Reestablish the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) set net fishery beginning June 6, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. three days later; commercial fishing will then close for 32 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. two days later;

a) notwithstanding of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 10:00 p.m. July 25.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Modify the Southeastern District Mainland Management Plan to establish fishing periods for the set net fleet from June 6 through July 25.

Reestablish the SEDM set net fishery to be 88 hours fishing and 32 hours off continuously starting June 6 at 6:00 a.m. until June 9 at 10:00 p.m. for 88 hours open and 32 hours closed then opened again June 11 at 6:00 a.m. for another 88 hours and closed 32 hours continuously this schedule until July 25th managed under its own system, for the set netters. Due to political pressures from outside the area the set net fleet has been squeezed out of fishing on the mainland onto less productive sites on the islands overcrowding and reducing catches to a point where viability is uncertain.

While Chignik fishermen realized historic returns in 2011 despite continuous fishing in the SEDM by the set net fleet only we realized moderate returns with no obvious effect on Chignik. 2014 we weren't able to fish on the SEDM while Chignik continued to harvest great catches of salmon.

Because of the recent high catches of salmon in the Chignik area and the less impressive SEDM catches there should be new valuable information to be calculated into the SEDM management plan. Considering this proposal only asks for what has been in place before in this area, fishing time this area originally had, it should not be too hard to simplify the plan into its own SEDM Management Plan, minus the political distractions. This proposal would be very similar to the reinstatement of the June Shumagin Island fishery.

If nothing is changed the local set net fishermen will continue to be denied access to historical fishery areas, which is affecting the viability of set netting in the area and continues to overcrowd in the islands. The value of the permits will diminish in value along with the viability of the set net fishery as the islands have a few good producing sites to be shared by too many.

No one will suffer if this proposal is passed. After the 2011 season which Chignik area realized massive returns and to this day yearly continue to have great catches and returns, the SEDM didn't see any spectacular fish runs in the area proving beyond a doubt the management plan for SEDM is seriously compromised and needs a serious overhaul in order for the once profitable historic fishery to be returned to the set net fishermen.

Other solutions I considered was asking the board to put an L on my permit card right alongside Area M, if we are going to be managed under Area L regulations then we should be able to also set net in Area L. My immediate goal is to have the board seriously consider my proposal more than a cursory examination and to take into account the fact that SEDM set netters have had undo hardships put upon us, from previous board decisions and have in effect been squeezed out of a historic and traditional fishery, which has resulted in the devaluation of the permits, our business and sites that we have fished for well over 60 years. It is our desire as set netters to once again realize and obtain the SEDM fishery that has been historically and traditionally fished by ourselves, our parents and our grandparents well before statehood with an ultimate goal to sustain a living and pass down this fishery to our children and grandchildren, our future generation of fishermen.

PROPOSED BY: Jack R. Foster Jr and Amy M. Foster (EF-C15-054)

PROPOSAL 177 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Revise the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear concurrent to the Chignik Area commercial sockeye salmon fishery, as follows:

Conduct concurrent fishing periods between Area L (Chignik) and Southeast District Mainland (SEDM).

- a) the elimination of the harvest of 300,000 red salmon in the Chignik area before set net fishermen in the SEDM can harvest salmon;
- b) to fish concurrently while Area L (Chignik) fishermen are fishing Area M set net fishermen are fishing in the SEDM area;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The SEDM Salmon Management Plan guidelines are currently being based on a fictitious assumption that 20% of the fish caught in the SEDM are local stocks, while the other 80% are Chignik bound. This 80% figure needs to be eliminated from the SEDM Management Plan. SEDM set net fishermen are only allowed to harvest 7.6% of what Chignik fishermen harvest. Before any fishermen in the SEDM can harvest any fish Chignik fishermen have to harvest a minimum of 300,000 red salmon before we can begin to put our nets in the water and harvest our local stock of red salmon.

We rarely catch or come close to catching the 7.6 allocation, which is a low number for a historical fishery. We seldom fish on the SEDM because of the restrictions set forth upon the fishery. This allocation needs to be eliminated. 2014 fishermen in the SEDM weren;t allowed to harvest any salmon in the SEDM area and are being denied access to their historical fishery which is affecting the viability of set netting in the area. The harvest of 300,000 red salmon in the Chignik area before set netters on the SEDM can harvest salmon needs to be eliminated and done away with.

When Chignik area fishes, we as set netters would like to fish at the same time on SEDM District.

PROPOSED BY: Jack Foster Jr. & Amy M. Foster (EF-C15-070)

PROPOSAL 178 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. In the Southeastern District Mainland establish weekly fishing through July 10 for set gillnet gear and from July 11 through July 25 establish 48 hour open fishing periods and closures for set gillnet and purse seine gear, as follows:

Modify the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Management Plan to establish weekly fishing periods from June 10 through July 10 for set gillnet gear and from July 11 through July 25 establish 48 hour openings followed by 48 hour closures for both set gillnet and seine gear.

From June 10 through July 10 the SEDM will be open for set gillnets four days followed by three days closed per week. From July 11 through July 25 will be open 48 hours followed by 48 hour closures for set gillnet and seine gear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lost fishing opportunities in the SEDM of Area M.

PROPOSED BY: John A. Foster (EF-C15-081)

PROPOSAL 179 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Amend the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to establish that 40 percent of the sockeye salmon taken in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay sections are considered to be of Chignik River origin, as follows:

5 AAC 09.360(f) is amended to read:

...

(f) The estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River has been determined to be **40%** [80%] 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.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Genetic Stock Assessment for the SEDM indicated the actual percentage of Chignik bound salmon caught in the SEDM is lower than 80%.

PROPOSED BY: John A. Foster (EF-C15-083)

PROPOSAL 180 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Require all salmon harvested in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery to be landed within the Southeastern District, as follows:

All salmon harvested in the Southeastern District Mainland through July 25 must be landed in the Southeastern District Mainland. No vessel that has landed salmon under the Southeastern District Mainland may have salmon on board when more than one mile outside the Southeastern District Mainland with the following exceptions: (1) a vessel that has landed salmon in the Southeastern District Mainland may have on board up to 50 salmon for personal use, if the salmon have been headed and gutted; (2) a boat may transport salmon landed in the Southeastern District Mainland, not covered under exception (1) above, beyond the Southeastern District Mainland provided a fish ticket is completed in accordance with AS 16.05.671 provisions and before exiting the Southeastern District Mainland. The commissioner may waive the requirements of this section when necessary.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? An incentive to underreport sockeye salmon harvested in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery exists. With RSW standard equipment in the seine fleet, extra value paid for dock deliveries in Sand Point, knowledge that the SEDM fishery is regulated on the number of fish harvested, and concurrent fisheries taking place not limited by an allocation therein lies opportunity and an enticement to misreport.

The importance of accurate accounting of sockeye salmon harvested under the Southeastern District Mainland Management Plan is clear. The Southeastern District Mainland fishery is linked to the Chignik and the Cape Igyak fisheries. All three work under a joint allocation scheme, and therefore it is important that no one area or fishery take the liberty of not completely reporting harvest numbers. There is also importance in making certain that stock assignments are

as accurate and precise as possible for the purpose of run reconstruction which serves for forecasting and spawner–recruit analysis. Other advantages exist too. Tightening catch reporting standards in the Southeastern District Mainland is consistent with the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy for the State of Alaska: 5 AAC 39.222, Section 3 *salmon management* (i)“*management should incorporate procedures to assure effective monitoring, compliance, control, and enforcement.*”

In accordance, the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan should be amended to provide a landing requirement on the salmon harvested in that fishery. While not expected, at times tender services in the SEDM may not always be available or may be inconvenient. Further, many seiners may prefer a Sand Point delivery because of the price incentive for a dock delivery. It is therefore reasonable that a landing requirement regulation provide a means for legal deliveries to be made outside SEDM waters. Such can be accomplished by AS 16.05.671 *Transportation and sale of certain fish by an agent of the fisherman who caught the fish*. Under this statute a fisherman could easily obtain blank fish tickets to transport SEDM harvested salmon outside the area including Sand Point.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-036)

PROPOSAL 181 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. Repeal the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin June Salmon Management Plan is amended to read:

Repealed

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Close commercial salmon intercept fishery, for conservation of Yukon Kuskokwim salmon.

AS 16.05.251 Regulations of the Board of Fisheries (a)(2).

PROPOSED BY: Jesse Foster (EF-C15-030)
