

PROPOSAL 52 - 5 AAC 18.355. Reporting requirements. Require commercial salmon fishermen to register prior to fishing in the Cape Igvak Section and check out upon leaving the section, and require tender operators to report fish ticket harvest data within 12 hours of taking a delivery, as follows:

1. Require Igvak fishermen to register by phone or radio with the local ADF&G management staff prior to harvesting salmon in, and upon leaving, the Cape Igvak Section from June 1 – July 25; and / or
2. Require salmon tenders in the Cape Igvak Section to report commercial fish ticket harvest data to the local ADF&G staff within 12 hours after delivery from individual fishermen.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? An incentive to underreport sockeye salmon harvested in the Cape Igvak Section exists. With RSW now standard equipment in the seine fleet, the overall increase in vessel size of the seine fleet, the knowledge that the Cape Igvak fishery is regulated on the number of fish harvested, and concurrent fisheries taking place not limited by an allocation, there is ample opportunity and a strong economic enticement to misreport. The importance of accurate accounting of sockeye salmon harvested under the Cape Igvak Management Plan is clear. The Cape Igvak fishery is linked to the Chignik and the SEDM 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 determining early run timing and magnitude for Chignik, as the department has stated on record in the past that, “early season management actions (in Chignik) rely heavily on commercial harvest information from the Eastern District and other outlying locations as this is often the best indication of sockeye run timing and magnitude.” Ensuring accurate catch numbers in the Cape Igvak Section would allow the department to better document effort and obtain accurate and timely fishery performance data, which is necessary for effective management of the Black Lake sockeye run during June. Further, tightening catch reporting standards in the Cape Igvak Section 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.”

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