Subsistence Salmon Fishery in Chignik Management Area (Area L)

ADF&G STAFF ORAL PRESENTATION
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

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Division of Subsistence

Oral Report: RC 3 - Tab 7
Staff Comments: RC 2
Additional Report: TP-390
Positive customary and traditional use findings by the Board of Fisheries:

- The Board has made positive C&T and ANS findings for the following fish stocks:
  - Aleutian Islands Area Salmon
  - Aleutian Islands Other Finfish
  - Alaska Peninsula Area All Finfish
  - Chignik Area Salmon and Other Finfish

- Salmon and other finfish are the largest portion of wild resource harvests in all communities in these areas.
Chignik Management Area (Area L)
Population of communities of the Chignik Management Area, 1980–2018

- 1980: 515
- 1990: 517
- 2000: 456
- 2010: 362
- 2018: 354
Subsistence salmon harvest and use assessment, customary and traditional use research methods in Chignik Management Area

- Annual subsistence permits
- Periodic post-season household harvest surveys in CMA communities
- Other subsistence research projects
CMA Subsistence Salmon Permit

- Individual permits required to subsistence fish.

- Issued by local community vendors and at ADF&G weir.

- Limit = 250 salmon per permit. Another permit may be issued if needed.

- Harvest report returned to ADFG by December 31.

- Local residents may also obtain a federal subsistence permit.
Waters closed to subsistence fishing in the CMA (State Regulation 5 AAC 01.475)

- Black Lake or any tributary to Black Lake*

- All tributaries to Chignik Lake, except allowed in the lower 1 mile reaches of Clark River and Home Creek

- Chignik River: Closed only from July 1–August 31, 300 feet above the Chignik weir to Chignik Lake.

* Federal permit holders may fish in any waters within or adjacent to any federally controlled waters that includes Chignik Lake, Black Lake, and their tributaries.
Subsistence salmon harvest assessment methods in Chignik Management Area

- Postseason household surveys
- Other subsistence research projects
CMA subsistence salmon fishery and harvest estimates
Harvest Patterns for Early-Run Sockeye Chignik Watershed

- Harvests of early-run sockeye occur primarily in early June in Chignik Lagoon and Chignik Lake using seines and gillnets.

- Families often harvest early-run sockeye before the first commercial opening, and smoke and can fish before weather gets too warm and flies arrive.

- Salmon are processed by smoking, freezing, salting or canning, and drying.
Harvest Patterns for Late-Run Sockeye Salmon
Chignik Watershed

- Late-run sockeye are harvested in Chignik Lagoon, Chignik River, Chignik Lake, Clark River, and Home Creek (July through January).

- Occasionally harvested in other tributaries in Chignik Lake.

- When starting to spawn, locally referred to as “redfish” or “spawned-outs.”

- Drying best during cool dry weather, no flies but sometimes improvising is necessary.

Seining for redfish, near mouth of Clark’s River, Chignik Lake in November month.
Harvest Patterns for Coho, Pink and Chum Salmon in Perryville Area

Perryville family fishing for chum, and silvers in Humpback Bay in fall time.

Drying coho salmon in Perryville
Harvest Patterns - King Salmon

- Obtained more from home pack than subsistence.

- Harvested with gillnet or seine but primarily with rod and reel in Chignik River, Perryville off beach.

- Processed by smoking, kippering, and canning.
Percentage of subsistence salmon harvest, Chignik Management Area, by residence of permit holder

- Residents of Chignik Management Area communities
- Other Alaska residents

[Bar chart showing the percentage of total salmon harvest by year for residents of Chignik Management Area communities and other Alaska residents. The chart indicates a high percentage of subsistence harvest by residents, with a slight increase in other Alaska residents over the years.]
Composition of subsistence harvest of salmon by species, Chignik Management Area

**1993–2017**

- **Sockeye**: 73.8%
- **Coho**: 14.5%
- **Chum**: 8.6%
- **Pink**: 2.1%
- **King**: 1.0%

*N = annual average*

**2014–2017**

- **Sockeye**: 80.6%
- **Coho**: 11.8%
- **Chum**: 1.7%
- **Pink**: 4.7%
- **King**: 1.2%

*N = annual average*
Percentage of salmon harvested for home use by fishery and gear type, CMA communities, 3-year average, 2014–2016

- Subsistence nets and seines: 79%
- Removed from commercial harvest: 18%
- Rod and reel: 3%
Customary and Traditional Uses (C&T) and Amounts Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) for communities in the Chignik Management Area

- **1993:** Positive C&T finding, establishment of ANS for salmon [5 AAC 01.466(a),(b)].

- **2002:** The Board modified the original ANS as follows:
  - Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern districts combined:
    - 5,200–9,600 early-run sockeye salmon (harvests through 9/15)
    - 2,000–3,800 late-run sockeye salmon (harvests after 9/15)
    - 100–150 king salmon
    - 400–700 salmon other than sockeye or king salmon
  - Perryville and Western Districts combined:
    - 1,400–2,600 coho salmon
    - 1,400–2,600 salmon other than coho
Estimated subsistence harvests of early-run sockeye salmon, Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern districts combined, compared to ANS range

- Harvest before July 5
- Harvest July 5 through September 15

Year
- 1993: 10,543
- 1994: 6,527
- 1995: 8,843
- 1996: 4,982
- 1997: 4,957
- 1998: 6,804
- 1999: 6,937
- 2000: 7,767
- 2001: 8,996
- 2002: 6,541
- 2003: 5,958
- 2004: 4,506
- 2005: 6,716
- 2006: 6,250
- 2007: 6,060
- 2008: 5,213
- 2009: 8,425
- 2010: 5,851
- 2011: 4,951
- 2012: 3,811
- 2013: 6,392
- 2014: 5,668
- 2015: 3,847
- 2016: 10,376
- 2017: 6,804
- 2018: 6,937

Upper ANS amount: 9,600
Lower ANS amount: 5,200
Estimated subsistence harvests of late-run sockeye salmon, Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern districts combined, compared to ANS range

- Harvest after September 15
- Harvest July 5 through September 15

Upper ANS amount (3,800)
Lower ANS amount (2,000)
Subsistence harvests of late-run sockeye salmon, Chignik Lake subarea (upstream of Mensis Point)

- Harvest after September 15
- Harvest from July 5 through September 15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Harvest after September 15</th>
<th>Harvest from July 5 through September 15</th>
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Number of fish

Year

24
**Proposal 147:** which if adopted would reduce the inriver goal for sockeye salmon above the Chignik River weir for August and September.

The department’s position is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal; consider revising ANS findings
Summary

- Salmon and other finfish are the largest portion of wild resource harvests in all CMA communities.

- The Board has made positive C&T and ANS findings for Chignik Area Salmon and Other Finfish in 1994 and revised in 2002.

- There are two distinctive use patterns for early and late run sockeye

- Subsistence harvests of **early-run sockeye** were **below the ANS** in the Chignik Bay District in 2004, 2012, 2014, and 2018

- Subsistence harvests of **late-run sockeye** were **below the ANS** in the Chignik Bay District and has **only been met one year (2007)** since 2002, the year the ANS finding was modified.
Summary—continued

- 2018 – subsistence harvest data are preliminary but total salmon and sockeye estimated harvests are lowest on record since 1983.

- All species harvested in 2018 are lower than recent and historic averages.

- Some residents have reported they had difficulty obtaining enough salmon in 2018.
Acknowledgements

- Residents, Tribal Councils, of:
  - Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, and Perryville
- Bristol Bay Native Association, Cody Larson
- USFWS, Office of Subsistence Management
- ADF&G
  - Division of Commercial Fisheries
  - Division of Subsistence
  - Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund

Questions?

Chignik Lake boy offers to share a piece of dried “spawned-out” or redfish