STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE CHIGNIK COMMUNITY

- BBEDC supports the efforts of the Chignik communities in rebuilding the sockeye salmon runs that originate in the Chignik-Black Lakes system that drain into Chignik Lagoon.
- BBEDC supports, in concept, those Alaska Peninsula proposals that restrict fisheries that intercept Chignik-origin sockeye salmon, such as, Proposals 128, 134, 135, 136, 137, and 138.
- BBEDC opposes, in concept, those Alaska Peninsula proposals that liberalize fisheries that intercept Chignik-origin sockeye salmon, such as, Proposals 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 139, 140, 141, 142, and 143.

PROPOSAL 135

Proposed by:
Fairbanks Fish and Game AC

Repeal and replace the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan so that the plan is similar to that in effect from 2001 to 2003.
PROPOSAL 135
5 AAC 09.365, South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan
What Would This Proposal Do?

• This proposal would:
  1. reduce seine and drift GN fishing time by 59%, from 352 hours to 144 hours; and
  2. reduce set GN time by 19%, from 416 hours to 336 hours.

PROPOSAL 135

SUPPORT

• Bristol Bay sockeye salmon contributes a substantial percentage to the harvest of all Districts within the South Peninsula June fisheries.
• During the WASSIP Years, this fishery harvested an average of over 1M Bristol Bay-origin salmon.
• During the WASSIP years, this fishery harvested an average of 140K salmon Chignik-origin salmon, with an associated average harvest rate of approximately 7%.
• Area M fishermen continually seek to increase fishing time and area in all fisheries of the Alaska Peninsula.
• Reduced fishing time with windows where no fishing gear is in the water will allow discrete stocks of fish to move through the fishery.
PROPOSAL 135

SUPPORT

- BBEDC supports, in concept, those Alaska Peninsula proposals that restrict fisheries that intercept Chignik-origin sockeye salmon, such as, Proposals 128, 134, 135, 136, 137, and 138.

PROPOSAL 144

Proposed by:
Lower Bristol Bay AC
What would this proposal do?

When the preseason Bristol Bay sockeye salmon forecast is 30 million fish or less, this proposal would close commercial salmon fishing from 1.5 nm to 3 nm in the Outer Port Heiden and Ilnik sections and reduce the size of this section.
It is my understanding that the intent of the Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee was to have the Proposed Northern OPH Boundary line on the latitudinal line, not the longitudinal line. As portrayed by ADF&G, the longitudinal boundary line opens a triangle-shaped open area above the latitudinal line. This area may be congested with fishermen attempting to get as north as possible to intercept Bristol Bay-origin salmon.

This would provide management with a tool to conserve Bristol Bay-origin salmon in a more timely manner.

The conservation of Bristol Bay salmon would be shared among all users who harvest Bristol Bay salmon when the runs are low.
Northern District Management Plan
5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan

- (j) In the Ilulissat Section,
  - from June 20 through July 20,
    - (A) commercial salmon fishing will be permitted in the Ilulissat Section (i) southwest of the Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Ilulissat River sockeye salmon; and
    - (ii) northeast of the Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Meshik River and Ilulissat River sockeye salmon, combined.

- (l) The Outer Port Heiden Section is open from June 20 through July 31 to commercial salmon fishing in those waters west of a line from 57° 05.52' N. lat., 158° 34.45' W. long. to 57° 08.85' N. lat., 158° 37.50' W. long. based on the abundance of Meshik River sockeye salmon.

Conservation of Bristol Bay-origin salmon when the run is <30M

- It would follow that within the Outer Port Heiden Section, as occurs in the Ilulissat Section, the harvest taken in the extreme northeastern portion of the section would most likely contain a higher percentage of Bristol-Bay origin salmon than catches near the SW boundary.
- Local knowledge indicates that most of the harvest from the Outer Port Heiden is taken near the current northeast closure line.
- Therefore, to conserve Bristol Bay-origin salmon when the preseason forecast for the Bristol Bay run is equal to or less than 30 M salmon, the area, both off shore and along the beach are restricted to increase the harvest on local stocks, particularly, Meshik River-origin salmon.
PROPOSAL 144
Recommendation: SUPPORT AS AMENDED BY BBEDC

- The Northern OPH boundary line, when the Bristol Bay run is <30M, should be on the latitudinal line from a point on shore at 56 59.68 N. lat., 158 E 40.45’ w. long.
- This reduction in OPH area that is open to fishing should be markedly reduced so that more local stocks could be harvested when the Bristol Bay-origin salmon run is low.

* Photo taken by Port Heiden resident, Gerda Kosbruk of the fleet fishing on the northern boundary of the Outer Port Heiden Section.