

Board of Fisheries, Boards Support Section  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
[dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov)



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Service Sector, At-large  
Stellar North LLC

**RE: Support ACR #2 – Allow importation of live oysters from the Pacific Coast of North America for research purposes (5 AAC 41.070)**

October 6, 2021

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) to support the Agenda Change Request (ACR) #2, submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), which will allow importation of live oysters from the Pacific Coast of North America for research purposes (5 AAC 41.070).

Formed in 1978, AFDF is dedicated to identifying opportunities common to the Alaska seafood industry and developing efficient, sustainable outcomes that provide benefits to the economy, environment and communities. In 2014, AFDF spearheaded the [Alaska Mariculture Initiative](#) with the intention of accelerating the development of mariculture (growing seaweed or shellfish in Alaska). As a result, Governor Walker created the **Alaska Mariculture Task Force** (MTF) by Administrative Order #280 and #297. I served on the MTF from 2016-2021. In 2018, the MTF completed the [Alaska Mariculture Development Plan \(Plan\)](#), followed by a more refined [Five-Year Action Plan](#) with a goal of growing a \$100 million per year mariculture industry in 20 years. The MTF produced a [Final Report to Governor Dunleavy](#) prior to its sunset date on June 30, 2021. **The MTF has previously supported the change that ACR #2 will accomplish and requested ADFG to consider submitting it to the BOF ([see page 13](#)).**

In the strategic plan to develop mariculture, dozens of research priorities were outlined as necessary actions to support growth of the mariculture industry, including oyster research. NOAA Fisheries and other researchers are interested in conducting oyster research, however, the current regulations (5 AAC 41.070) prohibit importation of live oysters for research purposes, although live oysters can be imported for commercial grow-out. It seems to be a simple regulatory oversight which can be corrected by ACR #2.

AFDF appreciates ADFG's actions to improve regulations which would allow oyster research in Alaska and support ACR #2 for these purposes.

Sincerely,



Julie Decker, Executive Director, AFDF

Cc: Sam Rabung, Director, Commercial Fisheries, ADFG



PO Box 1758

Homer, AK 99603 907-401-1372  
info@alaskashellfish.org

www.alaskashellfish.org

October 6, 2021

Board of Fisheries, Boards Support Section  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Support for ACR#2 – Allow importation of live oysters from the Pacific Coast of North America for research purposes (5 AAC 41.070)

Dear Alaska Board of Fish Members,

The Alaska Shellfish Growers Association (ASGA) supports this change to regulation (ACR #2). We see no downside to this change, only potential positives for our industry. UAS/UAF and NOAA, and possibly others, would be able to perform valuable research on oysters and oyster propagation in their lab facilities.

Thank you for approving this change.

Sincerely,

Eric Wyatt, President  
Alaska Shellfish Growers Association

Submitted By  
Andy Craig  
Submitted On  
10/6/2021 1:40:19 PM  
Affiliation



PC003  
1 of 1

Phone  
[REDACTED]  
Email  
[REDACTED]  
Address  
707 Railroad Avenue  
Cordova, Alaska 99574

Please approve ACR2 to allow for taking up the issue of import, transport, and possession of oysters for research purposes, which is currently illegal. Oysters are commercially farmed in Alaska but it is difficult to develop best practices when oysters cannot be grown for research purposes. Our growing mariculture industry needs this housekeeping measure approved.



Submitted By  
Ben Van Alen  
Submitted On  
10/5/2021 5:35:28 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
[REDACTED]

Email  
[REDACTED]

Address  
3860 Caroline Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

I recommend that the Board of Fisheries take no action on development of regulations to expand mariculture in Alaska. The Board has not been provided information on the ecological impacts that introducing plants or shellfish will have on the marine environment. The 169 page "Final Report to Governor Dunleavy" (Produced by the Alaska Mariculture Task Force, May 2021) makes no mention of the factors that limit plant and animal abundances. The report suggests, like past Comprehensive Salmon (enhancement) Plan reports suggest, that biotic abundance is limited by recruits when space and food is always the limiting factor. The report is silent on the fact that there is not a huge open niche in Alaskan waters just waiting to nourish young plants and shellfish to marketable sizes. These niches are already filled with natural/wild flora and fauna competing and cooperating for their opportunity to grow and survive to reproduce. For maricultured biota to survive, natural/wild biota must die. The environment's carrying capacity is sustained by the recycling of nutrients from dead and decaying biota. Deaths sustain life not births. When tons of maricultured plants and shellfish are harvested their tons of marine-derived nutrients are effectively removed from the nutrient cycle. This puts mariculture efforts in violation of the "sustained yield principal" for natural/wild resources that is mandated in Article VIII of Alaska's Constitution. We should never try to do something in nature, different from nature, and think it will be better than nature.

Submitted By  
Ginny Eckert  
Submitted On  
10/5/2021 6:20:54 PM  
Affiliation  
University of Alaska

Phone  
[REDACTED]  
Email  
[REDACTED]  
Address  
17101 Pt. Lena Loop Rd.  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

I am submitting comments in support of Agenda Change Request (ACR #2) to allow importation of oysters for research purposes. This change is needed to allow oysters to be imported, transported, or possessed for aquaculture purposes, including research, under terms of a permit issued by the department.

The current regulation has hampered oyster research and the shellfish industry in the state, This regulation would allow University of Alaska and other researchers statewide to conduct laboratory and field research activities with oysters.

Research has been critical to growth of the shellfish industry in other states. For example in Washington state, research has helped to grow a vibrant industry of about 250 shellfish companies that support 3,000 jobs and contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to the economy. This one small regulatory change will help Alaska's shellfish industry, currently valued around one million dollars, to get onto a level playing field. Growing shellfish like oysters is sustainable, safe, and can support Alaskan communities and local economies. Research is needed to support growth in Alaska's shellfish industry and to achieve the goal set by the Alaska Governor's Mariculture Task Force to grow a \$100 million industry in 20 years. Their [final report](#) (May 2021) outlines research needs and priorities that can only be achieved with this change in regulation.

Submitted By  
Hartney Bay Kelp Company  
Submitted On  
10/6/2021 3:53:11 PM  
Affiliation



PC006  
1 of 1

Please approve ACR2 to allow for taking up the issue of import, transport, and possession of oysters for research purposes, which is currently illegal. Oysters are commercially farmed in Alaska but it is difficult to develop best practices when oysters cannot be grown for research purposes. Our growing mariculture industry needs this housekeeping measure approved.

Submitted By  
John Whissel  
Submitted On  
10/6/2021 12:01:34 PM  
Affiliation  
Native Village of Eyak



PC007  
1 of 1

Please approve AC2 to allow for taking up the issue of import, transport, and possession of oysters for research purposes, which is currently illegal. Oysters are commercially farmed in Alaska but it is difficult to develop best practices when oysters cannot be grown for research purposes. Our growing mariculture industry needs this housekeeping measure approved.

Submitted By  
Lara Kreyling  
Submitted On  
10/6/2021 3:48:24 PM  
Affiliation



PC008  
1 of 1

Please approve ACR2 to allow for taking up the issue of import, transport, and possession of oysters for research purposes, which is currently illegal. Oysters are commercially farmed in Alaska but it is difficult to develop best practices when oysters cannot be grown for research purposes. Our growing mariculture industry needs this housekeeping measure approved.

Submitted By  
Melissa Good  
Submitted On  
10/6/2021 7:48:16 AM  
Affiliation



PC009  
1 of 1

Phone  
[REDACTED]  
Email  
[REDACTED]  
Address  
118 Trident Way  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

I am submitting this comment in support of Agenda Change Request 2 (ACR 2) to allow for live oysters to be imported, transported, and possessed from the Pacific Coast of North America to Alaska for the purpose of conducting research. (5 AAC 41.070).

Current regulation allows for the importation of live oysters for commercial purposes, but not for conducting research. This regulation has been identified by the mariculture industry in Alaska, including the governor's Mariculture Task Force and the industry led Alaska Shellfish Growers Association, and by Alaska Sea Grant as a barrier to the growth of the shellfish farming industry and to developing an Alaska specific oyster broodstock. Aquatic farming of shellfish and seaweeds has been shown to be a safe and sustainable way to support coastal economies and local communities. Research facilities in Alaska are ready to conduct work that has been identified as essential by the industry, yet are unable to do so legally.

Alaska Sea Grant (ASG) is one of 34 Sea Grant programs nationwide in the United States headquartered at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to serve statewide. Our work supports healthy coastal resources, strong economies, and vibrant communities. We do this through research, education, and outreach via Marine Advisory agents who live and work in coastal communities across Alaska. Agents work with marine harvesters and growers to establish methods to harvest, preserve, process, market, and package Alaska's marine resources. With the sunset of the Governor's Mariculture Task Force, ASG was identified to administer the newly-formed Mariculture Research and Training Center (MRTC). MRTC will focus on building partnerships and leveraging resources to facilitate and coordinate training, research and dissemination of information across disciplines, including biology, engineering, economics, marketing and food sciences. It will provide statewide access to online resources and information. We feel that without the passing of this regulation, researchers will be greatly hampered in assisting the growth of the industry and of achieving the goal of building a \$100 million dollar mariculture industry by 2038.

Submitted By  
Michael Mahoney  
Submitted On  
10/6/2021 3:51:34 PM  
Affiliation



PC010  
1 of 1

Please approve ACR2 to allow for taking up the issue of import, transport, and possession of oysters for research purposes, which is currently illegal. Oysters are commercially farmed in Alaska but it is difficult to develop best practices when oysters cannot be grown for research purposes. Our growing mariculture industry needs this housekeeping measure approved.



October 5, 2021

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Re: ACR 2 Allow importation of live oysters from the Pacific Coast of North America for research purposes (5 AAC 41.070).

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries Members:

We are submitting this letter in strong support of a regulatory change brought forward by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in response to needs voiced by NOAA Fisheries and the Alaska aquaculture industry that would allow for the importation of live oysters for research purposes into Alaska. We thank ADF&G for leading this proposal and look forward to opportunities to work together to advance the Alaska aquaculture industry in the future.

One of the key missions of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) Alaska aquaculture program is to respond to industry research needs to ensure the growth of an ecologically sustainable and economically robust shellfish and seaweed aquaculture industry in Alaska. The Alaska Shellfish Growers Association and Mariculture Task Force have highlighted oyster research needs to advance the nascent industry. In order to meet industry needs, and accomplish our mission, NOAA Fisheries researchers must be able to hold live oysters in the Auke Bay Laboratories (Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute and Little Port Walter Research Station) and Kodiak Laboratory.

In its current form, the Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC: 41.070. Prohibitions on importation and release of live fish does not allow for research on live oysters. This is a detriment to Alaska because it hinders research and development work vital to industry growth. The change in regulatory language proposed by ADF&G would allow for the transport and holding of live oysters in research facilities along with other aquaculture purposes. Therefore, we strongly encourage the Board to adopt this regulatory change.

NOAA Fisheries has the infrastructure, personnel, funding, and industry collaborations to immediately implement research on oyster husbandry, thermal tolerance, strain selection, genetic diversity, disease susceptibility, and other pressing research questions.

We strongly support this regulatory change so NOAA Fisheries researchers can get to work improving oyster aquaculture in Alaska.





Please direct any questions regarding this letter to Mariculture and Macroalgae Lead Research Biologist - Jordan Hollarsmith [jordan.hollarsmith@noaa.gov](mailto:jordan.hollarsmith@noaa.gov), or Alaska Regional Aquaculture Coordinator - Alicia Bishop [alicia.bishop@noaa.gov](mailto:alicia.bishop@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

  
*for*

James W. Balsiger Ph.D.  
Administrator Alaska Region

cc: Sam Rabung - [samuel.rabung@alaska.gov](mailto:samuel.rabung@alaska.gov)  
Garold Pryor - [garold.pryor@alaska.gov](mailto:garold.pryor@alaska.gov)



October 6, 2021

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC) to support the Agenda Change Request (ACR) #2, submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), which will allow importation of live oysters from the Pacific Coast of North America for research purposes (5 AAC 41.070).

Formed in 1989, PWSSC works to advance community resilience and the understanding and sustainable use of ecosystems. We are aware of the priorities defined by the Alaska Mariculture Development Plan. We have also recently been part of a large, integrated mariculture research proposal comprised of team members from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska Sea Grant, the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, the Native Village of Eyak, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Alaska Fishery Science Center, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. That proposal team wrestled with the challenge of how to best implement critical oyster research in Alaska in light of the prohibition of using live oysters for research purposes.

PWSSC has designed our new facilities to incorporate a running seawater system (including treated effluent), which we are currently raising funds to construct. Our location in Cordova, part of the fastest growing mariculture region in the state by number of permit applications, makes us a potentially interested future party as it pertains to conducting research using oysters. However, to do so would necessitate a regulatory change, which can be made via the adoption of ACR #2.

Thank you for seriously considering how to allow oyster research in Alaska,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katrina Hoffman".

Katrina Hoffman  
President & CEO  
Prince William Sound Science Center  
khoffman@pwssc.org

Comment to B O F For ACR 5  
WORK SESSION October 20-21, 2021



PC013  
1 of 5

Regulation SAAC 06.364 NAKNEK-KVICHAK  
District Commercial Set AND DRIFT SOCKEYE Salmon  
Fisheries Management AND ALLOCATION PLAN.

This has been a developing problem over the last few years, some years the set net allocation was in the 30 percentage. In 2021 the NAKNEK was not a above average return. So the set net allocation in the Kvichak reached 47% because of a strong Kvichak return.

By not sticking to the management plan a lot more early Kvichak bound sockeye are being harvested, resulting in the Kvichak escapement extremely slow starting. Till the middle of the season when the peak shows up.

Harvesting to many early Kvichak sockeye results in subsistence catches in ILIAMNA Lake, ~~and~~ especially six mile Lake AND Lake CLARK being poor, till the run picks up usually mid July.

2



Taking too many early Kvichak sockeye  
AFFECTS the Newhalen River - Lake Clark  
complex, as stated in the report by  
Kathleen A. Jensen AND Ole A. Mathisen

MIGRATORY STRUCTURE OF THE KVICHAK RIVER  
SOCKEYE SALMON (*ONCORHYNCHUS NERKA*)  
Escapement 1983

The report states that a lot of the early  
migrants are destined for Newhalen River AND  
Lake Clark.

By harvesting too many Kvichak sockeye early  
in the season not only AFFECTS the  
subsistence catches but it also affects  
the sport fishery AND when both gear  
groups are able to commercial fish the  
Kvichak district.

Last summer I was calling ADFG in the  
King Salmon office to keep up on the Kvichak run.  
During the middle of the season (July) when  
the escapement was building rapidly, the NAWNEK  
Kvichak manager was hesitant to open the  
Kvichak district to the DRIFT fleet,  
stating he needed a little more escapement

③



PC013  
3 of 5

IF the N/K manager had managed according to the management plan the drift Fleet would have been fishing in the Kvichak District At least 1 day earlier, most likely 2 days earlier.

This would have kept the Allocation Percentages close to what was intended.

By not managing to the Allocation Plan, AND HAVING the Kvichak set net Fleet fish AS much AS the setnetters AND DRIFTERS IN the NAKNEK section, OF the NAKNEK/KVICHAK DISTRICT Really got the Allocation out of WACK AND took A Lot Longer for the DRIFT Fleet to get INTO the Kvichak section.

Back before ALLOCATION, whenever the setnetters AND DRIFTERS fished IN the NAKNEK SECTION only, the ADFG only Let the setnet fleet fish ~~and~~ about once every other day. Untill both gear groups fished IN the Kvichak section.



By fishing in the Kvichak section to  
much early in the season also affects  
having ~~to~~ both gear groups to fish the  
NAKNEK SPECIAL HARVEST AREA. Until the  
Kvichak catches up on its escapement.

Randolph Alvarez

RANDOLPH ALVAREZ

P O Box 4012

Igiugig, AK 99613

# Migratory Structure of the Kvichak River Sockeye Salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) Escapement, 1983

Kathleen A. Jensen<sup>1</sup> and Ole A. Mathisen

School of Fisheries and Science, University of Alaska, Juneau, AK 99801, USA

## Abstract

JENSEN, K. A., AND O. A. MATHISEN. 1987. Migratory structure of the Kvichak River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) escapement, 1983, p. 101-109. In H. D. Smith, L. Margolis, and C. C. Wood [ed.] Sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) population biology and future management. Can. Spec. Publ. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 96.

Sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) in the 1983 Kvichak River spawning escapement were tagged during seven sequential periods. Recovery surveys were conducted on all known spawning grounds in the watershed to determine the migratory structure of various escapement components. The period of peak spawning varies among habitats and occurs from early August to mid-October. Recoveries from every tagging period were made in every geographic area, on every type of spawning bed, and from each temporal (early, middle, and late) spawning component. The Newhalen River-Lake Clark complex had a greater proportion of early migrants than did Iliamna Lake. However, neither the estimated mean of migratory time density or its associated variance differed significantly among various escapement components. Recoveries from schooling/spawning fish and from spent fish in three rivers indicated an overlap in the time of migration of the two groups. Live unspawned and spawning fish tagged during the first two tagging periods were mingled with spent and dying fish tagged in period 4 or later. The minimum time span of active spawning of salmon from a given tagging period ranged from 30 to 70 days. Tags from every period were observed on actively spawning fish during a 20-day span. The results showed the potential for genetic mixing between migrants from every portion of the escapement.

## Résumé

JENSEN, K. A., AND O. A. MATHISEN. 1987. Migratory structure of the Kvichak River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) escapement, 1983, p. 101-109. In H. D. Smith, L. Margolis, and C. C. Wood [ed.] Sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) population biology and future management. Can. Spec. Publ. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 96.





Chignik Bay Tribal Council

P.O Box 50

Chignik, Alaska 99564

Phone (907) 749-4018 email cbaytc@aol.com

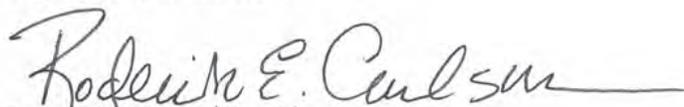
On behalf of the Chignik Bay Tribal Council, I submit this comment supporting ACR 6.

I urge the Board to accept ACR 6 so that it can consider out of cycle modifications to 5 AAC 09.365 and 5 AAC 09.366. There are conservation and sustained yield concerns with the early- and late-run sockeye salmon stocks returning to Chignik Lake and Black Lake. These concerns are demonstrated by the failure of the early run to meet its minimum escapement goal every year since 2018, and the failure of the late run to meet its minimum escapement goal for 2 of the last 4 years since 2018.

The failure of these runs has had devastating economic and cultural losses for the tribes, residents, and businesses in Area L who depend on the commercial and subsistence harvest of sockeye salmon. But, despite the obvious severity of this situation, absent Board action, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game cannot and will not change its implementation of these regulations.

The Board has the ability to help change an economically and biologically untenable situation. But, unless and until the Board acts, the commercial and subsistence fisheries in Area L will remain closed or severely limited, individuals and businesses within Area L will continue to bear the entire burden of conservation for these sockeye runs, and the present sustained yield crisis will only grow more severe. I support ACR 6 and urge the Board to do the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Roderick Carlson/ President



Alaska Board of Fisheries,

On behalf of the Chignik Lagoon Native Corporation, I submit this comment supporting ACR 6.

I urge the Board to accept ACR 6 so that it can consider out of cycle modifications to 5 AAC 09.365 and 5 AAC 09.366. There are conservation and sustained yield concerns with the early- and late-run sockeye salmon stocks returning to Chignik Lake and Black Lake. These concerns are demonstrated by the failure of the early run to meet its minimum escapement goal every year since 2018, and the failure of the late run to meet its minimum escapement goal for 2 of the last 4 years since 2018.

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The habitat and the economy of the Chignik Area is of extreme concern to our corporation and we entertain all opportunity to contribute our assistance. We welcome all suggestions on how the corporation can provide more support during these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Angela Gregorio  
Operations Manager  
Chignik Lagoon Native Corporation



## City of Chignik

PO Box 110  
Chignik, AK 99564

Phone (907) 749-2280  
Fax (907) 749-2300  
cityoffice@chignik.org

On behalf of the City of Chignik, I submit this comment supporting ACR 6.

I urge the Board to accept ACR 6 so that it can consider out of cycle modifications to 5 AAC 09.365 and 5 AAC 09.366. There are conservation and sustained yield concerns with the early- and late-run sockeye salmon stocks returning to Chignik Lake and Black Lake. These concerns are demonstrated by the failure of the early run to meet its minimum escapement goal every year since 2018, and the failure of the late run to meet its minimum escapement goal for 2 of the last 4 years since 2018.

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Robert Carpenter, Mayor

Submitted By  
Edgar J. Shangin  
Submitted On  
10/6/2021 4:40:06 PM  
Affiliation  
Ivanof Bay Tribe

Phone  
[REDACTED]  
Email  
[REDACTED]  
Address  
6407 Brayton Dr.  
Suite 201  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

On behalf of the Ivanof Bay Tribe, I submit this comment supporting ACR 6.

I urge the Board to accept ACR 6 so that it can consider out of cycle modifications to 5 AAC 09.365 and 5 AAC 09.366. There are conservation and sustained yield concerns with the early- and late-run sockeye salmon stocks returning to Chignik Lake and Black Lake. These concerns are demonstrated by the failure of the early run to meet its minimum escapement goal every year since 2018, and the failure of the late run to meet its minimum escapement goal for 2 of the last 4 years since 2018.

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Sincerely,

Edgar J. Shangin  
Council President  
Ivanof Bay Tribe

Native Village of Perryville  
101 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
P.O. Box 89  
Perryville, AK 99648

Phone: (907) 853-2203 / (907) 853-4030

Fax: (907) 853-2230

[nativevillageofperryville@outlook.com](mailto:nativevillageofperryville@outlook.com)

[perryvilleadmin@bbna.com](mailto:perryvilleadmin@bbna.com)



PC018

1 of 1

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Alaska Board of Fisheries  
PO Box 115526  
1255 W. 8th Street  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
Phone (907) 267-2354  
[dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov)

October 5, 2021

To whom it may concern;

On behalf of the Native Village of Perryville, I submit this comment supporting ACR 6.

I urge the Board to accept ACR 6 so that it can consider out of cycle modifications to 5 AAC 09.365 and 5 AAC 09.366. There are conservation and sustained yield concerns with the early- and late-run sockeye salmon stocks returning to Chignik Lake and Black Lake. These concerns are demonstrated by the failure of the early run to meet its minimum escapement goal every year since 2018, and the failure of the late run to meet its minimum escapement goal for 2 of the last 4 years since 2018.

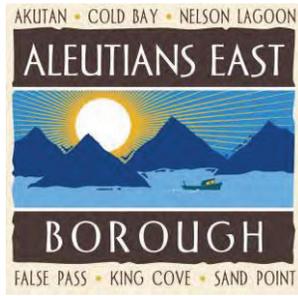
The failure of these runs has had devastating economic and cultural losses for the tribes, residents, and businesses in Area L who depend on the commercial and subsistence harvest of sockeye salmon. But, despite the obvious severity of this situation, absent Board action, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game cannot and will not change its implementation of these regulations.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerald Kosbruk".

Gerald Kosbruk,  
Council President



October 4, 2021

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Chair Märit Carlson-Van Dort  
Via email [dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov)

RE Aleutians East Borough Opposed to Agenda Change Requests 6 and 7

The Aleutians East Borough (AEB) encompasses the communities of Akutan, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, Cold Bay, King Cove and Sand Point, and the fishing areas outlined in 5 AAC 09.365 *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan*. Our local fishermen, processors and communities would be directly negatively impacted by Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) 6 & 7 submitted by Chignik residents, that would further restrict salmon fishing in our region. The AEB urges the Board of Fisheries to reject these ACRs.

The AEB Natural Resources Department (NRD) has examined ACRs 6 & 7, and after analysis, we find that these ACRs *do not* meet the standards as outlined in 5 AAC 39.999 *Policy for Changing the Board of Fisheries Agenda*. To accept an ACR, the regulation states: “The board will accept an agenda change request only - for a fishery conservation purpose or reason; to correct an error in a regulation; or to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.”

Chignik late-run and total escapement objectives were met in 2021 and the weir was pulled by August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Early Run Escapement Objective (July 30)	2021 Early Run Escapement Actual	Late Run Escapement Objective (Aug 19)	2021 Late Run Escapement Actual	Total Escapement Objective (Thru Aug)	2021 Total Run Escapement Actual (Thru 8/17)
350,000 – 450,000	264,615	190,000 – 350,000	321,154	560,000 - 830,000	585,769

Chignik escapement has remained relatively consistent since 2018 and total Chignik escapement in 2021 increased compared to the previous 3-year average. **There is no conservation purpose that would justify considering ACRs 6 & 7 as out of cycle proposals.**

The Board of Fisheries opens the 5 AAC 09.365 *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* during every regular meeting cycle, including the 2016 and 2019 meetings. The Board amended the above management plan in February 2016 establishing the Dolgoi Island Area and setting a sockeye harvest cap in the area. In February 2019 the Board closed the Dolgoi Area to seine vessels for all of June. Also in 2019, the Board realigned the set gillnet, drift gillnet and

seine gear fishing schedules in June, resulting in 73% increased hours of closed 'windows' in June with no fishing nets in the water in the South Alaska Peninsula area. Fishermen in the Chignik Management Area (CMA) have harvested salmon commercially in 3 of the past 4 years. But the Southeast District Mainland (SEDM) has remained closed to salmon fishing for the past 4 years, based on that management plan. **There have been no unforeseen effects of these or other regional fishing regulations to justify accepting ACRs 6 & 7.** South Alaska Peninsula fishermen do share in the burden of conservation for Chignik-bound salmon, which has been clearly demonstrated through a long history of restrictions both in-season and within management plans.



The Board of Fisheries should consider all submitted South Alaska Peninsula and/or Chignik proposals during the regular upcoming 2022/2023 cycle. In the interim, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) has in-season emergency management authority and has used that authority appropriately as needed. In 2018 the Board found that an emergency existed in Chignik, which only further confirmed action that had *already* been taken by the Department: closures of both the Dolgoi and Southeast District Mainland areas, through August 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 unless Chignik Lake interim escapement goals were met. ADFG has clearly demonstrated their ability to manage these fisheries in an effective and timely manner using the tools available to them.

Furthermore, there is no precedent for accepting these ACRs. Since 2017, two ACRs have been submitted from the Chignik area using the same rationale and ACR criteria – **both of which failed without support from the Department and the Board.** Proposals for the South Alaska Peninsula and Chignik should be addressed through the regular process where stakeholders submit proposals to be considered at the regular Board meeting in February 2023. The AEB urges the Board of Fisheries not to accept ACRs 6 or 7 that would further restrict salmon fishing in South Alaska Peninsula Areas to address salmon escapement concerns in Chignik. These ACRs *do not* meet the Board's standards for accepting ACRs.

The AEB Natural Resources Department is tasked with the study, investigation, and monitoring of fish, wildlife and other natural resources within the Borough, and providing assistance and guidance to other agencies to promote the protection, development, management, and renewal of these natural resources. We are committed to the sustainability of our ocean resources and fisheries. Please feel free to reach out to myself, NRD Director Ernie Weiss, or Assistant Director Charlotte Levy with any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor  
[aosterback@aeboro.org](mailto:aosterback@aeboro.org)

Cc: Ernie Weiss, AEB Natural Resources Director [eweiss@aeboro.org](mailto:eweiss@aeboro.org)  
Charlotte Levy, AEB Natural Resources Assistant Director [clevy@aeboro.org](mailto:clevy@aeboro.org)

*Alfredo About Eid  
F/V Alaskan Frontier  
P.O Box 26  
Chignik Lagoon, Alaska 99565*



Alaska Board of Fisheries  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

September 30, 2021

Subject: ACR 6 and ACR 7

Dear Board of Fisheries Members:

I recommend that the Alaska Board of Fisheries take affirmative action on ARC 6 and ACR 7.

Chignik's two sockeye salmon runs are extremely weak and escapement goals are not being met on the early run and in only two of the last four seasons on the late stock. As a consequence, there has not been any June or July sockeye fishing in the Chignik Management Area (L) since 2017. The late Chignik run has supported low level harvests in 2019 and 2021 but nothing in 2020 and 2021.

The inability of not meeting Chignik sockeye salmon escapement goals has consequences, none favorable to the perpetuation and sustainability of the Chignik runs.

I foresee further collapse of the Chignik sockeye fishery without Board intervention on the Area M South Peninsula fishery and a decree from the F&G Commissioner that the Department will apply the best science possible in assigning stock composition instead of holding to the false assumption inseason that run abundance and timing is annually static or consistent between Chignik's two sockeye runs. This is not meant to take away from the subject of a needed regulatory change in the Area M fishery for Chignik sockeye conservation, but rather to notice the Board that the Department's management of Chignik sockeye salmon needs to be brought up to today's scientific standards.

Both ARC 6 and ACR 7 speak to the need to address the Area M fishery impact on Chignik sockeye salmon. From the Department's genetic study (WASSIP) the Dolgoi Islands and the Shumagin Islands fisheries are harvest areas on east traveling Chignik sockeye from mid June through July. Currently neither area is constrained by a stock conservation provisions. In accordance, there is scant justification for keeping the entire Chignik Management Area closed due to a Chignik sockeye escapement issue **if** the South Peninsula eastern waters remain open through June and July without regard to the number of Chignik sockeye salmon taken.

To move more east-traveling Chignik sockeye salmon into Area L from the eastern waters of the South Alaska Peninsula, I recommend that, at minimum, the Board substantially reduce fishing time in the Shumagins and Dolgoi area in June and July. Absent of such, the Chignik early run may well end up as a **stock of concern** should the 2022 run not meet minimum escapement.

Thank you for considering my input as a Chignik commercial and subsistence fisherman and a full-time Chignik Lagoon resident.

Sincerely,

*Alfredo About Eid*

Submitted By  
Alvin newman  
Submitted On  
10/6/2021 10:51:06 PM  
Affiliation  
King cove resident fisher



PC021  
1 of 1

I'm asking the board to say vote no to acr 6 and acr 7 they don't meet the criteria of conservation set by the department thank you Alvin Newman .

## **Comments of Area M Seiners Association to Agenda Change Requests 6 and 7 October 6, 2021**

The Area M Seiners Association submits these comments on Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) 6 and 7, which were submitted by the Chignik Intertribal Coalition and Don Bumpus, respectively. ACR 6 seeks unspecified changes in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, 5 AAC 09.365 (June Management Plan) and the Post-June Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula, 5 AAC 09.366 (Post-June Management Plan) to restrict harvests of Chignik-bound sockeye. ACR 7 seeks specific reductions in fishing periods in the Shumagin Islands Section and the Dolgoi Islands Area in the June and Post-June Management Plans to reduce interception of Chignik early-run sockeye.

The ACRs ask the Board of Fisheries to consider these out-of-cycle changes to address Chignik sockeye escapement concerns. However, the ACRs do not meet Board policy for agenda change requests. Under 5 AAC 39.999(a)(1), the Board will, in its discretion, change its schedule for consideration of a proposed regulatory change in response to an agenda change request only for a fishery conservation purpose or reason, to correct an error in a regulation, or to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted. The Board will not accept an ACR that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of new information found by the Board to be compelling. 5 AAC 39.999(a)(2). These limitations on ACRs reflect “the importance of public participation in developing management regulations” and the Board’s recognition that “public reliance on the predictability of the normal board process is a critical element in regulatory changes.” 5 AAC 96.625(e).

The Board’s policy for management of sustainable salmon fisheries defines a “conservation concern” as a “concern arising from a chronic inability, despite the use of specific management measures, to maintain escapements for a stock above a sustained escapement threshold (SET).” 5



AAC 39.222(f)(6). “[C]hronic inability” is “the continuing or anticipated inability to meet escapement thresholds over a four to five year period, which is approximately the generation time of most salmon species.” 5 AAC 39.222(f)(5). A “sustained escapement threshold” or “SET” is “a threshold level of escapement, below which the ability of the salmon stock to sustain itself is jeopardized” and “can be estimated based on lower ranges of historical escapement levels, for which the salmon stock has consistently demonstrated the ability to sustain itself.” 5 AAC 39.222(f)(39). “[T]he SET is *lower* than the lower bound of the [biological escapement goal (BEG)] and *lower* than the lower bound of the [sustainable escapement goal (SEG)].” *Id.* (emphasis added).

Neither ACR demonstrates that there is a conservation concern that warrants an agenda change request. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game’s “Review of Salmon Escapement Goals in the Chignik Management Area, 2018”<sup>1</sup> provides the following summary of the escapement goals for Chignik’s sockeye runs and the stock’s status as of that time:

Escapement goals for Chignik River sockeye salmon were originally established in 1968, and set at 350,000 to 400,000 fish for the early run and 200,000 to 250,000 fish for the late run (Dahlberg 1968). In 1998, the BOF established a September 1–15 management objective of 25,000 fish, supplemental to the lower bound of the late-run goal, to accommodate subsistence fishers upstream of the Chignik weir. In 2004, the numerical ranges of the goals were left in place, but the goals were reclassified as SEGs because scientifically-defensible estimates of SMSY were not possible. Also in 2004, the BOF established an August management objective of 25,000 fish (in addition to the existing September management objective) to further provide subsistence opportunities upstream of the weir. In 2007, the late-run SEG was changed to 200,000 to 400,000 fish, and the two 25,000-fish management objectives were reclassified as inriver run goals (IRRG; Witteveen et al. 2007). Actual timing of adoption of the inriver goal is unclear from other documents as it was initially just a management objective that was expanded over 2 cycles (1989 and 2004), but was adopted as a formal inriver goal in 2007. In 2013 the early-run

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<sup>1</sup> K. Schaberg, M. B. Foster and A. St. Saviour, “Review of Salmon Escapement Goals in the Chignik Management Area, 2018” (ADF&G Fishery Manuscript Series No. 19-02) (Feb. 2019) (available at [Review of salmon escapement goals in the Chignik Management Area, 2018](https://www.alaska.gov/ADF&G/Fishery/ManuscriptSeries/19-02/Review%20of%20salmon%20escapement%20goals%20in%20the%20Chignik%20Management%20Area,%202018.pdf). (alaska.gov)).

goal was changed from an SEG to a BEG and the range was increased to 350,000 to 450,000 fish and the IRRG was officially put into regulation (Sagalkin et al. 2013). In 2015 no changes were made to the Chignik sockeye salmon escapement goals (Schaberg et al. 2015); however, the BOF increased the inriver goal by 25,000 fish in September. The inriver run goals are currently 25,000 fish in August and 50,000 fish in September, for a total of 75,000 fish above lower bound of the late-run SEG.

### **Stock Status**

The current Chignik River early-run escapement goal range (350,000 to 450,000) was established in 2013 and classified as a BEG. In the last 10 years, early-run escapements have been within or above (4 times) the goal every year. The late-run escapements have met the current SEG range (200,000 to 400,000), or have been above (1 time) the goal every year since implementation in 2008 (Appendix B). The IRRGs have not been met every year due to the time specific requirements, and lack of weir operation throughout the time IRRGs are in effect. The August component has been achieved in 10 of the last 12 years (not in 2011 or 2014) and the September IRRG has not been met since the escapement goal was updated in 2016 and was only achieved in 3 of the 9 years from 2007–2015 when it was from September 1-15.

### **2018 Review**

Escapements in 2015–2017 exceeded or were within the range of the early-run BEG and the late-run SEG (Table 1; Appendices B2–B4). There was no compelling new information since the last review, and the team agreed that no further analysis was necessary in 2018.

*Id.* at 6-7.

In 2019, the Board reduced the sockeye IRRG from 75,000 to 20,000 fish (10,000 fish in August and 10,000 fish from September 1-30).<sup>2</sup> Including the IRRG, the Chignik late-run SEG is now 220,000 to 400,000 fish, while the early-run BEG remains at 350,000 to 450,000 fish.

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<sup>2</sup> R. Renick, Chignik Management Area Salmon Annual Management Report, 2019 at 7 (ADF&G Fishery Management Report No. 20-11) (Nov. 2020) (citing 5 AAC 15.357(b)(3)(B)) (available at [Chignik Management Area salmon annual management report, 2019. \(alaska.gov\)](https://www.alaska.gov/ChignikManagementAreaSalmonAnnualManagementReport2019)) (hereafter, 2019 Chignik Management Report)

Since 2017, early-run escapements have been below the early-run BEG while late-run escapements continued to be within the late-run SEG except in 2020, as shown in the following table:

	Goal	2018 <sup>3</sup>	2019 <sup>4</sup>	2020 <sup>5</sup>	2021 (Preliminary, Minimum Estimates Based on Weir Counts) <sup>6</sup>
Early Run	BEG: 350,000-450,000	263,979	345,918	137,213	264,615
Late Run	SEG: 275,000-400,000 in 2018; 220,000-400,000 in 2019-2021	275,718	336,077	193,765	321,154

These data do not establish a conservation concern warranting an agenda change. Although the early run has failed to meet the BEG in the last four years, the ACRs do not show that it has failed to meet the SET, which, as noted, is lower than the lower bound of the SEG. In 2019, early-run escapement was only slightly below the BEG range, and the preliminary estimate for 2021 estimate from the weir count will likely increase based on genetic analyses. With the exception of 2020 (*i.e.*, with the exception of a single year), the early-run escapements have been at levels from

<sup>3</sup> D. Wilburn and R. Renick, Chignik Management Area Salmon Annual Management Report, 2018 at 6-7 (ADF&G Fishery Management Report No. 18-32) (Dec. 2018) (available at [Chignik Management Area salmon annual management report, 2018. \(alaska.gov\)](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/fishing/PDFs/commercial/westwardsalmon/kodiak_weir_escapement.pdf)) (hereafter, 2018 Chignik Management Report).

<sup>4</sup> 2019 Chignik Management Report at 8.

<sup>5</sup> Memorandum from N. Sagalkin to R. Renick re 2020 Chignik Salmon Season Summary at 3 (available at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/dfnewsrelease/1233998490.pdf>).

<sup>6</sup> “Kodiak Management Area and Chignik Salmon Weir Counts Cumulative Escapement through 09-14-2021” (available at [https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/fishing/PDFs/commercial/westwardsalmon/kodiak\\_weir\\_escapement.pdf](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/fishing/PDFs/commercial/westwardsalmon/kodiak_weir_escapement.pdf)).

Actual early-run escapement based on these weir counts is a minimum that is subject to change pending genetic analysis of samples during peak overlap of the early and late runs. Also, late-run escapement does not include an estimate of fish that escaped after the weir was removed on August 17.



which the stock has demonstrated an ability to sustain itself.<sup>7</sup> The late run has met the SEG in every year except in 2020, and in that year it was only slightly below the lower bound of the SEG. The ACRs do not show that, even in 2020, the late run was below the SET. Under these circumstances, the ACRs do not demonstrate the existence of a conservation concern warranting an agenda change.

Notably, the primary argument advanced in ACR 6 is that the burden of conservation is not being fairly shared because commercial fishermen in the Chignik Management Area (CMA) have had limited opportunity to harvest Chignik salmon in the 2018-2021 seasons. *See Board of Fisheries Work Session Oct. 20-21 Agenda Change Requests (ACRs)* pp. 13-14. Similarly, ACR 7 argues that under the current regulations, neither the Shumagin Islands Section nor the Dolgoi Islands Area share any measure of stock conservation on Chignik-bound sockeye and the purpose of the ACR is to provide for “a sharing in the burden of conservation.” ACRs p. 17. Thus, the ACRs seek to increase fishing opportunity in one management area by reducing or eliminating a fishery in a different management area. This is an allocation purpose, not a fishery conservation purpose.<sup>8</sup>

Even if the ACRs demonstrated the existence of a conservation problem, they would be insufficient under the Board’s ACR Policy because they do not demonstrate that the problem can be addressed by adjusting the June or Post-June Management Plans. The Western Alaska Salmon

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<sup>7</sup> Early-run escapements were between 181,112 and 334,093 each year between 1944 and 1949. They were equal or less than 265,000 fish (as in recent years) in 1925, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1954, 1956, 1958, and 1967. 2018 Chignik Management Report at 29-33.

<sup>8</sup> ACR 6 is expressly allocative in nature as it “ask[s] the Board to undertake a review of existing fishing regulations governing the harvest of Chignik Sockeye Salmon and make regulatory adjustments as appropriate to assure that the appropriate sharing of the burden of conservation is established.” ACRs pp. 13-14. ACR 6 acknowledges that “determining the appropriate sharing of the burden of conversation” has “allocative implications” that the ADFG is “concerned” about, and that “only the Board of Fisheries can resolve.” ACRs p. 14.



Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) identified total harvests, harvest compositions and harvest rates in the Area M June and Post-June fisheries in 2006, 2007 and 2008, and remains the best available data on harvest rates in the June and Post-June fisheries on Chignik origin fish. The harvest composition identifies the percentage contribution of different runs to the overall harvest in a given area or fishery. The harvest rate identifies the percentage of a total run that is harvested in a given area or fishery. For conservation purposes, the harvest rate is the more important metric; a low harvest rate indicates a low impact on the run, regardless of the percentage contribution of the run to the overall harvest in the fishery.

The WASSIP study found that the harvest rates on Chignik’s early run (Black Lake) in the June and Post-June fisheries were low. The following table presents the WASSIP data for the two areas with the June and Post-June fisheries addressed in the ACRs (the Shumagin Islands Section and the Dolgoi Island Area):

Harvest Rates on Black Lake Subregional Reporting Group in the June and Post-June Fisheries by Area Strata <sup>9</sup>						
Area Stratum	2006		2007		2008	
	June	Post-June	June	Post-June	June	Post-June
Shumagin Islands	5.4%	1.6%	2.3%	1.4%	3.7%	1.0%
Dolgoi Island	12.6%	1.6%	2.3%	2.4%	1.6%	0.4%

<sup>9</sup> C. Habicht et al., Harvest and Harvest Rates of Sockeye Salmon Stocks in Fisheries of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP), 2006-2008 at 731-33 (Appendices F64-F66) (ADF&G, Special Publication No. 12-24 (Nov. 2012)).

In response to the somewhat higher harvest rates in the Dolgoi Island Area, the Board has acted twice to restrict the fishery in that area. First, it imposed a cap on harvests from that area. During the month of June, the harvest of sockeye salmon in the Dolgoi Island Area is monitored through fish ticket information. Once the harvest of sockeye salmon reaches 191,000 fish, the waters of the West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black Point and the waters of the Volcano Bay Section close to commercial salmon fishing for the remainder of the June fishery and remain closed until July 26.

Second, in 2019, following its comprehensive review of the June and Post-June fisheries and the status of the Chignik runs, the Board closed the Dolgoi Area to purse seine gear during June.<sup>10</sup> These actions were specifically intended to reduce harvest rates on Chignik origin sockeye (including the early run) in the Dolgoi Area and the ACRs present no evidence to indicate that they have been unsuccessful in achieving that objective.

Given the otherwise low harvest rates on the early Chignik run in the June and Post-June fisheries, there is no reason to believe they have either contributed to or can ameliorate the low-run sizes in recent years. Notably, ACR 6 acknowledges that regulatory changes further restricting harvest may not be effective solutions, and that “habitat modifications” may be necessary as part of a long-term solution to salmon management challenges in the Chignik Management Area. ACRs p. 14. For example, the elevation of Black Lake has been in continual decline for decades,

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<sup>10</sup> The Board has taken other actions to reduce harvest of Chignik origin sockeye in the June and Post-June fisheries. For example, it revised the Southeast District Mainland (SEDM) Management Plan (5 AAC 09.360) so that, in years when a harvestable surplus for the early (Black Lake) and late (Chignik Lake) runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000 fish, a commercial salmon fishery is not allowed in the East Stepovak, Southwest Steopvak, Balboa Bay and Beaver Bay Sections or in the Northwest Stepovak Section excluding a portion of Orzinski Bay targeting local runs, until the Department projects that 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area. As a result of this provision, *no* Chignik River sockeye salmon have been harvested in the SEDM fishery for the past four years.

and “habitat degradation has significantly affected production of Chignik sockeye salmon.”<sup>11</sup> The significance of these and other environmental issues in the Chignik Management Area is underscored by the fact that the large majority of fish harvested in Area M are bound for areas where stocks are doing exceptionally well. The 2021 inshore Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run was the largest on record (66.1 million fish) and was 60% above the 41.3 million average run for the latest 20-year period (2001–2020).<sup>12</sup> The unique environmental issues in the Chignik Management Area cannot be addressed through further restrictions on the June and Post-June fisheries. Accordingly, the ACRs have not demonstrated a conservation concern warranting an agenda change.

The ACRs also fail to establish an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when the regulations were adopted. In February 2019, the Board thoroughly reviewed the June and Post-June Management Plans in light of the low returns to Chignik in 2018 and amended those plans accordingly. Since then, the returns to Chignik have remained relatively consistent, with higher returns and harvests in 2019 than 2018, lower returns and harvests in 2020 than 2018, and similar returns (but somewhat higher harvests) in 2021 than 2018.<sup>13</sup> Under these circumstances, the ACRs

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<sup>11</sup> Ruggerone, G.T. 2003. Rapid natural habitat degradation and consequences for sockeye salmon production in the Chignik Lakes System, Alaska. SAFS-UW-0309. University of Washington, Seattle;  
<https://digital.lib.washington.edu/researchworks/bitstream/handle/1773/4532/0309.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

<sup>12</sup> ADFG, 2021 Bristol Bay Salmon Season Summary (available at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/defnewsrelease/1337414316.pdf>).

<sup>13</sup> As noted above, in 2019 the early-run escapement was 345,918 fish, only slightly below the lower end of the BEG range of 350,000 to 450,000 fish, while the late-run escapement was 336,077 fish, well within the SEG range of 220,000 to 400,000. In addition, the 2019 runs supported harvests of 638,784 sockeye in the Chignik Management Area. In 2021, preliminary escapement estimates based on weir counts place the early-run escapement at 264,615 fish, below the BEG, and the late-run escapement at 321,151, well within the SEG, but it is likely that both numbers will increase based on genetic analyses and an estimate of escapement after removal of the weir. In addition, the 2021 runs supported harvests of 113,128 sockeye in the Chignik Management Area. See ADFG, *Chignik Inseason Commercial Harvest Estimates* (Sept. 1, 2021), <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareachignik.salmonharvestsummary>. According to the Department the low harvest was only partly due to the failure of early run: “The late run of Chignik sockeye salmon has exceeded expectations, however few permit holders have remained in the area. It is not appropriate to compare

fail to demonstrate an effect on the CMA sockeye fishery that was unforeseen when the June and Post-June management plans were reviewed and revised in 2019.

Because the ACRs do not meet Board policy for agenda change requests, they should be rejected. Instead, proposals for regulatory changes to the Alaska Peninsula and Chignik fisheries should be submitted by this coming April and considered at the regular Alaska Peninsula/Chignik finfish meeting in February 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Kiley Thompson, President

Area M Seiners Association

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sockeye salmon harvest this year to recent averages due to the low participation and lack of harvest opportunity in June and much of July.” Inseason Alaska Commercial Salmon Summary, Chignik (available at [Inseason Alaska Salmon Summary, Alaska Department of Fish and Game](#)) (last updated September 3rd, 2021).



Chairwoman Marrit Carlson-Van Dort, members of the board,

I am in support of ACR 6 and 7. In 2018 it was claimed that Chignik disaster was due to an anomaly. That idea is no longer supported as we have had multiple years of disasters. This was not something that the board nor the department saw at the time and I believe it needs to be addressed immediately as the entire Chignik area is being devastated and cannot wait for our normal cycle. The way of life and the culture in Chignik is all but lost, unless you act now; the damage is already done, please don't continue to treat Chignik like the neighboring areas personal hatchery. ACR 6 and 7, that are in front of you, I believe they will help the Chignik area, but after reading them I have recognized that there is more need for restrictions and corrective action, here are some suggestion to conserve the Chignik stocks and fishery:

- Shut down areas that are predominantly eastbound fish. If the department is unable to do so, shut down the entire South Peninsula until mid range escapement is met in the CMA.
- Create a fishery for seiners and set netters on the Northside, to stop catching of Chignik bound fish.
- Stop fishing time during early part of season, ie return to the traditional later time frames of openings from the 14th through 23rd of June
- Allocate back to the past 5 to 1 ratio, making the line for the split at Thin point or wherever it was previously at. So that more likely Bristol Bay bound fish will be caught closer to 5 to, 1 Chignik bound.
- Create a step down, step up system; allowing The South Pen to return to the current regulated fishery, after allowing passage of declining Chignik stocks and mid range escapements are achieved.

I implore you to address the situation post haste.

Sincerely,  
Benjamin Allen



# City of False Pass

P.O. Box 50 · False Pass, Alaska 99583-0050  
Telephone (907) 548-2319 · Fax (907) 548-2214

October 5, 2021

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Boards Support Section  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Madam Chair Ms. Märit Carlson-Van Dort:

The Board of Fisheries should not accept ACR 6 or 7 that would further restrict salmon fishing in South Alaska Peninsula Areas to address salmon escapement concerns in Chignik. These ACRs **do not** meet the Board's criteria for accepting ACRs.

These requests are predominantly allocative in nature and there is no new compelling information since the last Board cycle. Chignik late-run and total escapement objectives were met in 2021 and the weir was pulled early on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Total Chignik escapement in 2021 increased compared to the previous 3-year average. There is no conservation purpose to justify considering an out of cycle proposal.

The Board made significant changes to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands Management plans to address Chignik concerns at the regular meetings in 2016 and 2019.

- In 2016, the Board established the Dolgoi area and set a 191,000 sockeye cap.
- In 2019, the Board realigned the set, drift and seine June schedules resulting in an increase of 73% more hours of open waters with zero nets fishing in the South Alaska Peninsula region.
- In 2019 the Board closed the Dolgoi area to seine gear in June.

In addition, ADFG exercises in-season emergency management authority as appropriate. There is no error in regulation or unforeseen effect on the fishery. The Board should consider any South Alaska Peninsula and/or Chignik proposals during the regular upcoming 2022/2023 cycle.

Finally, South Alaska Peninsula fishermen *do* share the burden of conservation. In addition to restrictions in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands management area, fishing has been closed for the past 4 years in the Southeast District Mainland management area.

These ACRs can and will severely negatively impact the livelihood of our resident fishermen.

We urge the Board of Fisheries to not accept agenda change requests 6 and 7. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Nikki Hoblet  
Mayor



October 6, 2021

Alaska Board of Fisheries Chair  
Märit Carlson-Van Dort  
Via email [dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov)

The Board of Fisheries should not accept ACR 6 or 7 that would further restrict salmon fishing in South Alaska Peninsula Areas to address salmon escapement concerns in Chignik. These ACRs *do not* meet the Board's criteria for accepting ACRs.

Chignik late-run and total escapement objectives were met in 2021 and the weir was pulled early on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Total Chignik escapement in 2021 increased compared to the previous 3-year average. There is no conservation purpose to justify considering an out of cycle proposal.

The Board made significant changes to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands Management plans to address Chignik concerns at the regular meetings in 2016 and 2019.

- In 2016, the Board established the Dolgoi area and set a 191,000 sockeye cap.
- In 2019, the Board realigned the set, drift and seine June schedules resulting in an increase of 73% more hours of open waters with zero nets fishing in the South Alaska Peninsula region.
- In 2019 the Board closed the Dolgoi area to seine gear in June.

In addition, ADFG exercises in-season emergency management authority as appropriate. There is no error in regulation or unforeseen effect on the fishery. The Board should consider any South Alaska Peninsula and/or Chignik proposals during the regular upcoming 2022/2023 cycle.

Finally, South Alaska Peninsula fishermen *do* share the burden of conservation. In addition to restrictions in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands management area, fishing has been closed for the past 4 years in the Southeast District Mainland management area.

I urge the Board of Fisheries to not accept agenda change requests 6 and 7. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Smith".

Jim Smith, Mayor



**Concerned Area M Fishermen  
35717 Walkabout Rd.  
Homer, AK 99603**

October 6, 2021

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
P.O. Box 115526  
1255 W. 8th Street  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Re: CAMF Opposition to ACR #6 and #7

Dear Chair Carlson-Van Dort and Board of Fisheries members,

Concerned Area M Fishermen (CAMF) represents salmon drift permit holders who participate in the June South Unimak/Shumagin Island fishery, as well as in the post-June fishery in the South Unimak area. CAMF represents approximately 110 permit holders and their families. We have members residing in coastal Alaska from Dutch Harbor, King Cove, Sand Point, to the Kenai Peninsula, and also in the Anchorage Mat-Su bowl area.

CAMF opposes the adoption and scheduling of Agenda Change Request (ACR) #6 and # 7 into the 2021/2022 meeting cycle since we do not believe these requests meet any of the three criteria listed in the Board's "Policy for Changing the Board of Fisheries Agenda". The authors of the ACRs do not claim either "an error in regulation" or to "correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted" which are two of the three criteria listed.

The authors of both ACRs do claim there is a "fishery conservation purpose or reason" in light of recent poor sockeye returns to the Chignik system. However, it is important to note the Chignik system has yet to be listed as a "Stock of Concern" by the Board of Fisheries, which would seem to CAMF to be a prerequisite for a finding of a "fishery conservation" problem requiring out-of-cycle action. Further, CAMF believes the proposed remedy—restriction of fishing time in the South Peninsula fishery to the perceived benefit of the Chignik fishery—is predominately allocative in nature, and, therefore, these ACRs should instead be submitted as proposals to be considered during the Board's regular regulatory cycle in February 2023.

While the early portion of the Chignik sockeye goal was approximately 100,000 fish below its lower Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) for 2021, the late run goal was near its upper bound of 400,00 fish, and the system-wide goal for sockeye was also achieved. The 2021 run was also substantially stronger than in 2020 as well. The early sockeye run goal is a BEG, which is an estimation that maximum sustained yield (MSY) of the stock is likely between the upper and lower bounds of the goal. While the 2021 escapement is below the bottom end of the BEG, and (may) potentially affect future yield from the stock, being below the lower bound of a MSY



goal is not a “sustainability” issue as the ACRs contend, nor does it constitute a “consequence” concern. As noted in the ACRs, the low surplus production in Chignik may have more than one compounding factor. Cures for these problems, and allocative remedies for these problems, should be vetted in the normal Board regulatory process.

For these reasons, CAMF urges the Board to not adopt ACR #6 or 7.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Brown".

Steve Brown, President  
Concerned Area M Fishermen  
35717 Walkabout Rd.  
Homer, AK 99603



**From:** [Debi Schmit](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Reject ACRs 6&7  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 6, 2021 8:31:05 PM

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October 6, 2021

The Alaska Board of Fish should reject the Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) 6 and 7. There isn't a conservation purpose that justifies such an out-of-cycle proposal therefore all South Alaska Peninsula and/or Chignik proposals should be considered during the regular upcoming 2022/2023 cycle.

This year Chignik had a late run and escapement objectives were met. The weir was pulled on August 17, 2021, and Chignik's escapement increased compared to the three years prior.

At its 2016 and 2019 meetings, the Board of Fish made significant changes to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands Management plans in response to Chignik's concerns. 1) In 2016 the Dolgoi area was established with a 191,000 sockeye cap. 2) In 2019 the set, drift, and seine June schedules were realigned which resulted in nearly a 75% increase of open waters with no nets fishing in the South Alaska Peninsula region. 3) In 2019 the Dolgoi area was closed to seine gear in June.

The South Alaska Peninsula fishermen's very limited fishery shares in the burden of conservation. In addition to restrictions in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands management area, fishing has been closed for the past 4 years in the Southeast District Mainland management area.

For these reasons, I urge the Board of Fisheries to not accept agenda change requests 6 and 7.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Corey Wilson

King Cove, Alaska



**From:** [Dale Pedersen](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** ACR 6 and ACR7  
**Date:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 12:45:40 PM

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The Board of fish should not accept ACR 6 and 7 to further restrict commercial salmon fishing in area M. These two ACRs do not meet the boards criteria for accepting ACRs. Chignik late run and total escapement were met in 2021 and they pulled the weir early. Total chignik escapement in 2021 increased compared to the previous 3 year average, there is no conservation purpose to justify considering an out of cycle proposal. There has been significant changes in area M fisheries during the last two regular meetings in 2016 and 2019.

Also ADFG staff uses in season emergency management to stop us from fishing when needed as they see fit. We don't need any emergency regulations adopted that can't be addressed by emergency management.

Finally we in area M are sharing in the burden of conservation. With the recent restrictions in June and not being able to fish SEDM in at least 4 years we are indeed sharing.

I respectfully ask the Board of Fish to not consider ACRs 6 and 7.

Thanks for letting me comment,

Dale Pedersen

Sent from my iPad

Submitted By  
dwain Foster Jr  
Submitted On  
10/6/2021 3:50:21 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
[REDACTED]

Email  
[REDACTED]

Address  
box 253  
sand Point , Alaska 99661

My name is Dwain Foster jr. I am a lifelong resident of Sand Point and have participated in commercial salmon fishing for over 30 years. I am writing to you in opposition of the adoption and scheduling of ACR's numbers 6 and 7 into the 2021/2022 meeting cycle as I dont believe these requests meet the 3 criterias listed in the Boards "Policy for Changing the BOF agenda".

\*there is no consevation purpose to justify an out of cycle proposal. Chignik late run and total escapement objectives were met in 2021.

\*ADFG exercises in-season emergency management authority as appropriate. They didnt exercise that in 2021

South Peninsula fisherman do share the burden of conservation, therefore, i urge the board to not accept ACR's 6 and 7 thanks



**Ernie Carlson**  
***FV Desperado***  
**PO Box 21**  
**Chignik, AK 99564**  
**(907) 749-4042**

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Board Support Section  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

27 September 2021

Dear Board of Fisheries,

Subject: Chignik ACR's 6 and 7

As a lifelong Chignik resident and commercial and subsistence fishermen I am deeply concerned on the failure of the two Chignik sockeye runs. In particular, I am alarmed by the repeated shortfall of the early run which has not met ADF&G's targeted escapement of 400,000 or their prescribed minimum escapement goal of 350,000 in each for the last four years. This is unprecedented.

The long-term consequences of back-to-back Chignik escapements failures will expectedly produce below average runs and potentially cause long-term and lasting ecological damage at Black Lake from an in balance between juvenile sockeye numbers and their main competitor species, stickleback.

Since Statehood, Chignik sockeye salmon production has never been so poor to where escapement shortfalls are common place.

IF Chignik is to survive, relief from the Area M interception fisheries on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula must be part of the recovery. From tagging and genetic studies, we have learned that the Shumagin Islands and Dolgoi area fisheries are harvesting Chignik-bound sockeye salmon along with other transient stocks in June and July. These Area M fisheries need to be accountable for the sustainability of the runs that they impact. This includes the two Chignik sockeye runs. If the Bristol Bay stocks were repeatedly falling below their prescribed escapements would the Board of Fisheries address Area M's impact? In that situation I suspect that the Board, and rightly so, would seriously curtail fishing where Bristol Bay sockeye migrate on the south and north sides of the Peninsula. The Board should consider a similar response in those areas where Chignik sockeye are of known abundance.

Respectfully please take affirmative action on ACR 6 and ACR 7.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

***Ernie Carlson***



Eugene Anderson  
*F/V Raymar*  
1413 Ismaillov St.  
Kodiak AK. 99615

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

October 2, 2021

Subject: Chignik Sockeye Salmon Conservation-- ACR 6 and ACR 7

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Chignik's two sockeye salmon runs are failing. They need to be restored, and this cannot occur with continued under escapements. In the last four years the early run sockeye escapement has not reached the annual minimum goal even with the entire Chignik Management Area closed through July. The late run has done better but only in two of the last four years with the escapement goal being achieved.

The Chignik sockeye-salmon runs are critically important to the communities of Chignik Lagoon, Chignik, Chignik Lake, and Perryville economically and culturally. They have no alternatives. They are holding on by a thread from the persistent sockeye-run failures. These communities and other stakeholders cannot do more. Help from The Board of Fisheries is needed to improve the odds that Chignik's sockeye escapements goals will be reached. Run sustainability and conservation are on the line and asked is that the Board reduce, through regulation, the harvest of migrant Chignik sockeye salmon in the Area M South Peninsula fishery through at least the end of July. Specifically, the Board should consider requiring Area M fishers to stand down in the Shumagins and Dolgoi Area when the Chignik early-run sockeye escapement goal is below the 400,000 management goal set by F&G.

Thank for considering my input.

Sincerely, *Eugene Anderson*

*Eugene Anderson*

**Frank Kashevarof Jr.**  
**P.O. Box 52**  
**Seldovia, AK 99663**  
**(907) 351-5617**



Alaska Board of Fisheries  
*P.O. Box 115526*  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

September 26, 2021

Subject: ACR 6 and ACR 7---Chignik

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Chignik's two sockeye salmon have virtually collapsed especially the early run which has not reached minimum escapement for the last four years. That is four successive years of less than 350,000 early run fish through the Chignik River weir annually. Per ADF&G, the inseason targeted goal is 400,000, and as a consequence, ADF&G has not allowed any June or July commercial fishing in the Chignik Management Area since 2017. More of the same is projected for the 2022 season--- a probable escapement shortfall and no fishery.

The Chignik early run needs to be classified as a ***stock of concern*** with the Board taking a proactive role in limiting interception fisheries, namely in the Area M Shumagin Islands and Dolgoi Area fisheries which are recognized harvest areas of Chignik early-run sockeye salmon in June and July.

It is not too late to safeguard Chignik sockeye salmon. Please take action in accordance with ACRs 6 and 7.

Best regards,

*Frank Kashevarof Jr.*



JACK FOSTER JR/AMY FOSTER  
P. O. BOX 254  
SAND POINT, ALASKA 99661  
PH 907-383-3633

October 6, 2021

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
P. O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526  
[Dfg.bof.commnets@alaska.gov](mailto:Dfg.bof.commnets@alaska.gov)

Subject: Board Agenda Policy Changes on ACR 6 and ACR 7

Dear Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries:

I am a commercial fisherman, along with my wife and family in Area M. During the summers we are set net fishermen fishing within the Shumagin Islands. With past detrimental regulations put forth upon us especially on the historical South East District Mainland fishery, an area we haven't been able to fish the past four years and the past several decades has curtailed the SEDM fishery to near extinction.

Today, I am submitting comments on ACR 6 and ACR 7. Both these ACR's do not set forth the criteria for policy for changes to the board's agenda. Currently, there is no new evidence of information provided with escapement levels in the Chignik area in regards to escapement due to the fact that escapements have been relatively consistent the past four years with improvements in 2021. In the past, Board actions were addressed; in 2019 for conservation on the Chignik run which in turn hurt us as fishermen in our area. I do not see a need for action to address ACR 6 and ACR 7 at this time by taking action for the same concerns that have been managed by the department through in season Emergency Order's since 2017. Also, I do not see any unforeseen effects that have been previously addressed by the Board of Fish.

Is there an issue with the Chignik run, yes! Is it due to the environmental or production issues in the river System? By consistently pointing fingers and blaming our area is unwise by altering a management area in Area M that has severely eliminated and impacted one area of the South Alaska Peninsula, the South East District Mainland area negatively affecting the livelihood of myself, my family, my communities and locally established fishermen in Area M and by taking more areas of fishing away from us isn't the correct answer to the situation at hand.

Looking at the current numbers, the 2021 CMA total season sockeye escapement in Chignik is above the three year average stock of concern. Even with changes that have been implemented in 2016 and 2019



changes that has negatively impacted myself and others as salmon fishermen by implementing consideration and changes of our fishermen's efforts to try to improve the Chignik runs.

We do share the burden of conservation; we have been displaced from an area of fishing the South East District Mainland. There is no new information brought forward to justify Policy changes to ACR 6 and ACR 7, proposals which are out of cycle, proposals which should be brought up during its Regular Board Cycle in April of 2022 and the regular meeting in February of 2023. ADFG has in season emergency management authority and has used it when appropriate.

I am asking the Board of Fisheries to not accept ACR 6 and ACR 7.

Sincerely,

*Jack and Amy Foster Jr*

Jack and Amy Foster Jr

Submitted By  
Jamie Wurtz  
Submitted On  
10/6/2021 8:33:15 PM  
Affiliation  
Salmon Seiner

Phone  
[REDACTED]  
Email  
[REDACTED]  
Address  
1368 Chuckanut Dr  
Bellingham, Washington 98229

To Board of Fisheries on ACR 6&7

My dream since my first summer seining in Alaska when I was sixteen years old was to eventually buy a boat and be able to captain my own vessel, fishing for sustainably caught wild salmon. Everything about it from the long hours and and exhausting work to the excitement of a big set and the glow of filling your boat kept me hooked on this lifestyle. I continued to work on salmon boats through high school and college eventually finding myself working summers and winters (for Cod, Pollock, and Crab) out of Sand Point and King Cove in Area M. Six years ago I was able to begin operating a seiner but still did not have the money to buy my own, It has taken me 16 years to save up for my dream but I finally got it this last February and bought my first boat to fish in the Area M salmon season.

Every summer I participate in this fishery I am thankful to have a resource that is managed so diligently by the state of Alaska and provides opportunities for young fishermen to build their own businesses and raise families doing what they love. I do not take for granted the right to fish salmon here and I cannot think of anyone of the other captains I fish around who does. I witness a fleet of fishermen who care about their fishery, respect the management and wholeheartedly want to see the salmon runs remain strong and healthy for decades if not centuries to come.

I respectfully oppose the Agenda Change Requests #6 and #7 submitted by the Chignik Intertribal Coalition and Don Bumpus.

The proposals are not based solidly in research and do not show a true and scientific approach to solving their Chignik sockeye escapement concerns. It appears that the true nature of these proposals is to limit fishing time to Area M fishermen with the hope that the diminished commercial harvest in Chignik will improve.

The actual research and data show that the intention of, and actual harvest of Sockeye by Area M fishermen in June and July salmon fisheries are Bristol Bay bound sockeye salmon. During the WASSIP Study the data overwhelmingly showed harvest of Chignik's Black Lake sockeye were extremely low in the Shumagin and Dolgoi Islands and almost non-existent in the Unimak District.

Dramatically reducing fishing time of Bristol Bay targeted sockeye salmon fishermen in Area M will have significant impacts on the Area M seine fleet, their communities, processors, fishermen and families and worst of all will not solve the issues currently at concern of the Chignik fishermen.

The ACR's #6&7 are a hail mary attempt at limiting opportunity of Sand Point, King Cove, and False Pass fishermen to continue to have a healthy and responsible fishery with the smallest hope that they can accrue more fishing time in their own district.

Thank you for spending the time to read my comments. I hope to continue pursuing my livelihood with my family and crewmembers in the Area M salmon fishery for many decades to come.

Jamie Wurtz

F/V PARAGON

September 29, 2021

Jason D. Alexander  
213 Airport Road  
P.O. Box 69  
Chignik, AK 99564

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Subject: ACR 6 and ACR 7

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries:

As a 40 plus year Chignik commercial fisherman, who has experienced fluctuations in Chignik sockeye runs from mediocre to high, never have I seen such a continuation of progressive runs failures as currently occurring. To me, it is obvious that Chignik's early and late runs are in serious trouble especially the early run which has repeatedly failed to reach minimum escapement (350K) or even close to the level (400k) set by the Department for a commercial fishery for the last four years.

There are probably multiple factors driving the Chignik poor sockeye runs beginning in 2018 and not just one villain. There are management changes needed and that includes addressing the interception of migrant Chignik sockeye salmon in the eastern waters of Area M on the South Peninsula (SP).

The Shumagins and the Dolgoi area of Area M are well known Chignik-sockeye migration corridors. The gillnet and purse seine fisheries in these areas need to be reduced to permit more Chignik-bound sockeye to pass. A solution would be to prosecute the SP June and post-June fisheries more so in the Unimak District's western reach and on the north side of the Peninsula. This would provide Area M ample harvest opportunity on the Bristol Bay runs while minimizing the interception of Chignik and other east-traveling sockeye salmon.

I believe it is grossly unfair that the Chignik Management Area, in its entirety, is closed when one or more of the Chignik sockeye runs are not meeting escapement requirements, and yet as permitted under current regulation, fishing on east-traveling sockeye salmon is allowed through June and July in the Shumagins and Dolgoi areas. Chignik along with Area M fishermen need to do their part in providing escapement into the Chignik River system. Neither area should singly carry the conservation burden.

Please take action to protect the Chignik sockeye runs for escapement and sustainable production—it is well justified.

Thank you

Respectfully,

Jason Alexander

Submitted By  
Julian Manos  
Submitted On  
10/6/2021 8:38:06 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
[REDACTED]  
Email  
[REDACTED]  
Address  
Rams Creek Loop  
KING COVE, Alaska 99612

I agree with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff comments that both ACR's 6 and 7 do not meet the Boards own criteria to accept ACR's. Since these ACR's fail to meet any of the three guidelines for accepting an ACR it seems unreasonable to hear such a proposal out of cycle and without a proper public dialogue from the user groups it would affect. This was my tenth year owning and running a seiner out of King Cove and our 2023 planned upcoming meeting will be my fourth time attending. Though I am only thirty two, I have been involved with this process since 2013 and have come to recognize the importance of these scheduled meetings. However, without meeting the ACR requirements I don't see how using such means as an ACR to circumvent the proper avenue for presenting proposals (i.e. at our regular scheduled meeting) will do anything but undermine the publics trust in the Board of Fisheries process.



Submitted By  
Kiley Thompson  
Submitted On  
10/6/2021 3:41:16 PM  
Affiliation

Phone

Email

Address

P.O. Box 116  
Sand Point, Alaska 99661

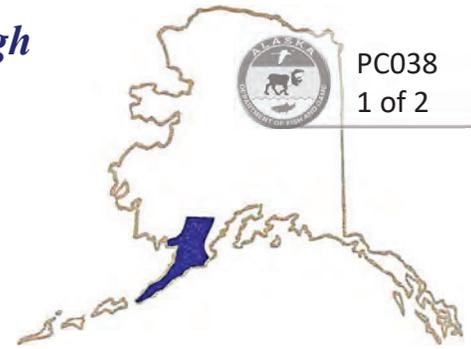
My name is Kiley Thompson. I am a 30 year resident of Sand Point. I have commercial fished for 25 years, with 10 of those years as captain of a seine boat. I am writing to oppose the adoption of ACR's 6&7 into the 2021/2022 meeting cycle. I do not believe these requests meet the criteria listed in the Boards "Policy for Changing the Board of Fish Agenda". There is no conservation purpose to justify an out of cycle proposal. Chignik late run and total escapement objectives were met in 2021. The board made significant changes to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands Management plans to address Chignik concerns in both 2016 and 2019. ADF&G exercises in season management authority as appropriate. They did not exercise that right in 2021. South Peninsula fishermen do share the burden of conservation. With that said, I urge the Board not to accept ACR's 6&7.



## **Lake and Peninsula Borough**

*P.O. Box 495  
King Salmon, Alaska 99613*

*Telephone: (907) 246-3421  
Fax: (907) 246-6602*



PC038  
1 of 2

September 22, 2021

Glenn Haight  
Executive Director, Board of Fisheries  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
[glenn.haight@alaska.gov](mailto:glenn.haight@alaska.gov)

Subject: Support for ACR's 6 & 7

Dear Mr. Haight,

The Lake and Peninsula Borough appreciates the opportunity to express support for ACR 6 and 7 at this meeting. The Borough spans three distinct areas of southwestern Alaska: the Lake Iliamna Area, the Upper Peninsula Area, and the Chignik Area. The primary economy of the five Chignik Area communities – Chignik Bay, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Perryville, and Ivanof Bay – is the commercial sockeye salmon fishery in the Chignik Management Area. Since 2018, this fishery, the foundation of economy and culture in these communities, has become one of the fastest declining salmon stocks in Alaska.

For four consecutive salmon seasons the early run of Chignik sockeye salmon has failed to attain minimum escapement goals. Apart from small harvests of the late-run sockeye in 2019 and 2021, there has been no targeted commercial harvest of early- or late-run sockeye in the Chignik Management Area in the last four years. This ongoing crisis carries significant consequences for the survival of Chignik communities.

Significant numbers of Chignik bound sockeye are harvested under the June and post-June Management Plans of the Area M salmon fishery<sup>1</sup> and only the Board of Fisheries can establish the appropriate sharing of the responsibility of conservation of Chignik bound stocks under these plans.

The Borough continues to support Chignik's residents and communities throughout these crises. The Borough is increasingly concerned for the health of Chignik's sockeye stocks and the absence of meaningful proactive measures to protect these stocks. Failure to consider protective measures

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<sup>1</sup> ADF&G Special Publication 12-22, Appendix D, page 187



in advance of another abysmal salmon season threatens the survival of the region's economy, schools, and culture, and ignores the mandate of sustainable yield.

The next in-cycle Board of Fisheries meeting that can squarely address the dire issues facing Chignik communities is scheduled for February 2023. We strongly request the Board of Fisheries to look favorably on ACR's 6 & 7 submitted by Borough residents and organizations. We strongly encourage the Board to schedule this issue to be addressed during the current Board of Fisheries cycle. Our concern is that these communities will likely not be able to eke out another year without the Board's leadership and time-sensitive attention to this pressing management issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Glen R. Alsworth, Sr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Glen R. Alsworth, Sr.  
Mayor



Norine Jones  
111 Airport Road  
Chignik, Alaska 99564

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska [99811-5526](tel:907-586-5526)

September 29, 2021

Re: Chignik's ACR 6 and ACR 7

Dear Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries:

My family has commercially salmon fished in Chignik for better than 50 years. We have always been able to make a living sockeye salmon fishing but not so nowadays.

It is nothing like we have ever experienced. The last four years (2018-21) have produced disastrous results. Only in two of the last four has there been a late-run sockeye fishery, and there has been absolutely no early-run fishery, zero. Making matters worse, Chignik sockeye escapements have been consistently less than the minimum goal in each of the last four years on the early run and in two of the last four on the late run. A grim picture it paints!

Urgent action to help restore the Chignik's sockeye salmon runs is needed from the Board of Fisheries. An initial step would be to reduce the interception of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon in the known harvest areas on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula, namely in the Shumagins and Dolgoi Islands waters. Keeping the Chignik Management Area closed for escapement is not enough. It's simply not right that Area M SP fishermen are allowed to exploit non-local sockeye salmon without any conservation responsibility. This needs to stop. Area M fishermen should be held accountable and when a migrant stock is weak on escapement they need to stand-down the same as required in terminal stock fisheries.

I ask that the Board to ensure the sustainability of the two Chignik sockeye salmon runs not only for the people of Chignik but for the State as a whole. We cannot let status quo in the South Peninsula fishery persist. Fine tune the fishery by putting the effort to the west, beyond the Shumagins and Dolgoi area.

Thank you

I am, Ms. Norine Jones



September 30, 2021

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Marit Carlson-Van Dort, Chair  
Via email [dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov)

**RE: Public comment on ACRs 6 & 7**

Chair Carlson-Van Dort and Board Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on two agenda change requests (ACRs) before the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) during the October 2021 work session. ACR 6 requests the Board review existing regulations and further restrict harvesters of Chignik bound sockeye and ACR 7 requests to further reduce the June and post-June fishing periods for Shumagin Islands and Dolgoi Islands Area. **These ACRs do not meet the Board's criteria for taking proposals out of cycle and as a result, PSPA opposes both ACRs and urges the Board to deny them.**

Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA) is a nonprofit seafood trade association representing eight seafood processing businesses and their investment in coastal Alaska, including several shorebased processors in King Cove, Sand Point, False Pass, and Port Moller that serve Area M salmon fleets, as well as Chignik. These salmon fisheries are essential to and directly benefit harvesters, processors, support businesses, and communities in the region. In the Alaska Peninsula, the Area M salmon fishery primarily supports local families from the fishing villages of False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, King Cove, and Sand Point.

PSPA does not support these two ACRs that aim to further restrict Area M salmon fisheries. While it is important for the Chignik sockeye run to be sustained into the future, there is no new rationale provided to meet the Board's criteria to justify an out of cycle proposal. The situation in Chignik is not unexpected, as the 2021 total season sockeye escapement is just slightly below the previous 5-year average and increased compared to the 3-year average. Chignik late-run and total escapement objectives were met in 2021 and the weir was pulled early on August 17. There is no error in regulations to correct or an unforeseen effect from a previous regulation. This is not to say the Board has not been responsive in recent years, evidenced by action in 2016 and 2019 to restrict peninsula fisheries to try to improve Chignik runs:

- 2016: Proposal 186 (RC192) established the Dolgoi area and a 191,000 sockeye cap
- 2019, the Board realigned the set, drift, and seine June schedules resulting in increased closed 'windows' in the South Peninsula
- 2019: the Board closed the Dolgoi area to seining in June

---

[www.pspafish.net](http://www.pspafish.net)

**ANCHORAGE**

721 W. 1st Avenue  
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Anchorage, AK 99501  
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Washington, DC 20001  
202 431 7220



We also note that fishing has not been allowed in the Southeastern District Mainland for the past four years. ADFG retains in-season management authority to further restrict these fisheries and has a record of using that authority when needed. Please do not accept ACRs 6 and 7 and instead consider any South Alaska Peninsula and/or Chignik proposals during the regular upcoming 2022/2023 cycle. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Barrows".

Chris Barrows, President  
Pacific Seafood Processors Association



Sept. 30/21

# Draft comment to Board of Fish for the Work Session October 20-21 2021 (comment due October 6)

Paul ( Butch ) Gundersen Chair of the Nelson Lagoon Advisory committee, This statement of support of this letter is from me personally not from the committee, we were unable to pull a meeting together at this time for various reasons. I am in strong support of this letter as written.

The Board of Fisheries should not accept ACR 6 or 7 that would further restrict salmon fishing in South Alaska Peninsula Areas to address salmon escapement concerns in Chignik. These ACRs *do not* meet the Board's criteria for accepting ACRs.

Chignik late-run and total escapement objectives were met in 2021 and the weir was pulled early on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Total Chignik escapement in 2021 increased compared to the previous 3-year average. There is no conservation purpose to justify considering an out of cycle proposal.

The Board made significant changes to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands Management plans to address Chignik concerns at the regular meetings in 2016 and 2019.

- In 2016, the Board established the Dolgoi area and set a 191,000 sockeye cap.
- In 2019, the Board realigned the set, drift and seine June schedules resulting in an increase of 73% more hours of open waters with zero nets fishing in the South Alaska Peninsula region.
- In 2019 the Board closed the Dolgoi area to seine gear in June.

In addition, ADFG exercises in-season emergency management authority as appropriate. There is no error in regulation or unforeseen effect on the fishery. The Board should consider any South Alaska Peninsula and/or Chignik proposals during the regular upcoming 2022/2023 cycle.

Finally, South Alaska Peninsula fishermen *do* share the burden of conservation. In addition to restrictions in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands management area, fishing has been closed for the past 4 years in the Southeast District Mainland management area.

I urge the Board of Fisheries to not accept agenda change requests 6 and 7. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Regards

Paul Gundersen



Paul Johnson  
776 Chignik Road  
Chignik, Alaska 99564

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

September 28, 2021

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries Members:

Re: Chignik ACR 6 and ACR 7

Chignik needs the Board to reduce the interception of sockeye salmon in the eastern waters of Area M, on the South Alaska Peninsula, to better ensure that the Chignik early run does not continue to have an escapement deficit. The two areas in particular where an adjustment is needed are the Dolgoi area and the Shumagins from mid June through July.

Chignik has had four consecutive seasons with Area L commercial fishermen having to totally stand-down in June and July because of insufficient early-run sockeye salmon escapement. We understand the reasoning for being closed but keeping the Shumagins and Dolgoi to target sockeye salmon when there are Chignik-bound sockeye is unfair. Area M should be required to participate in the sharing of conservation. Terminal-stock fisherman should not singularly be required to carry the full burden of meeting escapement requirements.

I understand that Area M on the South Alaska Peninsula has a long history of harvesting migrant, non local, sockeye salmon in June and July and that most of the harvest is on sockeye salmon headed to Bristol Bay. That is fine when it does not unjustly impair other runs.

Due to Chignik escapement issues, I recommend that Area M take Bristol Bay-bound sockeye more so in the Unimak District west of the Dolgoi Islands and be required to reduce their fishing impact on traveling sockeye headed east through the Shumagins and Dolgoi islands. Such would be the right thing to do in face of the persistent and critical shortage of Chignik sockeye salmon.

In closing, I ask you to support ACR #6 and #7.

Most sincerely,

*Paul Johnson*



## Pauloff Harbor Tribe

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P.O. Box 97  
Sand Point, Alaska 99661

Phone: (907) 383-6075  
Fax: (907) 383-6094

October 6, 2021

Chairperson Märít Carlson-Van Dort, Alaska Board of Fisheries

Board Support, P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK, 99811-5526

Emailed via pdf attachment to [dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov)

Re: Requesting the Board of Fisheries Reject Agenda Change Request (ACR) 6 & 7

Dear Chairperson Märít Carlson-Van Dort,

We urge the Alaska Board of Fisheries to reject ACRs 6 & 7 at your October 20-21, 2021 Work Session. These ACRs does not meet Board criteria found in 5 AAC 39.999, for approving an Agenda Change Request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Arlene Gundersen".

Arlene Gundersen  
Tribal Administrator

Submitted By  
Peter Hamre  
Submitted On  
10/6/2021 1:35:11 PM  
Affiliation



PC044  
1 of 1

I would like to state my opposition to ACR6 & ACR7, regarding changes to the Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery schedule. These ACR's don't meet the criteria for a change outside of the normal Board of Fish schedule, and as such, shouldn't be allowed to move forward. Changes to allocation may be submitted during the normal BOF schedule, but since these ACR's are allocative, they don't qualify under the current process.



September 30, 2021

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Marit Carlson-Van Dort, Chair  
Via email [dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov)

RE: ACR 6 and ACR 7

Chair Carlson-Van Dort and Board Members;

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on two agenda change requests (ACRs) before the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) during the October 2021 work session.

Earlier this year Peter Pan Seafoods was acquired by a US-based ownership group that includes a significant Alaska partner. With our successful acquisition of Peter Pan, a storied Alaska seafood brand, we now have a new and much more significant platform to expand and deepen our value-added strategy and refine it as a "Made in Alaska" strategy; keeping jobs and money in Alaska's coastal communities.

**ACR 6** requests the Board review existing regulations and further restrict harvesters of Chignik bound sockeye and **ACR 7** requests to further reduce the June and post-June fishing periods for Shumagin Islands and Dolgoi Islands Area. These ACRs do not meet the Board's criteria for taking proposals out of cycle; therefore, we oppose both ACRs and urge the Board to dismiss them.

Our plants in King Cove and Port Moller serve Area M salmon fleets, as well as Chignik. These salmon fisheries are essential to and directly benefit harvesters, processors, support businesses, and communities throughout the region. These salmon fisheries support local families from the fishing villages of False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, King Cove, and Sand Point.

There is a long, comprehensive history of Board of Fish/Alaska Department of Fish and Game analyses of the Area M salmon fisheries. We do not believe that the petitioners have provided any new information that would justify an out of cycle proposal. There is no error in regulations to correct or an unforeseen effect from a previous regulations.

In 2021 the total Chignok season sockeye escapement was just slightly below the previous 5-year average and increased compared to the 3-year average. Additionally, the Chignik late-run and total escapement objectives were met in 2021 and the weir was pulled early.

Please dismiss ACR 6 and ACR 7, and encourage the petitioners to introduce their proposals in cycle, in accordance with Board of Fish policy and regulation.

Sincerely,

Jon Hickman  
Executive Vice President



October 6, 2021

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Boards Support Section  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811  
Submitted via email: [dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov)

RE: Comments on Agenda Change Request 6 and 7

Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries Members:

**Silver Bay Seafoods is opposed to Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) 6 and 7 currently under consideration by the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) at its October 20-21 work session.**

Silver Bay Seafoods is a fisherman-owned, Alaska seafood processing company. We operate six processing facilities in coastal Alaska communities. Our False Pass operation supports purse seine and drift gillnet fishermen who participate in the Area M salmon fisheries.

ACRs 6 and 7 both aim to modify regulations in the *South Unimak and Shumagin Island June Salmon Management Plan* and *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula*. ACR 6 is vague and does not propose any specific regulatory changes for the board to consider or for Alaska stakeholders to sufficiently provide input. ACR 7 requests significant reductions in fishing opportunity in these areas. Both requests essentially seek to re-allocate fish between areas out-of-cycle and could have devastating impacts to fishermen, communities, businesses, and Alaskans who are heavily reliant on Area M fisheries.

We agree with the assessment published by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game confirming proposals 6 and 7 do not meet the criteria for an ACR as outlined in the *Policy for Changing a Board Agenda* defined in 5 AAC 39.999(a)(1). Deviation from this policy would disenfranchise stakeholders who depend on a consistent process and predictable regulatory cycle. Proposals can be submitted to the board in April 2022 and considered during the regular meeting for this region where a comprehensive public process can occur.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Abby Fredrick  
Director of Communications



**From:** [Stanley Mack](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOF Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Draft comment to Board of Fish for the Work Session.pdf  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:59:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [Draft comment to Board of Fish for the Work Session.pdf](#)

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I'm a commercial fisherman /own and operate my fishing vessel,born and raised in KING COVE.and fished in the alaska peninsula(and still fishing)for 75 years.I submit this reason to request that these ACR`s be denied..Thank you very much..STANLEY MACK

Sent from my iPad



Draft comment to Board of Fish for the Work Session October 20-21 2021 (comment due October 6)

The Board of Fisheries should not accept ACR 6 or 7 that would further restrict salmon fishing in South Alaska Peninsula Areas to address salmon escapement concerns in Chignik. These ACRs *do not* meet the Board's criteria for accepting ACRs.

Chignik late-run and total escapement objectives were met in 2021 and the weir was pulled early on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Total Chignik escapement in 2021 increased compared to the previous 3-year average. There is no conservation purpose to justify considering an out of cycle proposal.

The Board made significant changes to the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands Management plans to address Chignik concerns at the regular meetings in 2016 and 2019.

- In 2016, the Board established the Dolgoi area and set a 191,000 sockeye cap.
- In 2019, the Board realigned the set, drift and seine June schedules resulting in an increase of 73% more hours of open waters with zero nets fishing in the South Alaska Peninsula region.
- In 2019 the Board closed the Dolgoi area to seine gear in June.

In addition, ADFG exercises in-season emergency management authority as appropriate. There is no error in regulation or unforeseen effect on the fishery. The Board should consider any South Alaska Peninsula and/or Chignik proposals during the regular upcoming 2022/2023 cycle.

Finally, South Alaska Peninsula fishermen *do* share the burden of conservation. In addition to restrictions in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands management area, fishing has been closed for the past 4 years in the Southeast District Mainland management area.

I urge the Board of Fisheries to not accept agenda change requests 6 and 7. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

--Stanley Mack

Submitted By  
Timothy Michael Murphy  
Submitted On  
9/23/2021 1:00:16 PM  
Affiliation

To the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries;

Pending approval are ACR 6 and 7, both pertaining to the interception of Chignik (as well as sockeye from other areas) Sockeye in the South Alaska Peninsula.

Per the WASSIP genetic study, which has virtually been ignored since it was released to the public as far as regulation changes which were intended to give the Chignik sockeye fishery fair access to the salmon fishing resource it virtually, solely relies on for as far as an economic driver in the region. The WASSIP study was conducted when there were fewer boats, less effort involved in the South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery, logically, more salmon must be intercepted now than when that study was conducted.

What has transpired beginning in 2018 is that Chignik gets NO ACCESS to the once historical salmon resource. Minimum escapement goals have not been met for June or July over the span of 4 years.

A side note, in 2018, the South Alaska Peninsular salmon managers did not even curtail commercial salmon harvest to ensure the Orzinski Lake could meet its meager minimum escapement goal.

I offer a common sense comparison between 2 years of salmon fishing in the South Alaska Peninsula, in 2020 the sockeye harvest in the South Alaska Peninsula was less than it normally is.

And at the same time, in 2020 the Bristol Bay salmon fishery had yet another record harvest.

Common sense would lead someone to think that the record Bristol Bay sockeye run simply did not swing into the waters of the South Alaska Peninsula, and that other sockeye stocks made up the majority of the sockeye harvested there.

2021 saw yet another record Bristol Bay sockeye run, and in correlation, the South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery saw its sockeye harvest coincided with the large size of the Bristol Bay salmon runs. Those Bristol Bay fish appeared to have transited the waters of the South Alaska Peninsula.

Bristol Bay runs can afford to be intercepted, whereas we who rely on the sockeye runs returning to Chignik can not.

The fact that our scheduled board meeting was pushed forward all the way into 2023 only adds insult to the financial injury were living with being denied access to our once historical salmon resource.

Thank You,

Timothy Murphy



PC049

1 of 1

Submitted By  
Tom Manos  
Submitted On  
10/6/2021 3:10:07 PM  
Affiliation  
King Cove fisherman

Phone  
[REDACTED]  
Email  
[REDACTED]  
Address  
PO box 749  
Girdwood , Alaska 99587

I agree with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff comments that ACRs 6 and 7 do not meet the Board's own criteria to accept ACRs, and should not be accepted. ACRs are an important safeguard in the Board process, which is now three years apart for this area, and should be used to facilitate clear solutions in a timely manner not to encourage acrimonious allocative issues to be heard on a yearly basis. The Board Process and the issues it considers are important for the vitality of my business and I appreciate the time you spend to address them is limited . In the case of ACRs 6 &7 I do not feel their intent is solving what is an important and complicated problem.



## TRIDENT SEAFOODS CORPORATION

5303 Shilshole Ave. NW, Seattle, WA 98107-4000  
(206) 783-3818 • Fax: (206) 782-7195



PC050  
1 of 1

October 6, 2021

Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Marit Carlson-Van Dort, Chair  
Via email [dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov)

### **RE: Public comment on ACRs 6 & 7**

Chair Carlson-Van Dort and Board Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on two agenda change requests (ACRs) before the Alaska Board of Fisheries' (Board) October 2021 work session. Trident Seafoods is a family-owned company, with shoreside processing and fleet support facilities in twelve Alaskan communities, including Sand Point, False Pass, and Chignik. We serve over a thousand independent harvesters, annually employ several thousand workers (including several hundred Alaska residents, like myself), and invest significantly in Alaska each year.

Trident is commenting on **ACR 6**, which seeks to restrict harvest of Chignik bound sockeye; and **ACR 7**, which requests further reductions to the fishing periods in the Shumagin Islands and Dolgoi Islands Area. **We ask the Board to deny both ACRs, as they do not meet the Board's ACR criteria.**

Specifically, there is no conservation purpose behind either ACR: Late-run and total escarpments were achieved in 2021. 2021 total season sockeye escarpment is near the five-year average and actually increased relative to the three-year average. Neither run is listed as a "stock of concern." There is also no error in regulation or unforeseen effect from previous management actions, as all of the most recent Board actions related to Chignik sockeye have sought to increase returns to the Chignik management area, while restricting effort elsewhere. Most recently, in 2019, the Board increased closed areas for all gear types in the South Peninsula June fishery and closed the Dolgoi area to seining in June. These restrictions had significant impact on harvesters, processors, and communities in Area M, and have not yet been in place for a full sockeye life cycle, which seems necessary for the Board to evaluate their efficacy.

More broadly, we recognize that ACRs serve as a necessary and important tool for the Board to address conservation issues, errors in regulations, or any unforeseen effects of management actions. However, we ask that the Board consider the destabilizing impact that the routine adoption of ACRs can have on all fishery stakeholders and request that you use this tool judiciously and not for issues that are better addressed during the normal Board cycle.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Shannon Carroll

Assoc. Director of Public Policy  
Trident Seafoods