

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Forrest Bowers, Acting Director

Headquarters Office
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

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Chignik Commercial Salmon Advisory Announcement #01; New Board of Fisheries Regulations – Implementation Delayed

For E.O. 4-FS-L-1-26

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) recently adopted several regulatory changes affecting the Chignik Management Area (Area L). The proposed regulatory changes **will not be in effect at the start of the season.** They will instead be implemented at some point during the season and fishermen should continue to operate under the 2025 regulations **until further notice.**

The following changes will be implemented prior to the beginning of the commercial fishery by **Emergency Order.**

Chinook Salmon Management Measures:

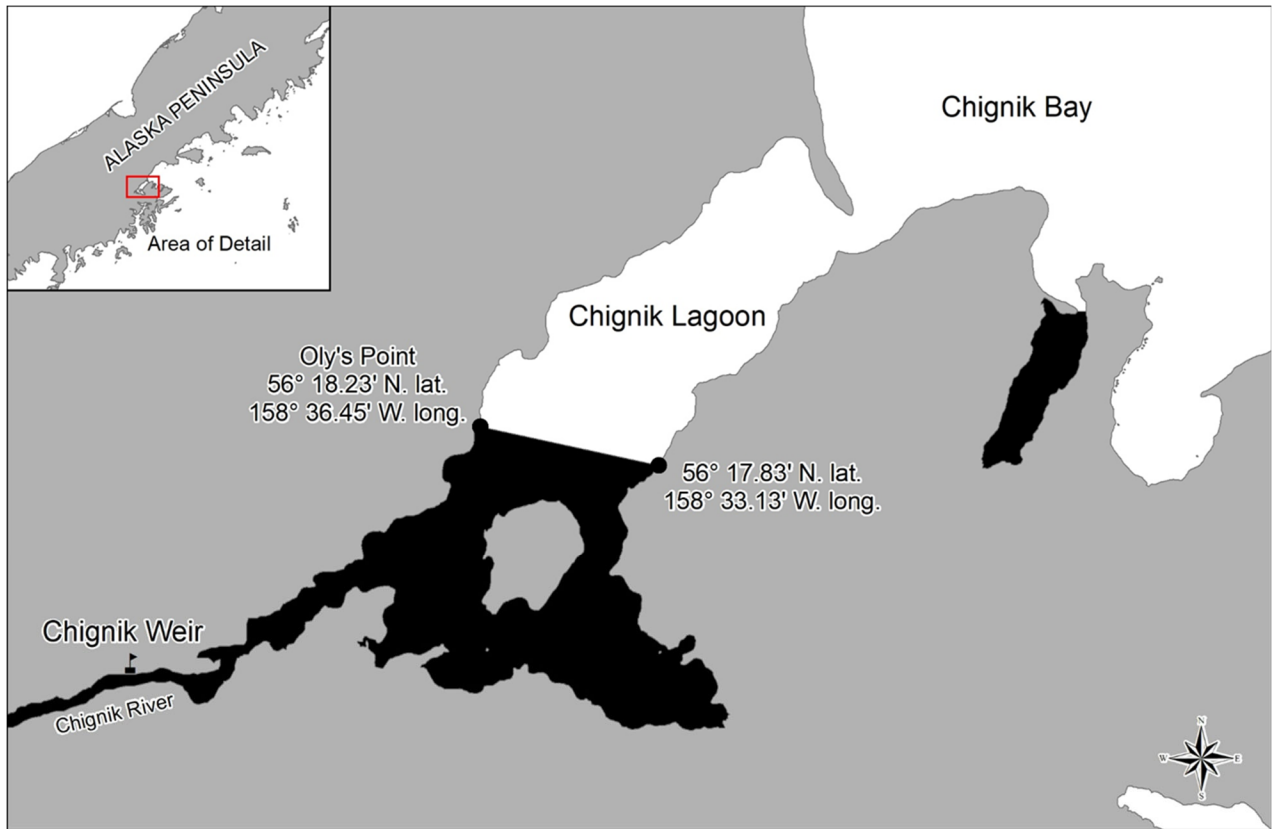
The Chignik Chinook salmon run has failed to reach the established Biological Escapement Goal of 1,300 to 2,700 fish in six of the last seven years. Notably, recent years have seen record lows with only 731 fish in 2022 and 267 fish in 2023.

The BOF recently adopted a proposal to place the *Chignik Area King Salmon Stock of Concern Management Plan* in regulation. The plan includes Chinook Salmon closed water areas, non-retention and harvest caps. In order to conserve Chignik River Chinook salmon, the following conservation measures will be implemented by Emergency Order, prior to final review and approval of the 2026 BOF regulations:

July Chignik Bay Commercial Salmon Restrictions: from July 1 through July 31.

Closed Waters:

In the **Chignik Bay Section**, **closed waters** will include all waters south of a line from the tip of **Oly's Point** at 56° 18.23' N. lat., 158° 36.45' W. long., to a point approximately mid-way between **Rocky Point and Jerry's Point** at 56° 17.83' N. lat., 158° 33.13' W. long.



Management Schedule:

Prior to the department expecting to achieve the minimum Chignik Chinook salmon escapement of **1,300 fish** the following restrictions will be taken:

- Commercial Salmon openings in the **Chignik Bay Section** will be no longer than **48-hours**, followed by **closures** of no less than **72 hours**.

If the Chignik River Chinook salmon escapement projects **above 1,300 fish** the following restrictions will be taken:

- Commercial Salmon openings in the **Chignik Bay Section** will be no longer than **48-hours**, followed by **closures** of no less than **48 hours**.

If the Chignik River Chinook salmon escapement projects **above 2,000 fish**:

- Commercial Salmon openings in the **Chignik Bay Section** will be no longer than **48-hours**, followed by **closures** of no less than **24 hours**.

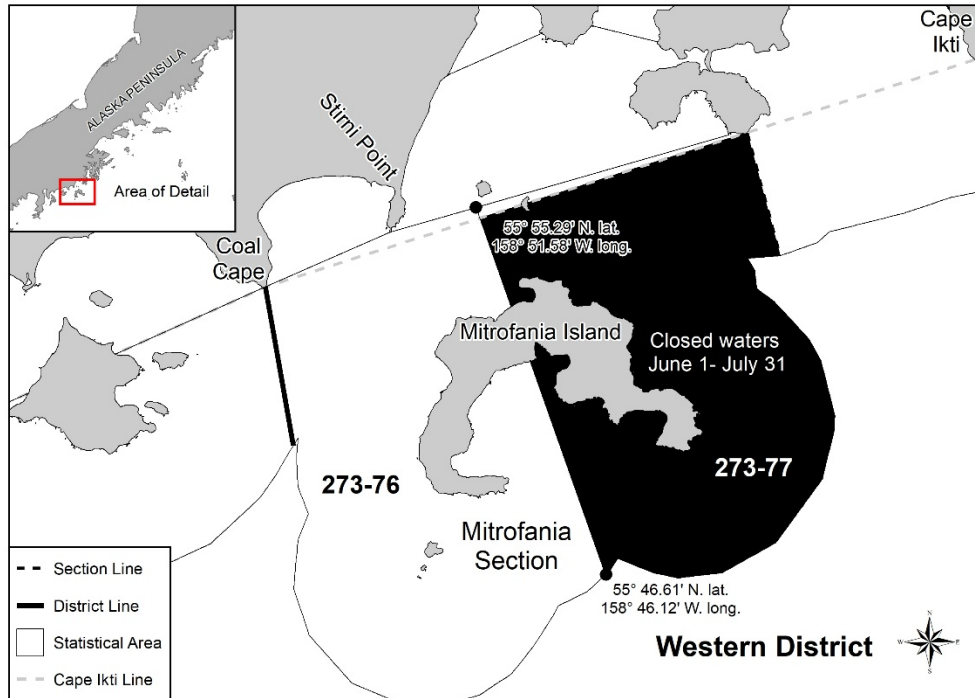
Chinook Salmon Harvest Caps:

Prior to July 31, if more than **1,000 Chinook salmon** are harvested within a **48-hour period**, the statistical areas determined by the department as primarily responsible will be **immediately closed** for 7 days.

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Chinook Salmon Non-Retention

Through October 31, all Chinook salmon 28 inches or greater in length **may not be retained** and must be immediately returned to the water unharmed. However, all permit holders **must retain** all visibly injured or dead Chinook salmon which **must be recorded on a fish ticket**.



Mitrofanian Island Stat Areas and Closed Waters:

Mitrofanian Island (273-74) has been split into two new statistical areas — East Mitrofanian (273-76) and West Mitrofanian (273-77). Because this is an administrative action separate from the BOF process, the department will implement these new statistical areas for the 2026 Chignik Commercial Salmon fishery.

From **June 1 through July 31**, all waters of the **Mitrofanian Section** that are both south of a line from Cape Itki 56° 00.32' N. lat., 158° 32.02' W. long., to Coal Cape 55° 53.42' N. lat., 159° 00.45' W. long.; and East of a line at 55° 55.29' N. lat., 158° 51.58' W. long., to 55° 46.61' N. lat., 158° 46.12' W. long. **will be closed** to commercial salmon fishing.

Chignik Bay District / Jack's Box:

At the most recent BOF meeting, the Chignik Bay District was expanded to include most of the former **Jack's Box Section**, which is now designated with its own statistical area. Gear restrictions consistent with the Chignik Bay District will apply in this new section. This area will be managed under prior regulations until 2026 regulations become effective.

2025 Regulations:

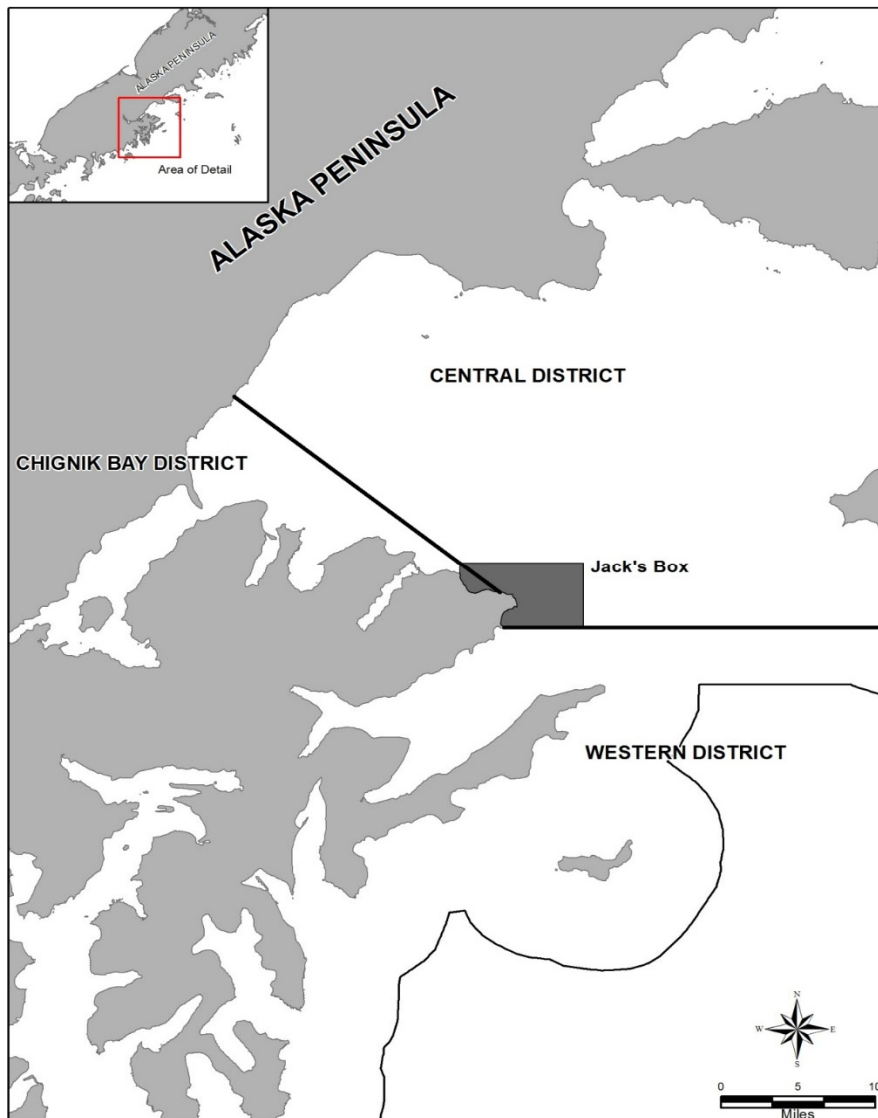
The previous Jack's Box regulations, including statistical areas and gear restrictions consistent with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, **will remain in effect** until the new regulation is finalized.

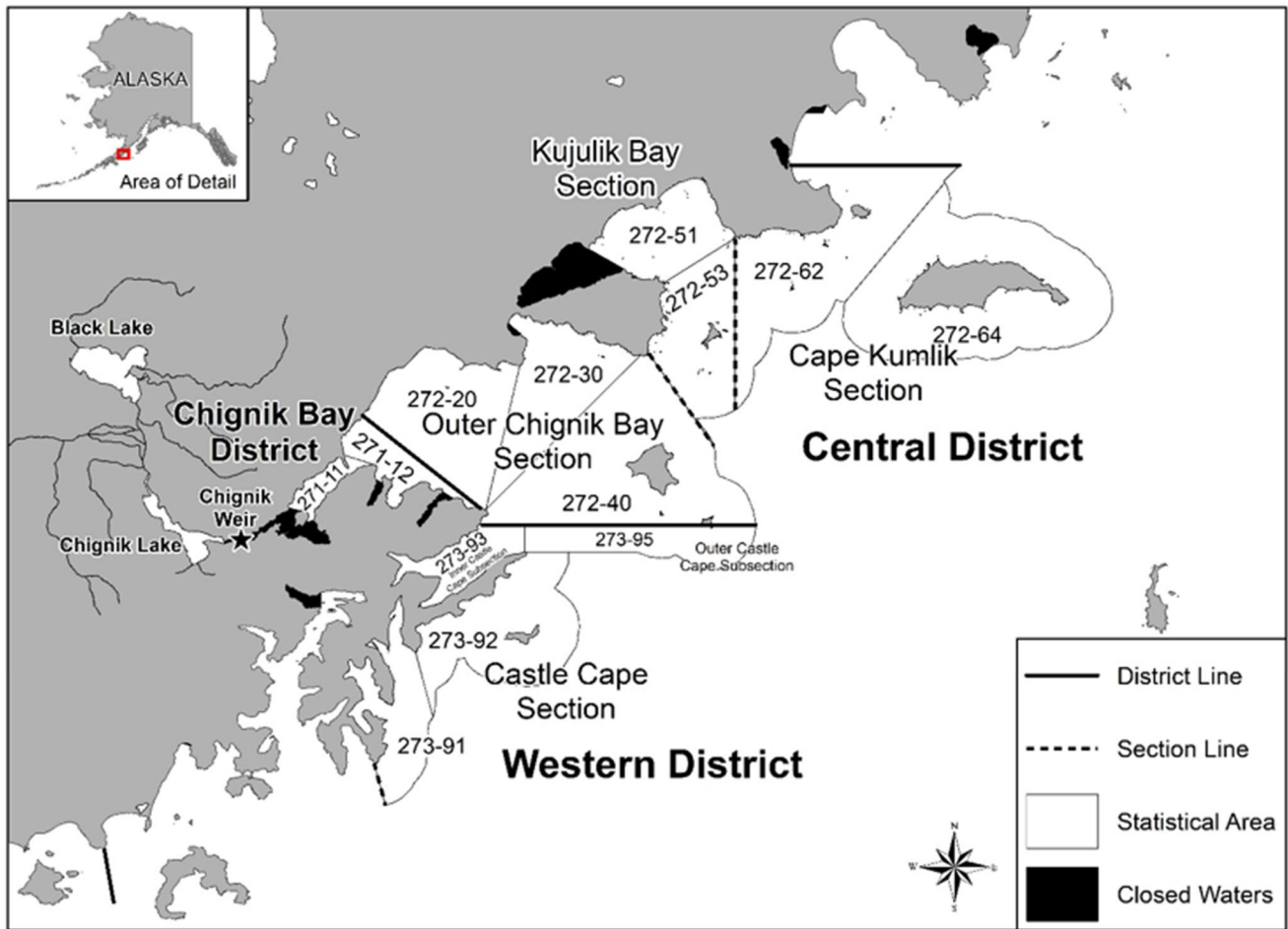
The Chignik Bay District includes all waters of Chignik Bay and Lagoon west of a line from a point near Jack Bay at 56° 17.60' N. lat., 158° 12.80' W. long., to the creek at 56° 24.12' N. lat., 158° 27.73' W. long.

In the Chignik Bay District, purse seines and hand purse seines may not be less than **100 fathoms** or more than **125 fathoms in length**.

From the **end of the transition period through July 31**, fishing periods in the **Jack's Box Section** (those waters east of 158° 15.36' W. long., south of 56° 20' N. lat., and west of 158° 10' W. long.) will be determined by the department's assessment of local pink and chum salmon runs and the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run.

In the **Central Section** portion of the **Jack's Box Section** a purse seine may not be less than **100 fathoms** or more than **225 fathoms** in length.





Permit holders are reminded that closed waters are listed in regulation 5 AAC 15.350.

As a reminder, a commercial salmon fishing license holder may not subsistence fish for salmon during the 12 hours before a commercial salmon fishing period or during the 12 hours following the closure of a commercial salmon fishing period.

Statistical charts, harvest strategies, and subsistence fishing permits are available at the Chignik weir and the Kodiak regional ADF&G offices. Commercial fishing regulations, commercial harvest, escapement, and news releases can be found on the ADF&G website at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareachignik.salmon>. Fishermen are encouraged to standby on VHF Channel 6 at 9:15 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. daily for fishery updates.