STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Members
Alaska Board of Fisheries

DATE: September 21, 2009

FROM: John Hilsinger, Director

Division of Commercial Fisheries

and

Charles Swanton, Director
Division of Sport Fish

SUBJECT: Alaska Peninsula Stock of Concern Recommendation

The *Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries* (5 AAC 39.222) directs the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to provide the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board), at regular meetings, with reports on the status of salmon stocks and to identify any salmon stocks that present a concern related to yield, management, or conservation. No candidate stocks of concern have been identified for the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Area (also referred to as Area M; Figure 1).

In Area M, escapements are estimated primarily with aerial surveys and manual counts through weirs. The majority of recent escapements have been within or exceeded their respective established escapement goal ranges (Table 1). In 2008, the most recent year that escapement estimates have been finalized, four of the 24 established Area M goals (26 goals including separate odd- and even-year goals) failed to meet their minimum escapement goal ranges. All four of the systems that did not meet the lower goal ranges in 2008 did achieve the lower goal ranges previous years. None of the Area M stocks have had a chronic inability to achieve their escapement goals and therefore, we recommend that no stocks of concern be established.

Table 1. Current escapement goals, escapements observed from 2006 through 2008, Chinook, sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon stocks of the Alaska Peninsula Management and Aleutian Islands Areas.

System	Escapement Data[a]	Current Escapement Goal Type (BEG, SEG)	Range			Escapements 2006	2007	2008
Chinook Salmon								
Nelson River	WC/PAS	BEG	2,400	to	4,400	2,516	2,492	5,012
Sockeye Salmon								
Orzinski Lake	WC	SEG	15,000	to	20,000	18,000	10,643	36,839
Thin Point Lake	PAS	SEG	14,000	to	28,000	11,510	21,550	18,900
Mortensens Lagoon	PAS	SEG	3,200	to	6,400	14,688	6,200	5,600
Christianson Lagoon	PAS	SEG	25,000	to	50,000	41,505	48,075	114,000
Swanson Lagoon	PAS	SEG	6,000	to	16,000	376	9,200	5,500
North Creek	PAS	SEG	4,400	to	8,800	7,530	16,800	38,000
Nelson River	WC	BEG	97,000	to	219,000	215,000	180,000	141,600
Bear Lake								
Early	WC	SEG	176,000	to	293,000	262,995	206,233	125,526
Late	WC	SEG	117,000	to	195,000	182,005	224,767	195,474
Sandy River	WC	SEG	34,000	to	74,000	48,000	44,700	32,200
Ilnik River	WC	SEG	40,000	to	60,000	75,000	79,000	44,300
Meshik River	PAS	SEG	20,000	to	60,000	114,010	45,400	61,250
Cinder River	PAS	SEG	12,000	to	48,000	101,100	142,000	96,800
Coho Salmon								
Thin Point Lake	PAS	SEG	3,000			9,750	9,000	3,200
Nelson River	PAS	SEG	18,000			19,000	19,000	24,000

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System	Escapement Data[a]	Escapement Goal Type (BEG, SEG)	Range			Escapements 2006	2007	2008
Pink Salmon								
South Peninsula Total -even years	PAS	SEG	1,864,600	to	3,729,300	2,862,250		3,338,370
South Peninsula Total -odd years	PAS	SEG	1,637,800	to	3,275,700		2,680,213	
Bechevin Bay Section-even years	PAS	SEG	31,000			116,075		11,900
Bechevin Bay Section-odd years	PAS	SEG	1,600				16,800	
Chum Salmon								
Southeastern District	PAS	SEG	106,400	to	212,800	405,300	201,451	277,450
South Central District	PAS	SEG	89,800	to	179,600	119,600	126,000	140,450
Southwestern District	PAS	SEG	133,400	to	266,800	231,935	398,010	171,250
Unimak District	PAS	SEG	800			7,915	1,200	2,800
Northwestern District	PAS	SEG	100,000	to	215,000	193,460	335,450	241,750
Northern District	PAS	SEG	119,600	to	239,200	382,583	243,334	228,537

[a] PAS = Peak Aerial Survey, WC= Weir Count.

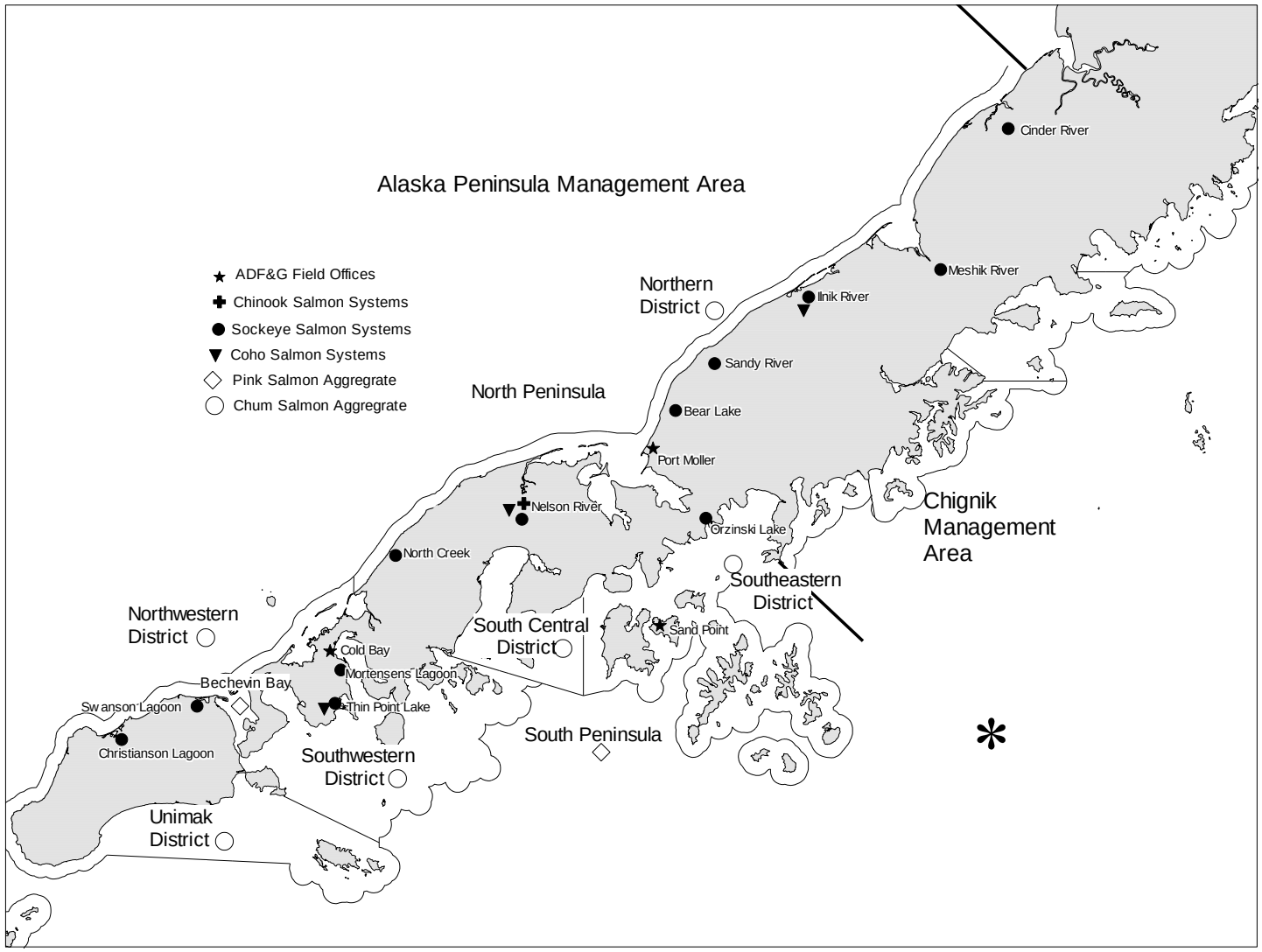

Figure 1. Map of the Alaska Peninsula Management Area with the major sockeye, coho, and Chinook salmon systems depicted.