

Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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CHIGNIK AREA SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

5 AAC 15.332. Seine specifications and operations. (a) In the Eastern, Central, Western and Perryville Districts no purse seine less than 100 fathoms or more than 225 fathoms in length may be used.

(b) In the Eastern, Central, Western and Perryville Districts no hand purse seine less than 100 fathoms or more than 225 fathoms in length may be used.

(c) 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.

(d) No seine may be less than three fathoms nor more than 375 meshes in depth; in addition, up to twenty-five meshes of chafing gear with a maximum mesh size of seven inches may be used.

(e) No lead may be more than 75 fathoms in length. The aggregate length of seine and lead may not be more than 225 fathoms in the Eastern, Central, Western and Perryville Districts.

(f) When a purse seine or hand purse seine is in the water for the purpose of taking fish, the seine shall be attached to the licensed vessel operating the gear. (In effect before 1988; am 4/14/93, Register 126)

Authority: AS 16.05.251(a)

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan. (a) The department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery in the Chignik Area in accordance with the guidelines set out in the management plan under this section. The goal of this management plan is to allow traditional fisheries in the area to be conducted on Chignik Area salmon stocks, and to achieve the department's biological escapement goals for both Black Lake (early-run) and Chignik Lake (late-run) sockeye salmon and local stocks of pink, chum, coho, and king salmon.

(b) In the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, the commercial salmon fishery shall open concurrently based on escapement objectives for the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon runs, except that

(1) the commissioner shall open, by emergency order, the commercial salmon fishery when 20,000 sockeye salmon have escaped into the Chignik River; however if the department determines that a strong buildup of sockeye salmon exists in Chignik Lagoon and

that 20,000 sockeye salmon will escape into the Chignik River, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, the commercial salmon fishery before 20,000 sockeye salmon have escaped into the Chignik River;

(2) during the period of transition from the predominance of the early-run sockeye salmon to that of the late-run sockeye salmon, (usually late June through mid-July), the commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, the fishing periods to harvest surplus early-run sockeye salmon without jeopardizing the late-run sockeye salmon escapement objectives;

(3) from the end of the transition period, described in (2) of this subsection until September 14, the commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, fishing periods in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, based on the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon escapement goals; the commissioner may take additional emergency order actions to protect or harvest local pink, chum, king, and coho salmon runs; and

(4) beginning September 15, fishing periods in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, may be no more than 48-hours per week, and shall be based on the department's evaluation of the sockeye salmon run strength and the subsistence needs for Chignik Lake late-season sockeye salmon.

(c) In the Eastern District,

(1) during June, the commercial salmon fishery shall open concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, and the openings shall be based on achieving the Black Lake sockeye salmon escapement goals;

(2) from approximately June 26 through July 8,

(A) the department shall evaluate the strength of the sockeye salmon late run; and

(B) in order to continue managing the Black Lake sockeye salmon harvest and escapement, while assessing the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run strength, commercial salmon fishing in the Eastern District will, in the department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted;

(3) from the end of the transition period, described in (b)(2) of this section, until the end of the fishing season, the department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery based on its evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs, and the escapement objectives of the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon.

(d) In the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, and the Perryville District, the department may open the commercial salmon fishery beginning July 6, except that

(1) from approximately late June to mid-July (transition period),

(A) the department shall evaluate the strength of the sockeye salmon late run; and

(B) in order to allow the department to assess the Chignik Lake run strength, the department may keep closed or severely restrict commercial salmon fishing in the Western District, except the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, and in the Perryville District;

(2) from the end of the transition period, described in (b)(2) of this section, until approximately August 20, fishing periods shall be based on the department's evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs, and its evaluation of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run; from July 22 through July 31,

(A) repealed 3/29/2008;

(B) the commissioner may, by emergency order, open fishing in the following terminal harvest areas:

(i) those portions of the Western and Perryville Districts north of a line from Cape Ikti at 56° 00.32' N. lat., 158° 32.02' W. long., to Coal Cape at 55° 53.42' N. lat., 159° 00.45' W. long. to Cape Alexander at 55° 47.22' N. lat., 159° 24.57' W. long., and

(ii) those portions of the Chignik Bay and Central Districts know locally as Jack's Box, which consists of those waters east of 158° 15.36' W. long., south of 56° 20' N. lat., and west of 158° 10' W. long.;

(3) from approximately August 20 until the end of the fishing season, fishing periods shall be based on the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs, and its evaluation of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of (d) of this section, in the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, the commercial salmon fishery shall open concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District, from June 1 through July 5 for no more than two fishing periods up to 48 hours each with a closure for a minimum of 48 hours between the fishing periods. (Eff. 5/29/99, Register 150; am 5/4/2002, Register 162; am 3/6/2003, Register 165; am 3/13/2005, Register 173; am 4/9/2005, Register 174; am 3/29/2008, Register 185; am 5/1/2011, Register 198)

Authority: AS 16.05.060 AS 16.05.251