

PROPOSAL 185 – 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections; and 5 AAC 09.XXX Dolgoi Island Section Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. Establish a Dolgoi Island Section and Dolgoi Island Section Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 09.XXX. Dolgoi Island Area Management Plan (a) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000 fish and the department determines the runs are as strong as expected, the department shall manage the Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25 to where fishing in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) will close when fish ticket records first tabulate to more than a 120,000 sockeye harvest except that after July 9 Sections 283-23 and 283-25 may open for the harvest of local-stocks irrespective of the 120,000 sockeye restriction. Excluded are all designed terminal stock harvest areas as defined in regulation.

(b) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000 there will be no commercial salmon fishery allowed in the Dolgoi Island Area until a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area is achieved.

After July 8, after at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Management Area, and provided escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25 to where fishing will close when fish ticket records first tabulate to more than a 120,000 sockeye harvest except that after July 9 Sections 283-23 and 283-25 may open for the harvest of local-stocks irrespective of the 120,000 sockeye restriction and the Chignik Area minimum sockeye harvest requirements. Excluded are all designed terminal stock harvest areas as defined in regulation.

(c) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River sockeye salmon is expected to be at least 600,000 and the first run fails to develop as predicted and it is determined that a total sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area of 600,000 may not be achieved by July 25, commercial salmon fishing in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat. areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) will be curtailed in order to allow a minimum harvest in the Chignik Area of at least 300,000 sockeye salmon. After July 8, after at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and provided escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25 so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least 600,000. Additionally, when fish ticket records through July 25 first tabulate to more than a 120,000 sockeye harvest the Dolgoi Island Area will close to commercial fishing except that after July 9 Sections 283-23 and 283-25 may open for the harvest of local-stocks irrespective of the 120,000 sockeye restriction and the Chignik Area minimum sockeye harvest requirements. Excluded are all designed terminal stock harvest areas as defined in regulation.

(d) All salmon harvested under the Dolgoi Island Area Salmon Management Plan must be landed in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42). No vessel that has landed salmon under the Dolgoi Island Area Management Plan may have salmon on board when more than one mile outside the Dolgoi Island Area with the following exceptions:

- (1) a vessel that has landed salmon under the Dolgoi Island Area Salmon Management Plan may have on board up to 50 salmon for personal use, if the salmon have been headed and gutted;
- (2) a boat may transport salmon landed in the Dolgoi Island Area, not covered

under exception (1) above, beyond the Dolgoi Island Area provided a fish ticket is completed in accordance with AS 16.05.671 provisions and before exiting the Dolgoi Island Area.

After July 9, Sections 283-23 and 283-25 are excluded from all landing requirements as defined in this section (d). The commissioner may waive the requirements of this section when necessary.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend the current management plan covering the Dolgoi Island Area (stat areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) to provide fishing opportunity on local pink and chum salmon stocks while ensuring that the area is regulated to limit excessive pre July 26th, harvest of non-local fish, namely on Chignik bound sockeye salmon.

The Dolgoi Island Area supports a major June and post-June sockeye salmon interception fishery based on the three year WASSIP study (2006–08). Primarily intercepted are Chignik, East of Wassip (Kodiak/U. Cook Inlet), and Bristol Bay (BB) sockeye salmon. During the June fishery Chignik sockeye average 43% of the catch followed by East of Wassip sockeye at 27% and BB at 25%. In Post June, the catch is dominated by the Chignik sockeye at 51% and East of Wassip sockeye at 43%. South Peninsula sockeye stocks average less than 1% of the June and post June Dolgoi Island harvests.

Through July 25 the Dolgoi Island Area operates as targeted fishery on non-local sockeye salmon and, in many years, has had a major impact on Chignik-bound sockeye salmon. In the WASSIP years (2006- 08) the Dolgoi sockeye catch averaged 20% of the terminal harvest in the Chignik Area. In 2008, the Dolgoi Island Area fishery was open through July 25 when both the Igvak and SEDM fisheries were entirely shut down due to weak Chignik runs. 40% of the 2008 Dolgoi catch through July 25 in 2008 was Chignik-bound sockeye salmon.

A management plan is needed on Dolgoi Island Area fishery through July 25 that provides a reasonable harvest limit and accountability on the sockeye salmon catch. Such is justified because it is the only interception fishery where the dominant stock is Chignik-bound sockeye salmon that does not operate under a plan that recognizes annual variations in the strength of the two Chignik sockeye runs, Area L through July 25 harvest preferences, and the Igvak and Southeast Mainland District allocations.

Specifically we are calling for the Board of Fisheries to adopt a June through July 25 plan that sets an upper harvest limit on the Dolgoi Island Area fishery and a requirement that the fishery be managed to ensure a minimum harvest level in the Chignik Management Area as similarly provided under the Cape Igvak and Southeastern District plans, but does not compromise terminal fishing on local pink and chum salmon. Lastly for accountability purposes, we ask that the BOF place a modest landing requirement on the Dolgoi Island Area through July 25.

PROPOSED BY: John Jones- Agent for United Chignik Salmon Fishermen (HQ-F15-001)
