

PROPOSAL 181 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. Repeal the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan, as follows:

5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin June Salmon Management Plan is amended to read:

Repealed

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Close commercial salmon intercept fishery, for conservation of Yukon Kuskokwim salmon.

AS 16.05.251 Regulations of the Board of Fisheries (a)(2).

PROPOSED BY: Jesse Foster (EF-C15-030)

PROPOSAL 182 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. Modify the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to shift the opening date for the drift gillnet fishery to coincide with the set gillnet fishery opening date, as follows:

5 AAC 09.365(d) In the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods as follows:

(1) for set gillnet **and drift gillnet** gear, ...

(2) for seine [AND DRIFT GILLNET] gear, ...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan establishes one fishing schedule for set gillnets and another for drift gillnets and purse seines. Set gillnets begin their fishing schedule on June 7 and drift gillnets and seines begin on June 10. The plan should be amended so that drift gillnets are on the same schedule as set gillnets. This will help reduce competition between drift gillnets and purse seines.

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-C15-044)

PROPOSAL 183 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. Modify the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to stagger opening days for the drift and purse seine fisheries, as follows:

5 AAC 09.365 is amended to read:

...

(d)

(2)

(A) Beginning June 9 drift gillnet gear commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. Three days later, commercial fishing will then close for 32 hours and reopen 6:00 a.m. two days later. The final June fishing period for drift gillnetting in June will be June 27 at 10:00 p.m.

(B) Beginning June 10th opening for the seine fleet will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. Three days later, commercial fishing for the seine fleet will close for 32 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. Two days later. The final fishing period will end at 10:00 p.m. on June 28th for the seine fleet.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the June South Unimak and Shumigan Islands Fishery, stagger the openings for the seine and drift gillnet fleets. Staggering the opening date by one day, for the seine and drift fleets would give at least one day per week without gear conflicts between the drift and seine fleets. The scheduled amount of days would remain the same; the opening day would just change.

PROPOSED BY: Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EF-C15-087)

PROPOSAL 184 – 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan. Repeal the current South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan and readopt the management plan in place during 2003-2004, as follows:

Revert to the regulation found in Register 166 of the Alaska Fish and Game Laws and Regulations 2003-2004 for 5 AAC 09.365 South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Fishing on stocks of concern when the harvest of discrete stocks are unknown.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-080)

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 nm 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)

PROPOSAL 186 – 5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections; and 5 AAC 09.XXX Dolgoi Island Section June Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. Establish a Dolgoi Island Section and Dolgoi Island Section June Management Plan, as follows:

(1) Dolgoi Island Area June Management (a) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik Rivers system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000 fish and the early run develops to where in the Chignik Area at least 300,000 early run sockeye salmon are expected to be available for harvest and surplus to escapement goals, the commissioner may establish commercial fishing periods in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat. areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) as follows:

(1) beginning on June 7 commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 66 hours until midnight two days later and then close for 54 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later;

(2) notwithstanding (1) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at midnight on June 27.

(b) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000, no June commercial salmon fishing shall occur in the Dolgoi Island Area until a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area is achieved. If the 300,000 has been achieved the commissioner may establish commercial fishing periods in the Dolgoi Island Area as follows:

(1) beginning on June 7 commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 66 hours until midnight two days later and then close for 54 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later;

(2) notwithstanding (1) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at midnight on June 27.

(c) All terminal harvest areas as specified in regulation are excluded from (a) and (b) sections.

(2) Dolgoi Island Area July 6-25 Management (a) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000 there will be no commercial salmon fishing in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat. areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) until a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area, as described in 5 AAC 15.100, is achieved. 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 the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least 600,000. Subject to the above, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods as follows:

(1) the first fishing period will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 25 hours until 7:00 a.m. the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 71 hours and re-open under (2) of this subsection;

(2) following the closure under (1) of this section, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run for 27 hours until 9:00 a.m. of the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 69 hours and re-open at 6:00 a.m. three days later.

(b) 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 commercial salmon in the Chignik Area and the department determines the runs are as strong as expected, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods in the Dolgoi Island Area (stat. areas: 283-15 thru 283-26 and 284-36 thru 284-42) as follows:

(1) the first fishing period will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 25 hours until 7:00 a.m. the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 71 hours and then reopen under (2) of this subsection;

(2) following the closure under (1) of this section, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run for 27 hours until at 9:00 a.m. of the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 69 hours and re-open at 6:00 a.m. three days later.

(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 the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least 600,000. Subject to the above, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods as follows:

(1) the first fishing period will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 25 hours until 7:00 a.m. the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 71 hours and then reopen under (2) of this subsection;

(2) following the closure under (1) of this section, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run for 27 hours until at 9:00 a.m. of the following day; commercial fishing will then close for 69 hours and re-open at 6:00 a.m. three days later.

(d) All terminal harvest areas as specified in regulation are excluded from (a), (b), and (c) sections.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 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 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 catch.

The pre July 26th Dolgoi Island Area fishery is by no means insignificant. In the WASSIP years (2006-08) the sockeye catch averaged 20% of the terminal harvest in the Chignik Management Area. Further evidence is that the fishery operated in 2008, a year when both Igvak and SEDM fisheries were closed (June 1 through July 25) due to weak Chignik runs. Per the WASSIP study an estimated 40% of the pre-July 26th Dolgoi catch was Chignik bound sockeye salmon in that year. In 2014 while the SEDM and Igvak fisheries were closed due to failure of the Chignik early run and a weak Chignik late run, the Dolgoi Island Area was opened and a total of 280,000 sockeye salmon were harvested through July 25 of which more than 136,000 are estimated to be Chignik sockeye salmon. South Peninsula sockeye barely contributed at less than 3,000 fish.

A management plan for the Dolgoi Island Area that addresses non-local interception of sockeye salmon which comprise an estimated 99+ % of the catch and is dominated by Chignik-bound fish is warranted. A reasonable plan would be a modest reduction in fishing time starting in June and continuing through July 25, coupled with a limit on the fishery whenever Chignik sockeye numbers are weak to where a Dolgoi Island Area harvest would impact the BOF-assigned harvest threshold for Area L and/or cause Chignik escapement shortfalls. Such is well justified. The Dolgoi Island Area is the only area where in June and July 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 pre July 26th harvest preferences, and the Igvak and Southeast Mainland District allocations.

There is no justification to limit or reduce harvest opportunity on any local South Peninsula stocks including pink and chum salmon, and therefore no change in the terminal harvest areas or management thereof should occur nor is proposed.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F15-033)
