

**PROPOSAL 51 - 5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan.** Increase the minimum expected sockeye salmon harvest thresholds from 300,000 to 600,000 prior to July 8 and 600,000 to 1,000,000 fish after July 8, and from 600,000 to 1,000,000 fish in years when runs are as strong as expected, as follows:

The new regulation would read as follows:

5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan. (a) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first (Black Lake) and second (Chignik Lake) runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 1,000,000 (600,000), there will be no commercial salmon fishery allowed in the Cape Igvak Section, as described in 5 AAC 18.200(g)(8), until a harvest of 600,000 (300,000) sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area, as described in 5 AAC 15.100, is achieved. After July 8, after at least 600,000 (300,000) sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least 1,000,000 (600,000) and the harvest in the Cape Igvak Section will approach as near as possible 15 percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

(b) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 1,000,000 (600,000), but the first run fails to develop as predicted and it is determined that a total sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area of 1,000,000 (600,000) or more may not be achieved, the Cape Igvak Section commercial salmon fishery will be curtailed in order to allow at least a minimum harvest in the Chignik Area of 600,000 (300,000) sockeye salmon by July 9 if that number of fish are determined to be surplus to the escapement goals of the Chignik River system. After July 8, after at least 600,000 (300,000) sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least 1,000,000 (600,000) and the harvest in the Cape Igvak Section will approach as near as possible 15 percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

(c) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 1,000,000 (600,000) and the department determines the runs are as strong as expected, the department will manage the fishery in such a manner whereby the number of sockeye salmon taken in the Cape Igvak Section will approach as near as possible 15 percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The argument made by the BOF in 1978 when they enacted the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan was that a 600,000 minimum sockeye harvest for Chignik was an adequate amount to “guarantee” Chignik fishermen, and that harvest amount should be assured prior to any opening of the Cape Igvak Section. In fact, the 15% allocation they settled on was justified by the 1978 BOF *because* the 600,000 Chignik sockeye harvest minimum was included in the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan. While the argument can be made that a 600,000 minimum sockeye harvest assurance for Chignik was inadequate even in 1978, it is indisputable that a minimum Chignik sockeye harvest assurance of 600,000 *today* is woefully inadequate due to the dramatic change in economic conditions since the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan was adopted 38 years ago.

**PROPOSED BY:** Axel S. Kopun

(EF-F16-052)

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