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Alaska Board Of Fisheries

Board Support Section

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Subject : South Alaska Peninsula-Shumagin and Dolgoi Area Fisheries

Mister Chairman and Members of the board

My name is Alfredo Abou Eid And I live and fish in Chignik for 40 plus years, and I have been a member of the Chignik AC for more than 30 years.

My concern is the current situation of the Chignik salmon season and the escapement and the interception fishery in the Shumagin and Dolgoi Area.

First off for the 2017 and 2018 salmon seasons the escapement was very weak to poor. Especially the 2018 salmon season in Chignik the minimum escapement for the first and the second run was not achieved. And the forecast for the 2019 Chignik salmon season looks very weak.

So according to the WASSIP study Area M in the Shumagin and Dolgoi area intercepted and caught 50% or more of Chignik bound Sockeye, and Area M is mainly a intercept fishery while Chignik is a terminal fishery and is manged by escapement in the Chignik rivers. While area M is regulated by dates for opening and closing, that means while they are open they intercept Chignik bound sockeye especially in the Shumagin and Dolgoi areas without any regard to the other struggling areas.

By BOF policy Area M in the Shumagin and Dolgoi sections should Share in the conservation burden and allocation limits to help provided for terminal escapement to local stock especially Chignik.

As Suggested by the Area M AC and Area M fisherman proposals they would like to get more fishing area and time and more salmon gear and also to take immature salmon for by catch so they can intercept more fish traveling to other areas. This idea is solely based on greed and no regards for other areas fish. It is not right and they are not sharing in the conservation responsibility for other areas especially Chignik. Area M in the Shumagin and Dolgoi sections needs to be better regulated and restricted like the SEMD to achieve the Chignik Escapement.

The Dolgoi 191,000 fish cap should be for the entire Dolgoi Area and not just a part of it. When Chignik has a weak run and doesn't look like Chignik is going to meet its escapement, Dolgoi and the Shumagin sections should be temporarily closed or slowed down to help achieve Chignik escapement goals. According to the WASSIP study 50% of Chignik bound salmon are caught in the Shumagin and Dolgoi sections of Area M.

The Area M Fishing Fleet has been upgraded since the 70s by getting bigger boats that are more powerful and efficient and can pack more pounds and can handle more weather and able to find new spots to intercept Chignik Bound Sockeye in the Shumagin and Dolgoi Areas.

The Shumagin and Dolgoi sections in Area M should have a closed fishing window so Chignik bound Sockeye can have a chance to make it to the Chignik Area. According to Area M Fishing Game it usually takes 4-5 days for Fish traveling from the Shumagin and Dolgoi Sections of Area M to reach The Chignik Area.

Most Chignik Area Fisherman Depend Solely on the Salmon run to make there income. While Area M in the Dolgoi and Shumagin section are getting more efficient at intercepting Chignik Bound sockeye causing a loss of income to the Chignik Fisherman and communities. If we have another year like the 2018 the people and communities of the Chignik Area will struggle to make ends meet and will depend on government and private aid to survive. There are not many jobs in the Chignik Area for fisherman and people to do if the fishing season tanks forcing people to leave the communities to find work and turning the fishing towns into abandoned ghost towns.

The BOF can help Chignik by putting more restrictions on Area M interception of fish in the Shumagin and Dolgoi sections of Chignik Bound Sockeye. By doing so the BOF can help sustain the Chignik Salmon Fishery which in turn will help keep the Chignik Area community's alive. And Maybe in time this will save the Chignik salmon Fishery or whats left of it.

All the current regulations in Area M are outdated and new regulations and restrictions need to be put in place to insure other areas get the salmon that are getting intercepted by Area M which is not currently sharing the conservation burden of the allocation limit to help other stocks and rivers to reach there escapement goals.

My Family depends on fishing to survive and with the decline of salmon and cod down 85% or more and there is currently not a crab season, and halibut quota is also down. So we need to keep the Chignik Area salmon season going by restricting or slowing down Area M interception of Chignik Bound Sockeye.

**Sincerely**

**Alfredo S Abou Eid and Family**