

Petition for Finding of Emergency Protection of Chignik's Late Sockeye Run (Chignik Lake) Due to Historically Low 2018 Escapement and Likely Further Run Failures

The Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association (CRAA) recognizes that the Board has received two emergency petitions regarding Chignik's early sockeye run (Black Lake), and now CRAA urgently requests that the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) expand the scope of the Chignik sockeye emergency petition issues to encompass the late (Chignik Lake) sockeye run as well, in accordance with 5 AAC 96.625 Joint Board Petition Policy and AS 44.62.270.

In addition to the information supplied to the Board in the emergency petition submitted by the Chignik Advisory Committee, the Chignik late run is now significantly below the minimum escapement goal and appears to be rapidly falling further behind. Average daily escapements during this time period are, at minimum, expected to be 3,800 sockeye (19,000 between July 10 and 19). During the past week, the daily escapement estimated by ADF&G for the late run has only exceeded 1,000 once (1,094) and otherwise has been less than 500 with three days at less than 200.

The current emergency in the Chignik sockeye salmon fishery is an unforeseen, unexpected event that threatens the Chignik sockeye resource. Not only is the early run less than half its minimum escapement goal but the late run is likewise falling behind in escapement below what is minimally prescribed by the Department as necessary to ensure future production to sustain the resource and viable local subsistence and commercial fisheries. In addition, the negative impact of excess harvesting pressure on Chignik's late Run could make unavailable a harvest opportunity in future years. It is clear that the negative impact on the communities of the Chignik area is currently nothing short of catastrophic and unless immediate action is taken in the South Alaska Peninsula post-June interception fisheries, which border the Chignik Management Area specifically in the Dolgoi Island and Shumagin Island areas, more severe and long lasting resource and community damages will occur.

Traditional knowledge and ADF&G's Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) confirm that Chignik's late run is particularly vulnerable in the South Peninsula Fisheries of Area M. Of all the Post-June Fishery areas only SEDM has a conservation limit based on Chignik sockeye. It is urgent that the rest of the South Pen, specifically the Dolgoi Island Area and the Shumagin Island Area fisheries be curtailed through July 25 and, to the extent consistent with providing local stock harvest opportunities, beyond July 25th or until an escapement recovery occurs on the Chignik late run.

The specific solution suggested for the Post June time period through July 25 is the same as the Chignik Advisory Panel's:

5AAC 09.366 Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

(a) amend to read: The purpose of this management plan is to provide management guidelines to the department for management of the post June salmon fisheries along the South Alaska Peninsula, to provide for the harvest of local stocks in terminal harvest areas, and in July manage fishing opportunity on Chignik-bound sockeye salmon in waters outside of terminal harvest areas.

(d) amend to add **(3)**: notwithstanding (b) and (c)(1), from July 1 through July 25 commercial fishing in

the Shumagin Islands and South Unimak Areas, excluding the Unimak District and terminal harvest areas, may be conducted provided Chignik's escapement goals are being met and the Department projects a total harvest of at least 600,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Management Area described in 5 AAC 15.100.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles McCallum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "C" at the beginning.

July 12, 2018

Charles McCallum, Executive Director of Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association