

PROPOSAL 58

5 AAC 18.360. Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan.

Close the Cape Igvak commercial salmon fishery prior to July 8, as follows:

The Board should amend 5 AAC 18.360, the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan, so that there is no commercial salmon fishery allowed in the Cape Igvak Section before July 8. The regulation should be revised to read as follows:

(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 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 300,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area, as described in 5 AAC 15.100, is achieved.] **There shall be no commercial salmon fishery allowed in the Cape Igvak Section, as described in 5 AAC 18.200(g), before July 8.** After July 8, [after] **if** at least 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 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 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 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 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 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 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)] **(b)** In years when a harvestable surplus beyond the escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 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.

[(d)] **(c)** The total Chignik sockeye salmon catch constitutes those sockeye salmon caught within the Chignik Area plus 80 percent of the sockeye salmon caught in the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, as described in 5 AAC 09.200(f), plus 90 percent of the sockeye salmon caught in the Cape Igvak Section. The harvest in the Cape Igvak Section at any time before July 25 may be permitted to fluctuate above or below 15 percent of the cumulative Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

[(e)] **(d)** This allocation method will be in effect **between July 8 and** [through] July 25. The first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Cape Igvak Section will not occur before [the first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Chignik Area] **July 8.**

[(f)] **(e)** [During the period from approximately June 26 through July 8,] **If** the strength of the second run of Chignik River system sockeye salmon cannot be evaluated **by July 8**, [In order to prevent overharvest of the second run,] commercial salmon fishing in the Cape Igvak Section will, in the department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted [during this period].

[(g)] **(f)** The department shall announce commercial salmon fishing periods by emergency order. The department shall give at least one-day notice prior to the opening of a commercial salmon fishing period unless it is an extension of a fishing period in progress.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board should amend the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan to reduce pressure placed on the Chignik commercial sockeye fishery by commercial salmon fishing that occurs in the Cape Igvak Section prior to July 8. When the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan was established in 1978, Kodiak's annual sockeye harvested averaged fewer than 500,000. Kodiak's sockeye harvests have rebounded dramatically, with an average harvest of 2.294 million sockeye per year in the past 10 years (2009-2018), and an average harvest of 2.541 million sockeye per year in the past 5 years. In contrast, commercial sockeye harvest in the Chignik Management Area has declined.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Intertribal Coalition

(EF-F19-075)
