

From: "Vincent-Lang, Douglas S (DFG)" <doug.vincent-lang@alaska.gov>
Date: July 13, 2020 at 2:25:04 PM AKDT
To: "Sagalkin, Nicholas H (DFG)" <nick.sagalkin@alaska.gov>
Cc: "Rabung, Samuel H (DFG)" <samuel.rabung@alaska.gov>, "Haight, Glenn E (DFG)" <glenn.haight@alaska.gov>, "Anna C. Crary" <annac@lbblawyers.com>
Subject: RE: July 2020 Salmon Conservation Concerns in Southwest Alaska

Please draft a response for my signature. Short and sweet noting the recent board deliberations on these issues and their management guidance.

From: George Anderson <g.anderson@chignikcoalition.org>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:02 PM
To: Vincent-Lang, Douglas S (DFG) <doug.vincent-lang@alaska.gov>
Cc: Sagalkin, Nicholas H (DFG) <nick.sagalkin@alaska.gov>; Rabung, Samuel H (DFG) <samuel.rabung@alaska.gov>; Haight, Glenn E (DFG) <glenn.haight@alaska.gov>; Anna C. Crary <annac@lbblawyers.com>
Subject: Re: July 2020 Salmon Conservation Concerns in Southwest Alaska

July 13, 2020

Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
1255 West 8th St.
P.O. Box 11526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

VIA Email: douglas.vincent-lang@alaska.gov

Re: July 2020 Salmon Conservation Concerns in Southwest Alaska

Dear Commissioner Vincent-Lang,

The Chignik Intertribal Coalition ("CIC") respectfully requests your immediate attention to the dire salmon returns in the Chignik Management Area. On July 2, 2020, CIC sent a letter to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game ("ADF&G") Westward Region Supervisor Nicholas Sagalkin and ADF&G Salmon/Herring Fisheries Management Coordinator Jeff Wadle, requesting specific commercial fishing restrictions and closures in the Area M South Peninsula Post-June sockeye fishery. A copy of that letter is attached. CIC has not received a response, and given the immediate conservation concerns presented by the ongoing commercial fishing in Area M, CIC requests a response to that

letter, and the issues raised below, as soon as possible, and no later than Thursday, July 16, 2020.

The Chignik Area's early-run sockeye escapement is at a record low since statehood. But this year's low return is not an isolated event; it is part of a pattern of management failures and declines in the fishery that threatens the economic and cultural livelihoods of Alaskans who depend on the Chignik fishery. Further compounding the failure of the early run is the fact that Chignik's late-run sockeye escapement is also below escapement objectives at this time. CIC requests your help in understanding how ADF&G is, and will continue to, meet its management responsibilities for the fishery. In your response, please address the following issues and specific questions:

1. ADF&G does not appear to have a management strategy in place to limit commercial fishing this month in areas such as the Shumagin Islands, even though restrictions were implemented in June. It is well documented that Chignik's late run is far more susceptible to interception by Area M fishermen than the early run. How does ADF&G intend to manage the Area M fishery in July? What decision criteria and management strategies does ADF&G intend to implement for limiting fishing time in the Shumagin Islands in July?
2. What management plans or strategies are in place currently to ensure that ADF&G satisfies its constitutional and statutory obligations to manage the Chignik fishery for sustained yield, in 2020 and over the long-term?
3. The Chignik fishery has traditionally been managed to ensure pink and chum salmon escapement prior to issuing an opener on those species. Why is this not standard procedure in the Area M South Peninsula fishery? What factors or information does ADF&G have that justifies treating the Area M South Peninsula fishery differently than other similar fishing areas?

Thank you for giving this issue your immediate attention. If you have any questions, please contact George Anderson, President, CIC, g.anderson@chignikcoalition.org.

Sincerely,

George Anderson
Chignik Intertribal Coalition, President

Submitted By: Axel Kopun