

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME



**CHIGNIK RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON
ACTION PLAN**

February 6, 2023

CHIGNIK RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON STOCK STATUS AND ACTION PLAN, 2023

INTRODUCTION

SYNOPSIS

In April of 2022, the Board of Fisheries (board) designated Chignik River (Figures 1 and 2) early-run sockeye salmon as a stock of management concern after an Agenda Change Request was taken up out of cycle at the board meeting for the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Westward, Arctic Shellfish and Shellfish General Provisions and Prince William Sound Shrimp meeting in Anchorage from March 26 to April 2 (Appendix A1). This recommendation was based on guidelines established in the *Policy for Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries* (SSFP; 5 AAC 39.222). The SSFP states that “management concern means a concern arising from a chronic inability, despite use of specific management measures, to maintain escapements for a salmon stock within the bounds of the SEG, BEG, OEG, or other specific management objectives for the fishery...”. Chronic inability is further defined in the SSFP as “...the continuing or anticipated inability to meet escapement thresholds over a four to five-year period...” based on the generation time of most salmon species. The Chignik River sockeye salmon early run has failed to make the escapement goal for four of the past five years (Tables 1, 2, and 3) despite specific management measures taken by the department to reduce harvest in the commercial fisheries since 2018 (Tables 4 and 5).

Since the April 2022 designation of the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon as a stock of management concern, the department has reviewed the escapement goals in the Chignik River system and combined the early and late runs into a single goal. Although the early-run goal has been dropped in lieu of a total run goal, evaluating the stock of concern around the first half of the run will effectively retain its intent. The magnitude and timing of escapement into the Chignik River will continue to be monitored across the whole run (both early and late).

This action plan summarizes a historical assessment of annual run size and how to address the transition of the early-run sockeye salmon stock of management concern to a single goal system while retaining the intent of the original designations and agreements. It also covers existing regulations and emergency order (EO) authority that the department follows to manage Chignik River sockeye salmon, options for potential management actions for the commercial, subsistence, and sport fisheries, and department research projects for Chignik River system sockeye salmon.

STOCK ASSESSMENT AND ESCAPEMENT GOAL HISTORY

The department has operated a weir to assess salmon escapement to the Chignik River since 1922. Since 1970, the Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement has ranged from 1,136,918 in 2001 to 330,975 fish in 2020. During the 10 years prior to the 2018 run failure (2008–2017), escapements averaged 409,783 sockeye salmon by July 10. After 2017, there was a sharp decline in productivity, as measured both by total harvest and escapement. From 2018 through 2022 escapements decreased to an average of 256,577 fish through July 10. The decline in escapement was not due to increased harvests (subsistence and commercial), which also declined. Through July 10, commercial harvest of sockeye salmon went from an average of 891,453 (2008–2017) to 323 (2018–2022; Table 2).

In four of the last five years (2018–2022), Chignik River early run sockeye salmon escapement was below the previous biological escapement goal (BEG) of 350,000–450,000 fish (Schaberg et

al. 2015). During this period, escapements ranged from 137,213 fish in 2020 to 412,228 fish in 2022 (Table 1).

Escapement goals for Chignik River sockeye salmon were originally established in 1968 and set at 350,000 to 400,000 fish for the early run and 200,000 to 250,000 fish for the late run (Dahlberg 1968). These initial escapement goals were developed using spawner-recruit relationships from periods of high (1922 to 1939) and low (1949 to 1960) productivity to rebuild declining Chignik sockeye salmon runs (Dahlberg 1968). It is important to note that Dahlberg (1968) reduced his original estimate of escapement to Chignik Lake (340,000 fish) to account for early- and late-run stock interactions of rearing fry in Chignik Lake to facilitate restoring Black Lake productivity. In 1998, the board established a September 1–15 management objective of 25,000 fish, supplemental to the lower bound of the late-run goal, to accommodate subsistence fishers upstream of the Chignik weir. In 2004, the numerical ranges of the goals were left in place, but the goals were reclassified as sustainable escapement goals (SEG) because scientifically defensible estimates of S_{MSY} were not possible. Also in 2004, the board established an August management objective of 25,000 fish (in addition to the existing September management objective) to further provide subsistence opportunities upstream of the weir. In 2007, the late-run SEG was changed to 200,000 to 400,000 fish, and the two 25,000-fish management objectives were reclassified as inriver run goals (IRRG; Witteveen et al. 2007). Actual timing of adoption of the inriver goal is unclear from other documents because it was initially a management objective that was expanded over 2 cycles (1989 and 2004) but was adopted as a formal inriver goal in 2007. In 2013 the early-run goal was changed from an SEG to a BEG, the range was increased to 350,000–450,000 fish, and the inriver run goal (IRRG) was officially put into regulation (Sagalkin et al. 2013). In 2015 no changes were made to the Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goals (Schaberg et al. 2015); however, the board increased the IRRG by 25,000 fish in September for a total IRRG of 75,000 fish. The 2019 board reduced the IRRG to 20,000 fish, with 10,000 fish required to pass the Chignik River weir during August and another 10,000 fish in September; there were no changes made to either sockeye salmon goal.

In 2022, the department reassessed the Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goals. Results from these analyses indicated S_{MSY} can be achieved by a *single BEG of 450,000–800,000* fish for Chignik River sockeye salmon. Spawner-recruit models fitted with time series of data for both runs were used for this escapement goal recommendation (Table 6; Figures 3 and 4). Using the 1983–2013 time series, the upper bound of 800,000 fish was estimated to provide a 90% probability of achieving 80% of MSY for the overall run (Figure 4). The recommended upper bound of 800,000 aligns with the S_{MSY} estimate of 782,000 fish using the entire 1983–2013 time series (Table 6 and Figure 4). This level of escapement also is known to provide replacement, where escapements that exceed this value have not consistently provided replacement. These brood years provide better insight into the overall variability of stock production and potential yield.

Using the 1998–2013 time series, the lower bound of 450,000 fish is estimated to provide a 90% probability of achieving 80% of MSY for the overall run (Figure 4) and is supported by the zooplankton biomass model lower bound (range 449,000 to 674,000 fish; Table 6) for Chignik Lake, where juvenile early- and late-run fish rear together. The recommended lower bound of 450,000 fish is also based on the estimate of S_{MSY} of 500,700 fish using the 1998–2013 time series (Table 6 and Figure 4): these lower production years may be more indicative of conditions and production trends in the near future.

Since there is no longer a formal early-run sockeye salmon escapement goal, assessing the health of this portion of the whole run should be clearly defined and follow the intent of the designation. The early run has historically been described based on the timing of the run, as well as the genetic composition of different portions of the run. The genetic component that arrives earliest is composed mostly of Black Lake origin fish. It has been shown through years (2007–2021) of genetic investigation of the two major stock components, that the transition from Black Lake being the dominant stock present in the escapement to the Chignik Lake stock being the dominant stock in the escapement occurs on average on July 9 (Figure 5). This date also coincides with the average midpoint of the escapement of all Chignik River sockeye salmon on July 10 (Figure 6). On average July 10 also represents the date on which >90% of the Black Lake escapement has passed the weir, with the Black Lake run typically being over on July 28 (Figure 5).

At the April 2022 board meeting in which the Chignik early-run sockeye salmon stock was designated as a concern, there were several discussions among members of the board and stakeholders from affected areas. To maintain the integrity of those conversations and agreement by parties present (Appendix A2), it is important to identify some differences in how we assess the adequacy of the escapement based on this change in escapement goals. The agreement was to manage for the lower bound of the old early-run BEG. Given the change to the single run goal, the escapement goal team established a metric at the same scale as described in the agreement. Escapement would be considered according to the midpoint of the new single BEG, which is equivalent to the agreed-upon lower bound of the old goal (550,000 sockeye salmon; Table 6).

July 10 is the optimal date to consider to be in line with the intent of the stock of concern designation for the early run because it references the first half of the run. On average, beyond this date the escapement is comprised mostly of Chignik Lake fish and would be considered the second half of the run. Any management actions occurring after July 10 would have more effect on the second half of the run and on Chignik Lake bound fish.

HABITAT

The Chignik Management Area (CMA) comprises all coastal waters and inland drainages on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula, bounded by a line extending 135° southeast for 3 miles from a point near Kilokak Rocks (57°10.34' N. lat., 156°20.22' W. long.) then due south to a line extending 135° southeast for 3 miles from Kupreanof Point at 55°33.98' N. lat., 159°35.88' W. long. (Figure 1). The area is divided into 5 commercial fishing districts: Eastern, Central, Chignik Bay, Western, and Perryville Districts. These districts are further divided into 14 sections and 38 statistical reporting areas.

The Chignik River is the major watershed in the CMA and consists of 2 interconnected lakes (Black and Chignik Lakes) with a single outlet river (the Chignik River) that empties into the Chignik Lagoon (Figure 2). All 5 species of Pacific salmon *Oncorhynchus* spp. found in Alaska return to the Chignik River. Sockeye salmon *O. nerka* returns consist of an early run and a late run, and king salmon *O. tshawytscha* are only monitored in the Chignik River. Pink *O. gorbuscha*, chum *O. keta*, and coho *O. kisutch* salmon also return to other streams throughout the CMA.

When the West Fork blew out in the 1960s, habitat around Black Lake was altered. Notable changes to the rearing habitat of Chignik sockeye salmon have occurred since then. At the Black Lake Workshop hosted by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) over November 3-4, 2021, the USACE revealed that the Chignik River watershed had not stabilized until around 2000.

HARVEST MANAGEMENT

The 2022 CMA commercial salmon fishery was managed based on the *Chignik Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.357)¹. Sockeye salmon bound for the Chignik River watershed were also allocated under 2 additional management plans: the *Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 18.360) in the Kodiak Management Area (Area K)² and the *Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 09.360) in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area (Area M; Figure 7).

The *Chignik Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 15.357) was originally adopted in 1999. The goal of this plan is to allow traditional salmon fisheries in the CMA while achieving the established escapement goals for early-run (Black Lake) and late-run (Chignik Lake) sockeye salmon (Table 2), as well as local stocks of king, pink, coho, and chum salmon. Purse seines and hand purse seines are the only legal commercial salmon fishing gear within the CMA. Legal seine gear ranges from 100 to 125 fathoms in length in the Chignik Bay District and from 100 to 225 fathoms in length in all other districts (5 AAC 15.332). To assist management efforts, the management plan is organized into districts or groups of districts: the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, the Eastern District, and the Western and Perryville Districts (Figure 1).

The first commercial fishing period may not open in the CMA until at least 20,000 sockeye salmon have escaped into the Chignik River, or if ADF&G determines that a strong buildup of sockeye salmon exists in Chignik Lagoon and it is anticipated that 20,000 sockeye salmon will escape into the Chignik River. The purpose of this regulation is to allow subsistence fishing opportunity prior to the commercial fishing season and to avoid a large buildup of salmon in the lagoon. Once the 20,000 sockeye salmon minimum has been achieved or is expected to be achieved, the Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District (Figure 1) may open concurrently as long as the Chignik Lakes' sockeye salmon runs are meeting escapement objectives [5 AAC 15.357 (b)]. Management action may also be taken for local stocks of king, coho, pink, and chum salmon.

In June, the Eastern District, by regulation [5 AAC 15.357 (c)(1)], opens concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District (Figure 1). Beginning in July, management of the Eastern District is based on local pink and chum salmon stocks as well as the strength of the Chignik River sockeye salmon runs. After July 31, the Eastern District is managed based on the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon or the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon runs [5 AAC 15.357 (d)(3)].

By regulation, the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District opens concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts throughout the commercial salmon fishing season [5 AAC 15.357 (b); Figure 1]. Also, by regulation [5 AAC 15.357 (d)], from June 1 through July 5 in the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, and in the Perryville District, the department may open the commercial salmon fishery concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District.

¹ ADF&G. 2019. 2019–2021 Alaska Peninsula, Atka-Amlia Islands, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik Areas Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau.

² ADF&G. 2020–2022. Kodiak Area Commercial Salmon Fishing Regulations. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Juneau.

An IRRG of 20,000 sockeye salmon is added to the lower bound of the goal range for late-season subsistence needs. Of this, 10,000 are required to pass in August and the remaining 10,000 in September.

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COMMERCIAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Past Management Actions

Fisheries managers have responded to the recent early-run declines with inseason management actions designed to reduce harvests when sockeye salmon runs were low. The department restricted sockeye salmon fishing within the CMA until such time there was sufficient surplus sockeye salmon beyond escapement needs. Since 2017, no commercial fishing periods targeting sockeye salmon prior to July 10 have taken place. In order to provide some fishing opportunity, pink- and chum salmon-targeted fishing periods prior to July 10 occurred during early July in 2018 and 2019 (Table 4), which were restricted to terminal statistical areas within the Central, Western, and Perryville Districts. Fishing periods after July 10 targeting late-run sockeye occurred in 2019, 2021, and 2022. No commercial fishing periods occurred in 2020.

Since 2018, the department has taken action outside of regulatory management plans in the South Alaska Peninsula with the intent of trying to reduce the harvest of Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon (Table 5). Those actions included reducing the fishing time from 88 hours to 40 hours in 2018 for the last two June commercial fishing periods for all gear types and across the entire South Peninsula. In 2020, the department closed the “Dolgoi Island area” on June 13 and reduced fishing time in fishing time in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District from 88 hours to 40 hours for all gear types in the last two openings in June (Figures 8 and 9). After the board designated the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon as a stock of management concern and the signed agreement between the Area M Seiners Association and the Chignik Intertribal Coalition in 2022 (Appendix A2) commercial salmon fishing in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District was reduced for purse seine gear on June 15, 20, and 25 during the 2022 salmon season.

Recommended Management Actions

Action #1

Status quo. Maintain regulations as currently specified in 5 AAC 15.357. *Chignik Salmon Management Plan*. The plan regulates commercial salmon seine fisheries within the CMA for sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon.

Also, within the South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery, continue with similar management actions taken in the 2022 commercial salmon fisheries in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District as outlined in the agreement made by the Chignik Intertribal Coalition and Area M Seiners Association at the April 2022 board meeting. This agreement is summarized in Record Copy 104 and states that:

Based on early run sockeye salmon escapement at the Chignik weir, fishing time for purse seine gear, during the second fishing period, under the *South Unimak and*

Shumagin Islands June Sockeye Salmon Management Plan would be reduced by 50%, in the Shumagin Islands Section, in order to achieve the lower bound of the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon escapement goal. Fishing time for purse seine gear under the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* would continue being reduced during subsequent fishing periods to meet the lower bound of the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon escapement goal. If the lower bound of the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon escapement goal is projected to be met restrictions in the South Alaska Peninsula fishery would be lifted and commercial salmon fishing periods in the Chignik Management Area may be warranted.

If the lower bound of the Chignik River sockeye salmon run escapement goal is not projected to be met by July 1, a mixture of restrictions, including a 50% reduction in fishing time for purse seine gear during the first commercial salmon fishing period in July in the Shumagin Islands Section, would be applied to fishing opportunity in the South Alaska Peninsula Area under the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula and in the Chignik Management Area.

Also, the department will continue to manage the Southeastern District Mainland and “Dolgoi Island area” as directed in regulation (Figure 8).

Specific Actions:

Since 2018, the department has managed the Chignik River system commercial sockeye salmon fishery conservatively due to weak first half of the Chignik sockeye salmon returns (Table 2). The department would target the midpoint of the first half of the sockeye salmon run BEG of 210,000–587,000 fish (Figure 6). In June the department establishes the commercial salmon openings in the CMA via EO based on existing and incoming sockeye salmon escapement through the Chignik weir. Commercial salmon openings are allowed within the entire CMA, although there are constraints to the Perryville Section. Prior to July 10, when sockeye salmon runs to the Chignik system are weak, the department would continue to manage conservatively and use EO authority to only invoke commercial salmon fishing periods when there is sufficient surplus of sockeye salmon beyond escapement needs.

In the South Peninsula, if the first half of the escapement through the Chignik weir is not projected to meet the lower end of the goal through July 10 (210,000 sockeye salmon), the commercial fishing periods for seine gear will be reduced to 40 hours in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District on June 15, June 20, and June 25. Commercial salmon fishing periods would begin at 6:00 a.m., remain open for 40 hours, and close at 10:00 p.m. the following day. In years when Chignik is meeting the lower end of the goal through July 10, or if commercial salmon fishing opens in Chignik, the commercial seine openings in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District would occur at 6:00 a.m., remain open for 88 hours, and close at 10:00 p.m. four days later.

Background:

Chignik Management Area commercial salmon fishing periods targeting sockeye salmon are established through EO and are based on escapement through the Chignik weir and evaluation of

incoming sockeye salmon through harvest and test fisheries. The first commercial fishing periods typically occur in early to mid-June, although no openings targeting sockeye salmon have occurred within the month of June since 2017.

Some sockeye salmon harvests in the South Peninsula area of Area M commercial fisheries are a mixed stock fishery and do include varying proportions of Chignik River sockeye salmon, depending on relative abundance. Currently, there are management plans in place for the SEDM and “Dolgoi Island area” as defined in 5 AAC 09.365 and 5 AAC 09.366 for the South Alaska Peninsula that provide specific allocative direction about sockeye salmon management based on both the Chignik run and sockeye salmon harvest within the South Alaska Peninsula (Figure 8).

Benefits:

Potentially allowing some amount of Chignik sockeye salmon through the South Peninsula for escapement purposes.

Detriments:

Loss of harvest of non-Chignik bound sockeye salmon due to restricted time and area.

Action #2

Alter regulations that are currently specified in 5 AAC 15.357. *Chignik Salmon Management Plan*. The plan regulates commercial salmon seine fisheries within the CMA for sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon. The alteration would be that commercial fishing periods focused on sockeye salmon prior to July 10 would only occur when escapement is projecting at or above the July 10 midpoint escapement objective (316,000 sockeye salmon).

Also, within the South Peninsula salmon fishery, continue with the slightly modified management actions taken in the 2022 commercial salmon fisheries in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District as outlined in the agreement made by the Chignik Intertribal Coalition and Area M Seiners Association at the April 2022 board meeting (Appendix A2). The modification would include projecting that the midpoint rather than the lower bound of the first half of the Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goal would be met (316,000 sockeye salmon) by July 10 or commercial salmon fishing was allowed in the CMA. If the midpoint of the first half of the Chignik River sockeye salmon run escapement goal is not projected to be met by July 10, there will be a 50% reduction in fishing time in June for purse seine gear during the second, third, and fourth commercial salmon fishing period (June 15, June 20, and June 25) within the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District (Figure 9).

Also, the department will continue to manage the SEDM and “Dolgoi Island area” as directed in regulation (Figure 8).

Specific Actions:

Since 2018, the department has managed the Chignik River system commercial sockeye salmon fishery conservatively due to weak first half of the sockeye salmon returns (Table 4 and 5). The department would target the midpoint of the first half of the run sockeye salmon BEG of 210,000–587,000 (Figure 6) fish. In June the department establishes the commercial salmon openings in the CMA via EO based on existing and incoming sockeye salmon escapement through the Chignik

weir. Commercial salmon openings are allowed within the entire CMA, although there are constraints to the Perryville Section. Prior to July 10, when sockeye salmon runs to the Chignik system are weak, the department would manage conservatively and use EO authority to only invoke commercial salmon fishing periods when there is sufficient surplus of sockeye salmon beyond escapement needs.

In the South Peninsula, if the first half of the escapement through the Chignik weir is not projected to meet the midpoint of the goal through July 10 (316,000 sockeye salmon), or Chignik does not have a commercial salmon opening, the commercial fishing periods for seine gear in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District on June 15, June 20, and June 25 will be reduced to 40 hours each (Figure 9). Fishing periods would begin at 6:00 a.m., remain open for 40 hours, and close at 10:00 p.m. the following day. In years when Chignik is meeting the midpoint of the goal through July 10, or if commercial salmon fishing opened in Chignik, the commercial seine openings in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District would occur at 6:00 a.m., remain open for 88 hours, and close at 10:00 p.m. four days later.

Background:

CMA commercial salmon fishing periods targeted towards sockeye salmon have always been declared through EO based on escapement through the Chignik weir and evaluation of incoming sockeye salmon through harvest and test fisheries. The first commercial fishing periods typically occur in early- to mid-June, although no openings targeting sockeye salmon have occurred within the month of June since 2017.

Some sockeye salmon harvests in the South Alaska Peninsula area of Area M commercial fisheries are a mixed stock fishery and do include varying proportions of Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon depending on relative abundance. Currently, there are management plans in place for the SEDM and “Dolgoi Island area” as defined in 5 AAC 09.365 and 5 AAC 09.366 for the South Alaska Peninsula that provide specific allocative direction about sockeye salmon management based on both the Chignik run and sockeye salmon harvest within the South Alaska Peninsula (Figure 8).

Benefits:

Potentially allowing some amount of Chignik sockeye salmon through the South Alaska Peninsula for escapement purposes.

Detriments:

Loss of harvest of non-Chignik bound sockeye salmon due to restricted time and area.

Action #3

Alter regulations that are currently specified in 5 AAC 15.357. *Chignik Salmon Management Plan*. The plan regulates commercial salmon seine fisheries within the CMA for sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon. The alteration would be that commercial fishing periods focused on sockeye salmon prior to July 10 would only occur when escapement is projecting at or above the July 10 midpoint escapement objective (316,000 sockeye salmon).

Also, within the South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery, continue with the similar management actions taken in the 2022 commercial salmon fisheries in the Shumagin Islands Section of the

Southeastern District as outlined in the agreement made by the Chignik Intertribal Coalition and Area M Seiners Association at the April 2022 board meeting (Appendix A2) with the modifications of using the midpoint of the first half of the run through July 10 (316,000 sockeye salmon) and reducing fishing periods by 50% starting in the third and fourth commercial seine openings (June 20 and June 25) rather than the second, third, and fourth openings (June 15, June 20, and June 25). Currently, the second commercial opening for seine gear in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District is on June 15, which is early to be projecting the escapement of sockeye salmon in the Chignik River. The escapement of sockeye salmon in the Chignik River could be just a few days late which would trigger a reduction in fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula, and then the Chignik run could come in strong, resulting in foregone harvest of sockeye salmon potentially headed to other fisheries (e.g., Bristol Bay). In 2022, the second, third, and fourth purse seine openings were reduced by 50% and the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon escapement goal was met. This could be due to a later returning early run of sockeye salmon to the Chignik River combined with triggered unnecessary restrictions going into effect in the South Alaska Peninsula fishery.

Also, the department will continue to manage the SEDM and “Dolgoi Island area” as directed in regulation (Figure 8).

Specific Actions:

Since 2018, the department has managed the Chignik River system commercial sockeye salmon fishery conservatively due to weak first half of the sockeye salmon returns (Table 2). The department would target the midpoint of the first half of the run sockeye salmon BEG of 210,000–587,000 fish (Figure 6). In June the department establishes the commercial salmon openings in the CMA via EO based on existing and incoming sockeye salmon escapement through the Chignik weir. Commercial salmon openings are allowed within the entire CMA, although there are constraints to the Perryville Section. Prior to July 10, when sockeye salmon runs to the Chignik system are weak, the department would continue to manage conservatively and use EO authority to only invoke commercial salmon fishing periods when there is sufficient surplus of sockeye salmon beyond escapement needs.

In the South Peninsula, if the first half of the escapement through the Chignik weir is not projected to meet the midpoint of the goal through July 10 (316,000 sockeye salmon), or Chignik does not have a commercial salmon opening, the commercial fishing periods for seine gear openings on June 20 and June 25 in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District would occur at 6:00 a.m., remain open for 40 hours, and close at 10:00 p.m. the following day (Figure 9). In years when Chignik is meeting the midpoint of the goal through July 10, or if commercial salmon fishing opened in Chignik, the commercial seine openings in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District would occur at 6:00 a.m., remain open for 88 hours, and close at 10:00 p.m. four days later.

Background:

CMA commercial salmon fishing periods targeted towards sockeye salmon have always been declared through EO based on escapement through the Chignik weir and evaluation of incoming sockeye salmon through harvest and test fisheries. The first commercial fishing periods typically occur in early- to mid-June, although no openings targeting sockeye salmon have occurred within the month of June since 2017.

Some sockeye salmon harvests in the South Peninsula area of Area M commercial fisheries are a mixed stock fishery and do include varying proportions of Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon depending on relative abundance. Currently, there are management plans in place for the SEDM and “Dolgoi Island area” as defined in 5 AAC 09.365 and 5 AAC 09.366 for the South Alaska Peninsula that provide specific allocative direction about sockeye salmon management based on both the Chignik run and sockeye salmon harvest within the South Peninsula (Figure 8).

Benefits:

Potentially allowing some amount of Chignik sockeye salmon through the South Peninsula for escapement purposes.

Detriments:

Loss of harvest of non-Chignik bound sockeye salmon due to restricted time and area.

SUBSISTENCE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Past Management Actions

While the department has the authority to restrict subsistence harvest of sockeye salmon within the CMA via emergency order, no subsistence restrictions have been made by the department. Relative to the run size, subsistence harvest is insignificant (Table 2) and subsistence harvest is of high importance to communities within the CMA.

Federal subsistence fisheries are authorized in portions of the CMA for federally-qualified residents, who must reside in one of the CMA communities as their permanent place of residence. Federal subsistence fishing regulations in the CMA apply to waters within or adjacent to the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge, Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve, and the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (Brown et al. 2022:120).

Federal and state subsistence regulations in the CMA generally parallel each other; however, in portions of the CMA, federal regulations authorize additional gear, harvest locations, and harvest seasons not authorized by the state. Reference the *Federal Subsistence Management Regulations for the Harvest of Fish and Shellfish on Federal Public Lands and Waters in Alaska* for more information³.

In 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021, the federal Chignik Area In-Season Manager issued Emergency Special Actions to close the federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage to the harvest of sockeye salmon except by federally-qualified subsistence users due to concerns for the conservation of healthy Chignik River sockeye salmon (Appendices B1–B4). During these closures, sockeye salmon could only be harvested by federally-qualified subsistence users who were residents of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, or Perryville and who were in possession of a federal subsistence harvest permit.

³ <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/2021-2023-fisheries-regulations-book-web-reduced.pdf>

Potential Management Actions

Action #1

Status quo. The department is tasked with the management of salmon, according to the preference for subsistence uses found by law in Alaska Statute 16.05.258 and uses EO authority to manage CMA subsistence fisheries.

Specific Actions:

When sockeye salmon runs to the Chignik system are weak, the department can enforce nonretention of sockeye salmon in the subsistence fishery in the Chignik River drainage.

Background:

Currently, the department is directed to ensure some escapement for subsistence needs prior to opening commercial fishing. In addition to escapement needs, there is an IRRG of 20,000 sockeye salmon, with 10,000 required to pass in both August and September.

In 1993, the board reaffirmed that salmon in the CMA support customary and traditional (subsistence) uses (5 AAC 01.466). In 2019, based on new information regarding run timing, the board modified the amounts of sockeye salmon that are reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) in the CMA as follows: for Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern districts combined the ANS is 2,900–5,400 early-run sockeye salmon and 3,200–6,000 late-run sockeye salmon. The board retained the Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts ANSs of 100–150 king salmon and 400–700 salmon other than sockeye or king salmon. The board also did not change the ANSs for the Perryville and Western districts combined, which are 1,400–2,600 coho salmon and 1,400–2,600 salmon other than coho salmon [5 AAC 01.466 (a)(b)].

The department has opted not to limit subsistence harvest of sockeye salmon since the impact towards the run based on amount harvest relative to the run size is insignificant. While the state did not make restrictions, subsistence harvest opportunity was limited to only federally-qualified residents each year 2018 through 2022.

Benefits:

Customary and traditional subsistence uses that have been deemed necessary are able to be maintained without measurable harm to the run. The department retains the ability to restrict subsistence harvest of sockeye salmon via emergency order if determined necessary.

Detriments:

None.

SPORT FISHERY MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Past Management Actions

The Chignik River has very low participation by anglers targeting sockeye salmon, even compared to other drainages on the Alaska Peninsula where some of the lowest angler effort in the State of

Alaska occurs. Most angler effort in the Chignik River is attributable to targeting king salmon, coho salmon and resident species in Chignik Lake. There are no estimates of harvest or effort for Chignik sockeye salmon available from the Statewide Harvest Survey due to the low participation rates and subsequent response to the survey. There was also only occasional harvest of sockeye salmon reported in the previously-available freshwater guide logbooks, all of which is confidential information due to the low number of participants in the fishery. Harvests by anglers of Chignik River sockeye salmon are very low and likely close to zero in some years and are inconsequential to achieving escapement objectives. In addition, the department rarely receives any angler observations or reports in regard to Chignik River sockeye salmon sport fishing.

For management of Chignik River sport fisheries, the commissioner may, by emergency order, change bag and possession limits and annual limits and alter methods and means in sport fisheries (5 AAC 75.003). These changes may not reduce the allocation of harvest among other user groups. An emergency order may not supersede provisions for increasing or decreasing bag and possession limits or changing methods and means specified in regulatory management plans established by the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

The department has not taken any management actions in regard to Chignik River sockeye salmon to date due to the lack of participation and interest in regards to sockeye salmon in the drainage.

Potential Management Actions

Action #1

Allow the department to continue to use its EO authority to manage the Chignik River sockeye salmon. If a sport fishery develops for sockeye salmon in the drainage, actions could include preseason or inseason sport fishery restrictions, such as reduced bag limits and fishery closures. This would likely occur in response to a new or developing sockeye salmon sport fishery in the area.

Specific Action:

Use EO authority to allow department flexibility to restrict bag limits or close the Chignik River sockeye salmon sport fishery, as needed.

Background:

The Chignik River is open to fishing for sockeye salmon year-round. The salmon, other than king salmon, bag limit is five fish with a 10 fish possession limit, all of which may be sockeye salmon. The department has not taken action in the sport fishery in regard to sockeye salmon to date given the low participation rates and low interest in sockeye salmon in the Chignik Drainage.

Benefits:

The benefits of providing the department the flexibility to manage Chignik River sockeye salmon stocks inseason with EO authority are timely and meaningful management actions based on current run strength and in response to the development of a sport fishery in the area targeting sockeye salmon. The department has, and has used, EO authority to manage the sport fishery to achieve established escapement goals if such a fishery were to develop.

Detriments:

Some harvest of Chignik River sockeye salmon could occur by anglers in the drainage if EO action is not taken by the department.

Action #2

Reduce the bag limit for sockeye salmon in the Chignik River drainage.

Specific Action:

Take board action to reduce the bag limit for sockeye salmon in the Chignik River drainage. This could include similar regulations to the Kodiak and Unalaska/Dutch Harbor areas that specify reduced sockeye salmon bag limits in specific areas. In the case of Kodiak and Unalaska, there is a two fish bag limit for sockeye salmon in the road accessible areas of both islands.

Background:

The Chignik River is open to fishing for sockeye salmon year-round. The salmon, other than king salmon, bag limit is five fish with a 10 fish possession limit, all of which may be sockeye salmon. The department has not taken action in the sport fishery in regards to sockeye salmon to date given the low participation rates and low interest in sockeye salmon in the Chignik Drainage.

Benefits:

There could be a reduction in harvest of Chignik River sockeye salmon by anglers.

Detriments:

There would be increased regulatory complexity for the drainage in regards to a sport fishery that has not developed to date. There would be an unknown amount of fish saved since there are no harvest estimates and few angler reports in regards to sockeye salmon in the Chignik area and it is unknown to what level anglers fill bag limits in the drainage.

Action #3

Close sport fishing for sockeye salmon in the Chignik River drainage.

Specific Action:

Take board action to close sport fishing for sockeye salmon in the Chignik River drainage.

Background:

The Chignik River is open to fishing for sockeye salmon year-round. The salmon, other than king salmon, bag limit is five fish with a 10 fish possession limit, all of which may be sockeye salmon. The department has not taken action in the sport fishery in regard to sockeye salmon to date given the low participation rates and low interest in sockeye salmon in the Chignik Drainage.

Benefits:

There would be no directed harvest of Chignik River sockeye salmon by anglers.

Detriments:

There would be increased regulatory complexity for the drainage in regard to a sport fishery that has not developed to date.

Summary of Potential Management Actions:

Fishery/Action number	Summary	Specific Action
CF/#1	Status quo. Maintain current regulations	Continue using current regulations.
CF/#2	Restrict openings in the Chignik Bay District until the department determines the midpoint of the first half of the Chignik sockeye salmon run will be achieved. Alter agreements for RC104 to also fit midpoint goals	Board action needed to create regulations.
CF/#3	Same actions as #2, with the addition of reducing fishing time in the Shumagin Islands in the 3rd and 4th periods instead of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.	Board action needed to create regulations.
Sub/#1	Status quo. Maintain current EO management for subsistence harvests.	Continue using EO authority when necessary.
SF/#1	Status quo. Continue to use EO authority to manage the Chignik River sockeye salmon stock to achieve the escapement goal and rebuild from the recent period of low productivity.	Use EO authority to restrict the Chignik River sockeye salmon sport fishery with additional restrictions or closures, as needed.
SF/#2	Reduce the bag limit for the Chignik River sockeye salmon sport fishery by regulation.	Board action needed to create regulations.
SF/#3	Close the Chignik River sport fishery.	Board action needed to create regulations.

RESEARCH PLAN

The department currently assesses Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement and harvests annually. The following research projects include current and past projects used to gather detailed information about the sockeye salmon stock in the Chignik River. There are additional funds coming available that will focus more research on Chignik River sockeye salmon, including two focused projects from the department, as well as other agencies and universities. The department will focus on sockeye salmon juveniles use of the fresh waters within the watershed. We will investigate in-system migration patterns, microhabitat use, densities of juveniles, estimates of juvenile abundance using hydro acoustics, and physical characteristics of the aquatic environment. Additional socio-economic research regarding subsistence uses is also being considered.

CURRENT MONITORING PROJECTS

Salmon returning to the Chignik River are counted at a weir located upstream from Chignik Lagoon, operated primarily for sockeye salmon. Sockeye salmon return from late May through September. The weir is generally operated from late May to late August. Sockeye salmon are counted via two underwater camera gates for the first 10 minutes of each hour as they pass upstream of the weir. These counts are expanded to obtain hourly escapement estimates which are summed to estimate daily fish passage. It is currently anticipated that weir operation will continue in future years.

Sockeye salmon age, sex, and length (ASL) data are collected annually at the weir to estimate age and sex structure of the escapement. Additionally, the department also captures sockeye salmon smolt via beach seines at the head of Chignik Lagoon to estimate the health and condition of outmigrating fish. Along with monitoring fish condition, age, and escapement, the department also monitors the environmental conditions of the two main lakes in the watershed for primary production, zooplankton biomass and species composition, and water temperature.

PAST RESEARCH PROJECTS

In the past age-sex-length (ASL) data were collected from the harvest, but funding has restricted the ability to collect those samples in recent years. It is doubtful ASL data from harvest will be collected in the future.

There have also been past efforts to estimate the abundance of outmigration sockeye salmon smolt from the Chignik River (Loewen and Henslee 2017). Due to budget constraints, and uncertainty in estimate precision, this program was discontinued, and is unlikely to be funded in the near future.

While there has not been a focused genetics study on the harvest within the CMA, some areas were sampled during the WASSIP study, and showed that there is a mixture of non-local stocks harvested in the CMA (Dann et al. 2012a; Dann et al. 2012b). There were also focused genetics studies on the escapement collected at the weir, meant to define the transition between the Black and Chignik Lakes genetic stock groupings from 2012–2021. This information was very informative, and led to efficiencies and refinement of the sockeye salmon run reconstruction for Chignik River sockeye salmon.

Subsistence harvests have been reported in the department's Annual Salmon reports since 1999: these are posted on the department's electronic library at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications/>. The department website also hosts a Community Subsistence Information System database of subsistence harvests and uses at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/>

Recent research focused on subsistence uses of fish in the CMA include Hutchinson-Scarborough and Koster 2021, which investigated the subsistence uses and harvests of salmon in the CMA communities of Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Bay, and Perryville from 2014–2016. Data were collected using household harvest and assessment surveys as well as key respondent interviews. Results from the research effort depict an overall decline in the amount and size of all salmon returning to the CMA area. The run timing of each species was also identified as having changed in recent years. Analysis of data collected from key respondent interviews included reasons stated by community members for the decline of Chinook salmon in the CMA area.

Hutchinson-Scarborough et al. 2020 described the results of a project that documented salmon harvest and use patterns in six Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula communities (Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Perryville, Port Heiden, and Egegik) for 2016 in order to illustrate the household and community networks that facilitate the harvesting, processing, sharing, bartering, and trading of subsistence salmon resources within the communities, across the broader region, and throughout Alaska. Systematic household surveys and semi-structured interviews were used to capture detailed representations of harvest, use, and sharing practices in each study community for the 2016 study year. This report illustrates the qualitative and quantitative data collected during this research and situates the results within a broader discussion of resource management. The study found that subsistence use of salmon was almost universal in the study communities in 2016 and that most households were engaged in the exchange of salmon. The sharing network analysis revealed that each study community's networks (local and non-local) have unique structural features and that sharing plays a critical role in community cohesion and overall social wellbeing in all the study communities.

Hutchinson-Scarborough et al. 2016 described contemporary subsistence salmon fishing practices, illustrated how subsistence fishing is important to the study communities, and explained what factors influence how fishing practices change over time. This report serves as a guide to understand contemporary fishing practices, traditional ecological knowledge, and the importance of subsistence salmon fishing to the residents of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, and Perryville.

CONDITIONS FOR REDUCING MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS OR DELISTING THIS STOCK OF CONCERN

1. If the lower bound of the biological escapement goal range for July 10 (210,000 sockeye salmon) is met or exceeded in 3 consecutive years and the department is expecting to meet the goal range in future years, or is met in 4 out of 6 consecutive years and the department is expecting to meet the goal range in future years, the department will recommend removing Chignik River sockeye salmon as a stock of management concern at the first Chignik board meeting after this condition is met.
2. Inseason management measures would be relaxed in other areas if escapement numbers are being met and CMA commercial salmon permit holders are fishing.
3. In the event that 2 consecutive years of escapements are near the upper bound of the escapement goal range or above the range (316,000 sockeye salmon), management restrictions may be relaxed or set aside using EO authority.

Stock status, action plan performance (including information on harvest rate, distribution, and timing in commercial fisheries), and escapement goal review will be updated in a report to the board at the 2026 Chignik meeting.

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Table 1.–Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon escapement and previous BEG range, 2003–2022.

BEG range	350,000–450,000
Year	Escapement
2003	350,004
2004	363,800
2005	355,091
2006	366,497
2007	361,091
2008	377,579
2009	391,476
2010	432,535
2011	488,930
2012	353,441
2013	386,782
2014	360,381
2015	534,088
2016	418,290
2017	453,257
2018	263,979
2019	345,918
2020	137,213
2021	244,384
2022	412,228
20-yr avg	369,848
10-yr avg	355,652
5-yr avg	280,744

Table 2.—Chignik River sockeye salmon harvest and escapement, June 1–July 10, 1993–2022

Year	Commercial Harvest ^a	Subsistence Harvest ^b	Escapement
2004	623,251	3,550	396,546
2005	854,409	3,719	390,953
2006	490,310	3,789	401,887
2007	285,013	5,290	421,462
2008	364,241	2,530	410,583
2009	596,585	2,137	451,032
2010	813,125	1,451	474,186
2011	2,188,408	4,131	511,507
2012	1,230,240	1,555	339,793
2013	1,922,177	2,125	382,104
2014	2,088	4,479	337,578
2015	432,531	4,411	418,317
2016	806,280	2,787	387,746
2017	558,851	4,661	384,988
2018	128	2,026	176,907
2019	1,165	2,232	275,567
2020 ^c	0	1,136	100,308
2021 ^d	0	1,563	206,207
2022 ^d	0	ND	367,627
10-yr avg	413,691	2,698	303,735
5-yr avg	323	2,324	225,323

Note: Commercial harvest averages do not include 2020. Subsistence harvest averages do not include 2022 (data has not been compiled yet).

^a Source: ADF&G, Statewide Harvest Receipt (fish ticket) database.

^b Source: subsistence harvest records maintained by ADF&G’s Subsistence Division

^c No Chignik commercial fishery because the Chignik River did not achieve the minimum sockeye salmon escapement value.

^d No Chignik commercial fishery before July 10.

Table 3.–Escapement objectives for previous early run and current single run on July 9 and 10.

Date	Early run BEG			Total run BEG		
	Lower	Midpoint	Upper	Lower	Midpoint	Upper
Jul-9	324,000	365,000	406,000	203,500	306,937	575,700
Jul-10	330,000	370,000	410,000	210,000	315,925	587,000

Table 4.—Commercial salmon openings in the CMA June 1 through July 10, 2013–2022.

Date	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1-Jun										
2-Jun										
3-Jun										
4-Jun				CB,C,E,W ^a						
5-Jun				CB,C,E,W ^a						
6-Jun	CB,C,E,W ^a			CB,C,E,W ^a						
7-Jun	CB,C,E,W ^a			CB,C,E,W ^a						
8-Jun	CB,C,E,W ^a									
9-Jun	CB,C,E,W ^a									
10-Jun	CB,C,E,W ^a			CB,C,E,W ^a	CB,C,E,W ^a					
11-Jun	CB,C,E,W ^a			CB,C,E,W ^a	CB,C,E,W ^a					
12-Jun	CB,C,E,W ^a			CB,C,E,W ^a	CB,C,E,W ^a					
13-Jun	CB,C,E,W ^a			CB,C,E,W ^a	CB,C,E,W ^a					
14-Jun	CB,C,E,W ^a						CB,C,E,W ^a			
15-Jun	CB,C,E,W ^a			CB,C,E,W ^a	CB,C,E,W ^a					
16-Jun	CB,C,E,W ^a			CB,C,E,W						
17-Jun				CB,C,E,W						
18-Jun	CB,C,E,W ^a			CB,C,E,W						
19-Jun	CB,C,E,W ^a			CB,C,E,W ^a	CB,C,E,W ^a					
20-Jun				CB,C,E,W ^a	CB,C,E,W ^a					
21-Jun							CB,C,E,W ^a			
22-Jun							CB,C,E,W ^a			
23-Jun	CB,C,E,W ^a									
24-Jun	CB,C,E,W ^a		CB,C,E,W	CB,C,E,W ^a						
25-Jun	CB,C,E,W		CB,C,E,W	CB,C,E,W ^a						
26-Jun	CB,C,E,W		CB,C,E,W ^a	CB,C,E,W ^a						
27-Jun	CB,C,E,W		CB,C,E,W ^a							

-continued-

Table 4.–Page 2 of 2

Date	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
28-Jun	CB,C,E,W ^a		CB,C,E,W ^a	CB,C,E,W ^a						
29-Jun	CB,C,E,W ^a		CB,C,E,W ^a	CB,C,E,W						
30-Jun	CB,C,W ^a			CB,C,E,W						
1-Jul	CB,C,W ^a		CB,C,E,W		CB,C,E,W ^a					
2-Jul	CB,C,W ^a		CB,C,E,W	CB,C,E,W ^a						
3-Jul	CB,C,W ^a			CB,C,E,W ^a						
4-Jul	CB,C,W ^a			CB,C,E,W ^a	CB,C,E,W ^a					
5-Jul	CB,C,W ^a			CB,C,E,W ^a	CB,C,E,W ^a					
6-Jul	CB,C,W ^a				CB,C,E,W ^a		C ^b ,W ^b ,E ^b ,P ^b			
7-Jul	CB,C,W ^a		CB, C,W ^a		CB,C,E,W ^a	C ^b ,W ^b ,P ^b	C ^b ,W ^b ,E ^b ,P ^b			
8-Jul	CB,C,W ^a		CB, C,W ^a			C ^b ,W ^b ,P ^b				
9-Jul	CB,C,W ^a		CB, C	CB,C,W,P	C ^b ,W ^b ,P ^b					
10-Jul	CB,C,W ^a		CB, C	CB,C,W,P						

Note: blank cells represent fishery being closed.

District codes: CB= Chignik Bay District, C= Central District, E= Eastern District, W= Western District, P= Perryville District

^a Only the Inner Castle Cape Section of Western District was open.

^b Inner bay pink and chum salmon directed fishing periods only.

Table 5.–Commercial fishery management actions in the South Alaska Peninsula 2018-2022.

Year	Action Taken
2018	Reduced commercial fishing periods for all gear types throughout entire South Peninsula on June 22 and June 27.
2019	Seine gear removed from "Dolgoi Island area" in regulation at BOF meeting. Fishery windows aligned for all gear types.
2020	Closed "Dolgoi Island area" on June 13. Reduced fishing time in Shumagin Island Section of Southeastern District to 40 hours for all gear types on June 20 and June 25.
2021	No actions taken.
2022	Reduced commercial fishing in Shumagin Islands Section of Southeastern District for seine gear only as per RC104 agreement.

Table 6.–Summary of models evaluated for Chignik River sockeye salmon using data from 1983 to 2020.

Stock	Data set and analysis	Data range	$\ln \alpha$	β	DIC	Point estimate ^a	Lower ^b	Upper ^b
Early								
	<i>Previous goal</i>					400,000	350,000	450,000
	Simple Ricker	1983 to 2013	1.548	0.141	920.8	427,272	284,768	787,477
		1998 to 2013	1.722	0.208	479.7	309,642	204,371	564,870
Late								
	<i>Previous goal</i>					300,000	200,000	400,000
	Simple Ricker	1983 to 2013	1.794	0.215	889.5	311,507	205,635	582,558
		1998 to 2013	2.059	0.349	458.5	208,634	143,371	356,442
	Zooplankton biomass	2000 to 2020	NA	NA	NA	560,120	449,453	674,179
	Euphotic volume	2000 to 2020	NA	NA	NA	495,032	396,026	594,039
Total run								
	Simple Ricker	1983 to 2013	1.651	0.081	934.7	782,087	496,126	1,564,447
		1998 to 2013	1.982	0.142	486.6	500,668	333,300	900,651
	Time varying alpha	1983 to 2013	1.675	0.082	1073.5	784,960	509,180	1,600,208
		1998 to 2013	1.724	0.105	518.6	620,258	382,516	1,263,791

^a Midpoints for simple Ricker and time varying alpha estimates are SMSY.

^b Lower and upper bounds for simple Ricker and time varying alpha estimates are 95% credibility intervals and for the zooplankton biomass and euphotic volume models are 80 and 120% of the model estimates.

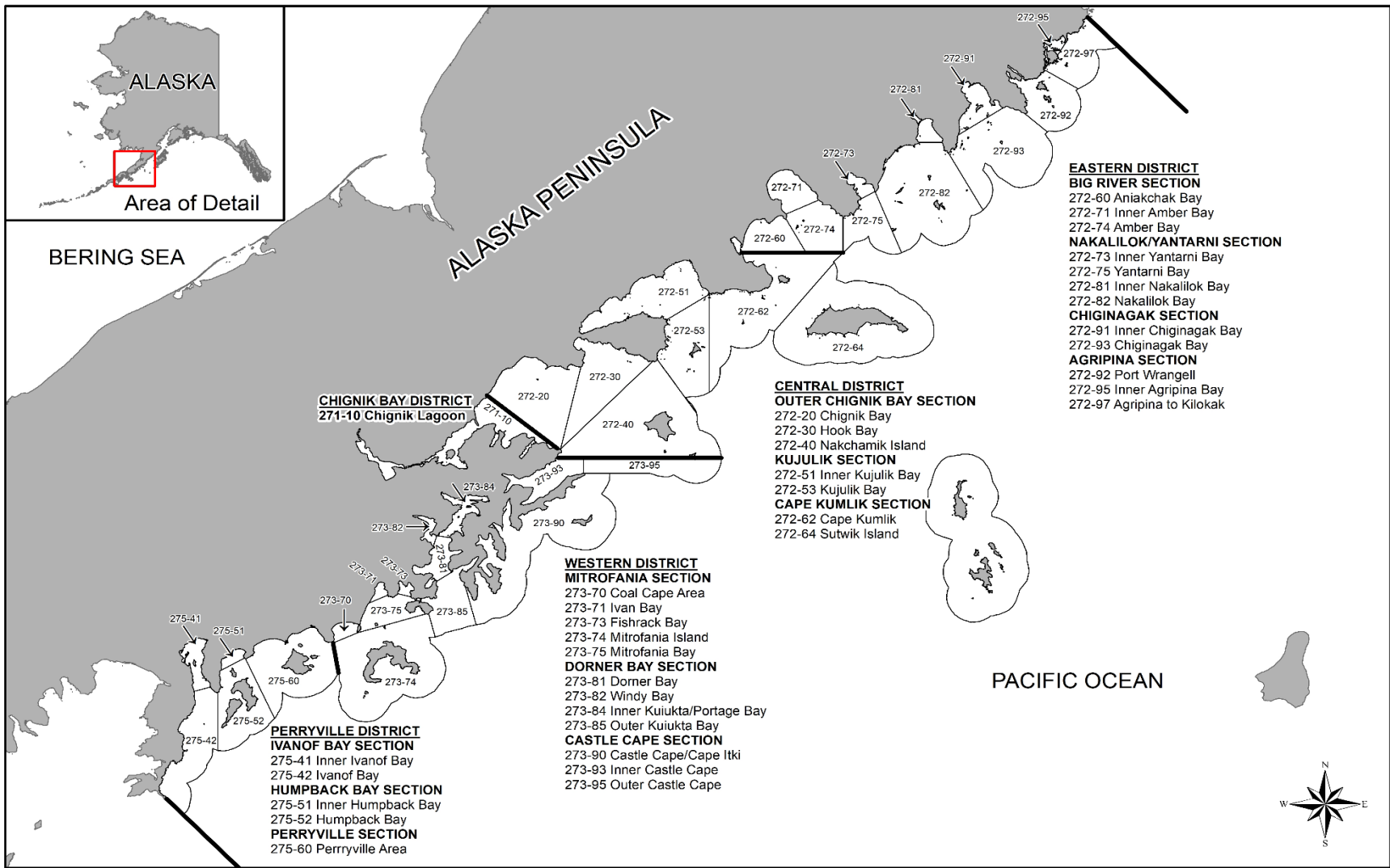


Figure 1.–Map of the Chignik Management Area.

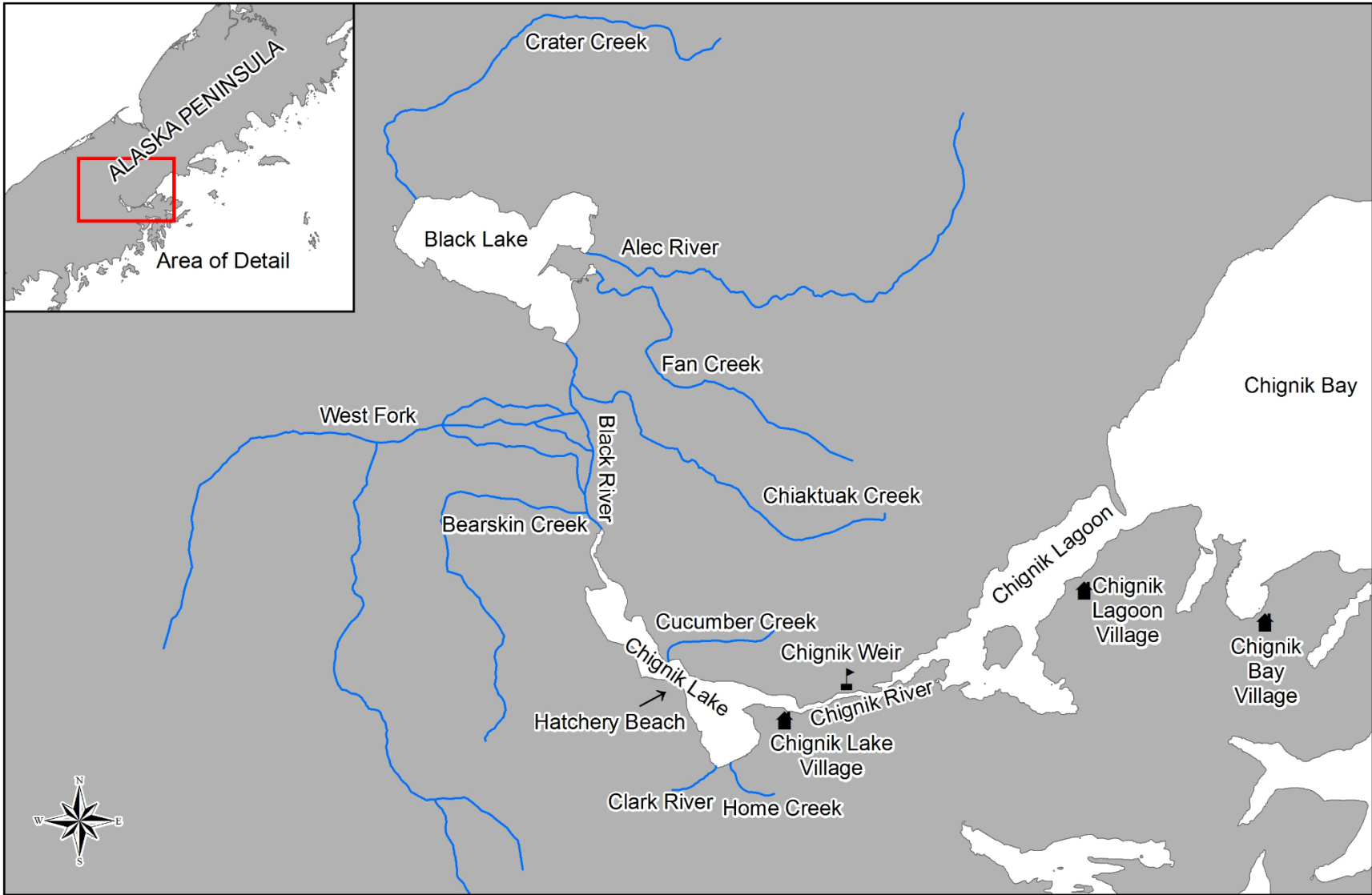


Figure 2.—Map of the Chignik River watershed.

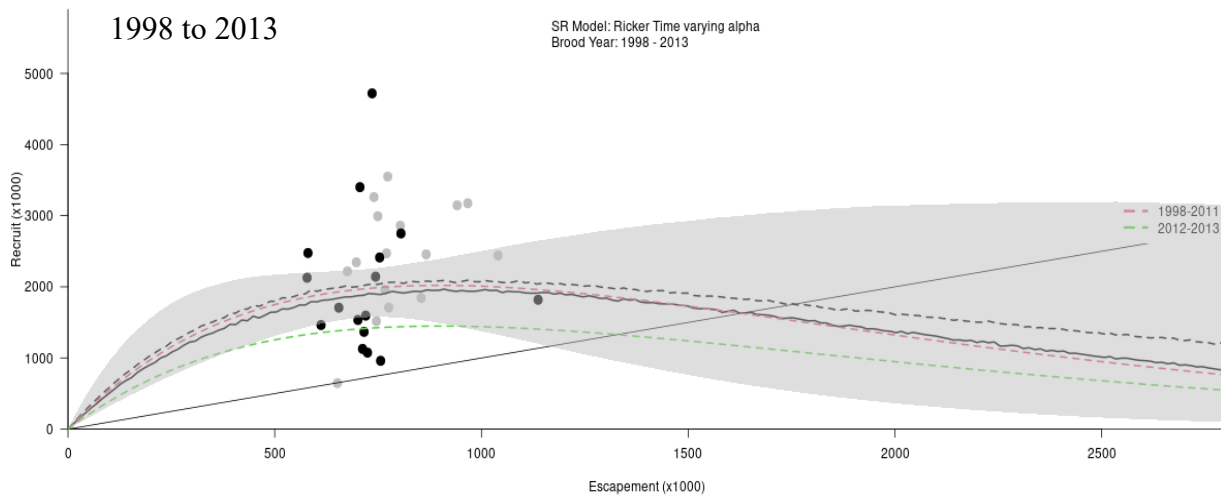
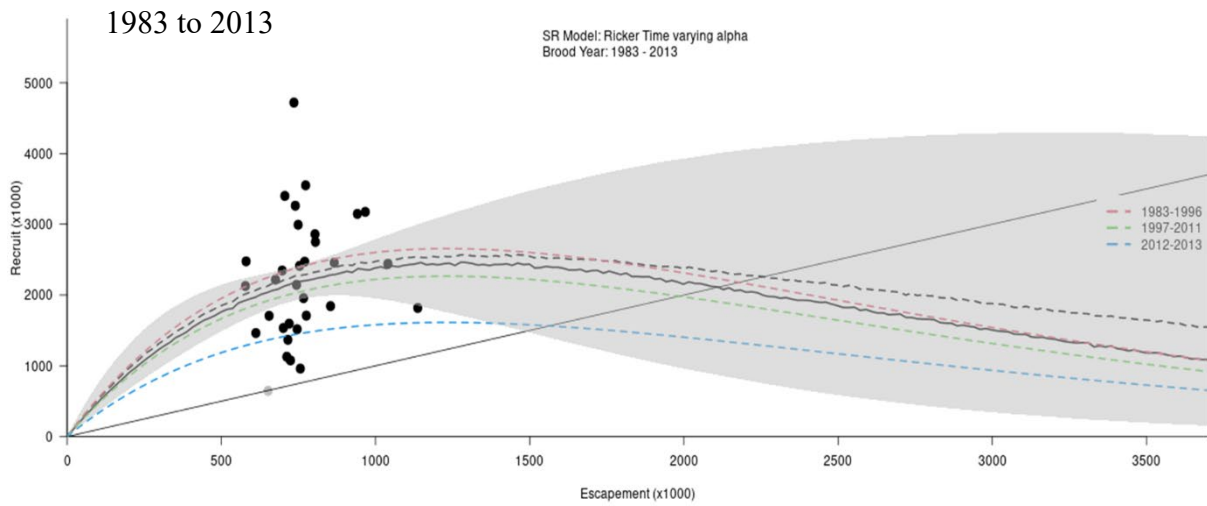


Figure 3.—Bayesian time-varying α Ricker curves for Chignik River total-run sockeye salmon showing changes in productivity over different time periods as indicated by colored dashed lines using data between 1983 and 2013 and 1998 and 2013.

Note: Light grey dots are data points from 1983 to 1997 that are not included in the model fit.

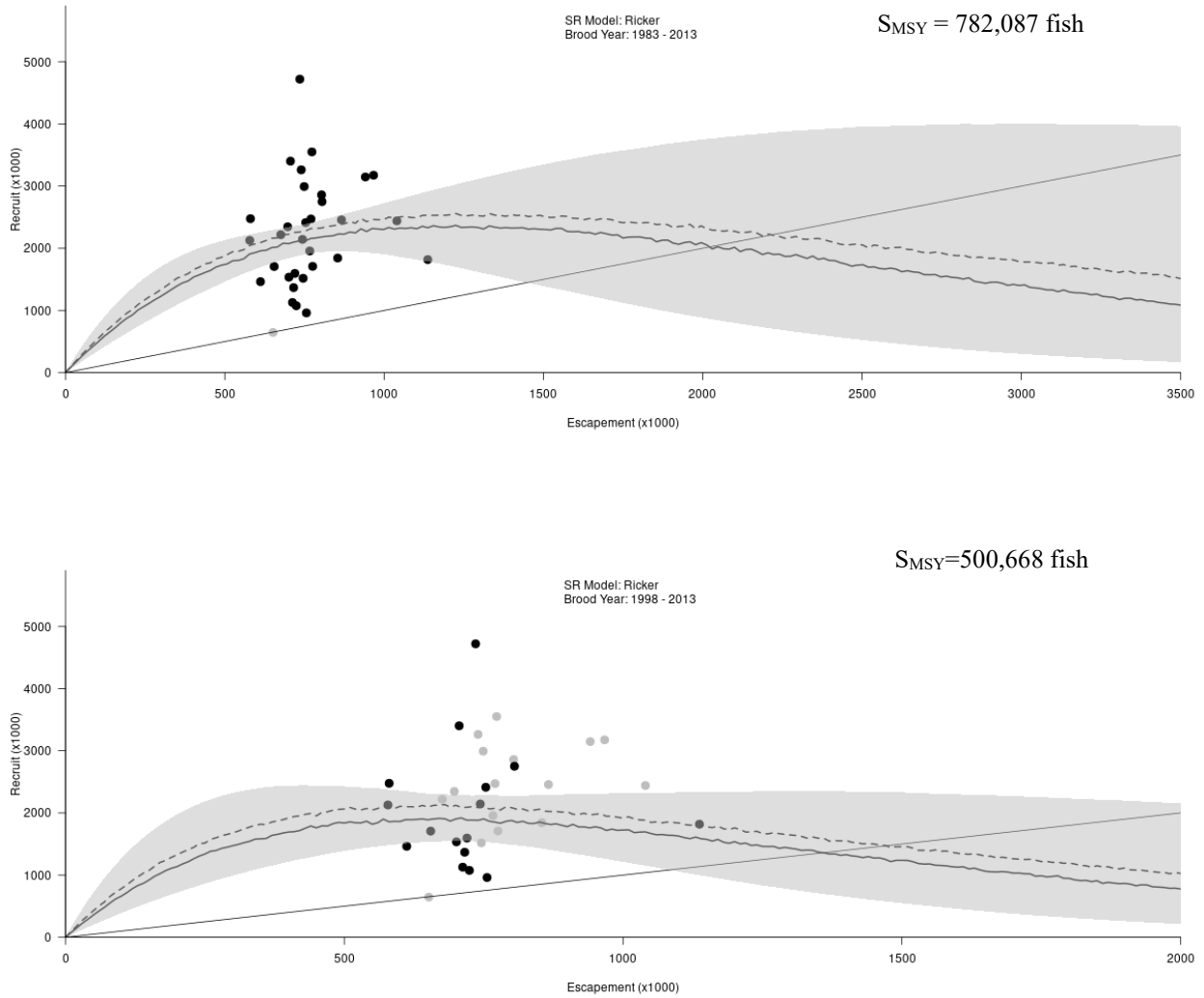


Figure 4.—Bayesian simple Ricker curves (solid line = mean, dashed line = median) for Chignik River sockeye salmon total runs using data from 1983 to 2013 (top panel) and 1998 to 2013 (bottom panel).

Note: Light grey dots are data points from 1983 to 1997 that are not included in the model fit.

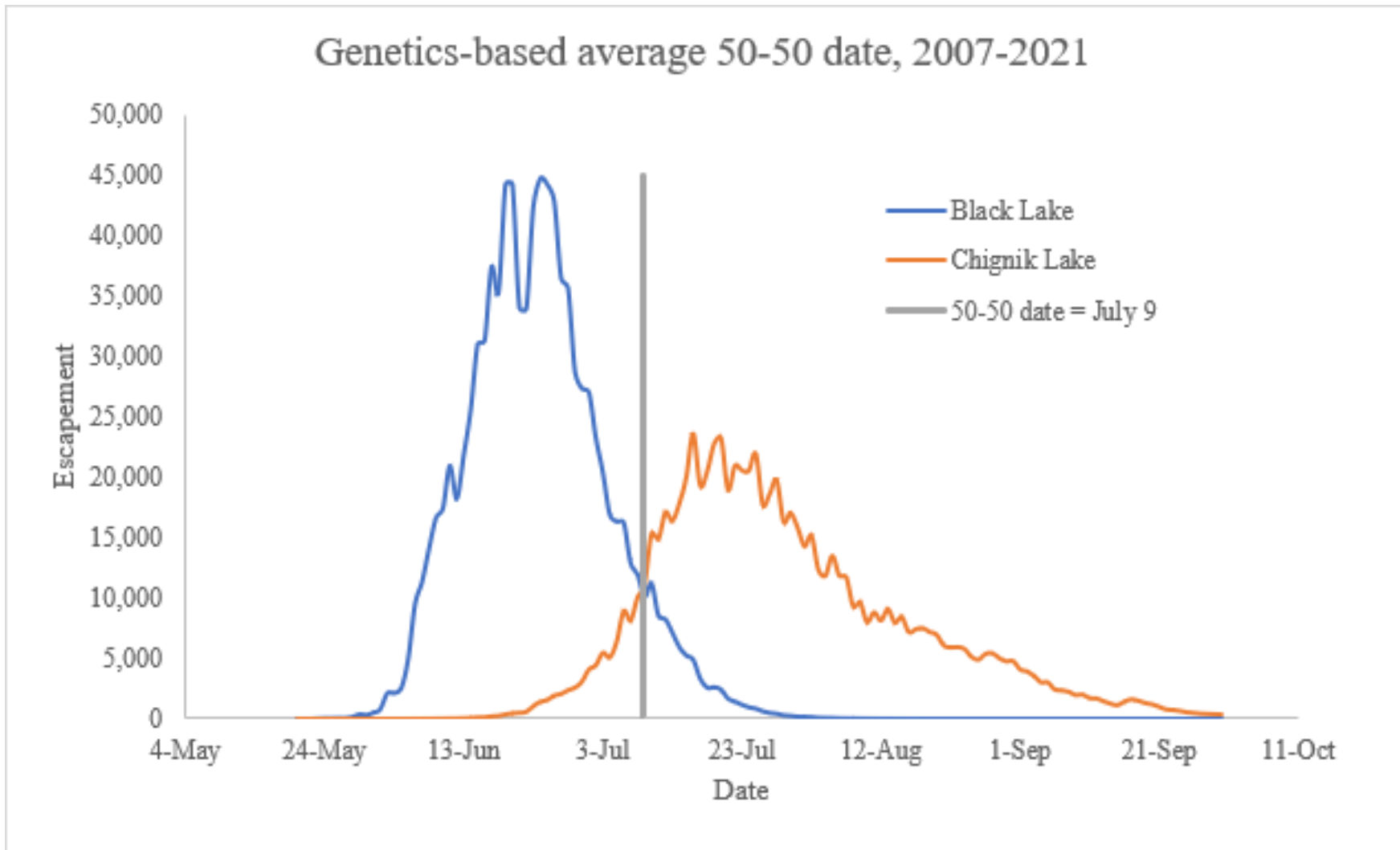


Figure 5.—Historical run timing of Black and Chignik Lakes sockeye salmon.

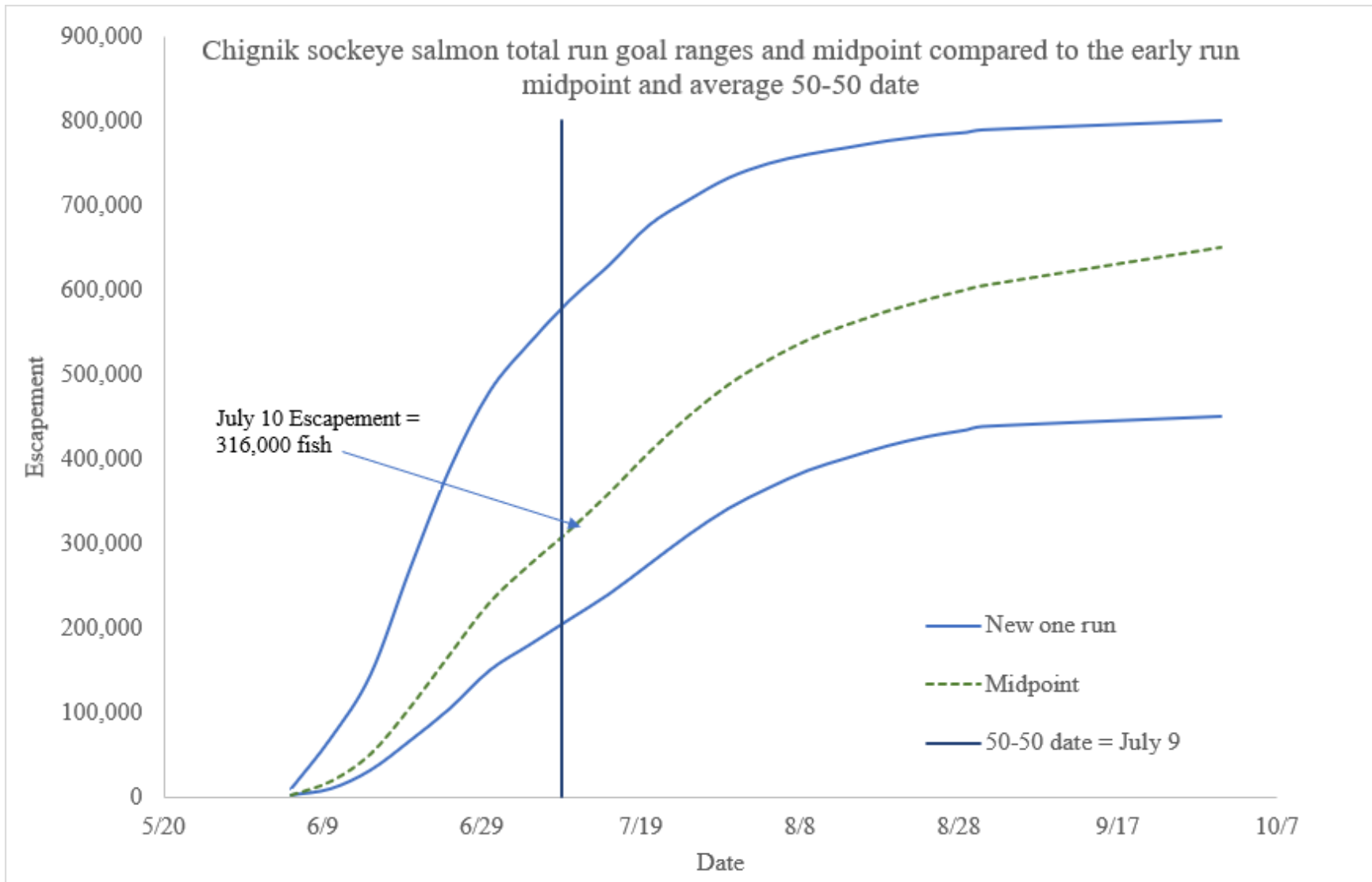


Figure 6.—One run escapement objectives.

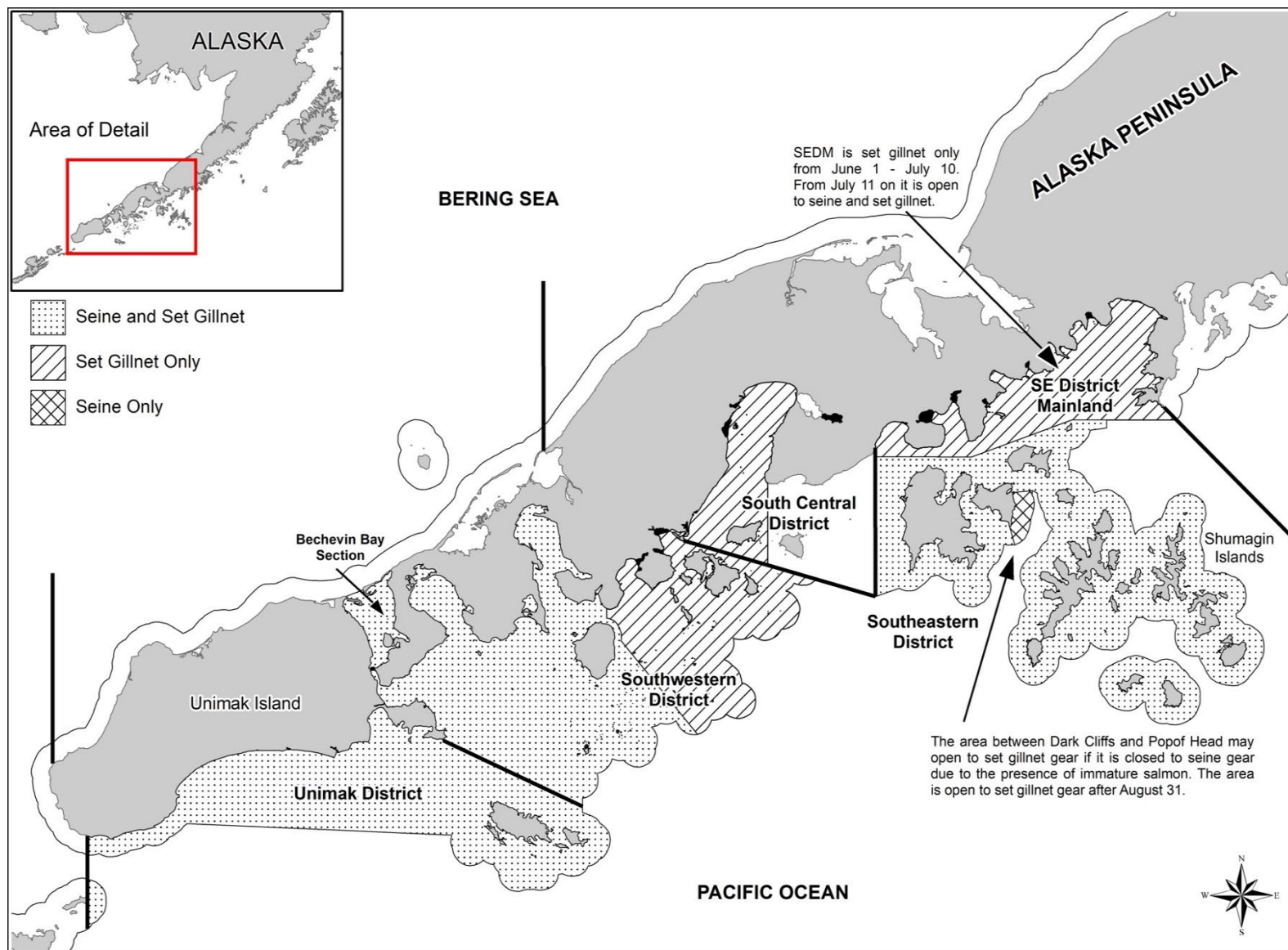


Figure 7.—Map depicting the locations of June South Alaska Peninsula fisheries for purse seine and set gillnet gear.

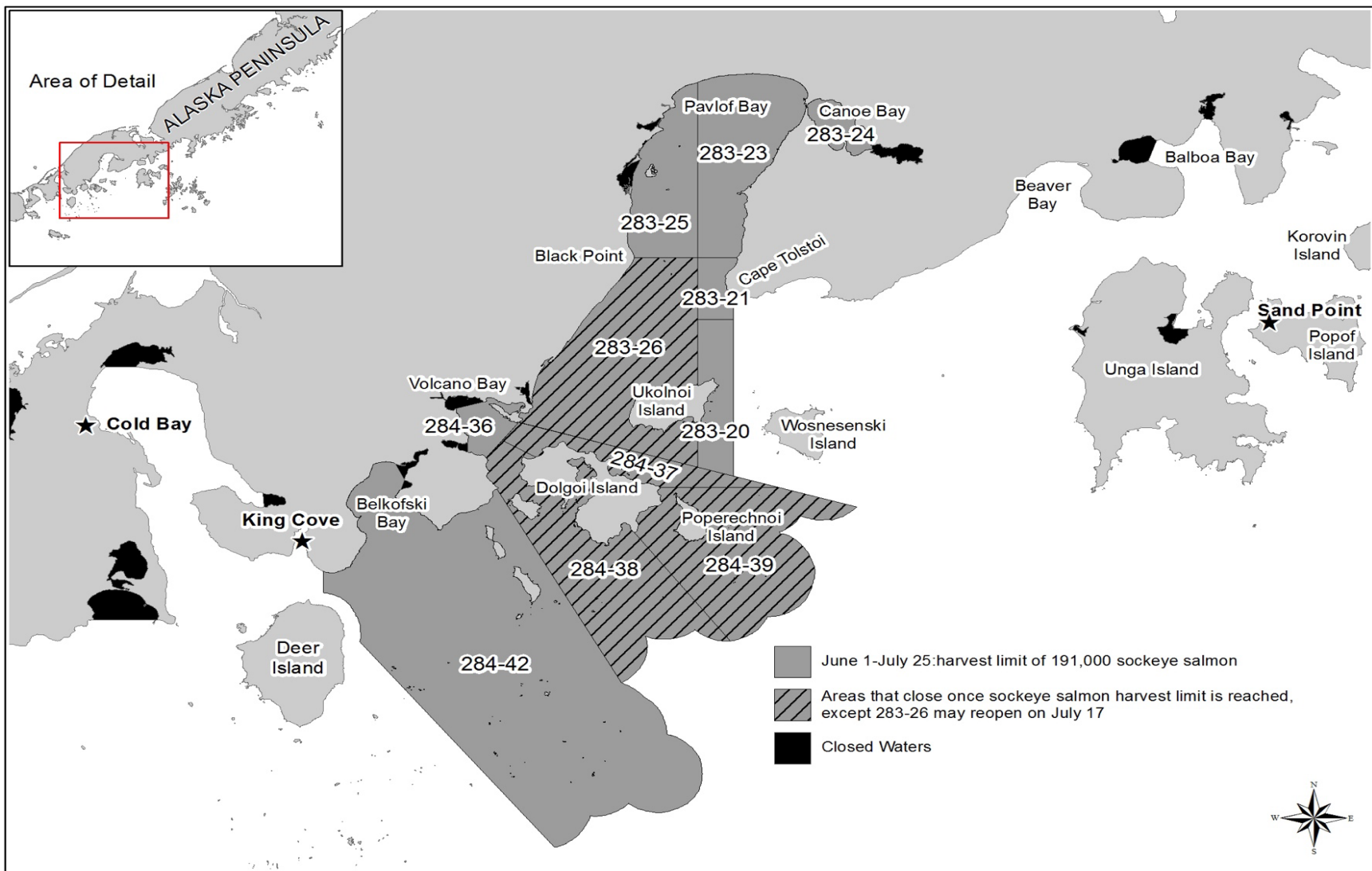


Figure 8.—Map depicting the statistical areas (283-20 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42) that contribute to the “Dolgoi Island area” sockeye salmon harvest for the June Management Plan, and the areas that will close once 191,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested.

June 2022 All Gear Types Schedule						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
Notes: All fishing periods start at 6:00 AM and end at 10:00 PM. Closures between periods are 32 hours. The first fishing period is 64 hours for <u>set gillnet gear only</u> . The remaining fishing periods are 88 hours for all gear types.						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	6:00 AM Open 64 hours (Set Gillnet Gear Only) 10:00 PM				6:00 AM Open 88 hours	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	10:00 PM		6:00 AM Open 88 hours 10:00 PM			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	6:00 AM Open 88 hours 10:00 PM					6:00 AM 10:00 PM
26	27	28	29	30		
Open 88 hours 10:00 PM						

Figure 9.—All gear types fishing periods in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries, 2022.

Appendix A1.– RC 94 from March 2022 Board of Fisheries Meeting: Chignik River Early Run Sockeye Salmon Stock of Management Concern Designation.

Board Member Wood

RC094

Chignik River Early Run Sockeye Salmon Stock of Management Concern Designation.

Submitted by Board Member John Wood.

March 29, 2022.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries designates the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon stock a Stock of Management Concern and directs the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to prepare a draft action plan that will be available for review prior to the February 13-17, 2023, Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands/Chignik Finfish meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

The draft action plan will describe a suite of potential management measures designed to rebuild the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon stock and will include a description of conditions that must be met to remove the Stock of Management Concern designation.

Appendix A2.–RC 104 from March 2022 Board of Fisheries Meeting: Chignik Intertribal Coalition and Area M Seiners Association sockeye salmon management framework.

Member Mitchell

RC104

3/29/2022

The framework below represents the understanding between the Chignik Intertribal Coalition and the Area M Seiners Association regarding how the Alaska Department of Fish and Game may manage fisheries to conserve Chignik River early run sockeye salmon in 2022 following the Alaska Board of Fisheries' designation of Chignik River early run sockeye salmon as a Stock of Management Concern. This framework is not an action plan and does not restrict the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's emergency order authority to manage salmon stocks for sustained yield in both the Chignik and South Alaska Peninsula Management Areas.

Based on early run sockeye salmon escapement at the Chignik Weir, fishing time for purse seine gear, during the second fishing period, under the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* would be reduced by 50%, in the Shumagin Islands Section, in order to achieve the lower bound of the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon escapement goal.

Fishing time for purse seine gear under the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* would continue being reduced during subsequent fishing periods to meet the lower bound of the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon escapement goal.

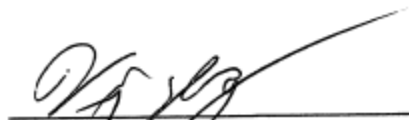
If the lower bound of the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon escapement goal is projected to be met restrictions in the South Alaska Peninsula fishery would be lifted and commercial salmon fishing periods in the Chignik Management Area may be warranted.

If the lower bound of the Chignik River sockeye salmon early run escapement goal is not projected to be met by July 1, a mixture of restrictions, including a 50% reduction in fishing time for purse seine gear during the first commercial salmon fishing period in July in the Shumagin Islands Section, would be applied to fishing opportunity in the South Alaska Peninsula Area under the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* and in the Chignik Management Area. The department would attempt to balance providing harvest opportunity on Chignik late-run sockeye salmon in the Chignik Management Area, and local South Alaska Peninsula stocks in the South Alaska Peninsula Area while continuing to conserve Chignik early run sockeye salmon.

Subsistence fishing for sockeye salmon in the Chignik Management Area would not be restricted.



George Anderson, Chignik Intertribal Coalition



Kiley Thompson, Area M Seiners Association



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Federal Subsistence Board News Release



FOREST SERVICE

For Immediate Release
July 12, 2018

Contact: Jonathon Gerken
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Inseason Manager
(907) 271-2776
jonathon_gerken@fws.gov

Chignik River Federal Subsistence Fishery for Chinook Salmon

The Federal In-season Manager, pursuant to delegated authority from the Federal Subsistence Board under ANILCA Title VIII section 816, will issue an emergency special action (8-KS-01-18) to close fishing for Chinook Salmon to all users, non-federal and Federally qualified users, in Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage, effective 12:01 a.m. Friday July 13. This action is necessary to ensure the continued viability of the Chignik River Chinook Salmon population. This action prohibits all fishing for Chinook Salmon and they may not be retained or possessed. Chinook Salmon accidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

The biological escapement goal for Chinook Salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 1,300 to 2,700 fish. The weir count as of July 11 was 229 Chinook Salmon. Based on historical run timing, approximately 40% of the escapement has occurred by July 11, and the current projected total escapement is approximately 550 fish. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers have implemented restrictions to sport and subsistence fisheries. No commercial fisheries have been implemented for the 2018 fishing year in the Chignik Area. Effective July 13, parallel with this emergency special action (8-KS-01-18) the Chignik River state subsistence fishery and sport fishery for Chinook Salmon will be closed.

For additional information, contact Federal Inseason Manager Jonathon Gerken at (907) 271-2776. Additional information about the Federal Subsistence Management Program can be found on the Web at <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence>.

-FSB-

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(907) 786-3888



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SUBSISTENCE FISHING

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19
50 CFR 100.10 and .19

Emergency Special Action No: 8-SS-02-19

Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska, July 25, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 25, 2019

EXPLANATION: This Emergency Special Action rescinds Emergency Special Action No. 8-SS-01-19 and opens Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon by all users. This action is in response to the genetic stock composition of Chignik River drainage Sockeye Salmon being comprised predominantly of late run Sockeye Salmon. The late run Sockeye Salmon is expected to meet escapement goals and provide subsistence harvest opportunity.

Individuals should consult both State and Federal fishing regulations prior to fishing. A Federal subsistence harvest permit is required while using legal subsistence gear types to fish in Federal waters, and must be in the possession of the individual(s) operating the gear. Federal subsistence harvest permits are available at local tribal council offices or by contacting the Federal in-season manager.

REGULATION: 36 CFR 242.27(e)(8) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(8) read:

(i) You may take fish other than salmon, rainbow/steelhead trout, or char at any time, except as specified by a subsistence fishing permit. For salmon, Federal subsistence fishing openings, closings and fishing methods are the same as those issued for the subsistence taking of fish under Alaska Statutes (AS 16.05.060), unless superseded by a Federal Special Action. Within the Chignik Area, depending upon the area that you may fish, in addition to a State subsistence fishing permit, you may be required to also have a Federal subsistence permit.

(ii) You may take salmon in the Chignik River, with rod and reel, from a point 300 feet upstream of the ADF&G weir to Chignik Lake from January 1 through August 9, with no daily harvest or possession limit under the authority of a Federal subsistence fishing permit. You may take salmon by gillnet in Black Lake or any tributary to Black or Chignik Lakes with a Federal subsistence fishing permit. You may take salmon in the waters of Clark River and Home Creek from their confluence with Chignik Lake upstream 1 mile. In the open waters of Clark River and Home Creek you may take salmon by snagging (handline or rod and reel), spear, bow and arrow, or capture by hand without a permit. The daily harvest and possession limits using these methods are five per day and five in possession.

-continued-

(ix) Unless reopened by the Federal in-season manager, Federal public waters in that portion of the Chignik River drainage that are within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge are closed to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon except by a Federally-qualified subsistence user in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit.

A Federally-qualified subsistence user in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit may retain Sockeye Salmon using any legal gear.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:



Rectangular Snip

Jonathon Gerken
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Chignik Area In-season Manager
Anchorage Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office

JUSTIFICATION: The biological escapement goal for early-run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 350,000 – 450,000 fish. The total weir escapement estimate as of July 23 was 506,892 Sockeye Salmon. Historical run timing indicates that approximately 94% of the escapement for the early-run Sockeye Salmon has occurred by July 25, and the July 19 genetic stock composition estimate was greater than 80% late-run fish. Based on the current rate of escapement, it is unlikely that the lower end of the escapement goal for early-run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage will be achieved. Late-run Sockeye Salmon are expected to meet escapement goals and provide subsistence harvest opportunity. The restrictions implemented through Emergency Special Action 8-SS-01-19 are no longer necessary as the escapement is now primarily composed of later-run Sockeye Salmon. Impacts to the early-run Sockeye Salmon harvest are likely minimal at this point in the Chignik River drainage Sockeye Salmon run.

This action was taken following consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers. The Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council (Chair and other members) and Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge Manager have been notified, as well as local users of Federal subsistence permits. This action was taken following conversations with Federally qualified subsistence users and potential impacts to all subsistence users were considered, the public announcement was made in a timely manner, and this action fulfills the intent of Title VIII of ANILCA.

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SUBSISTENCE FISHING

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19
50 CFR 100.10 and .19

Emergency Special Action No: 8-SS-01-20 Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska, June 17, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, June 18, 2020

• Rectangular Snip

EXPLANATION: This Emergency Special Action closes Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon except by Federally qualified subsistence users, beginning 12:01 am on June 18, 2020, through July 31, 2020. This action is necessary to ensure the conservation of healthy populations of Chignik River Sockeye Salmon and the continuation of subsistence uses. Sockeye Salmon may only be harvested by Federally qualified subsistence users who are residents of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, or Perryville who are in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit during this time.

Individuals should consult both State and Federal fishing regulations prior to fishing. A Federal subsistence harvest permit is required while using legal subsistence gear types to fish in Federal public waters, and must be in the possession of the individual(s) operating the gear. Federal subsistence harvest permits are available at the Tribal Councils of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, and Perryville or by contacting the Federal in-season manager.

REGULATION: 36 CFR 242.27(e)(8) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(8) read:

(ix) Unless reopened by the Federal in-season manager, Federal public waters in that portion of the Chignik River drainage that are within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge are closed to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon except by a Federally qualified subsistence user in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit.

A Federally qualified subsistence user in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit may retain Sockeye Salmon using any legal gear

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:

Jonathon Gerken
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Chignik Area In-season Manager
Anchorage Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office

-continued-

JUSTIFICATION: The biological escapement goal for early run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 350,000 – 450,000 fish. The weir escapement estimate as of June 16 was 8,868 Sockeye Salmon, which is well below the 95,000 – 125,000 expected for this point in the run. Based on the current rate of escapement, it is unlikely that the lower end of the escapement goal for early-run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage will be achieved. These low returns of early run Sockeye Salmon decrease fishing efficiency for Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest subsistence fish. Through Section 815 of Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), this Emergency Special Action closes fishing for Sockeye Salmon except for Federally qualified subsistence users who retain a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit. This is in support of the conservation of healthy populations and the continuation of subsistence uses on public lands.

This action: 1) falls within the geographic and regulatory scope of delegation; 2) is needed immediately; 3) is consistent with assessment projects; and 4) is likely to achieve desired results.

This action was taken following consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers. The communities of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, and Perryville submitted a joint letter in support of this action dated June 16, 2020. The Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council (Chair and other members) and Alaska Peninsula/Becherof National Wildlife Refuge Manager have been notified, as well as local users of Federal subsistence permits. This action was taken following conversations with Federally qualified subsistence users and potential impacts to all subsistence users were considered, the public announcement was made in a timely manner, and this action fulfills the intent of Title VIII of ANILCA.

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SUBSISTENCE FISHING

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19
50 CFR 100.10 and .19

Emergency Special Action No: 8-SS-01-21 Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska, July 7, 2021 Effective

Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 8, 2021

EXPLANATION: This Emergency Special Action closes Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon except by Federally qualified subsistence users, beginning 12:01 am on July 8, 2021, through July 31, 2021. This action is necessary to ensure the conservation of healthy populations of Chignik River Sockeye Salmon and the continuation of subsistence uses. Sockeye Salmon may only be harvested by Federally qualified subsistence users who are residents of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, or Perryville who are in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit during this time.

Individuals should consult both State and Federal fishing regulations prior to fishing. A Federal subsistence harvest permit is required while using legal subsistence gear types to fish in Federal waters, and must be in the possession of the individual(s) operating the gear. Federal subsistence harvest permits are available at the Tribal Councils of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, and Perryville or by contacting the Federal in-season manager.

REGULATION: 36 CFR 242.27(e)(8) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(8) read:

(ix) Unless reopened by the Federal in-season manager, Federal public waters in that portion of the Chignik River drainage that are within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge are closed to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon except by a Federally qualified subsistence user in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit.

A Federally qualified subsistence user in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit may retain Sockeye Salmon using any legal gear

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:

Jonathon Gerken
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Chignik Area In-season Manager
Anchorage Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office

-continued-

JUSTIFICATION: The biological escapement goal for early run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 350,000 – 450,000 fish. The cumulative weir count as of July 5 is 192,403 early-run and 15,861 late-run Sockeye Salmon resulting in a total of 208,264 fish. The interim escapement objective for July 5 is 300,000 – 390,000 fish. Based on the current rate of escapement, it is unlikely that the lower end of the escapement goal for early-run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage will be achieved. The early-run is approaching the average three-quarter point, which occurs during the week of July 5. As such, the Federal Inseason manager has been speaking with Chignik Area villages to understand how subsistence fishing has progressed. Chignik Lake subsistence fishing was characterized as slow with 50% harvest completed on July 1. An additional meeting with the Chignik Lagoon subsistence fishing community will occur on July 9.

The ten-year average (2010 – 2019), genetic proportions of early-run and late-run Sockeye Salmon for July 5 are 70% early-run and 30% late-run. It is typical for the late-run Sockeye Salmon run to be a larger proportion during the week of July 19. The action is in place until July 31, 2021. This action may be rescinded once late-run Sockeye Salmon make the greater portion of the run and impacts of additional subsistence harvest to the early-run are reduced.

These low returns of early run Sockeye Salmon decrease fishing efficiency for Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest subsistence fish. Through Section 815 of Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), this Emergency Special Action closes fishing for Sockeye Salmon except for Federally qualified subsistence users who retain a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit. This is in support of the conservation of healthy populations and the continuation of subsistence uses on public lands.

This action: 1) falls within the geographic and regulatory scope of delegation; 2) is needed immediately; 3) is consistent with assessment projects; and 4) is likely to achieve desired results.

This action was taken after notifying the Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers. The community of Chignik Lake was consulted on July 1, 2021 via teleconference. Additional consultations are forthcoming with the community of Chignik Lagoon via teleconference on July 9, 2021. The Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council (Chair and other members) and Alaska Peninsula/Becherof National Wildlife Refuge Manager have been notified, as well as local users of Federal subsistence permits. This action was taken following conversations with Federally qualified subsistence users and potential impacts to all subsistence users were considered, the public announcement was made in a timely manner, and this action fulfills the intent of Title VIII of ANILCA.

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