

Edgar Smith Setnetter Area M

Alternative and additional wording for proposal 132, SEDM Management Plan

Here is wording if a sliding scale of Chignik vessels signed up to fish Chignik on a given salmon season. I submitted RC 153 commenting on proposals 130 and 131, I am commenting and injecting on proposal 132 of which was written and is approved by fish and game management for westward region. I am opposed to section (e)(2) of this section, fish and game moved up the seg in orzinki from 25,000 to 28,000 of approved by the board. This number should be lower so management can act sooner if the escapement starts to increase in Orzinski.

**PROPOSAL 132 – Amend the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to reflect changes to Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goals.**

**5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** During the current Board of Fisheries cycle, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game made changes to the Chignik River sockeye salmon management by shifting from being managed by 2 escapement goals to management by a single escapement goal. This proposal seeks to address the language in the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan that references the 2-escapement-goal regime for Chignik River sockeye salmon.

Regulations for 5AAC 09.360 would read as follows:

**5AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.** (a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide guidelines to the department for the management of the interception of Chignik River sockeye salmon caught in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery conducted in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Northwest Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections. Except as specified in 5 AAC 09.330(f)(3), before July 11, only set gillnet gear may be used in these sections. For the purpose of the management plan in this section, local runs include only those salmon in the waters

(1) beginning July 1, in the Northwest Stepovak Section described in 5 AAC 09.200(f); (2) in the Stepovak Flats Section described in 5 AAC 09.200(f).

(b) In years when a harvestable surplus for the [FIRST (BLACK LAKE) AND SECOND (CHIGNIK LAKE) RUNS OF] Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be less than {600,000} *Chignik Allocation from SEDM (A) (B) (C)* fish, a commercial salmon fishery is not allowed in the East Stepovak, **Stepovak Flats**, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay north of a line from Elephant Point 55° 41.92' N. lat., 160° 03.20' W. long. to Waterfall Point at 55° 43.18' N. lat., 160° 01.13' W. long. until the department projects that a harvest of {300,000} *Chignik Allocation first run (A) (B) (C)* sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area described in 5 AAC 15.100. After July [8]**10**, if at least {300,000} *Chignik Allocation second run (A) (B) (C)* sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and if **the** escapement **goal is**[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} *total run (A) (B) (C)* fish and the number of sockeye salmon

destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area.

*(1) Chignik Allocation from SEDM*

*(A) Registered Chignik Salmon Vessels on June 1<sup>st</sup> of set salmon season is: 0 to 30, allocation for Chignik sockeye salmon is 100,000 on first run and 100,000 on second run with total of 200,000 allocated to Chignik.*

*(B) Registered Chignik Salmon Vessels on June 1<sup>st</sup> of set salmon season is: 30 to 60, allocation for Chignik sockeye salmon is 200,000 on first run and 200,000 on second run with total of 400,000 allocated to Chignik.*

*(C) Registered Chignik Salmon Vessels on June 1<sup>st</sup> of set salmon season is: 60 to total Chignik registered vessels, allocation for Chignik sockeye salmon is 300,000 on first run and 300,000 on second run with total of 600,000 allocated to Chignik.*

(c) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond the escapement **goal**[GOALS] for [THE FIRST AND SECOND RUNS OF] Chignik River sockeye salmon is expected to be more than { 600,000} total run (A) (B) (C) fish but [FIRST RUN] fails to develop as predicted and it is determined that a total sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area of {600,000} total run (A) (B) (C) or more fish may not be achieved, the commercial salmon fishery in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay north of a line from Elephant Point 55° 41.92' N. lat., 160° 03.20' W. long. to Waterfall Point at 55° 43.18' N. lat., 160° 01.13' W. long., shall be curtailed until the department projects a harvest in the Chignik Area of at

135

least {300,000} Chignik Allocation first run (A) (B) (C) sockeye salmon through July [8]**10** if that number of fish are determined to be surplus to the escapement goals of the Chignik River system. After July [8]**10**, if at least {300,000} Chignik Allocation second run (A) (B) (C) 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 is at least {600,000} total run (A) (B) (C) fish and the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area.

(d) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond the escapement **goal**[GOALS] for [THE FIRST AND SECOND RUNS OF] Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than {600,000} total run (A) (B) (C) fish and the department determines that the **run is**[RUNS ARE] as strong as expected, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area.

(e) Beginning July 1,

(1) in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding Orzinski Bay north of a line from

Elephant Point at 55 ° 41.92' N. lat., 160 ° 03.20' W. long. to Waterfall Point at 55 ° 43.18' N. lat., 160 ° 01.13' W. long., commercial fishing may not be open for more than an aggregate of 96 hours during a seven-day period;

(2) if the Orzinski Bay escapement **is expected to reach or**[REACHES OR] **exceed** [EXCEEDS] **the upper bound of the sockeye salmon escapement goal range**[25,000 SOCKEYE SALMON], the commissioner may, by emergency order, open the Northwest Stepovak Section, including all of Orzinski Bay with fishing periods as follows:

(A) set gillnet gear will be allowed to operate continuously through 12:00 midnight July 25;

(B) purse seine and hand purse seine gear will be allowed to operate as specified in (1) of this subsection.

**(3) if the department determines that the sockeye salmon escapement goal objectives are being met or exceeded then the waters of Orzinski Bay may be open to commercial salmon fishing continuously to set gillnet gear only through July 10 and both set gillnet gear and purse seine gear from July 11 through July 25.**

(f) The estimate of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River has been determined to be 80 percent of the sockeye salmon harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section. Beginning July 1, all sockeye salmon taken in the Northwest Stepovak Section are considered to be destined for Orzinski Bay.

(g) The percentage of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery may be permitted to fluctuate above or below 7.6 percent of sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area at any time before July 25.

(h) The allocation method described in (a) - (g) of this section is in effect through July 25. The commissioner may not open the first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in

136

the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, before the first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Chignik Area. After July 25, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, commercial salmon fishing in the entire Southeastern District Mainland area for local stocks.

(i) [DURING THE PERIOD FROM APPROXIMATELY JUNE 26 THROUGH JULY 8, THE STRENGTH OF THE SECOND RUN OF THE CHIGNIK RIVER SYSTEM SOCKEYE SALMON CANNOT BE EVALUATED. IN ORDER TO PREVENT OVERHARVEST OF THE SECOND RUN, THE DEPARTMENT MAY DISALLOW OR SEVERELY RESTRICT COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING IN THE EAST STEPOVAK, STEPOVAK FLATS, SOUTHWEST STEPOVAK, BALBOA BAY, AND BEAVER BAY SECTIONS DURING THIS PERIOD, AND FROM JUNE 26 THROUGH JUNE 30 IN THE NORTHWEST STEPOVAK SECTION.]

(j) The commissioner shall open all commercial fishing periods by emergency order. Before commencement of the first commercial salmon fishing period of the season, the department shall give at least 24 hours' notice. For subsequent fishing periods, the department shall give at least 12 hours' notice. If an existing fishing period is extended, the department shall give notice of the extension as soon as possible before the end of the existing fishing period.

(k) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, from July 1 through July 10, if the department determines that the Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon escapement objectives have been exceeded, in addition to set gillnet gear, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, the waters of Orzinski Bay west of 160\_ 04.25' W. long. to fishing with purse seine and hand purse seine gear.

(l) From July 26 through October 31,

(1) the department shall manage the fishery based on the abundance of local pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks;

(2) there shall be at least one closed 36-hour period within a seven-day period, **excluding Orzinski Bay when the department is managing for local sockeye salmon.**

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 09.360(a)–(d) and (i) of the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* contains provisions that reference two escapement goals for Chignik River sockeye salmon that must be modified to comport with the new escapement goal for Chignik River sockeye salmon.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** No change in fishing time or area. Adoption would align regulation with the new escapement goal for Chignik River sockeye salmon. This will assist managers in the South Alaska Peninsula by clarifying language in the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* that is tied to having two escapement goals for Chignik River sockeye salmon.

**BACKGROUND:** Beginning in October 2020, a department interdivisional team reviewed existing Pacific salmon *Oncorhynchus* escapement goals for Registration Area L (Chignik) and Registration Area M (Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands). The team found revising the two separate Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goals to a single BEG of 450,000–800,000 fish was appropriate. Management of the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) of the

137

Southeastern District within the South Alaska Peninsula (Registration Area M) is tied to the escapement and harvest that occurs within Registration Area L. Therefore, it is necessary to modify the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* to reflect changes to the Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goal to clarify the management of SEDM.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted this proposal and **SUPPORTS** amending the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is not expected to result in an additional direct cost for the department or a private person to participate in this fishery.

{600,000} Setnet deletion

*total run (A) (B) (C)* Setnet insertion

**is expected to reach or** Managements insertion

[REACHES OR] Managements deletion

