

**Submitted by Board Member Carlson Van-Dort, prepared by the
Alaska Department of Fish and Game¹.**

February 27, 2023

Substitute language for proposal 132:

5AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. is amended to read:

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 **early-run and late-run optimal escapement goals for the** [FIRST (BLACK LAKE) AND SECOND (CHIGNIK LAKE) RUNS OF] Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000 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 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area described in 5 AAC 15.100. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and if **the optimal** escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area will be at least 600,000 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.

(c) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond the **early-run and late-run optimal** escapement goals for the [FIRST AND SECOND RUNS OF] Chignik River sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000 fish but **early run optimal escapement** [FIRST RUN] fails to develop as predicted and it is determined that a total sockeye

salmon harvest in the Chignik Area of 600,000 or more 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 least 300,000 sockeye salmon through July 8 if that number of fish are determined to be surplus to the escapement goals of the Chignik River system. After July 8, if at least 300,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested in the Chignik Area, and if escapement goals are being met, the department shall manage the fishery so that the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area is at least 600,000 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 **of the board generated early-run and late-run optimal escapement goals for the** [GOALS FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND RUNS OF] Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000 fish and the department determines that the 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 exceed the upper bound of the sockeye salmon escapement goal range** [REACHES OR EXCEEDS 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.

...

(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.**

ⁱ Preparation of draft substitute language at the request of a Board member does not imply ADF&G support. The Department will state its position on the language during deliberation.