

PROPOSAL 119

5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* to increase commercial salmon fishing time for set gillnet and seine gear as follows:

Amend the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gill net gear, and after July 11, purse seine gear concurrent to open commercial salmon fishing periods in the Chignik Management Area, as follows:

Revise the Southeastern District Mainland Management Plan to allow commercial salmon fishing with set net gear and after July 11 seine gear concurrent to the Chignik Area Commercial Salmon Fishery as follows:

Conduct concurrent fishing periods between area L (Chignik) and Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM). (a) Elimination of the harvest of 300,00 – 600,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area before fishermen in SEDM can harvest salmon; (b) to fish concurrently while Area L (Chignik) fishermen are fishing Area M fishermen are fishing in SEDM area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Multiple issues need to be addressed within the SEDM Management Plan.

The SEDM Salmon Management Plan guidelines are currently being based on an apocryphal assumption that 20% of the fish caught in SEDM are local stocks, while the other 80% are Chignik bound. The 80% figure needs to be eliminated from the SEDM Management Plan. SEDM fishermen are only allowed to harvest 7.6% of what Chignik fishermen harvest. Before any fishermen in the SEDM can harvest any salmon Chignik fishermen have to harvest a minimum of 300,00 -600,000 Sockeye salmon before we can begin to put our nets in the water and harvest our local stock of Sockeye Salmon. We rarely catch or come close to catching the 7.6 allocation, which is a low number for a historical fishery. Several years the trend has been to rarely fish in SEDM or if there is a short opener we barely come close to catching the 7.6 allocation, which is a low number for an historical fishery. This allocation needs to be eliminated. Seldom are we able to fish in SEDM because of the severity of the restrictions assigned upon the fishery. The way regulations are currently set forth right now fishermen in SEDM aren't allowed to harvest any salmon in the SEDM area and are being denied access to their historical fishery which is affecting the viability of set netting in the area. The harvest of 300,00 – 600,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik area before set net fishermen on the SEDM can harvest salmon needs to be eliminated and done away with. When Chignik area fishes, we as set net fishermen would like to be able to fish at the same time on the SEDM District.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Set net fishermen who have historically fished in SEDM.

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