

PROPOSAL 134

5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to increase commercial salmon fishing time for purse seine and drift gillnet gear, as follows:

(a) The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries harvest both sockeye salmon and chum salmon in a mixed stock fishery during the month of June. The sockeye salmon are predominantly Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula origin. The chum salmon are found for a number of areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, the Alaska Peninsula, and southcentral Alaska. These salmon stocks have historically been harvested along the south Alaska Peninsula during the month of June. This management plan is intended to be consistent with the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222) and the Policy for the Management of Mixed Stock Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.220).

(b) The South Unimak fishery takes place in the Unimak District, the Southwestern District, the East Pavlof Bay and the West Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District, and the Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District.

(c) The Shumagin Islands fishery takes place in the Shumagin Islands Section.

(d) In the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods as follows:

(1) for set gillnet gear,

(A) beginning June 6, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 64 hours until 10:00 p.m. two days later; beginning June 10, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. three days later; commercial fishing will then close for 32 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. two days later;

(B) notwithstanding (A) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 10:00 p.m. on June 28;

(2) **for seine and drift gillnet gear,**

(C) beginning June 10, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 88 hours until 10:00 p.m. three days later; commercial fishing will then close for 32 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. two days later;

(D) notwithstanding (A) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 10:00 p.m. on June 28.

(e) All salmon caught by a CFEC permit holder must be retained, and each CFEC permit holder must report the number of salmon caught, including those taken but not sold, on an ADF&G fish ticket. For the purposes of this subsection, "caught" means brought on board the vessel.

(f) Notwithstanding (d) of this section, commercial salmon fishing will close in the waters of the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District south and east of a line from Arch Point Light at 55° 12.30' N. lat., 161° 54.30' W. long. to a point on Belkofski Peninsula at 55° 09.50' N. lat., 161° 57.80' W. long. and in the portion of the West Pavlof Bay Section south of Black

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 09.365 was modified in March 2023 to its current regulatory language, primarily due to poor summer run chum escapements to the Yukon River in 2021 and 2022. Since that time summer run escapement has been within the biological escapement goal range of 500,000 to 1.2 million; 845,988 and 758,260 in 2023 and 2024 respectively. Empirical research published by NOAA Fisheries and international ocean research groups demonstrate the poor escapements in 2021 and 2022 were due to extreme warm ocean conditions in the Bering Sea and North Pacific Ocean in the years 2016 – 2019 when juvenile Yukon (CWAK stock) chum were in very poor condition contributing to lower than normal survival. This and additional research have shown that Area M interception of CWAK stocks is not the driver for low Yukon River chum returns. Finally, Area M Seiners introduced an adaptive management plan at the 2023 board of fish meeting that was endorsed by the board and implemented in the 2023 season and each season after, including the upcoming 2025 season. We are proposing to continue adaptive management which has significantly contributed to decreases in the June chum harvest.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed through Area M Seiners Association

PROPOSED BY: Area M Seiners Association

(EF-F26-164)
