

Commercial Fisheries (48 proposals)

Retention of commercially caught salmon (1 proposal)

PROPOSAL 107

5 AAC 09.XXX and 5 AAC 15.XXX. New section.

Adopt marking and reporting requirements for commercially caught salmon retained for a person's own use and not sold in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik management areas, as follows:

We recommend implementing the following measures to address the issue of illegal fish sales in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik regions:

- 1. Mandatory Fin Clipping:** Introduce a regulation requiring all personal use fishery participants in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Island, and Chignik areas to clip the tails of their salmon before leaving the fishing site. Specifically, **all salmon retained under a personal use permit in these regions must have both tips of the tail fin removed prior to concealment or transport from the fishing site.** This will provide a clear visual indicator that the fish was harvested under a personal use permit and is not intended for commercial sale.
- 2. Permit Logging and Reporting:** Ensure that participants accurately log their catches on their permits and require permit holders to report their harvests online by a specified date for the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik regions. This data will support enforcement efforts and provide accurate information for fishery management in these areas.
- 3. Enhanced Enforcement:** Increase enforcement efforts to monitor personal use fishing activities in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik regions and ensure compliance with fin clipping and reporting requirements. Stiff penalties should be imposed for violations, including fines and loss of future personal use fishing privileges.
- 4. Regulatory Language Addition:** Add the following language to the relevant section of 5 AAC: **"Salmon harvested under a personal use permit in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik regions and not marked by clipping both tips of the tail fin as required is considered to be in possession for the purpose of commercial sale and is subject to penalties as defined under Alaska Statute."**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulations for personal use salmon fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik regions lack sufficient safeguards to prevent the illegal sale of salmon. Individuals are exploiting the personal use home pack permit system by retaining fish under the guise of personal use and then selling them for profit. This undermines the integrity of personal use fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik regions, threatens sustainable management of salmon stocks in these areas, and creates unfair competition with legitimate commercial fishermen. This practice must be addressed to ensure that personal use fisheries in the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Chignik regions remain for personal consumption only and do not become a conduit for illicit commercial activity.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Koyukuk River Fish & Game Advisory Committee and discussed during a April 9th, 2025 meeting. A motion to submit this proposal on behalf of the Koyukuk River AC was supported unanimously.

PROPOSED BY: Koyukuk River Fish & Game Advisory Committee Jack Reakoff, Chair
(EF-F26-133)

Chignik Area Salmon Management (5 proposals)

PROPOSAL 108

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Chignik Salmon Management Plan* to increase commercial salmon fishing time as follows:

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

(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; DURING THIS TIME PERIOD THE PERRYVILLE DISTRICT MAY OPEN FOR NO MORE THAN THREE 48 HOUR FISHING PERIODS WITH A MINIMUM CLOSURE OF 48 HOURS BETWEEN EACH PERIOD;] beginning July 6, the department may open the commercial salmon fishery in the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, and in the Perryville District, except that,

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Repeal the current regulation that allows up to three, 48 hour fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts of the CMA between June 1 and July 5. With the catastrophic state of the AYK chum and chinook runs it just makes sense to avoid these areas in June, when those stocks may be in those areas and therefore vulnerable to incidental harvest by the Chignik fleet.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. I am also the person that wrote and submitted the original proposal 18 years ago that became this regulation I am now asking to repeal, and I approached the Chignik Intertribal Coalition and other long-standing Chignik fishery advocates and we decided this was the right thing to do considering the extreme vulnerability of the CWAK chum and chinook runs.

PROPOSED BY: Axel S Kopun

(EF-F26-066)

PROPOSAL 109

5 AAC 15.200. Fishing districts, sections, and subsections.

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the boundaries of the Chignik Bay District to increase area in the Chignik Bay District as follows:

5 AAC 15.200. Fishing districts, sections, and subsections.

- (b) The Chignik Bay District includes all waters of Chignik Bay and Lagoon west of a line from a point **on the northern boundary of the Western District at 56° 16.43' N. lat., 158° 07.20' W. long.,** [NEAR JACK BAY AT 56° 17.60' N. LAT., 158° 12.80' W. LONG.,] to the creek at 56° 24.12' N. lat., 158° 27.73' W. long.

(1) The Jack Bay Section: All waters of the Chignik Bay District bounded by the longitude of a point on Coffee Point at 56° 19.30' N. lat., 158° 19.46' W. long., and the latitude of a point southwest of Jack Point at 56° 16.40' N. lat., 158° 12.50' W. long;

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

[(iii) THOSE PORTIONS OF THE CHIGNIK BAY AND CENTRAL DISTRICTS KNOWN LOCALLY AS JACK'S BOX, WHICH CONSISTS OF THOSE WATERS EAST OF 158° 15.36' W. LONG., SOUTH OF 56° 20' N. LAT., AND WEST OF 158° 10' W. LONG.;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Jack Point should be part of the Chignik Bay District. It is currently in the Central District even though Jack Point is located between the Chignik Bay District and the Western District. It makes no sense to have it in the Central District given its proximity to Chignik Lagoon and geographically, it fits best in the Chignik Bay District.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. We worked with other fishermen in the Chignik Area to look for ways to provide more fishing opportunity for local fishermen with smaller boats and gear.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Intertribal Coalition (EF-F26-102)

PROPOSAL 110

5 AAC 15.332. Seine specifications and operations.

Amend the seine specifications to decrease the allowable depth and length as follows:

5 AAC 15.332. Seine specifications and operations.

(d) A seine may not be less than 3 fathoms or more than **325** [375] meshes in depth, **including** [. IN ADDITION,] a maximum of 25 meshes of chafing gear with a maximum mesh size of seven inches [MAY BE USED].

(e) A lead may not be more than 75 fathoms in length. In the Eastern, Central, Western, and Perryville Districts, the aggregate length of seine and lead may not be more than 225 fathoms in length. **In the Chignik Bay District, the aggregate length of seine and lead may not be more than 125 fathoms in length.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations allow Chignik purse seines outside of the Chignik Bay District to be up to 375 meshes deep. It is time to reduce the depth of our seines to help conserve chinook salmon.

In addition, purse seines in the Chignik Bay District are limited to 125 fathoms in length, but an omission in the regulatory language technically allows for a 75 fathom lead to be used in addition to the purse seine, which was not the intent nor has ever been used in the Chignik Bay District. We need a simple sentence added to the regulations to clarify the aggregate length of seine and lead allowable in the Chignik Bay District to bring it into line with the original intent of the regulation.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. This proposal is being submitted by the Chignik Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Advisory Committee (EF-F26-148)

PROPOSAL 111

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan* to create two new statistical areas in the Western District as follows:

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

(d)...

(3) from August 1 to August 31, the department shall manage the fishing periods in the Outer Castle Cape Subsection, Chankliut Island Subsection, Devil's Bay Subsection, Outer Kuiukta Bay area, **East and West** Mitrofanina Island area, Outer Perryville Subsection and the Outer Humpback Bay Subsection based on the department's evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs or the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run;

(f) For the purposes of this section, the

(9) East Mitrofanina Island area is all waters of the Mitrofanina Section south of the Mitrofanina Bay area and east of a line extending 145° from Stirni Point at 55° 54.42' N lat., 158° 55.13' W long.:

(10) West Mitrofanina Island Area is all waters of the Mitrofanina Section south of the Coal Cape area and west of a line extending 145° from Stirni Point at 55° 54.42' N lat., 158° 55.13' W long.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations do not allow for discrete management within the Mitrofanina Island Area of the Western District of the CMA. By splitting the Mitrofanina Island Area into 2 parts, it allows the department more precise management of the area to help fishermen avoid chinook salmon that may be travelling through the area at certain times while preserving harvest opportunities within the area where chinook salmon are not present.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The Chignik Advisory Committee is submitting this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Advisory Committee

(EF-F26-149)

PROPOSAL 112

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Chignik Area Management Plan* to include area closures and king salmon caps for king salmon conservation as follows:

5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan.

(B) the commissioner may take additional emergency order actions to protect or harvest local pink, chum, king, and coho salmon runs;

(1) From July 1 through July 31, if the department does not expect to achieve the minimum king salmon escapement goal of 1,300 fish in the Chignik River, and the Chignik River king salmon run is currently designated a stock of concern, the commissioner may take the following actions to allow the harvest of surplus sockeye salmon without jeopardizing local king salmon escapement objectives:

(a) In the Chignik Bay District, close all waters south of a line from the tip of Oly's Point at 56° 18.14' N. lat., 158° 36.27' W. long. to a point approximately mid-way between Rocky Point and Jerry's Point at 56° 17.50' N. lat., 158° 33.08' W. long.,

(b) In the Mitrofanina Island Area of the Western District, openings will be no longer than 48 hours, followed by closures of no less than 72 hours,

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(c) If the actions taken in (a) are not sufficient, additionally, in the Chignik Bay District, close all waters of Chignik Lagoon inside a line at 56° 20.38' N. lat., 158° 29.14' W. long. to 56° 20.27' N. lat., 158° 28.20' W. long.,

(d) If the actions taken in (a) and (c) are not sufficient, in addition to or instead of actions (a) and (c), in the Chignik Bay District, openings will be no longer than 48 hours, followed by closures of no less than 72 hours,

(2) Beginning July 1;

(a) If more than 1,000 king salmon are harvested within a 48-hour period, the stat area(s) primarily responsible will be immediately closed for 7 days.

(b) If more than 5,000 king salmon are harvested in total, the stat area(s) primarily responsible will be immediately closed through August 10th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Chignik's king salmon run has been designated a stock of concern. The Commissioner's Emergency Orders have severely impacted the fishermen of Chignik Lagoon, almost all of whom are local tribal members, many with no alternative areas to fish due to the size of their boats and gear. Chignik fishermen were not consulted or given a voice in the Commissioner's fishing restrictions he imposed. We need a Chignik King Salmon Conservation Plan put into regulation that creates a flexible framework, developed through local knowledge and input by ADF&G, that can provide vital protection for our king salmon run and still allow as much harvest opportunity on surplus sockeye as possible.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The Chignik Advisory Committee developed a part of this proposal with assistance from the ADF&G Chignik Area biologist. Local knowledge was also a major part of the development of this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Advisory Committee

(EF-F26-150)

North Alaska Peninsula Salmon Northern District (6 proposals)

PROPOSAL 113

5 AAC 09.310. Fishing seasons. and

5 AAC 09.350. Closed waters.

Amend fishing seasons to allow more fishing time and area for set and drift net gear in the Caribou Flats Section, as follows:

5 AAC 09.310 (9). Caribou Flats Section: from June 20 to July 31 by emergency order if the season-ending sockeye salmon escapement goal at Nelson River is expected to be exceeded prior to August 1, fishing will be permitted with set and drift gillnet gear.

[5 AAC 09.350 (13). CLOSED WATERS. CARIBOU FLATS: WATERS OF THE CARIBOU FLATS SECTION;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Nelson (Sapsuk) River sockeye salmon escapement in 2024 exceeded the upper escapement goal by almost 4-fold with over 750,000 sockeye salmon escaping. This was the largest escapement ever recorded for the Nelson River. Past returns that have significantly exceeded the sockeye salmon escapement goal have caused poor future production and low returns of sockeye salmon into the Nelson River. The number of commercial salmon permits that are fishing in Nelson Lagoon has decreased substantially over the years and the effort levels are not capable of harvesting a good or strong return of sockeye salmon to the Nelson River. Allowing drift and set gillnet gear to fish by emergency order in the Caribou Flats Section when the upper escapement goal is expected to be exceeded would help control the escapement when strong runs occur.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, with the CAMF Board which represents 105 members

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen

(EF-F26-031)

PROPOSAL 114

5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Amend the *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* to delete sunset language as follows:

Delete paragraph (n) below as this language sunsetted in 2018 and can add confusion to the fleet.

[(n) From June 20 through July 31, the department shall manage the Bear River, Three Hills, and Ilnik Sections to conserve Bear River and Nelson River sockeye salmon stocks by allowing the passage of sockeye salmon from the northeast to the southwest of the Northern District as described in this subsection. Notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 09.320, from June 20 through July 31, the commissioner shall, by emergency order, establish fishing periods for the Bear River and Three Hills Sections and that portion of the Ilnik Section between the longitude of Unangashak Bluffs and the longitude of Three Hills at 159° 49.45' W. long., during which the waters that are between the three-mile seaward boundary line, described in 5 AAC 09.301, and a line that is one and one-half miles shoreward of the three-mile seaward boundary are closed for one 24-hour period during a seven-day period. The waters located to the southwest of the open waters where a 24-hour closure has occurred will have sequential closures that allow fishing only

in the waters out to the one and one-half mile line described in this subsection for the first 24 hours of an open fishing period. The provisions of this subsection do not apply after December 31, 2018.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the regulations there is language from an old regulation that has not been in effect since 2018 and should be deleted. The language can add confusion to the fleet as it no longer is pertinent to the fishery. We would consider this a “house-keeping proposal” as it is just trying to remove old regulatory language that should not be included in current regulations.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, with the CAMF Board which represents 105 members

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-F26-032)

PROPOSAL 115

5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Amend fishing seasons to increase fishing time in the Ilnik Section, as follows:

(j) In the Ilnik Section,

(1) notwithstanding 5 AAC 09.320(a)(4), from June 20 through **July 31** {JULY 20},

(A) commercial salmon fishing will be permitted in the Ilnik Section

(i) southwest of the Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Ilnik River sockeye salmon; **and Bear River sockeye salmon only if management actions in the Bear River and Three Hills Sections have occurred and the July 31 lower escapement goal at Bear River is not expected to be met,** and

(ii) northeast of the Unangashak Bluffs based on the abundance of Meshik River and Ilnik River sockeye salmon, combined;

(B) if the commissioner closes that portion of the Egegik District specified in 5 AAC 06.359(c) for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Ilnik Section and immediately reopen the Ilnik Section, with additional fishing restrictions that the commissioner determines necessary;

(2) from **August 1** [JULY 21] through August 15, fishing periods may be modified in the Ilnik Section based on the abundance of Bear River sockeye salmon stocks;

(3) after August 15, fishing periods may be modified in the Ilnik Section based on the abundance of

(A) coho salmon stocks in the Unangashak and Ilnik Rivers, and the Ocean River when the Ocean River flows directly into the Bering Sea; and

(B) the Bear River late-run sockeye salmon stock.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend the regulations to permit ADF&G to make management actions if needed in the Ilnik Section southwest of Unangashak Bluffs for Bear River sockeye salmon. Currently, Bear River sockeye salmon are not identified as a stock that is to be considered in the management of the Ilnik Section prior to July 31 and the department has made management actions in recent years. If adopted this proposal would allow management actions to be taken for Bear River sockeye salmon prior to July 31 southwest of Unangashak Bluffs in the Ilnik Section if management actions have not been effective for the early Bear River sockeye salmon run in the Bear River and Three Hills Sections, and the

July 31 lower escapement goal at Bear River is not expected to be met. Currently, only Ilnik River sockeye salmon are considered in the management plan southwest of Unangashak Bluffs from June 20 to July 20. The Ilnik and Bear Rivers have been managed in the Ilnik Section by ADF&G from June 20 to July 31 in recent years and this would codify those management actions southwest of Unangashak Bluffs.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes, with the CAMF Board which represents 105 members

PROPOSED BY: Concerned Area M Fishermen (EF-F26-033)

PROPOSAL 116

5 AAC 09.369. Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Amend the *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* to decrease commercial salmon fishing time and area to drift gillnet gear as follows:

(n) From June 20 through July **20** [31], the department shall manage the Bear River, Three Hills, [AND] Ilnik Sections **and Outer Port Heiden sections** to conserve [BEAR RIVER AND] Nelson River sockeye salmon stocks by allowing the passage of sockeye salmon from the northeast to the southwest of the Northern District [AS DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION]. Notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 09.320, from June 20 through July **20** [31], the commissioner shall, by emergency order, establish fishing periods for the Bear River, [AND] Three Hills, [SECTIONS AND THAT PORTION OF THE] Ilnik **and Outer Port Heiden Sections** [SECTION BETWEEN THE LONGITUDE OF UNANGASHAK BLUFFS AND THE LONGITUDE OF THREE HILLS AT 159° 49.45' W. LONG.], during which **these sections shall be** [THE WATERS THAT ARE BETWEEN THE THREE-MILE SEAWARD BOUNDARY LINE, DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 09.301, AND A LINE THAT IS ONE AND ONE-HALF MILES SHOREWARD OF THE THREE-MILE SEAWARD BOUNDARY ARE] closed **concurrently** for one **96-hour** [24-HOUR] period during a seven-day period, **however, if interim escapement objectives are being exceeded at either the Ilnik, Sandy, or Bear Rivers, the commissioner may, by emergency order, allow fishing periods in the waters from the shore out to one and one-half mile line in those sections during the closure period established under this subsection** [. THE WATERS LOCATED TO THE SOUTHWEST OF THE OPEN WATERS WHERE A 24- HOUR CLOSURE HAS OCCURRED WILL HAVE SEQUENTIAL CLOSURES THAT ALLOW FISHING ONLY IN THE WATERS OUT TO THE ONE AND ONE- HALF MILE LINE DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION FOR THE FIRST 24 HOURS OF AN OPEN FISHING PERIOD. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION DO NOT APPLY AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2018].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

No windows during 24/7 harvest periods. 24/7 harvest time between June 20th and July 20th does not allow for adequate fish to pass thru the harvest area during this critical time. River systems south of Cape Seniavin are not, or struggle, to achieve periodic escapement goals during this period each year.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

Nelson Lagoon AC.

This Proposal was originally submitted to the BOF for consideration in the 2022/23 BOF cycle as Prop 120, substitute language submitted by Board Member Mitchel as RC131 Alaska Peninsula

Aleutian Islands Finfish meeting. the Nelson Lagoon AC would like this Proposal including the amended language to be reconsidered.

PROPOSED BY: Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee

(EF-F26-127)

PROPOSAL 117

5 AAC 09.369 Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Amend the *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan* as follows:

Require that Northern Alaska Peninsula Coho commercial fishermen report their steelhead bycatch.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Decreasing number and size of steelhead in the Sandy River and Northern Alaska Peninsula in general over the last 10 years. The number of steelhead that are caught in the Coho commercial fishery is unknown and it would be important to know if there is a significant bycatch that may be contributing to the decline in steelhead number.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. With anglers who have been fishing the Sandy River for the last 10+ years.

PROPOSED BY: David Luthy

(EF-F26-101)

PROPOSAL 118

5 AAC 09.369 Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Amend the *Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan*

Require that Northern Alaska Peninsula Coho commercial fishermen report their steelhead bycatch.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Decreasing number and size of steelhead in the Sandy River and Northern Alaska Peninsula in general over the last 10 years. The number of steelhead that are caught in the Coho commercial fishery is unknown and it would be important to know if there is a significant bycatch that may be contributing to the decline in steelhead number.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. With anglers who have been fishing the Sandy River for the last 10+ years.

PROPOSED BY: Jay Michael Watt

(EF-F26-103)

South Alaska Peninsula Southeastern District Mainland Salmon (8 proposals)

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.

PROPOSED BY: Jack R Foster Jr, Amy M Foster, Jack R Foster III (EF-F26-121)

PROPOSAL 120

5 AAC 09.330. Gear

5 AAC 09.360 Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan

Amend the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* to reduce fishing time and area for seine gear as follows:

5 AAC 09.330. Gear.

(f)...

(3) salmon may be taken only with set gillnets from June 1 through July **25** [10] in the Beaver Bay, Balboa Bay, Southwest Stepovak, Northwest Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, and East Stepovak Sections; however, **from July 1 to July 10**, if the department determines that the Orzinski Lake sockeye salmon escapement objectives have been exceeded, [AS DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 09.360(k),] beginning July 1, [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] **set gillnet gear only**;

5 AAC 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 26** [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...

(e) ...

(2)...

[(B) PURSE SEINE AND HAND PURSE SEINE GEAR WILL BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE AS SPECIFIED IN (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION;]

(3)...

(A) set gillnet gear through July **25**. [10; and]

[(B) SET GILLNET GEAR, HAND PURSE SEINE, AND PURSE SEINE GEAR FROM JULY 11 THROUGH JULY 25.]

[(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.]

(k) From July 26 through October 31,

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under the SEDM Management plan, seiners are allowed to operate in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery after July 10. Seiners shouldn't be allowed to fish in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery before July 26. With the decline of the Chignik sockeye runs in recent years, the set gillnet fleet has experienced financial hardship as well. It seems appropriate to allow them more time to fish without being overrun by the seiners, who currently, and historically, catch the vast majority of the salmon in the Area M fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Axel S Kopun

(EF-F26-145)

PROPOSAL 121

5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

Remove 600,000 fish sockeye salmon allocation from the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan*, as follows:

(b) Excluding Orzinski Bay north of a line from Elephant Point 55° 41.92' N. lat., 160° 03.20' W. long. In the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, manage the Southeastern District Mainland as near as possible to the 7.6 percent of the sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Remove the 600,000 allocation of sockeye salmon from the Southeastern District Mainland plan. The SEDM fishermen are part of the Chignik Fishery, there should be no allocation (600,000) to the Chignik fishermen in the SEDM plan. The percentage of catch and the percentage of sockeyes passing through SEDM are the right tools in the plan to ensure the Chignik fishermen receive there allocation and manage of the sockeye fishery in the Chignik District. Delete sections (b), (c) and (d)of 5 AAC 09.360 and insert (b).

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Jim Smith

(EF-F26-077)

PROPOSAL 122

5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* to make changes to Chignik River sockeye salmon allocation as follows:

(1) The percentage of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon allocated to the SEDM fishery is **20%** (7.6%) of the total number of Sockeye salmon harvested in the CMA through July 25

(2) from June 1 through July 25 80% of the sockeye salmon caught in SEDM are considered to be Chignik-bound salmon, excluding NWSS after July 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southeastern District Mainland Management plan is just not helping the conservation of the Chignik River Escapement Goals. The Mainland Fishery Has not fished in the area for years and there has been no evidence of any better returns. We Have been regulated on we get to go fish after the fish and game manages the harvest 300,000 fish for early run and 300,000 fish for the second run close to 600,000 fish. Since the SEDM is managed of how and when the Chignik fisheries get to go catch fish. SEDM should be open the same times when fish and game manages the harvest levels are being met in the CMA. If we are regulated by Chignik fishery we should go fishing the same time as well.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No Im just a tired fisherman waiting to go fish in an area, until a number of fish has been caught in another area, I have no impact on, the number of fish that will escape in an area so far away.

PROPOSAL 123**5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.**

Amend the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* to reflect changes to Chignik River sockeye salmon allocation as follows:

(b) The allocation and the fishery prosecuting plan for SEDM fishery.

(1) In the years in the Chignik district fishery, when there is no local or very limited processing capacity, the allocated harvest to Chignik (600,000) will be waived, (300,000) first run and (300,000) second run. The SEDM percent of 7.6 will also be waived. The SEDM harvest will be managed on the escapement of Chignik sockeye. When the midrange of the first run escapement is met (350,000) the SEDM area will open for fishing. When the lower end of the second run escapement is met (240,000) the SEDM will open for fishing.

(2) In the years in the Chignik fishery when there are 30 or less fishing boats in the Chignik district, the allocated sockeye to the Chignik fishing boats, with a unique registered Alaska ADF&G number will be (100,000) on first run and (100,000) on second run with total of (200,000) for both runs. The allocated harvest percent to SEDM will be 21 percent of the sockeye harvested by the Chignik fishing boats, with registered Alaska ADF&G number.

(3) In the years in the Chignik fishery when there are 31 to 60 fishing boats in the Chignik district, the allocated fish to the Chignik fishing boats, with a unique registered Alaska ADF&G number will be (200,000) on first run and (200,000) on second run with total of (400,000) for both runs. The allocated harvest percent to SEDM will be 14 percent of the sockeye harvest of the Chignik fishing boats, with registered Alaska ADF&G number.

(4) In the years in the Chignik fishery when there are 61 or more fishing boats in the Chignik district, the allocated fish to the Chignik fishing boats, with a EF-F26-062 unique registered Alaska ADF&G number will be (300,000) on first run and (300,000) on second run with total of (600,000) for both runs. The allocated harvest percent to SEDM will be 7.6 percent of the sockeye harvest of the Chignik fishing boats, with registered Alaska ADF&G number.

(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 **the allocated percent to SEDM in 5 AAC 09.360 (b), (2), (3), (4) of this section** [7.6 percent] of sockeye salmon harvest in the Chignik Area at any time before July 25.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The 600,000 guaranteed harvest to the Chignik harvesters, 300,000 for first run, 300,000 for second run as stated in the regulation book needs to be modified, This regulation for the Chignik District was developed when 95 fishing boats, or the majority of the fleet was fishing in the Chignik District. Since then the dynamics of the Chignik fishery has changed dramatically. In past recent years, 35 or less fishing boats fished the Chignik District each year. Also the processing dynamics of Chignik District has changed, there is no local processor in Chignik, all the salmon are tendered to Kodiak or False Pass for processing. The operational to this regulation in 5 AAC 09.360, sections (b), (c) and (d) is not logical to today's salmon fishing in the Southeast District Mainland (SEDM) and the Chignik District. These three sections need to be deleted and new section added that is more relevant with SEDM and Chignik District Fisheries today and for the future.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes brought this proposal before the Sand Point Advisory Committee and they endorsed it.

PROPOSED BY: Edgar L Smith

(EF-F26-062)

PROPOSAL 124

5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* to reflect changes to Chignik River sockeye salmon allocation as follows:

5 AAC 09.360. f

The estimate of Sockeye Salmon destined for the Chignik River has been determined to be [80 PERCENT] **between 55 and 68 percent** of Sockeye Salmon harvested in the East Sepovak, 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 Sepovak Section are considered to be destined for Orzinski Bay

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the amount of sockeye Salmon harvested in the Southeast District Mainland considered to be destined to the Chignik river from the (80 percent) and use the more recent Wassip study results to determine the actual amount Which was much less. With our more recent information from wassip we should be able to have each bay or subsection within southeast district mainland use the percent or amount reflecting their catches during the wassip study which are not all the same.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Smith

(EF-F26-075)

PROPOSAL 125

5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

Amend the *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* to allow more fishing time as follows:

sections 5AAC 09.360 SEDM management plan the same as 5AAC 15.357 [5AAC 09.360 (b)(c)(d)]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? No fishing in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) When Chignik is fishing. We are managed by the Fish and Game in Sand Point by the openings of the Fish and Game managing the Chignik Management Area (CMA) for there opening due to escapement goals and Harvest levels to be as close to 600,000 fish for the area. If we are managed on the same stock we should be able to go fish at the same times.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Emil Mobeck

(EF-F26-093)

PROPOSAL 126

5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections.

5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

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

Amend regulatory language to reduce commercial salmon fishing time and area by incorporating the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District into the South Central District, and include the Volcano Bay, East and West Pavlof Bay Sections in the and *Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan* as follows:

Move the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District into the existing South Central District. Include and manage specified Sections of the South Central District with the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan.

5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections

(d) Southwestern District: waters on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula north and east of a line extending 115° from Cape Pankof Light (54° 39.60' N. lat., 163° 03.70' W. long.) and west of a line extending **152° from Moss Cape (55° 7.26' N. lat., 161° 56.30' W. long.)** [106° FROM ARCH POINT LIGHT (55° 12.30' N. LAT., 161° 54.30' W. LONG.) TO THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF THE SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT (LONGITUDE OF MCGINTY POINT: 160° 59.00' W. LONG.),] including Inner Iliasik, Outer Iliasik, [GOLOI, DOLGOI, POPERECHOI,] and Deer Islands, waters of Ikatan Bay, and waters of Isanotski Strait south of a line from the False Pass cannery dock (54° 51.35' N. lat., 163° 24.38' W. long.) to Nichols Point (54° 51.43' N. lat., 163° 23.23' W. long.);

[(7) VOLCANO BAY SECTION: WATERS BETWEEN MOSS CAPE AND ARCH POINT, INCLUDING GOLOI, DOLGOI, AND POPERECHNOI ISLANDS;]

(e) South Central District: waters on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula north and east of a line extending **152° from Moss Cape (55° 7.26' N. lat., 161° 56.30' W. long.)** [106° FROM ARCH POINT LIGHT (55° 12.30' N. lat., 161° 54.30' W. LONG.)] and west of a line extending south from McGinty Point (55° 27.37' N. lat., 160° 59.00' W. long.), including Ukolnoi and Wosnesenski Islands;

(5) Volcano Bay Section: waters between Moss Cape and Arch Point, including Goloi, Dolgoi, and Poperechnoi Islands;

5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland and South Central District 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 **and South Central District** fishery conducted in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Northwest Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat.** 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

AAC 09.200(f);

(1) beginning July 1, in the Northwest Stepovak Section described in 5

(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 fish, a commercial salmon fishery is not allowed in the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and 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., **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat.,** 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 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, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat.,** 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 escapement goals for the first and second runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be more than 600,000 fish but the 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 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., **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat.,** 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, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat.,** 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 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, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat.,** 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.

(3) 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, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat.,** 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.

(4) The percentage of sockeye salmon destined for the Chignik River that are harvested in the Southeastern District Mainland **and South Central District** 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.

(5) 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 the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat.,** 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 **and South Central District** 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, **as well as the Volcano Bay Section, and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections south of a line extending west from Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat.,** during this period, and from June 26 through June 30 in the Northwest Stepovak Section.

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

(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.

[(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 POINT (55° 24.48' N. LAT.), IF THE HARVEST OF SOCKEYE SALMON FROM THE SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT, THE VOLCANO BAY SECTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT, AND THE BELKOFSKI BAY SECTION, EXCLUDING THOSE WATERS INSIDE OF A LINE BETWEEN VODAPOINI POINT AND BOLD CAPE, REACHES 191,000 SOCKEYE SALMON BASED ON FISH TICKET INFORMATION.]

[(g) NOTWITHSTANDING (d) OF THIS SECTION, COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING IS CLOSED TO PURSE SEINE GEAR IN THE WATERS OF THE VOLCANO BAY SECTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT, THE BELKOFSKI BAY SECTION

OF THE SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT, EXCLUDING THOSE WATERS INSIDE OF A LINE BETWEEN VODAPOINI POINT AT 55° 01.88' N. LAT., 162° 24.80' W. LONG., AND BOLD CAPE AT 55° 01.24' N. LAT., 162° 16.40' W. LONG., AND THE SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Prior to 2004, The Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District and the South Central District of Area M were not open to commercial fishing in June. The significant presence of Chignik sockeye in these areas has resulted in an increase in the interception of Chignik-bound sockeye that did not exist prior to 2004. Chignik stocks are struggling and greater conservation measures are needed to ensure that overharvest of Chignik stocks does not happen.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. We had discussions with various Chignik Region tribal members and long-time Chignik fishermen, who pointed out how these areas line up geographically with the migration of Chignik sockeye stocks and how it makes sense these areas be combined into the SEDM management plan.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Intertribal Coalition

(EF-F26-104)

South Alaska Peninsula Salmon June Management Plan (11 proposals)

PROPOSAL 127

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

Establish a 10 consecutive day closure between June 10 and June 23 for seine and drift gillnet gear, as follows:

Alaska Administrative Code Number: 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan as amended by the Alaska Board of Fisheries adoption of RC 190 on February 26, 2023.

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

Increase the amount of time for chum salmon to migrate through the South Unimak and Shumigan Islands June fishery in order to reduce chum salmon interceptions while harvesting sockeye salmon by establishing a minimum of a 10-day consecutive closure between June 10th and June 23rd for the seine and drift gillnet fleets.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Alaska Peninsula / Shumigan Islands (Area M) is managed by a 3-year Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) cycle instead of an in-season escapement management as almost all other Alaska salmon fisheries are regulated.

In February of 2023, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted a South Unimak and Shumigan Islands Management Plan that may have encouraged under-reporting of harvest of Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) chum, while the chum stocks that the Plan intended to protect clearly remain in increasingly critical condition across Western.

Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) chum and king salmon have been in severe decline to the point of extirpation in some discrete stocks. That situation only worsened in the 2023 and 2024 AYK salmon seasons. This includes the Yukon River, Kuskokwim River, Unalakleet River and the Nushagak River. The predominant AYK chum producing rivers are the Yukon and the Kuskokwim. The relationships between the intercept of chum in Area M and the declines of CWAK chum has never been adequately established to understand the social and ecological impacts of Area M fisheries on AYK salmon and subsistence communities. But in times of severe concern over the sustainability of AYK stocks, it is not a matter of every fish counting but every egg counting for fecundity on the spawning grounds.

The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Policy (SSP/ 5AAC 39.222) requires that “the burden of conservation” of a depleted species be shared. In 2022, Bering Sea Fishermen’s Association, along with several tribal consortiums, wrote a letter to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game noting “If ADF&G does not limit June commercial harvest opportunities within Area M, the ensuing unmitigated interception of AYK-bound chum all but assures the destruction of AYK Region economies and traditional subsistence lifestyles, and places the entire burden of conservation on the shoulders of AYK Region subsistence users. The survival of our communities depends upon ADF&G’s intervention.”ⁱ Even more significant, it could mean the extirpation of some chum stocks entirely.

Any closure intended to protect migrating non-target species must be long enough for a significant number of fish to completely transit the South Peninsula fishing districts. Further, for

a closure to permit a substantial number of fish to transit the entire fishing area, it should be at least 10 days long and focused on the peak of the chum migration.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. Tanana Chiefs Conference, several advisory committees.

PROPOSED BY: Orutsararmiut Native Council

(EF-F26-143)

PROPOSAL 128

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

Adopt chum, coho and king salmon catch thresholds that trigger time and area closures to conserve Koyukuk River salmon, as follows:

1. Implement Time Closures and Fleet Movement in Area M: Introduce time closures for Area M and mandate the fleet movement when bycatch of Chinook, chum, and coho salmon reaches a predetermined threshold. Trigger action when Area M starts catching bycatch.
2. Prioritize Koyukuk River Salmon: Recognize the specific vulnerability of Koyukuk River salmon populations and prioritize their protection in management decisions. Any bycatch limits set should consider the needs of these subsistence-dependent communities.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal addresses the urgent need to protect Pacific salmon populations migrating to the Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim (AYK) region by reducing bycatch in the Area M fishery. AYK salmon (Chinook, chum, and coho) are crucial for the ecological, cultural, and economic well-being of Western Alaska communities, particularly for subsistence. Salmon play a critical role in nutrient cycling, transferring marine-derived nutrients to freshwater ecosystems when they die after spawning, which supports the entire food web. The Area M fishery has been identified as a source of significant bycatch of AYK-bound salmon. This bycatch directly reduces salmon returns to the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers, impacting subsistence harvests and ecosystem health. This proposal outlines specific, actionable steps to minimize bycatch in Area M and protect these vital salmon populations.

Salmon populations in the AYK region are facing significant challenges, including bycatch in commercial fisheries, particularly in Area M. Bycatch of chinook, chum, and coho salmon in Area M negatively impacts the already stressed salmon runs returning to the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. The large-scale removal of salmon flesh and associated nutrients from the ecosystem disrupts the natural nutrient cycle, negatively impacting local ecosystems.

Specific concerns exist regarding the declining salmon runs in the Koyukuk River, a major tributary of the Yukon River. Communities along the Koyukuk River rely heavily on salmon for subsistence. Recent years have seen drastic reductions in salmon returns, leading to severe impacts on food security and cultural practices. These declines exacerbate the hardships faced by residents who depend on salmon for their livelihood. Any further reduction in salmon numbers due to bycatch in Area M directly affects the ability of Koyukuk River communities to meet their subsistence needs.

These proposed changes aim to directly address the issue of salmon bycatch in Area M and its broader impacts on AYK salmon populations and ecosystems, with particular attention to the Koyukuk River. Time closures during critical migration periods will significantly reduce bycatch of AYK bound salmon. Recognizing the specific needs of Koyukuk River communities is vital for ensuring their food security and cultural survival.

Implementing these regulatory changes is essential for the sustainable management and conservation of salmon populations in the AYK region, especially for the Koyukuk River. These measures will help protect salmon during their migration, preserve the ecological balance of freshwater ecosystems, and support the subsistence and cultural needs of communities that rely on these vital resources.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Koyukuk River Fish & Game Advisory Committee and discussed during a April 9th, 2025 meeting. A motion to submit this proposal on behalf of the Koyukuk River AC was supported unanimously.

PROPOSED BY: Koyukuk River Fish & Game Advisory Committee Jack Reakoff, Chair
(EF-F26-134)

PROPOSAL 129

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 reduce commercial salmon fishing time as follows:

Draft Language:

A later start date for Commercial Fishing in the June Fishery would enable More Salmon bound for the AYK coastline and rivers to move thru the Area M fishery. 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan.

(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 bound 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 16**, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 64 hours until 10:00 p.m. two days later; beginning **June 20**, 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 gear, beginning **June 20**, the first commercial fishing period will begin at 5:59 a.m., then close after 68 hours at 1:59 a.m.; the second commercial fishing period will begin 76 hour later at 5:59 a.m., then close after 66 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the third

commercial fishing period will begin 32 hours later at 7:59 a.m., then close after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the final commercial fishing period in June will begin 32 hours later at 7:59 a.m. then close after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m.;

(3) for drift gillnet gear, beginning **June 20**, 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; 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.

(h) If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 300,000 fish by **June 23**, based on fish ticket information, the commissioner shall reduce commercial fishing time in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries by 44 hours during each of the remaining fishing periods in June for purse seine gear. If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 450,000 fish by **June 23**, based on fish ticket information, the commissioner shall close commercial salmon fishing in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries for the remainder of June for purse seine gear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce Excessive harvest of returning Chum Salmon stocks to the Norton Sound Bering Straits Region.

From 2018 to 2023 the Norton Sound Region (State Fish Weir Counts, State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game Website) saw a 80% Average decline in Chum Salmon Escapement in each of the 14 River systems that are counted by the State of Alaska in the Norton Sound Bering Strait Area. This includes one River system which experienced a 97% decline in that same period. While Area M may not be the only contributing factor in this unprecedented decline it has to be acknowledged that the fishery does play a significant role in those numbers dropping. This proposal only addresses the needs of the Norton Sound Bering Straits Region and it does not include the unprecedented drops in the Yukon Kuskokwim River Systems but those numbers are no less staggering.

In a very recent Board of Fish meeting, it was stated by several testifying individuals that "Chum Chucking" does not occur in the Area M fishery. This was also stated by a Board of Fish member as fact. In 2023 the Alaska State Troopers gave out 21 citations to the Area M Fishermen and 9 of those citations were for "Chum Chucking". This practice is to skirt the regulation requiring the fisherman to keep on board all incidental salmon caught in the pursuit of their target species. And by regulation if the amount of incidental take exceeds the amount allocated for the fishery, then the fishery must be closed by emergency order. The real problem with "Chum Chucking" is that the number of salmon thrown overboard is unknown and chum thrown overboard are not observable to be alive or dead. The amount of chum thrown overboard is uncounted and unregulated and there could be 100,000 salmon that should be counted in the incidental limit let alone their lack of population be counted towards escapement goals for their home river systems. This illegal activity is reprehensible and should be met with consequences.

This amendment proposed would alleviate most of the need for "Chum Chucking" as it would prevent most of the intercept of Chum Salmon by Area M Fishermen. A June 20 start date would enable chum destined for Western Alaska Rivers the time they need to move thru the Area M Fisheries.

Recent scientific studies conducted by Western Alaska Sustainable Salmon Initiative Program (WASSIP) have shown that intercepted fish bound for Western Alaska are being taken out of their traditional routes to their home river systems.

The continued process for managing a resource without taking into account, all variables, such as their home river system escapement goals, and ensuring that these numbers are being met to sustain the population of those waterways is reckless and irresponsible. We are not arguing that we own all the fish, nor do we want the harvest of them stopped, but that these practices be practical and comprehensive thru utilizing all management tools, such as ensuring escapement goals are met in the Western Alaska Waters, ensure the most accurate data is used in decision making, for the preservation of the salmon run and sustainable for everyone involved.

According to state statute 16.05.258 subsistence use and allocation. The board may identify manage and regulate a subsistence or commercial fishery. "(c) The boards shall adopt subsistence fishing and subsistence hunting regulations for each stock and population for which a harvestable portion is determined to exist under (b)(1) of this section. If the harvestable portion is not sufficient to accommodate all consumptive uses of the stock or population, but is sufficient to accommodate subsistence uses of the stock or population, then non-wasteful subsistence uses shall be accorded a preference over other consumptive uses, and the regulations shall provide a reasonable opportunity to satisfy the subsistence uses. If the harvestable portion is sufficient to accommodate the subsistence uses of the stock or population, then the boards may provide for other consumptive uses of the remainder of the harvestable sustained yield or continue subsistence uses, then the preference shall be limited, and the boards shall distinguish between subsistence users, by applying the following criteria:

And in accordance with 5 AAC 99.010 Subsistence use and allocation of fish and game. (c) When circumstances such as increased numbers of users, weather, predation, or loss of habitat may jeopardize the sustained yield of a fish stock or game population, each board will exercise all practical options for restricting non-subsistence harvest of the stock or population and may address other limiting factors before subsistence uses are restricted below the level the board has determined to provide a reasonable opportunity. If all available restrictions for nonsubsistence harvests have been implemented and further restrictions are needed, the board will eliminate non-subsistence consumptive uses, and reduce the take for subsistence uses in a series of graduated steps. While Kawerak, Inc. realizes that there are numerous causes of the collapse of western Alaska chum salmon returns. One chronic cause is the adopting of regulatory measures that favor commercial harvest and denying subsistence harvesters their opportunity through AS 16.05.258.

Arguments for continued fisheries activities have been made that Commercial Fisherman will lose their livelihood and be forced to stop fishing if further regulation is necessary. While Kawerak, Inc. sympathizes, people in the Bering Straits/Norton Sound Region have had closures of their subsistence fishing as a last resort that lasted nearly 30 years. The Bering Straits/Norton Sound Region has also been the only region in the State of Alaska's history to go to a Teir II Fishery.

This proposal is to conserve the Chum Salmon in our rivers and to preserve the Subsistence Culture and traditions of the Subsistence Users and ultimately their health and wellbeing. There also cannot be any argument that the Chum Salmon destined for the AYK regions and river systems are separate from the fish going thru Area M. This argument has been settled and it is a fact that chum salmon are intercepted in the Area M fishery that are destined for the Arctic Yukon & Kuskokwim Regions.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. N/A

PROPOSED BY: Kawerak, Inc.

(EF-F26-021)

PROPOSAL 130

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 reduce commercial salmon fishing time as follows:

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

(a) The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries harvest [BOTH] sockeye [SALMON AND], chum [SALMON], **chinook and pink** salmon in a mixed stock fishery [DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE]. The sockeye salmon are predominantly Bristol Bay [AND ALASKA PENINSULA ORIGIN], **Chignik, and southcentral Alaska origin**. The chum salmon are bound for a number of areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon- Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay,[THE ALASKA PENINSULA] **Chignik**, and southcentral Alaska. **The chinook are bound for a number of areas, including the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, Chignik, southcentral Alaska, southeast Alaska, Canada and the lower 48.** These salmon stocks have historically been harvested **at varying levels** 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).

(d) In the South Unimak **fishery** [AND SHUMAGIN ISLANDS FISHERIES] the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, commercial fishing periods as follows:

(e) In the Shumagin Island fishery, 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 gear, beginning June 10, commercial fishing periods will begin at 5:59 a.m. and run 66 hours until 11:59 p.m. two days later; commercial fishing will then close for 78 hours and reopen at 5:59 a.m. four days later; the final commercial fishing period in June will begin at 5:59 a.m. June 22 and end at 11:59 p.m. on June 24.

(f)[(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.

(g)(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 Point (55° 24.48' N. lat.), if the harvest of sockeye salmon from the South Central District, the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District, and the Belkofski Bay Section, excluding those waters inside of a line between Vodapoini Point and Bold Cape, reaches 191,000 sockeye salmon based on fish ticket information.

(h)(g) Notwithstanding (d) of this section, commercial salmon fishing is closed to purse seine gear in the waters of the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District, the Belkofski Bay Section of the Southwestern District, excluding those waters inside of a line between Vodapoini Point at 55° 01.88' N. lat., 162° 24.80' W. long., and Bold Cape at 55° 01.24' N. lat., 162° 16.40' W. long., and the South Central District.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulations for the June Shumagin Islands fishery do not have long enough closures to allow for the passage of migrating stocks, including Chignik-bound sockeye, through the area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. We worked with members of Chignik's federally recognized Tribes to develop this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Intertribal Coalition (EF-F26-100)

PROPOSAL 131

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 reduce commercial salmon fishing time and area for purse seine and drift gillnet gear, as follows:

AMEND 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management as follows:

In order to allow a significant fraction of western Alaska chum salmon to migrate through the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands, June drift gillnet and purse seine fisheries will be closed in the South Alaska Peninsula fishing areas during June 12-23, inclusive. This closure will eliminate the requirement for accurate interception numbers to exercise fishery closures associated with interception caps, would reduce resources needed to enforce fishery closures, and will likely have distinct and substantial positive effects on other depressed species and stocks that are intercepted in the June fisheries. Set gillnet fisheries could be managed as they are in the current Plan.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Alaska Peninsula / Shumagin Islands (Area M) is managed by a 3-year Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) cycle instead of in-season escapement management as almost all other Alaska salmon fisheries are regulated.

In February of 2023, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted a South Unimak and Shumagin Islands Management Plan that likely encouraged under-reporting of harvest of chum salmon bound for western Alaska rivers. The chum salmon stocks that the Plan intended to protect clearly remain in increasingly critical condition across western Alaska and the AYK (Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim) region into 2025. Commercial and subsistence fisheries have been severely restricted or closed, and most escapements to tributaries throughout the region have been distinctly below escapement goals. Some stocks are increasingly at risk of extinction. Current interceptions of western Alaska

chum salmon in South Alaska Peninsula fisheries targeting super-abundant Bristol Bay sockeye salmon are adding a substantial source of mortality on these stocks that is likely preventing recovery to levels that would support commercial harvest or even subsistence harvest in western Alaska rivers. The current Plan also depends critically on accurate reporting of chum salmon interceptions in South Alaska Peninsula fisheries so that the fisheries can be closed by emergency order if interception ‘caps’ are exceeded. The high number of citations issued in the June fishery in 2023 for discarding of non-target species (i.e., chum salmon) highlights the perverse incentives to under-report interceptions and, therefore, make the current plan ineffective at protecting critically depressed chum salmon stocks.

South Alaska Peninsula fisheries within the Area M management area span over 350 km (~220 miles) from the Shumagin Islands in the east to the south Unimak fishing district in the west. Salmon harvested in this fishing area exhibit a directed migration pathway that brings fish into the fishing district in the Shumagins and carries them westward through the fishing management area before they head north through Unimak Pass and False Pass and into coastal waters of the North Peninsula and the Bering Sea. Time closures of seine and drift gillnet fisheries have been proposed as a way to allow safe passage of depressed chum stocks through the South Peninsula fisheries en route to spawning grounds in western Alaska rivers. However, for time closures to be effective, they must be long enough to allow fish to enter the fishing areas and successfully pass through the western boundary. Estimates from tagging studies performed by ADF&G suggest that the average travel time for a single fish is at least 5 days (Eggers 1989ⁱ), which means that closures must be substantially longer than this to allow biologically significant numbers of chum salmon to successfully transit the fishing areas. Three years of the WASSIP studiesⁱⁱ show that for 2007-2009, the peak of the western Alaska chum salmon migration through the South Peninsula fishing areas occurred around June 18, with a well-defined peak in abundance at this time.

The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Policy (SSP/ 5AAC 39.222) requires that “the burden of conservation” of a depleted species be shared. In 2022, Bering Sea Fishermen’s Association, along with several tribal consortiums, wrote a letter to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game noting “If ADF&G does not limit June commercial harvest opportunities within Area M, the ensuing unmitigated interception of AYK-bound chum all but assures the destruction of AYK Region economies and traditional subsistence lifestyles, and places the entire burden of conservation on the shoulders of AYK Region subsistence users. The survival of our communities depends upon ADF&G’s intervention.”ⁱⁱⁱ Even more significant, it could mean the extirpation of some chum stocks entirely.

Thus, the Bering Sea Fishermen’s Association (BSFA) proposes the following schedule of closures to protect non-targeted salmon migrating through the South Peninsula June fisheries. We propose to close commercial fishing by seiners and drift gillnetters for 12 days from June 12 to June 23, inclusive. This extended closure would allow non-targeted species to completely transit the entire fishing area at a time coinciding with peak western Alaska chum migration through this fishing area. While this closure would primarily benefit western Alaska chum salmon, it is very likely to also greatly reduce interceptions of imperiled Chinook salmon stocks returning to rivers across a broader geographic area, and sockeye salmon stocks currently of conservation concern (e.g., the early run at Chignik).

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed following BSFA’s board priority to support management decisions to improve the chances for wild salmon stock migration to rebuild and restore abundance for Western Alaska communities. BSFA is guided by prevailing concerns and solutions discussed at AYK fish meetings and numerous federal and regional forums

including AYK Advisory Committees, RACs, NPFMC, Gravel to Gravel, bycatch task forces, etc., brought by subsistence and commercial fisher users, biologists and policy advocates.

PROPOSED BY: Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (BSFA) (EF-F26-122)

PROPOSAL 132

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 reduce commercial salmon fishing time for purse seine and drift gillnet gear, as follows:

Alaska Administrative Code Number: 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan as amended by the Alaska Board of Fisheries adoption of RC 190 on February 26, 2023.

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

Increase the amount of time for chum salmon to migrate through the South Unimak and Shumigan Islands June fishery in order to reduce chum salmon interceptions while harvesting sockeye salmon by establishing 11 days of intermittent closures for both seine and drift gillnet sectors in the middle of the June fishery. This would eliminate triggers.

AMEND 5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management as follows:

Increase the amount of time for a significant fraction of chum salmon to migrate through the South Unimak and Shumigan Islands June fishery in order to reduce chum bycatch while harvesting sockeye salmon by adopting a more restrictive fishing schedule for all gear types. Because set gillnet gear takes only about 10% of the entire harvestⁱⁱⁱ, it should have the highest fishing opportunity. As noted in a 1987 ADF&G report^{iv}, the minimum number of days for a chum salmon to transverse north of Shumigans to southwest Unimak is 4.5 days.

23 DAYS : June 6-28

GEAR TYPE	OPEN/CLOSE	DATE	TIME	SETNET	DRIFT	SEINE	CLOSED
SET NET ONLY	OPEN	June 6-June 8	6am - 10pm	64	0	0	
SET NET ONLY	CLOSED	June 8-June 10	10pm-6am	0	0	0	30
SET & DRIFT	OPEN	June 10-June 13	6am - 10pm	88	88	0	
ALL GEAR	CLOSED	June 13-June 15	2am-6am	0	0	0	52
SET & DRIFT	OPEN	June 15-June 18	6am - 10pm	88			
ALL GEAR	CLOSED	June 19-June 20	12am-6am	0	0	0	30
SET NET ONLY	OPEN	June 20-June 24	6am - 10pm	88	0	0	
ALL GEAR	CLOSED	June 24-June 26	10pm-6am	0	0	0	32
SET NET ONLY	OPEN	June 26-June 28	6am - 10pm	64			
TOTALS				392			144
SEINE AND DRIFT	CLOSED	June 6- June 10	6am - 10pm		0	0	64
SET & DRIFT	OPEN	June 10-June 13	6am - 10pm		88	0	
SEINE	OPEN	June 10-June 13	6am-2am			68	
ALL GEAR	CLOSED	June 13-June 15	2am-6am	0	0	0	52

SET & DRIFT	OPEN	June 15-June 18	6am - 10pm	88		
SEINE	OPEN	June 16-June 18	6am-11:59pm		66	
DRIFT & SEINE	CLOSED	June 19-June 23	12am-8am	0	0	128
SEINE & DRIFT	OPEN	June 24-June 28	8am-11:59pm	64	64	
ALL GEAR	CLOSED	June 24-June 26	10pm-6am	0	0	0
SEINE & DRIFT	OPEN	June 26-June 28	8am-11:59pm	64	64	32
	TOTALS	TOTALS		304	262	276

Extended closure mid-season would substitute for elimination of harvest triggers and give chum sufficient passage time in this historically high chum harvest time. A long closure also takes pressure off Alaska Wildlife Troopers monitoring time.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Alaska Peninsula / Shumigan Islands (Area M) is managed by a 3-year Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) cycle instead of an in-season escapement management as almost all other Alaska salmon fisheries are regulated.

In February of 2023, the Alaska Board of Fisheries adopted a South Unimak and Shumigan Islands Management Plan that may have encouraged under-reporting of harvest of Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) chum, while the chum stocks that the Plan intended to protect clearly remain in increasingly critical condition across Western Alaska and the AYK (Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim) region into 2025. Several hundred AYK residents attended that meeting to express the substantiated concern that a percentage of Area M June fishery harvest for chum salmon were bound for AYK rivers that have had no escapement goals or ANS (Amounts Necessary for Subsistence) met for summer and fall chum. The Board determination resulted in only a 14% decrease in the June fishery harvest time.

In the latter part of 2023, the Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FAC) submitted an Agenda Change Request (ACR) for Board consideration to address the unforeseen consequences of setting harvest caps on non-targeted species that could trigger closures as well as the voluntary management between processors and seiners that may have encouraged under-reporting of non-retention of non-targeted species. These consequences were evident in the 2023 Area M June fishery where increased Alaska Wildlife Trooper presence within the June fishery revealed a high level of non-retention of non-targeted salmon, raising speculation on the level of under-reporting of harvest and the lack of observation on all sectors.

Area M is a vast region encompassing the waters south of the Alaska Peninsula and including the Shumagin Islands, spanning over 1000 miles and 10 degrees of longitude. This makes traditional monitoring by the Alaska Wildlife Troopers very difficult. Further, because Area M is so large, any regulation that uses time closures to protect migrating non-target species (i.e., western AK chum and Chinook salmon), must include time closures that are sufficiently long to allow a significant number of non-targeted fish to transit the entire fishing area which is at least 220 miles from the east to the west boundary. As currently implemented, fish are heavily targeted as they enter fishing areas in the Shumagin Islands and are targeted again as they exit South Peninsula fisheries in the Unimak District.

In addition, the predominant gear types in Area M (58' purse seine and drift gillnet) have significantly expanded in size which has greatly increased their harvest capabilities.

Gear types in Area M (CFEC 2022)

AREA M GEAR TYPES	TOTAL	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
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PURSE SEINE	121	81	38
DRIFT GILLNET	162	93	68
SET GILLNET	116	95	16

- **Tonnage Increase:** Vessels built in the last decade have seen a significant increase in tonnage compared to those built before the 1960s, with an average tonnage of 125 tons versus 45 tons, respectively.
- **Purse Seine Size:** Purse seines themselves can be quite large, reaching over 2,000 meters in length and 200 meters in depth, varying in size based on the vessel, mesh size, and target species.

The adopted management plan allows a voluntary agreement between processors and seiners to self-police the fishery based on triggers and because just a small level of increased Trooper activity illustrated that there is wide-spread non-retention of chum (and possibly Chinook) in the sector not part of that agreement. These observations raise the concern that continuation of this 3-year management plan could result in significant further under-reporting of non-targeted fish harvest including substantial harvest of severely depressed CWAK chum salmon.

In short, even with non-target chum harvest triggers, without significantly increased observation the current three-year management plan prosecuted by a processor/seiner agreement has insufficient “windows” to protect non-targeted salmon stocks, therefore affording little incentive to provide full disclosures on harvest rates. The only reasonable alternative is to increase the closures during the high chum density periods.

While that 2023 ACR petition was not considered to sufficiently meet the criteria, the underlying reason for the petition has only become more urgent and has raised more concerns.

The 2023 harvest seems historically imbalanced for the June fishery and the 2024 harvest timing seems questionably close to the trigger of 450,000 chum bycatch that would have shut down the remainder of the fishery.

		CHINOOK	CHUM
2023	TOTAL HARVEST	11,067	1,120,863
	JUNE FISHERY	1,824	205,522
2024	TOTAL HARVEST	7,280	575,513
	JUNE FISHERY	1,257	450,839

Despite 2024 being a very low abundance year in most of Alaska, the June fishery chum bycatch was still far too high in comparison to the dire returns in the AYK for 2023 and 2024. That figure hit the trigger point on the last day so raises concerns about reporting. The comparison of post 2023 management plan change to pre 2023 management plan does not indicate a significant reduction in harvest of non-targeted species for the entire season. These numbers do not include “personal use” (“home pack) counts nor do they include the ADF&G test fishery numbers. In addition, the genetic sampling of chum salmon has been limited, with recent data not released and the genetic sampling of Chinook in Area M has never existed.

Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) chum and king salmon have been in severe decline to the point of extirpation in some discrete stocks. That situation only worsened in the 2023 and 2024 AYK salmon seasons and is projected to be even worse in 2025. This includes the Yukon River,

Kuskokwim River, Unalakleet River and the Nushagak River. The predominant AYK chum producing rivers are the Yukon and the Kuskokwim. The relationships between the intercept of chum in Area M and the declines of CWAK chum has enough evidence to indicate significant impact over the decades. In more recent years of lowered abundance, that relationship may be even more significant. In times of severe concern over the sustainability of AYK stocks, it is not a matter of every fish counting but every egg counting for fecundity on the spawning grounds.

Any closure intended to protect migrating non-target species must be long enough for a significant number of fish to completely transit the South Peninsula fishing districts. Work by ADF&G showed that chum salmon caught and tagged in the Shumagins district were recaptured an average of 4.6 days later in the Unimak district (Eggers 1988 Appendix F.5). This should be viewed as a conservative estimate of the time required by an individual fish to *transit the entire* South Peninsula fishing area. Further, for a closure to permit a substantial number of fish to transit the entire fishing area, it should be at least 10 days long and focused on the peak of the chum migration. Data from WASSIPⁱ shows that chum salmon catches peaked around June 18 in the three years of study.

The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Policy (SSP/ 5AAC 39.222) requires that “the burden of conservation” of a depleted species be shared. In 2022, Bering Sea Fishermen’s Association, along with several tribal consortiums, wrote a letter to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game noting “If ADF&G does not limit June commercial harvest opportunities within Area M, the ensuing unmitigated interception of AYK-bound chum all but assures the destruction of AYK Region economies and traditional subsistence lifestyles, and places the entire burden of conservation on the shoulders of AYK Region subsistence users. The survival of our communities depends upon ADF&G’s intervention.”ⁱⁱ Even more significant, it could mean the extirpation of some chum stocks entirely.

Thus, the Fairbanks AC proposes the following schedule of closures to protect chum salmon migrating through the South Peninsula June fisheries. The preferred action would be to close the June fishery entirely. The alternative is to restrict harvest time during the historically heavy fishing period of June 18th-June 28th in order to provide maximum passage of non-targeted salmon species.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee Jeff Lucas, Chair
(EF-F26-136)

PROPOSAL 133

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 reduce commercial salmon fishing time, as follows:

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

(a) The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries harvest [BOTH] sockeye [SALMON AND], chum [SALMON], **chinook and pink** salmon in a mixed stock fishery [DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE]. The sockeye salmon are predominantly Bristol Bay [AND ALASKA PENINSULA ORIGIN], **Chignik, and southcentral Alaska origin.** The chum salmon are bound for a number of areas, including Japan, Russia, the Arctic-Yukon- Kuskokwim, Bristol

Bay, [THE ALASKA PENINSULA] Chignik, and southcentral Alaska. The chinook are bound for a number of areas, including the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, Chignik, southcentral Alaska, southeast Alaska, Canada and the lower 48. These salmon stocks have historically been harvested at varying levels 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).

(d) In the South Unimak fishery [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, beginning June 10, commercial fishing periods will begin at 5:59 a.m. and run 66 hours until 11:59 p.m. two days later; commercial fishing will then close for 78 hours and reopen at 5:59 a.m. four days later; the final commercial fishing period in June will begin at 5:59 a.m. June 28 and run 42 hours until 11:59 p.m. on June 29.

(e) In the Shumagin Island fishery, 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 gear, beginning June 10, commercial fishing periods will begin at 5:59 a.m. and run 66 hours until 11:59 p.m. two days later; commercial fishing will then close for 78 hours and reopen at 5:59 a.m. four days later; the final commercial fishing period in June will begin at 5:59 a.m. June 22 and end at 11:59 p.m. on June 24.

(f) [(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.

(g)[(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 Point (55° 24.48' N. lat.), if the harvest of sockeye salmon from the South Central District, the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District, and the Belkofski Bay Section, excluding those waters inside of a line between Vodapoini Point and Bold Cape, reaches 191,000 sockeye salmon based on fish ticket information.

(h)[(g)] Notwithstanding (d) of this section, commercial salmon fishing is closed to purse seine gear in the waters of the Volcano Bay Section of the Southwestern District, the Belkofski Bay Section of the Southwestern District, excluding those waters inside of a line between Vodapoini Point at 55° 01.88' N. lat., 162° 24.80' W. long., and Bold Cape at 55° 01.24' N. lat., 162° 16.40' W. long., and the South Central District.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulations for the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan do not have long enough closures to allow for the passage of migrating stocks, including CWAK-bound chums and Chignik-bound sockeye, through the area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The Chignik Advisory Committee developed this proposal and is submitting it.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Advisory Committee

(EF-F26-147)

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 bound 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)

PROPOSAL 135

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

Create a new regulation to provide the department emergency order authority to require nonretention of king salmon and to amend the retention provision as follows:

Current 5 AAC 09.365 (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.

Proposed Reg:

5 AAC 09.xxx. Retention of king salmon taken in a commercial fishery. This regulation is in place to provide guidance to the department when it is determined that conservation is required for king salmon. Notwithstanding 5 AAC 09.365 (e), from June 1 through October 31, if the department determines a need to conserve king salmon, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the commercial salmon fishery and immediately reopen the commercial salmon fishery, during which king salmon 28 inches or greater in length may not be retained, and king salmon 28 inches or greater in length taken incidentally in the commercial salmon fishery must be returned to the water unharmed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Require release (nonretention) of king salmon 28" and larger in the June seine fishery. In 2024, 1,257 king salmon were harvested in June Shumagin and South Unimak fisheries. Based on ADF&G genetic stock analysis in 2014, 64.2% of the Chinook were of British Columbia and West Coast U.S. origin. A small portion of these migratory king salmon harvested in the June seine fishery may be bound for Bristol Bay, Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. Nevertheless, in a time of low abundance, non-retention of king salmon will benefit the effected North Pacific stocks.

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

PROPOSED BY: Area M Seiners Association

(EF-F26-165)

PROPOSAL 136

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

5 AAC 09.330. Gear.

Amend the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan* to reduce commercial salmon fishing time and area, as follows:

Close the salmon fishing from June 7 through June 28.

Salmon fishing will be closed in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fishery for 3 weeks in June (June 7 through June 28).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Close South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June salmon fishing from June 7 through June 28. During this time period in the month of June this fishery intercepts salmon bound for AYK. Yukon People have not harvested salmon traditionally for going on 5 years now AND Yet Area M has been allowed to commercially harvest salmon bound to this River.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: John H. Lamont Jr.

(EF-F26-010)

PROPOSAL 137

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 set gillnet gear, as follows:

At the end of the last fishing period in June (June 28), a 24 hour extension would be given to set net fishermen only in the Shumagin Is. ending at 10:00pm on June 29.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I am asking the board to give set net fishermen a 24 hour extension on the last fishing period in June. The small boats always lose fishing time due to weather and run timing has shifted to later part of June so early June is not productive.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. After talking with other fishermen about this change I called and talked with our local ADF&G biologist, out of Kodiak office.

PROPOSED BY: Rick Eastlick

(HQ-F26-011)

South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Post-June Management Plan (9 proposals)

PROPOSAL 138

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing periods for set gillnet gear, as follows:

(d) (1) **For seine gear** the first fishing period will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 33 hours until 3:00p.m. the following day; **For Setnet gear the fishing period will begin 6:00 a.m. and run for 57 hours until 3:00p.m. one day after the following day** commercial fishing will then close for 63 hours for Seine **and 39 hours for Setnet** and reopen under (2) of this subsection;

(2) following the closures under (1) of this subsection, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and close at 6:00 p.m. the following **day for Seine; and begin at 6:00 a.m. and close at 6:00p.m. the day after the the following for Setnet gear. For Seine gear** Commercial fishing will then close for 60 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three days later; **For Setnet Gear Commercial fishing will close for 36 hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. two days later. Opening to be the same days.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? **For the current Management plan to ADD seven days onto the current plan for Setnet fisheries in the South Peninsula fisheries.** The setnet fishery is strictly limited to one place with anchors lines and buoys to have to pickup and move with little skiffs. Our very quickly weather patterns that come through and long ways to travel for shelter. We can choose better places to fish for the difficult weather patterns.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No commercial Setnet fisherman

PROPOSED BY: Emil Mobeck

(EF-F26-058)

PROPOSAL 139

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing periods for set gillnet gear as follows:

(h) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the commercial salmon fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula in the South Eastern District as follows:

(1) from August 1 through August 31, fishing periods shall be based on the abundance of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon stocks;

(A) In the South Eastern District, on August first (1st) setnetters will open for fishing at 8:00 am, till August third (3rd) at 9:00pm. Then closed for 59 hours till 8:00am on August 6th. This schedule for setnetters open hours fishing and closed hours will continue throughout August if (1) (B) of this section is met.

(B) The season will open August 1st for the setnetters if 20 percent of South Alaska Peninsula SEG lower point of 1,750,000 pinks is met and will continue if, at end of second (2nd) opening 40 percent of lower pink SEG of 1,750,000 is met, at end of the fourth (4th) period, 80 percent of the lower point of South Peninsula SEG of 1,750,000 pinks is met.

(2) from September 1 through October 31, fishing periods shall be based on abundance of coho salmon stocks, although the department may consider the abundance of late pink and chum salmon stocks.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During August, the local pink salmon fishery doesn't execute until a minimum or mid range of the total SEG for South Peninsula pink salmon escapement is met. In latter part of August when the pink season commences, the pink salmon are schooled up in front of the steams, the traveling pink salmon on the capes are diminishing. A set netter in South Peninsula are cape fishermen and they need to have the bright pink salmon traveling on the Capes to catch them efficiently. The setnetters also can't catch the bright local chum salmon or late run sockeye salmon in the South Peninsula in August because of the late timing of commencing the August pink salmon run on the South Peninsula. In August the pink, sockeye and chum salmon are predominantly heading west in the South Eastern District of the South Peninsula. The number of setnetters fishing have dropped in numbers drastically in the South Peninsula making the catching effect reduced. As of writing this proposal, only 18 setnetters now fish the South Eastern side of the South Peninsula, that have local market with the processor. With the setnetters able to fish in August on set schedule the Fish and Game management could build a base line with the setnet fleet of the amount of pink and chum salmon traveling off the capes in the South Eastern and Shumagin Islands Districts.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes brought this proposal before the Sand Point Advisory Committee and they endorsed it.

PROPOSED BY: Edgar L Smith

(EF-F26-063)

PROPOSAL 140

5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections.

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to reduce commercial salmon fishing area and modify existing Districts and Sections in the South Alaska Peninsula, as follows:

5 AAC 09.200. Description of districts and sections.

(d)...

(6) Outer Belkofski Bay Section: waters between Vodapoini Point and Moss Cape, including Inner and Outer Iliasik Islands, excluding the waters of the Deer Island Section and the **Inner Belkofski Bay Section**;

(7) Inner Belkofski Bay Section: all waters north of a line between Bold Cape at 55° 01.09' N. lat., 162° 14.59' W. long., and Belkofski Point at 55° 04.19' N. lat., 162° 03.08' W. long.;

(8) Dolgoi Island [VOLCANO BAY] Section: waters between Moss Cape and Arch Point, including **Volcano Bay**, Goloi, Dolgoi, and Poperechnoi Islands;

(9) General Section: all remaining waters of the Southwestern District.

(e)...

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(4) **Outer** Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section: waters of the South Central District, excluding those of the West and East Pavlof Bay and Canoe Bay Sections, **and the Inner Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section**, between the longitude of McGinty Point (160° 59.00' W. long.) and the longitude of Cape Tolstoi (161° 30.00' W. long.).

(5) Inner Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section: waters of the South Central District, between the longitude of McGinty Point (160° 59.00' W. long) and the longitude of Cape Tolstoi (161° 30.00' W. long.), excluding those of the West and East Pavlof Bay and Canoe Bay Sections, north of the latitude of 55° 19.15' N lat.;

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

(f)...

(2) the [EAST AND WEST PAVLOF BAY SECTIONS OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT,] waters north of **a line between [THE LATITUDE OF] Black Point at 55° 24.48' N. lat., 161° 41.16' W. long., and Settlement Point at 55° 29.12' N. lat., 161° 29.33' W. long., of the East and west Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District;** fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks;

(g)...

(3)the **Inner** Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section of the South Central District; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local pink and chum salmon stocks;

(4)the **Inner** Belkofski Bay Section of the Southwestern District; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local pink and chum salmon stocks;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are Sections in the Area M South Peninsula salmon fishery where “terminal harvest” areas extend over 25 miles offshore. This is a tremendous amount of area that allows for substantial interception of non-local sockeye stocks when fishermen are supposed to be limited to a terminal harvest area based solely on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks. These Sections need to be divided into inner and outer

areas, with the inner area representing a more realistic terminal harvest area as seen in other areas around the State.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Axel S Kopun (EF-F26-146)

PROPOSAL 141

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to enforce king salmon caps with reductions in commercial salmon fishing time in the South Alaska Peninsula, as follows:

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

(i) To address conservation concerns for Gulf of Alaska Chinook salmon (king salmon) across the Gulf of Alaska, the following management measures apply in the South Alaska Peninsula Area, beginning July 1;

(1) if the harvest of king salmon exceeds 1,000 during any regulatory fishing period, the statistical area(s) identified as primarily responsible will remain closed during the subsequent regulatory fishing period.

(2) If the cumulative harvest of king salmon surpasses 5,000, the statistical area(s) primarily responsible for the harvest will close immediately and remain closed through August 10.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The lack of a king salmon conservation plan in the South Alaska Peninsula Area. The depletion of king salmon across the Gulf of Alaska is quickly becoming a crisis that threatens the very livelihood of Alaska's commercial salmon fleet. The South Alaska Peninsula commercial salmon fishery needs restrictions in place to deter the harvest of king salmon similar to the restrictions that exist in the Chignik Area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. The Chignik Advisory Committee is submitting this proposal. We used language from the Advisory Announcements issued by the Commissioner of Fish & Game detailing the need for commercial salmon fishing restrictions to be placed on Chignik and the South Alaska Peninsula salmon fisheries for the 2024 salmon season in an attempt to deter harvest of king salmon in both areas.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Advisory Committee (EF-F26-154)

PROPOSAL 142

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing time and area in the South Alaska Peninsula, as follows:

Current 5 AAC 09.365 (e) From August 1 through August 31 the commissioner MAY open by

Emergency Order the fishery by specific or multiple gear types for concurrent or non-concurrent periods.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Pink and Chum salmon escapement and run strength in early August can often be difficult to assess in the South Peninsula due to inclement weather for aerial surveying and the Departments inability under the current management Plan to use the fleet effectively to judge run strength. Currently the Department must open all gear types concurrently which can lead to over harvest, allowing the Department the flexibility to use specific gear types or multiple gear types depending on section (Seine, Set or Drift gillnet) during different run scenarios. This would improve run information in times of inclement weather by allowing the area biologist the flexibility of selecting the appropriate time and area for a specific gear type or types to get run information without jeopardizing weak stocks and giving the fleet and the processors opportunity to remain active.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Area M Seiners Association with input from Fishermen of all gear types across the South Peninsula region.

PROPOSED BY: Area M Seiners Association

(EF-F26-168)

PROPOSAL 143

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Modify the department's test fishery protocol found in the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* as follows:

The department shall conduct a seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section to assess the presence of immature king (Chinook) salmon. If 100 or more immature king salmon, per set, are present, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the seine fishery in an area to be determined by the department. If the seine fishery is closed in an area under this subsection, the set gillnet fishery shall **also close** in that area.

For the purposes of this subsection, "immature salmon, per set, are present" means the number of immature king salmon **observed to be under 28 inches in length from tip of snout to tip of tail, sockeye salmon observed to be under 16 inches in length from tip of snout to tip of tail, and coho and chum salmon observed to be under 18 inches in length from tip of snout to tip of tail caught in the seine.**

Simultaneously, take tissue samples for determining point of origin for each species.

In addition, conduct a June test fishery for Chinook salmon per the 2023 legislative allocation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Because of the extreme Chinook (king) salmon crisis around the entire state of Alaska, and because of the need to have a better understanding of Chinook migration through a primary intercept fishery (Area M), this proposal seeks to

- (1) clarify the terms of the Post-June Shumigan Islands test fishery for immature salmon, and
- (2) establish a June Chinook salmon genetics test fishery

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) currently conducts a seine test fisheryⁱ in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Alaska Peninsula (Area M) to assess the presence of

immature salmon. For the purposes of this subsection, "immature salmon, per set, are present" means the number of immature king, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon observed to be gilled in the seine web. The post-June fishery may occur from July 6 through October 31 and is guided by the results of an immature salmon test fishery and the strength of local sockeye, chum *O. keta*, pink *O. gorbuscha*, and coho salmon *O. kisutch* returns.

In addition, in 2023, \$58thousand was allocated in the FY204 Alaska budget for the purpose of conducting Chinook genetic studies in the June fishery for 2024, which never happened.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes – Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Chignik AC

PROPOSED BY: Gale K. Vick (EF-F26-170)

PROPOSAL 144

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing periods for set gillnet gear, as follows:

05 AAC 09.366 (h) (1) (A)

The Department reserves the right to open the fishery by Emergency Order, from August 1 - August 31, and to allow set netters an opening or openings, to test the movement of fish into areas before maximum escapement goals have been met. If and when the Department determines that the escapement goals are on track or will be on track to fulfill escapement goals, they may open to any and all gear types at their discretion.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To allow the Department to differentiate between seine and set gill net gear types to allow set net openings in August to determine run strength. Typically, during the August fishery, the Department manages based on full escapement or presumed full escapement. Meanwhile, fish are still moving into the area before finding their natal streams. It would be a benefit to set netters as well as to the Department to be able to get some time on the capes to catch bright fish while the flesh quality is still good. It would be used as a determinate of how many fish are moving in while allowing time to set netters, which is crucial to the strength of the fishery. Currently, the Department must open the fishery for all gear types concurrently.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Developed at Sand Point AC meeting with input from community members.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Brown, Sand Point AC Chair (EF-F26-171)

PROPOSAL 145

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing time and area, as follows:

5 AAC 09.366 (h) (1) (a)

From August 1 through August 31 the commissioner MAY open by Emergency Order the fishery by specific or multiple gear types for concurrent or non-concurrent periods.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Pink and Chum salmon escapement and run strength in early August can often be difficult to assess in the South Peninsula due to inclement weather for aerial surveying and the Departments inability under the current management Plan to use the fleet effectively to judge run strength. Currently the Department must open all gear types concurrently which can lead to over harvest, allowing the Department the flexibility to use specific gear types or multiple gear types depending on section (Seine, Set or Drift gillnet) during different run scenarios. This would improve run information in times of inclement weather by allowing the area biologist the flexibility of selecting the appropriate time and area for a specific gear type or types to get run information without jeopardizing weak stocks and giving the fleet and the processors opportunity to remain active.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was developed by the Area M Seiners Association with input from Fishermen of all gear types across the South Peninsula region.

PROPOSED BY: Area M Seiners Association (EF-F26-174)

PROPOSAL 146

5 AAC 09.366. Post-June Salmon Management Pan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

Amend the *Post-June Salmon Management for the South Alaska Peninsula* to increase commercial salmon fishing periods for set gillnet gear, as follows:

Set net fishermen only will get a 24 hour extension at the end of each fishing period in July starting on the third fishing period. Opening of each period would not change but the closure for set net fishermen would be reduce by 24 hours staring after the third period open in July.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like more fishing time in the middle of July for set net fishermen in the Shumagin Is. By the middle of July the migrating fish stocks have moved on through and we fish local stocks. Set net fishing is low impact on the stocks and would give ADF&G an idea of stock strength.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. I talked with other fisherman and with our biologist in his Kodiak office.

PROPOSED BY: Rick Eastlick (HQ-F26-012)

Commercial salmon gear (7 proposals)

PROPOSAL 147

5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Reduce maximum gillnet depth to 70 meshes, as follows:

5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. (a) The size and operation of drift gillnets is as follows:

(3) In the Northwestern, Unimak, and Southwestern Districts, no drift gillnet may exceed 70 [90] meshes in depth.

(b)The size and operation of set gillnets is as follows:

(C) in the Northwestern, Unimak, Southwestern, South Central, and Southeastern Districts, a set gillnet may not exceed 70 [90] meshes in depth;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Area M salmon seine fisheries harvest the depleted western Alaska chinook and chum salmon stocks. Sockeye salmon are known to prefer surface waters while chinook and chum run deeper. Sockeye salmon are the primary target of these fisheries, the money fish. While extraordinary conservation measures have been taken to conserve the many Alaskan stocks of chinook and western Alaskan chum stocks. Focusing these fisheries on sockeye to help with the conservation of depleted salmon stocks which surround Area M is logical fisheries management.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This concern has been widely discussed in western Alaskan groups. I was not aware of the proposal being brought to the Board of Fisheries this cycle, so I am submitting it just ahead of the proposal deadline.

PROPOSED BY: Charles Lean

(EF-F26-078)

PROPOSAL 148

5 AAC 09.332. Seine specifications and operations.

Amend the seine specification to reduce the allowable size gear as follows:

(a) Purse seines or hand purse seines may not be less than 100 fathoms nor more than 250 fathoms in length. A purse seine or hand purse seine may not exceed 325 [375] meshes in depth. Seine mesh may not be more than three and one-half inches, except that the first 25 meshes above the leadline may not be more than seven inches.

(b) **A lead [LEADS]** may not be [less than 50 fathoms nor] more than **100 [150]** fathoms in length. **The aggregate length of seine and lead may not be more than 250 fathoms in length.** Only one lead may be used with a seine. [A LEAD MAY BE ATTACHED TO ONLY ONE END OF A SEINE, AND THE LEAD MAY NOT BE ATTACHED TO THE BOAT END OF THE SEINE.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The rapid increase of chum salmon caught in the June fishery in the South Unimak and Shumagin Island purse seine fishery. The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery has averaged approximately 572,000 chums per season over the past five years (2020–2024), which is among the highest five-year average in decades. Chum stocks in the Artic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region are struggling to even meet escapement goals. The huge changes made in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery in 2004, coupled with the rapid growth of the purse seine fleet in recent years has resulted in this recent huge increase in chum interception in the June fishery. Purse seiners harvest over 90% of the chums caught in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery.

Current regulations allow the aggregate length of purse seines and leads in this area to be up to 400 fathoms in length. That is 60% longer than what is allowed in Kodiak and Lower Cook Inlet (up to 250 fathoms), and 78% longer than what is allowed in Chignik and Prince William Sound (up to 225 fathoms). Longer seines = more fish per set.

Current regulations also allow purse seine depth in this area to be a maximum of 375 meshes. The deeper a purse seine, the more chums and chinook salmon it will catch as they travel at greater

depths then sockeye, pinks, and coho. This fishery is supposed to be targeting traveling sockeye salmon, and not chums and chinook.

Bring the purse seine regulations in this area into line with the purse seine regulation in Chignik, Kodiak, Cook Inlet, and Prince William Sound. Shorten the seines and reduce the allowable depth in order to reduce the interception of migrating chums and chinook. 250 fathoms in length and 325 meshes deep is more the adequate to harvest targeted salmon species, as is evidenced by the purse seine fisheries in Chignik, Kodiak, Cook Inlet, and Prince William Sound.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. No

PROPOSED BY: Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

(EF-F26-022)

PROPOSAL 149

5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Amend the gillnet specification to increase the size of set gillnets as follows:

(b)The size and operation of set gillnets is as follows:

(1)a set gillnet may be no more than **200** [100] fathoms in length; the aggregate length of set gillnets operated by a CFEC permitholder may be no more than 200 fathoms; no more than two gillnet sites may be operated by a CFEC permit holder, except that in the...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Set gillnet permits should be able to fish a single net of allotted length like every other gear group in the region, with the existing restrictions in certain areas retained. In order of importance, this change is for safety, equality and simplicity.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. This proposal was not developed in coordination with others or our ADF&G AC. It was reviewed by a few permit holders who encouraged me to to submit it.

PROPOSED BY: Virgil Porter

(EF-F26-034)

PROPOSAL 150

5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Amend gillnet specifications to allow the use of monofilament as follows:

(d) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 39.250(c), in a set gillnet in the Unimak, Southwestern, South Central, and Southeastern Districts (South Peninsula), the gillnet web may be single filament.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The regulation for setnet gilnet filament has to have at least six strands in the South Peninsula District. Algae buildup is a problem with using six filament gillnet web. Setnets are stationary in the water column, with tide going through the net, the filament fills up very fast with silt and algae rendering the net unfishable in mater of minutes. Setnets on the South Peninsula were 30 filaments in very far past, then were reduced to 6 filaments. A single filament is the most practical for the setnet to reduce the algae and silt build up in the web, there are no strands that can trap the silt and algae. With cost of fuel, fishing time, we need an efficient net in the water to offset these inefficiencys of the six strand fillement.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes I brought this proposal before the Sand Point Advisory Committee and they approved it.

PROPOSED BY: Edgar Smith

(EF-F26-061)

PROPOSAL 151

5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

Amend gillnet specification to reduce the allowable gear as follows:

5 AAC 09.331. Gillnet specifications and operations.

[(5) IN THE UNIMAK, SOUTHWESTERN, SOUTH CENTRAL, AND SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICTS, 25 FATHOMS OF SEINE WEBBING MAY BE USED ON THE SHOREWARD END OF A SET GILLNET;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulation allows 25 fathoms of seine webbing to be used on the shoreward end of a set gillnet in the South Peninsula salmon fishery on the theory the seine webbing is necessary to make fishing easier and safer when the weather is bad. Another Regulation allows the shoreward end of a set gillnet to be anchored up to one-half mile from the mean high tide mark. Instead of protecting the safety of the set gillnet fleet, the combination of these regulations allows set gillnet fishermen to increase their catching power. There is no legitimate reason for maintaining this regulation - it is simply an expansion of an intercept fishery.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. Input from local fishermen was solicited in the development of this proposal

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Intertribal Coalition

(EF-F26-105)

PROPOSAL 152

5 AAC 09.332. Seine specifications and operations.

Amend the seine specification to reduce the allowable size gear as follows:

5 AAC 09.332. Seine specifications and operations

- (a) Purse seines or hand purse seines may not be less than 100 fathoms nor more than 250 fathoms in length. A purse seine or hand purse seine may not exceed 325 [375] meshes in depth. Seine mesh may not be more than three and one-half inches, except that the first 25 meshes above the leadline may not be more than seven inches.
- (b) A lead [LEADS] may not be [LESS THAN 50 FATHOMS NOR] more than 100 [150] fathoms in length. The aggregate length of seine and lead may not be more than 250 fathoms in length. Only one lead may be used with a seine. [A LEAD MAY BE ATTACHED TO ONLY ONE END OF A SEINE AND THE LEAD MAY NOT BE ATTACHED TO THE BOAT END OF THE SEINE.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations allow Area M seiners to use a 250 fathom long seine, plus a 150 fathom long lead, which in effect results in

the ability to use a net 400 fathoms long. The seines are also allowed to be up to 375 meshes deep. This is an extreme outlier in the entire Central and Western Gulf of Alaska seine fisheries. Shorter and shallower seines will reduce the killing power of the seine fleet and will reduce the interception and bycatch of struggling non-target stocks, including AYK chum, Chignik-bound sockeye, and chinook caught there while migrating through the area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Yes. We relied on local knowledge and talked with fishermen who have fished seines of varying depths over the years.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Intertribal Coalition

(EF-F26-106)
