

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.,

Rev. Dec. 2023

(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,

(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)
