

CHIGNIK MANAGEMENT AREA COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2003



By

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ABSTRACT

The Chignik Salmon Management Area (Area L) encompasses all coastal waters and inland drainages of the northwest Gulf of Alaska between Kilokak Rocks and Kupreanof Point. The area includes the Chignik River system and over 100 other salmon producing streams and tributaries.

The management area is divided into five districts: Eastern, Central, Chignik Bay, Western, and Perryville. Purse and hand purse seines are the only legal gear types for the Chignik Management Area (CMA) commercial salmon fishery. Inseason commercial fishing time will be established by emergency order when salmon abundance is surplus to escapement objectives. News releases will be issued prior to most anticipated openings to prepare the fleets and processors for an impending fishery. News releases will also be used to announce department test fishery results which are used to indicate salmon run strength and generate revenue. The 2003 total sockeye salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka* forecasted run for the Chignik River system is 2.83 million fish. The 2003 projected chinook salmon *O. tshawytscha* harvest of 3,300 fish is dependent upon the amount of fishing time allowed during the sockeye salmon harvest in July. The 2003 projected coho *O. kisutch*, pink *O. gorbuscha*, and chum salmon *O. keta* commercial harvest is 155,000, 942,000, and 163,000 fish respectively.

In January 2002, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) adopted regulatory language which establishes the criteria and management measures for a CMA salmon purse seine cooperative fishery. In December 2003 the BOF reaffirmed the Chignik cooperative fishery. A total of 77 CMA Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit holders formed a cooperative fishery during the 2002 and 2003 salmon seasons.

INTRODUCTION

Area Description

The Chignik Salmon Management Area (Area L) encompasses all coastal waters and inland drainages of the northwest Gulf of Alaska between Kilokak Rocks and Kupreanof Point (Figure 1). The area includes the Chignik Lakes system and over 100 salmon producing streams and tributaries.

The Chignik Management Area (CMA) is divided into five fishing districts: Eastern, Central, Chignik Bay, Western, and Perryville (Figure 2). The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) manages commercial fisheries within these districts to achieve escapement goals for all salmon species while allowing the harvest of fish that are surplus to escapement objectives (Appendix A).

Closed water areas applicable to the 2003 commercial salmon fishing season are described under 5 AAC 15.350 in the Chignik regulatory section of the 2002-2005 Kodiak and Chignik Areas commercial salmon regulation booklet. (Note that in 1996 all longitude and latitude coordinates in the Chignik Management Area were converted to decimal minutes and are based on the North American Datum of 1983.)

Legal Gear Description

Purse and hand purse seines are the only legal commercial salmon gear types for the CMA. In the Eastern, Central, Western, and Perryville Districts, no seine less than 100 fathoms or more than 225 fathoms in length may be used. No lead may be more than 75 fathoms in length and the aggregate length of the lead and seine may not be more than 225 fathoms. In the Chignik Bay District, seines may not be less than 100 fathoms or more than 125 fathoms in length. In all districts, no seine may be less than three fathoms nor more than 375 meshes in depth; in addition, up to 25 meshes of chafing gear with a maximum mesh size of seven inches may be used (5AAC 15.332).

Net Pens

In December 2002 the BOF approved the use of net pens in the CMA. The net pens will hold live salmon prior to processing in an attempt to increase the quality of the finished product. Net pens (floating structures which do not have a metal, fiberglass, or wood hull separating the fish from sea) will only be allowed under provisions of a Commissioner's permit issued by ADF&G. Fishing and tendering vessels may contain live fish without the need of a Commissioner's permit (Appendix B). Under provisions of this permit, live fish may not be tendered or transported outside of the Chignik Bay District of the CMA.

A total of up to 10 net pens will be allowed in the Chignik Bay District. Individual net pens may be up to 40 feet in length, 40 feet in width, and 100 meshes deep. The net pen mesh size may be no greater than 4 inches. Decks, fences, and other structural supports may be attached to the net pens. The net pens

may also be attached to each other. ADF&G personnel will have access to all catch and bycatch in the net pens for sampling purposes. The net pen operator and crew must exercise patience and slow the pace of processing, if required, to accommodate the accurate collection of all data required from the ADF&G personnel.

Fixed Leads in the Chignik Lagoon

In December 2002, the BOF also approved the use of fixed leads within the Chignik Lagoon by the cooperative fleet. The cooperative fleet proposed the use of fixed leads to increase the efficiency of their harvesting efforts in hopes of reducing overhead costs. The BOF approved the leads under provisions of a Commissioner's permit issued by ADF&G (Appendix C). The Commissioner's permit allows for the use of two fixed leads in the Chignik Lagoon. The Commissioner's permit contains a legal description of the construction, operation, and location of the leads. A monitoring program for the leads will be implemented during the 2003 fishery season. Each lead may be up to 125 fathoms in length and no more than 100 meshes in depth. Each lead shall be made of seine webbing with no greater than 4 inch mesh size. Each lead must have a corkline and a leadline and be anchored at both ends and at appropriate intervals along the leadline to hold position in essentially a straight line. A distance of at least 100 feet of open space must be provided at mid channel between the two leads to allow for navigation past the leads. Each lead corkline must have operating white lights at night every ten fathoms along the entire length of the corkline, and have appropriate operating port (red) and starboard (green) lights on the seaward end of the leads to mark the navigable channel between the leads.

CRITERIA FOR THE ISSUANCE OF EMERGENCY ORDERS AND NEWS RELEASES

Fishing periods will be established by emergency order when salmon abundance is sufficiently surplus to interim escapement objectives to warrant a commercial fishery. News releases will be issued prior to most openings to notify the fleets and processors of an impending fishery or to announce department test fisheries results which are used to assess salmon run strength.

TENDER AND PROCESSOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The tender and processor requirements are detailed in the Chignik and Kodiak Areas Commercial Fishing Regulations.

5 AAC 15.355 states:

- a) The operator of a floating salmon processing vessel or tender, or a shorebased processing operation, and a company employing aircraft used for transporting salmon, shall report in person, or by radio or telephone, to a local representative of the department located in the management

area of intended operation before the start of processing or buying operations. The report must include the location and the date of intended operation, and identify and describe each vessel or other method of transport employed in hauling or processing salmon.

- b) A commercial fisherman shall report, on an ADF&G fish ticket at the time of landing, the number of salmon taken but not sold (i.e., salmon retained for personal use).

Further, processors and tender operators are required to report daily catch information to ADF&G by 10:00 AM. This can be accomplished either by radio (SSB or VHF) or telephone. Personnel at the Chignik ADF&G office will stand by on SSB 3.230 MHz and VHF channel 6, from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. The SSB call sign for Chignik is WON 29 "Chignik Weir", and the telephone number is 845-2243. If you are unable to contact the ADF&G Chignik weir, catch information must be given to ADF&G Cold Bay (532-2419) or Kodiak (486-1830) via telephone or single SSB. The call sign for Kodiak is WON 32 (3.230 MHz) and for Cold Bay is KXP 78 (3.261 MHz). Failure to report daily catch information is a violation of commercial fishing regulations (5 AAC 15.355). This regulation will be strictly enforced.

The BOF approved a relaxation of fish ticket requirements at the December 2002 meeting. During the 2002 CMA salmon season, the cooperative fleet harvesting vessels offloaded salmon to tenders after each set. At that time, regulations required a fish ticket for each delivery. Many of the cooperative fleet harvesting vessels made 5-8 deliveries per day which generated as many fish tickets. The new requirements will allow a cooperative fleet harvesting vessel to maintain one open fish ticket per day per tender per processor. Recording multiple deliveries from one vessel on one fish ticket should simplify the process of totaling all harvest efforts per day, thus improving the catch reporting process. The BOF instructed the ADF&G to develop fish ticket reporting requirements. These new requirements are in the CMA 2003 salmon harvest reporting Commissioner's permit (Appendix D).

In 2003, some aspects of the CMA catch reporting requirements will change. In 2002, the cooperative fleet brailled live salmon directly from their seines into a tender's refrigerated sea water hold which reduced handling and improved product quality. However, this tendering method did not provide accurate weights or total number of salmon by species as required by ADF&G. The BOF instructed ADF&G to accommodate this method of tendering in 2003. A Commissioner's permit issued to the cooperative fleet will allow visual estimates to be recorded on the fish ticket when salmon are delivered to tenders. The processors who purchase salmon from these tenders will then obtain accurate weights and total number of salmon when they are processed and at that time the processors will edit the fish tickets. Processors will be required to report catch numbers, by species and area, daily by 10:00 AM the morning after receiving deliveries.

2003 SALMON FORECASTS

Sockeye Salmon

Total Run

The 2003 total sockeye salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka* forecasted run for the Chignik Lakes system is 2,830,000 fish (Appendix E). The early run peaks in late June and returns primarily to Black Lake. The late run peaks in late July and returns primarily to Chignik Lake. The total projected commercial harvest for both runs is 2,180,000 sockeye salmon, of which approximately 1,770,000 sockeye salmon are expected to be caught in the CMA.

Black Lake (Early Run)

The early run is projected to be 1,640,000 sockeye salmon (Appendix E). The early run escapement goal range is 350,000 to 400,000 sockeye salmon (Table 1) with a forecasted commercial harvest of 1,240,000 sockeye salmon.

Chignik Lake (Late Run)

The late run is forecasted at 1,190,000 sockeye salmon (Appendix E). The escapement goal range for the late run is 200,000 to 250,000 sockeye salmon through August 31 (Table 1) which would allow for a commercial harvest of approximately 940,000 sockeye salmon.

Cape Igvak and Southeastern District Mainland

The fisheries in the Cape Igvak Section (Figure 1) of the Kodiak Management Area (KMA) and the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM; Figure 1) fishery of the Alaska Peninsula Management Area harvest Chignik bound sockeye salmon. The Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.360; Appendix F) and the SEDM Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 09.360; Appendix G) will be used to manage these fisheries. The Cape Igvak allocation of the available Chignik bound salmon harvest is 15% and the SEDM allocation is 6%.

Chinook Salmon

The 2003 projected chinook salmon *O. tshawytscha* harvest of 3,300 fish is dependent upon the amount of fishing time allowed to harvest sockeye salmon in July. This projection is based on the 1994-2002 average harvest in the CMA. The 10-year average harvest was not used to estimate the 2003 chinook salmon harvest because of unusually high returns in 1993. The Chignik Lakes system's chinook salmon minimum escapement goal is 1,450 spawners above subsistence and sport fishing removals. If escapement in early July is weak and the escapement goal is not likely to be met, the Humes Point markers may be used to improve escapement by removing fishing pressure from areas where chinook

salmon may mill in the Chignik Lagoon before entering the Chignik River. Historically, over 50% of the chinook salmon escapement passes through the weir by July 11.

Coho Salmon

The CMA 2003 projected coho salmon *O. kisutch* harvest of 155,000 fish, is based on the 1993-2002 10-year average harvest. Ultimately, fishing time for coho salmon is related to the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye run, local pink *O. gorbuscha* and chum *O. keta* salmon runs, and subsistence concerns in the Western and Perryville Districts.

Pink Salmon

The CMA 2003 projected pink salmon harvest is 942,000 fish, which is based on the average harvest over the most recent 10-year period. The Western and Perryville Districts should provide the largest proportion of the harvest. Weak markets and low prices may reduce harvest efforts.

Chum Salmon

The CMA 2003 projected chum salmon harvest is 163,000 fish, which is based on the average harvest over the most recent 10-year period. The Western and Perryville Districts should experience the largest proportion of the catch. Weak markets and low prices may reduce harvest efforts.

2003 SOCKEYE SALMON MANAGEMENT

Chignik Lagoon Regulatory Markers

In 1996, the industry requested changes in management strategies to help enhance product quality. In response to those requests, during most of 1996 - 2001, the department implemented the following schedule for the Chignik Bay District openings: 1) initial openings were only allowed north of a line from Humes Point to the Chignik Island markers and 2) after 24 hours the fishery was opened to the Mensis Point markers, which are located near the mouth of the Chignik River. Processors indicated an overall increase in the quality of the harvest as a result of this management strategy. Quality likely improved because salmon holding between Humes and Mensis Points were given an extra day to migrate upriver and escape the fishery. As warranted during the 2003 salmon season, opening and closing commercial fishing between the Humes and Mensis Points markers may be utilized as a management tool.

During the 2002 fishing season, commercial fishing activity occurred daily from June 9-September 5, as a result of the cooperative fishery management plan. The need to reduce or expand closed waters within the Chignik Lagoon was not necessary during the 2002 fishing season. The lack of fishery closures

prevented salmon from building up or milling in the Chignik Lagoon which may or sometimes causes them to become watermarked affecting their quality. Processors noted a lack of watermarked salmon being delivered during 2002. The management strategy of preventing salmon from building up and milling in the Chignik Lagoon by eliminating extended fishery closures may be implemented in 2003.

The BOF approved the use of fixed leads by the cooperative fleet during the 2003 fishing season under the guidelines established in a Commissioner's permit. The cooperative fleet proposed to install the fixed leads near Pillar Rock. This site was selected because the width of the Chignik River is approximately 1/3 narrower than at Mensis Point. The Commissioner's permit defines the location where the leads may be installed as: One lead may be attached to the beach at approximately the high tide mark at approximately 56° 16.74' N. lat., 158° 39.01' W. long. A second lead may be attached to the beach at approximately the high tide mark at approximately 56° 16.57' N. lat., 158° 38.84' W. long.

The June and Early July Fisheries

By regulation, the first commercial fishing period can occur on June 1 (5AAC 15.310). Several changes to the management of the CMA salmon fishery will be incorporated during the 2003 fishery season. Although the first fishery historically occurred after June 11, commercial fishing may begin approximately June 4 in 2003 with daily harvest restrictions placed upon the fleets.

Historically, prior to the first commercial salmon fishing period, the following requirements had to be met:

- 1) a minimum escapement of 40,000 sockeye salmon through the weir by June 12, and
- 2) a strong buildup of salmon in Chignik Lagoon must be present as indicated by the ADF&G test fishing program.

The BOF removed the above regulations at the December 2002 meetings.

For 2003, fishing may begin with harvest limits placed on the fleet to achieve salmon escapement objectives (Table 1) through the weir and to prevent conflicts with subsistence salmon fishers. Vessels commercially harvesting salmon during the first several days of commercial fishing may be required to carry an ADF&G employee for the purpose of data collection. Sockeye salmon escapement objectives have been developed for the time period of June 1–June 12 (Table 1). A single escapement objective of 40,000 sockeye salmon through the weir by June 12, was required prior to 2003. The 2003 sockeye salmon escapement objectives define daily escapement requirements through the weir and may allow a limited fishery beginning June 4, to prevent a large build up of salmon in the Chignik Lagoon.

Subsequent openings will be determined by evaluating several factors including commercial catches, test fishing results, and meeting interim escapement objectives (Table 1). During June, commercial salmon fishing will be allowed only in the Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts. Commercial salmon fishing, as described by the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan (Appendix A), will open and close concurrently in the Eastern, Chignik Bay, and Central Districts. During late June and early July

(transition period), the Eastern District may close or be restricted to evaluate the run strength of the Chignik River system sockeye salmon.

Between approximately July 9 and late July, pink and chum salmon openings in the Eastern, Western, and Perryville Districts may be permitted on a commercial test fishery basis. During this time period, the length of the opening will be based on inseason fishery performance (catch per unit effort data) as compared to historical catch records. Late July and August openings will be based on abundance estimates from aerial stream escapement surveys as well as on fishery performance.

Chignik sockeye salmon run timing and strength will directly affect commercial fishing time allowed in the Eastern, Western, and Perryville Districts. If the early sockeye salmon run into Black Lake is weaker than forecasted, and the 350,000 to 400,000 salmon escapement goal is not achieved, then early July openings in all waters where Chignik bound sockeye salmon could be harvested may be reduced. Commercial fishery openings during the transition period between the two sockeye salmon runs (June 26 to July 9) will also be closely monitored to evaluate the Chignik Lake run strength to ensure the 200,000 to 250,000 late-run salmon escapement goal. ADF&G will give the fleet advance notice prior to any impending fishery by news releases.

Sockeye Escapement Objective from September 1 through September 14

During the 1960s, the Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) of the University of Washington, established a sockeye salmon escapement goal of 250,000 for Chignik Lake (late run) through August 31. At that time, FRI recommended an escapement goal of 200,000 by July 31, and 50,000 for the month of August, but nothing was recommended for September. The September goal was not set because very little commercial fishing effort occurred after mid-August in the late 1960s and early 1970s when the June through Augusts goals were first established. However, since the 1970s, commercial fishing effort has increased in September, resulting in higher salmon catches after August 31. This trend continued until recently, when commercial fishery restrictions were implemented to increase subsistence fishing opportunities. Further reductions in September commercial fishing activity may be attributed to deteriorating market conditions.

In the early 1990s, although the August sockeye salmon escapement goal of 50,000 fish was achieved or exceeded for most years, Chignik Lake subsistence users complained that they were unable to fulfill their late season subsistence needs. Also, from 1990-1994, the average estimated September sockeye salmon escapement was less than, or equal to, 10,000 sockeye salmon. Based on these data and local knowledge, the department concluded that September sockeye salmon escapement may be a significant contributor to the fall Chignik Lake subsistence fishery. This idea is embodied in the BOF commercial fishing regulation that states from the end of the transition period (typically mid-July) until September 14, the department shall open and close the fishery in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts based upon the Chignik Lake late run sockeye salmon escapement objectives. Management actions may also be taken to protect or allow the harvest of local chinook, coho, pink, and chum salmon runs.

Subsistence needs reportedly were more easily met in 1995 and 1997-2001, but not in 1996. In 1999-2001, the end of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run provided ample subsistence opportunities with reports of sockeye salmon available for harvest through February. In 2002, the September and October Chignik Lake sockeye salmon abundance estimates seemed adequate for subsistence needs though reports from local harvesters indicated some users had difficulty in meeting their subsistence needs. From the harvest data, subsistence reports, and local knowledge, a 20,000-25,000 sockeye salmon escapement from September 1 to September 15 should be adequate to fulfill spawning requirements and subsistence needs. Based on this information, a September 1 to 15 goal was established (Table 1).

Post September 14 Sockeye Salmon Commercial Fisheries

Background

In 1994, the BOF directed ADF&G, industry, and subsistence users to devise a plan that addressed the late season sockeye salmon for subsistence needs. This BOF action was in response to subsistence users that testified they were unable to meet their needs from the Clark River and Home Creek in Chignik Lake. At the December 1996 Chignik Regional Planning Team (RPT) meeting, several members expressed the view that future late season closures should be determined from objective criteria developed by ADF&G in addition to recommendations from commercial and subsistence fishers.

To answer this request and to assist in evaluating escapement and run strength after the weir is removed (about September 5), objective criteria were developed by ADF&G. These criteria were discussed at a June 1997 RPT/Chignik Seiners Association meeting. These discussions resulted in a post September 14 sockeye salmon management strategy for the commercial fishery.

Criteria used to Determine Late Sockeye Salmon Run Strength

ADF&G determines the strength of the late season Chignik River system sockeye salmon run based on the following criteria:

- 1) Compare aerial surveys in early September in the Clark River drainage and Hatchery Beach to aerial survey estimates of previous years.
- 2) Apply catch/escapement ratios from late August to early September to any post-weir catch, to project escapement and compare this data to previous years' estimates.
- 3) Compare the commercial harvest (total catch and CPUE) from September 1-14 to previous years as an indicator of run strength.
- 4) Compare and analyze age-class data from the commercial fishery with historic databases. For the Chignik Lake (late run) sockeye salmon run, a strong age 2.3 component appears necessary for a large volume of sockeye salmon to pass through the fishery. High proportions of other ages compared to age 2.3 fish indicate weakness in the late run.

- 5) ADF&G biologists gather recommendations and local knowledge from commercial and subsistence users regarding the late season sockeye salmon run strength through personal and telephonic interviews.

Sockeye Salmon Management Options

As outlined in the BOF approved Chignik Salmon Management Plan (Appendix A), beginning September 15, openings in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts shall be a maximum of 48-hours per week, and shall be based on the evaluation of the sockeye salmon run strength and the Chignik Lake late season sockeye salmon subsistence needs.

Post September 14, fisheries management options include:

- 1) Allow up to 48 hours per week to be divided into one, two, three, or four commercial fishing periods, depending upon escapement objectives and sockeye and/or coho salmon run strength. The fishing time could be distributed over 4 days within a 7-day period for 12-hour fishing periods each day.
- 2) A weekly fishing schedule of less than 48 hours, if the sockeye and or coho salmon run strength is determined to be weak.
- 3) Allow for a complete closure. Surveys of late season subsistence harvests indicate that, on average, about 3,500 “red fish” (heavily water marked sockeye salmon harvested on the spawning grounds) are taken in late fall and early winter in Chignik Lake waters. If projections indicate that this harvest level is not attainable, then actions restricting the commercial fishery shall occur.

2003 COHO SALMON MANAGEMENT

Western and Perryville Coho Salmon Management Plan

Background

The Chignik Fish and Game Advisory Committee held a teleconference in April 1997 to discuss coho salmon subsistence concerns expressed by residents in the Perryville Village. Residents testified that coho salmon escapements in recent years had diminished in the Kametolook River and other streams of the Western and Perryville Districts. Responding to the advisory committee’s request, ADF&G drafted a coho management strategy that was discussed during the Regional Plan Team and Chignik Seiners Association June meeting, and again at a late June 1997 meeting that was attended mostly by fishers who primarily fish in the Western and Perryville Districts. As a result of these discussions and meetings, a coho management plan for the Western and Perryville Districts was first drafted and implemented in 1997. A modified plan remains in effect today (Appendix A). From the end of the transition period until approximately August 20, fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts will be based upon the department’s evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs and the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon late

run. During this time frame, ADF&G will also manage these districts based upon local coho salmon run strength.

Management from July 22-31

During the January 2002 BOF meetings, a coho salmon harvest cap of 60,000 fish was adopted for the Western and Perryville Districts of the CMA. The cap was adopted to address interception concerns of coho salmon transiting the CMA destined for other management areas. The new coho salmon harvest cap was supported by the Chignik salmon fishers. From July 22 to 31, the non-terminal harvest areas in the Western and Perryville Districts of the CMA will be managed to prevent the commercial harvest from exceeding 60,000 coho salmon. If it appears that the harvest cap will be surpassed, ADF&G will restrict or close the non-terminal harvest areas until August 1 (Appendix A). The terminal harvest areas within the Western and Perryville Districts are defined as those portions of the Western and Perryville Districts north of a line from Cape Ikti at 56° 00.32' N lat., 158° 32.02' W long., to Coal Cape at 55° 53.42' N lat., 159° 00.45' W long. to Cape Alexander at 55° 47.22' N lat., 159° 24.57' W long., and waters in the Ivanof Bay Section of the Perryville District that are north of the latitude from Alexander Point at 55° 47.37' N lat., 159° 24.37' W long., to the Kupreanof Peninsula. The terminal harvest areas may be opened to commercial salmon fishing by emergency order if the salmon escapement objectives for the local systems are being met. The ADF&G will require timely and accurate catch reporting from the fleet to assure the harvest cap is not exceeded.

Management on or about August 20

The Western and Perryville Districts fisheries are managed more conservatively beginning the last week of August to address subsistence concerns voiced by residents of Ivanof Bay and Perryville. In 1999, the BOF approved a regulation that promoted the conservation of coho salmon. Beginning on or about August 20, openings in the Western and Perryville Districts shall be based on the evaluation of local coho salmon runs, in addition to the evaluation of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon late run.

2003 PINK AND CHUM SALMON MANAGEMENT

Criteria for Establishing Fishery Openings and Closures

Aerial surveys will be conducted to monitor pink and chum salmon escapements. If escapement objectives are met, commercial fishery openings may occur. The management of the pink and chum salmon fisheries in the Eastern, Western, Central, and Perryville Districts will be independent of the sockeye salmon cooperative fishery allocative plan adopted at the January 2002 BOF meeting. The pink and chum salmon fisheries in these districts will also depend on the strength of the Chignik River systems sockeye salmon runs. All sockeye salmon commercially harvested in all CMA districts will be applied towards the sockeye salmon allocations.

Openings in the Western and Perryville Districts

First Opening Date

The first pink and chum salmon openings in the Western and Perryville Districts can occur as early as July 6. The department recognizes that high quality fish are desired and management strategies will be adjusted to harvest fish prior to their migration to natal streams, if a harvestable surplus is available.

Openings on a Commercial Test Fishery Basis

In early July, initial fishing periods in the Western and Perryville Districts will occur on a commercial “test fishery” basis which provides an early indication of the pink and chum run strength. Test fishery catch per unit effort results will be used to adjust the length of the subsequent commercial fishing periods. In the case where harvests are weak and escapement objectives are not being met, restrictive management action may be required.

Because pink and chum salmon runs for CMA streams may have different run timing, these species will be evaluated by their individual run characteristics.

Run timing and strength of the Chignik River sockeye salmon may effect commercial fishing periods in the Eastern, Western, and Perryville Districts. If the early sockeye salmon run into Black Lake is weak, and the 350,000 - 400,000 salmon escapement goal through the Chignik River weir is not achieved, then fishery openings in all CMA waters where sockeye salmon could be harvested may be reduced. Commercial fishery openings during the transition period between the two sockeye salmon runs (June 26 to July 9) will also be closely monitored to evaluate the Chignik Lake run strength to ensure the achievement of the 200,000 to 250,000 salmon escapement goal.

Actual Opening Time for all CMA Districts

From July 6 to the end of the season, any CMA district that warrants an opening may be opened concurrent with the opening in the Chignik Bay District. One exception is if the ADF&G determines that a surplus of pink and or chum salmon is available for harvest within the Western, Perryville, or Eastern Districts then the Chignik Bay and Central Districts may remain closed. If Chignik River system sockeye salmon escapement objectives are not being met, restricted fisheries within bays targeting local pink or chum salmon may occur only if the systems within the bay are achieving their escapement objectives. These fishery restrictions will confine harvest efforts in bays and terminal areas where Chignik River bound sockeye salmon are less likely to be caught.

CMA COOPERATIVE PURSE SEINE SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

During the January 2002 BOF meeting, a new sockeye salmon allocative plan was adopted into regulation (Appendix H). The new plan provides the criteria and management measures for a salmon purse seine cooperative fishery in the CMA. This cooperative fishery plan requires that at least 51 Chignik Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) salmon permit holders to form a “cooperative fleet”. This plan was developed with the intent of reducing the number of actively participating vessels to decrease overhead expenses associated with commercial fishing while controlling the harvest to achieve a higher quality product. If the cooperative fleet contains less than 85% of the fleet, 0.9% of the total sockeye salmon harvest will be allocated to the cooperative fleet for each CMA CFEC purse seine salmon permit holder who joins the cooperative fleet. If more than 85% of the fleet joins the cooperative, 1 prorated share of the CMA sockeye salmon harvestable surplus for each participant in the cooperative will be allocated to the cooperative fleet. The remaining vessels that do not join the cooperative fleet will be identified as the “competitive fleet” and are allocated the remaining percentage of the total sockeye salmon harvest.

The new CMA allocative salmon fishery may require ADF&G to develop new management actions, fishing schedules, and area closures. ADF&G will manage the CMA sockeye salmon fisheries to achieve, as close as possible, the established sockeye salmon allocation percentages between the cooperative and competitive fleets by the conclusion of the season. Ideally, the CMA salmon fisheries will be managed to keep the allocations “on track” throughout the entire season. ADF&G may manage the fishery by opening and closing separate fishing periods and areas for the two fleets. The allocations are secondary to conservation concerns.

In accordance with 5AAC 15.359 (c), Chignik Area cooperative purse seine permit holders must register with the Commercial Fisheries office in Chignik or Kodiak in order to participate in the commercial salmon fishery. The registration forms will be made available through the Chignik weir and Kodiak offices.

Table 1. Chignik River system sockeye salmon interim escapement objectives for the early run (primarily Black Lake) and the late run (primarily Chignik Lake) by time period.

The numbers of fish presented in the escapement tables below were derived from averages over several years of escapements of various timing and magnitude. It should be noted that daily escapement levels will fluctuate considerably throughout the run. These tables serve only as a guide for achieving the total escapement for each run. Inseason variations from the figures listed below may be due to variations in actual timing and/or strength of the run.

| Early Run-350,000-400,000 Escapement | | | Late Run-200,000-250,000 Escapement to August 31 | | | August Escapement | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Date | Lower | Upper | Date | Early Escapement Is Achieved | Early Escapement Is Not Achieved | Date | Lower | Upper |
| June 2 | 500 | 1,000 | July 3 | 10,000 | 20,000 | August 3 | 2,000 | 5,000 |
| June 4 | 2,000 | 3,000 | July 6 | 10,000 - 20,000 | 20,000 - 40,000 | August 6 | 5,000 | 10,000 |
| June 6 | 5,000 | 7,000 | July 8 | 20,000 - 30,000 | 45,000 - 50,000 | August 9 | 10,000 | 15,000 |
| June 8 | 10,000 | 14,000 | July 10 | 30,000 - 40,000 | 55,000 - 65,000 | August 12 | 15,000 | 20,000 |
| June 10 | 20,000 | 25,000 | July 12 | 50,000 - 60,000 | 70,000 - 75,000 | August 15 | 20,000 | 25,000 |
| June 12 | 30,000 | 40,000 | July 14 | 65,000 - 75,000 | 75,000 - 80,000 | August 18 | 25,000 | 30,000 |
| June 14 | 50,000 | 65,000 | July 16 | 80,000 - 90,000 | 80,000 - 90,000 | August 21 | 30,000 | 35,000 |
| June 16 | 75,000 | 100,000 | July 19 | 100,000 - 115,000 | 100,000 - 115,000 | August 24 | 35,000 | 40,000 |
| June 18 | 125,000 | 150,000 | July 21 | 125,000 - 135,000 | 125,000 - 135,000 | August 27 | 40,000 | 45,000 |
| June 20 | 175,000 | 200,000 | July 23 | 145,000 - 160,000 | 150,000 - 160,000 | August 31 | 45,000 | 50,000 |
| June 22 | 225,000 | 250,000 | July 26 | 170,000 - 180,000 | 170,000 - 180,000 | | | |
| June 25 | 275,000 | 325,000 | July 29 | 185,000 - 195,000 | 190,000 - 195,000 | | | |
| June 30 | 350,000 | 400,000 | July 31 | 195,000 - 200,000 | 195,000 - 200,000 | | | |

| September Escapement Objectives | | | |
|--|-------------|--------|---------------------|
| Late Run - 25,000 Escapement September 1 - 15 | | | |
| Date | Goal | | Season Total |
| September 3 | 2,000 | 4,000 | |
| September 5 | 4,000 | 8,000 | |
| September 7 | 8,000 | 12,000 | |
| September 9 | 12,000 | 15,000 | |
| September 11 | 15,000 | 18,000 | |
| September 13 | 18,000 | 21,000 | |
| September 15 | 21,000 | 25,000 | 225,000 - 275,000 |

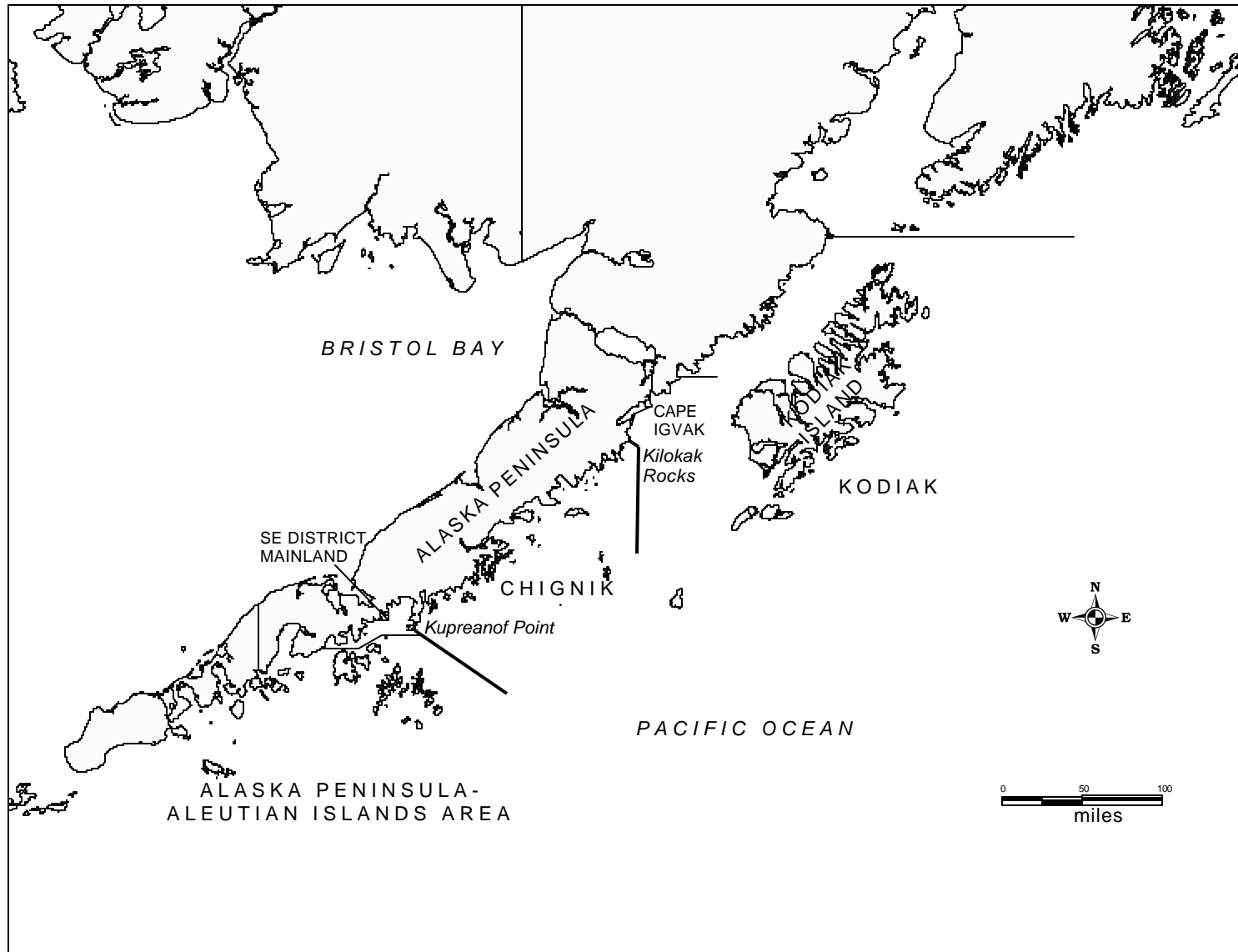


Figure 1. Map of the Alaska Peninsula illustrating the relative locations of the Chignik, Kodiak, and Alaska Peninsula Management Areas.

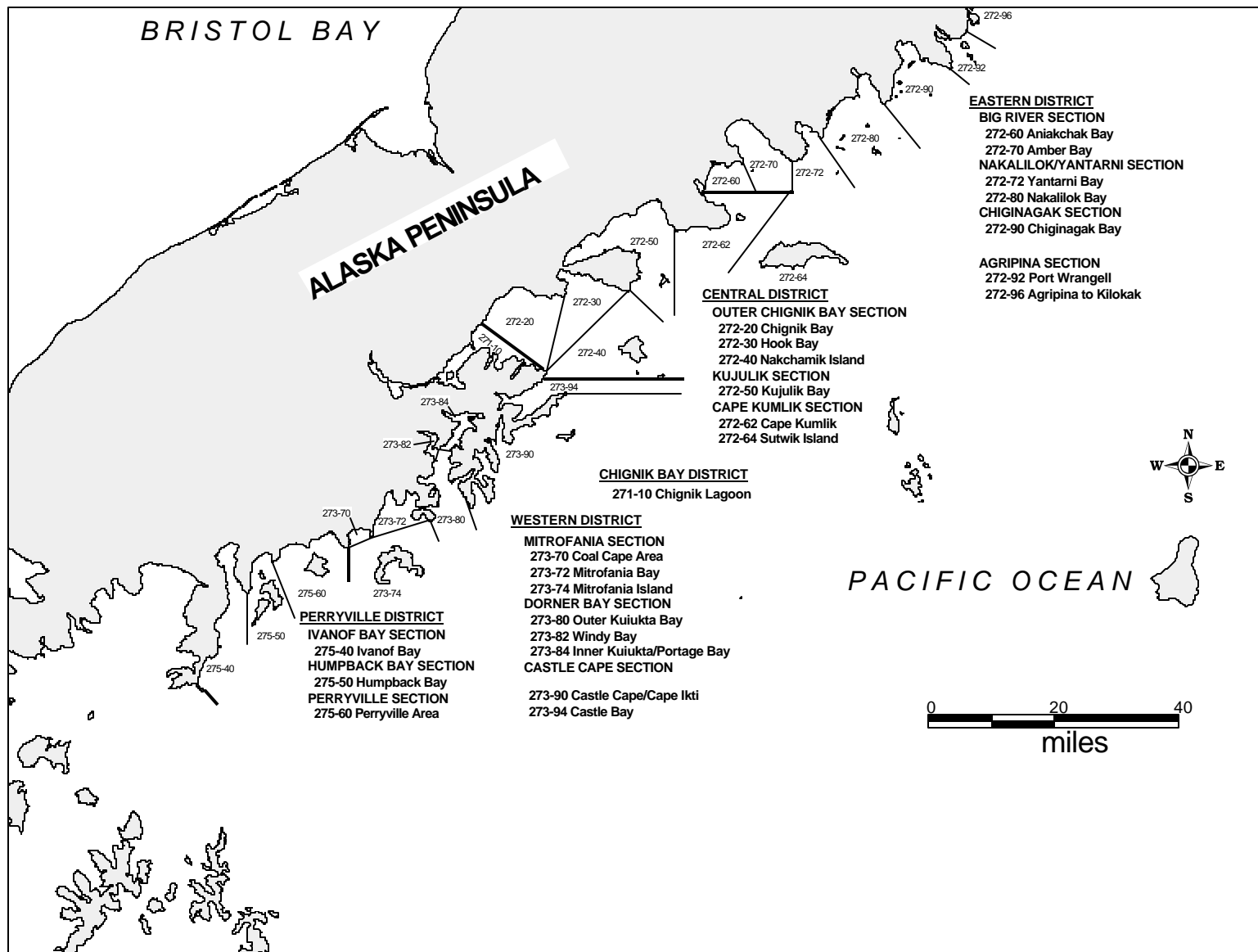


Figure 2. Map of the Chignik Management Area illustrating district boundaries and statistical areas.

APPENDIX

5 AAC 15.357. CHIGNIK AREA SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN. (a) The department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery in the Chignik Area in accordance with the guidelines set out in the management plan under this section. The goal of this management plan is to allow traditional fisheries in the area to be conducted on Chignik Area salmon stocks, and to achieve the department's biological escapement goals for both Black Lake (early-run) and Chignik Lake (late-run) sockeye salmon and local stocks of pink, chum, coho, and chinook salmon.

(b) In the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, the commercial salmon fishery shall open concurrently based on escapement objectives for the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon runs, except during a cooperative/competitive salmon fishery as described in 5AAC 15.359, and that

(1) (A) (B) Repealed

(2) during the period of transition from the predominance of the early-run sockeye salmon to that of the late-run sockeye salmon, (usually late June through mid-July), the commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, the fishing periods to harvest surplus early-run sockeye salmon without jeopardizing the late-run sockeye salmon escapement objectives;

(3) from the end of the transition period, described in (2) of this subsection until September 14, the commissioner shall open and close, by emergency order, fishing periods in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts based on the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon escapement goals; the commissioner may take additional emergency order actions to protect or harvest local pink, chum, chinook and coho salmon runs; and

(4) beginning September 15, fishing periods in the Chignik Bay and Central Districts may be no more than 48-hours per week, and shall be based on the department's evaluation of the sockeye salmon run strength and the subsistence needs for Chignik Lake late-season sockeye salmon.

(c) In the Eastern District,

(1) during June, the commercial salmon fishery shall open concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the openings shall be based on achieving the Black Lake sockeye salmon escapement goals;

(2) from approximately June 26 through July 8,

(A) the department shall evaluate the strength of the sockeye salmon late run; and

(B) in order to continue managing the Black Lake sockeye salmon harvest and escapement, while assessing the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run strength, commercial salmon fishing in the Eastern District will, in the department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted;

-Continued-

(3) from the end of the transition period, described in (b)(2) of this section, until the end of the fishing season, the department shall manage the commercial salmon fishery based on its evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs, and the escapement objectives of the Chignik Lakes' system sockeye salmon.

(d) In the Western and Perryville Districts, the department may open the commercial salmon fishery beginning

July 6, except that

(1) from approximately late June to mid-July (transition period),

(A) the department shall evaluate the strength of the sockeye salmon late run; and

(B) in order to allow the department to assess the Chignik Lake run strength, commercial salmon fishing in the Western and Perryville Districts will, in the department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted;

(2) from the end of the transition period, described in (b)(2) of this section, until approximately August 20, fishing periods shall be based on the department's evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs, and its evaluation of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run; from July 22 through July 31,

(A) no more than 60,000 coho salmon may be taken in the Western and Perryville Districts, except in those areas designated as terminal harvest areas under (B) of this paragraph;

(B) the commissioner may, by emergency order, open fishing in the following terminal harvest areas:

(i) those portions of the Western and Perryville Districts north of a line from Cape Ikti at 56° 00.32' N. lat., 158° 32.02' W. long., to Coal Cape at 55° 53.42' N. lat., 159° 00.45' W. long. to Cape Alexander at 55° 47.22' N. lat., 159° 24.57' W. long., and

(ii) waters in the Ivanof Bay Section of the Perryville District that are north of the latitude from Alexander Point at 55° 47.37' N. lat., 159° 24.37' W. long., to Kupreanof Peninsula; and

(3) from approximately August 20 until the end of the fishing season, fishing periods shall be based on the department's evaluation of local coho salmon runs, and its evaluation of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run.

(3) from the end of the transition period until the end of the season, the Eastern District shall be managed based upon evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon runs, in addition to escapement objectives of the Chignik Lakes system sockeye salmon.

(d) the Western and Perryville Districts:

(1) the earliest the Western and Perryville Districts may open is July 6, except as specified below;

-Continued-

(2) from approximately late June to mid-July (transition period), the strength of the sockeye salmon late-run is being evaluated. To allow for the assessment of the Chignik Lake run strength, commercial salmon fishing in the Western and Perryville Districts will, in the department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted during this period;

(3) from the end of the transition period until on or about August 20, openings in the Western and Perryville Districts shall be based on the evaluation of local pink and chum salmon runs, in addition to evaluation of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run; and from July 22 through July 31,

(A) no more than 60,000 coho salmon may be taken in the Western and Perryville Districts, except in those areas designated as terminal harvest areas under (B) of this paragraph;

(B) the commissioner may, by emergency order, open fishing in the following terminal harvest areas:

(i) those portions of the Western and Perryville Districts north of a line from Cape Ikti at 56° 00.32' N. lat., 158° 32.02' W. long., to Coal Cape at 55° 53.42' N. lat., 159° 00.45' W. long. to Cape Alexander at 55° 47.22' N. lat., 159° 24.57' W. long., and

(ii) waters in the Ivanof Bay Section of the Perryville District that are north of the latitude from Alexander Point at 55° 47.37' N. lat., 159° 24.37' W. long., to Kupreanof Peninsula; and

(4) beginning on or about August 20, openings in the Western and Perryville Districts shall be based on the evaluation of local coho salmon runs, in addition to the evaluation of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon run.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
CHIGNIK MANAGEMENT AREA COMMISSIONER'S PERMIT
SALMON NET PEN REQUIREMENTS - 2003

NAME: Chignik Seafood Producers Alliance (CSPA) ADF&G # 2003-13

OPERATOR: Axel Kopun, President CSPA

ADDRESS: Summer: P.O. Box 30 Winter: 16435 Nicole Way
Chignik Bay, AK 99564 Eagle River, AK 99577
phone (907) 749-2204 phone (907) 622-6226

PROCESSOR: Plant Manager

ADDRESS: Summer: Winter:
Chignik, AK 99564
phone: () phone: ()

In addition to current Chignik Management Area salmon commercial fishing regulations, participants agree to the following conditions:

- 1) Permit is valid from 8:00 A.M. June 1, to NOON September 30, 2003.
- 2) No regulations are known that define and allow the use of net pens to hold live, commercially captured salmon, thus net pens will only be allowed under provisions of this permit. Fishing and tendering vessels (i.e., vessels that operate under their own power, that have a licensed skipper aboard, and are not directly open to the sea) may contain live fish, for up to three days after their capture, without the need of a Commissioner's permit.
- 3) The Chignik Seafood Producers Alliance (CSPA) will notify the Chignik ADF&G when fish pens are deployed and when they contain fish, except when fish pens are attached to the Norquest, Trident, or Wild Alaska Seafoods facilities or a mooring owned by any of these processors, in Anchorage Bay (56° 18'N.lat., 158° 24'W. long), Chignik.
- 4) Norquest Seafoods will notify the Chignik ADF&G when fish pens are attached to their dock or any mooring owned by Norquest Seafoods. Norquest Seafoods will provide Chignik ADF&G a daily estimate by the number and pounds of salmon by species in each fish pen.

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- 5) This permit allows the use of live fish pens for holding salmon for up to 3 days after being captured in the Chignik District commercial salmon fishery. The net pens may be moored in either Chignik Lagoon or Anchorage Bay, and towing pens that contain live salmon caught in the Chignik District, within the Chignik District is allowed.
- 6) A total of up to 10 fish pens will be allowed in the Chignik Bay District. Individual fish pens may be up to 40 feet in length, 40 feet in width, and 100 meshes deep. The fish pen mesh size may be no greater than 4 inches. Decks, fences, and other structural supports may be attached to the fish pens. The fish pens may also be attached to each other.
- 7) An ADF&G observer may sample and measure all catch and bycatch in the fish pens. The fish pen operator and crew must exercise patience and slow the pace of processing, if required, to accommodate the accurate collection of all data required from the ADF&G observer.
- 8) Catcher, tender, and processing vessels must adhere to all other commercial fishing and landing requirements.
- 9) The Chignik Seafood Processors Alliance and Norquest Seafoods Inc., Chignik is responsible for the actions of contractors, agents, or other persons who perform work to accomplish the goals of this permit. For any activity that significantly deviates from the approved plan and permits, the permittee shall notify ADF&G, Division of Commercial Fisheries, and obtain written approval in the form of a permit amendment before beginning the activity. Any action taken by the permittee or an agent of the permittee that increases the project's overall scope or that negates, alters, or minimizes the intent or effectiveness of any stipulation contained in this permit will be deemed a significant deviation from the approved plan. The final determination as to the significance of any deviation and the need for a permit amendment is the responsibility of ADF&G. Therefore, it is recommended that ADF&G, Division of Commercial Fisheries, be consulted immediately when a deviation from the approved plan is being considered.
- 10) This permit does not relieve the Chignik Seafood Processors Alliance or Norquest Seafoods Inc., Chignik, their contractors, agents, or other persons who perform their work from the responsibility for securing other permits: state, federal, or local.
- 11) This permit may be modified or voided by the ADF&G at any time.

I _____, for the Board of Directors of the Chignik Seafood Producers Alliance, hereby authorize the release of confidential fish ticket harvest information that results from my

-Continued-

participation in the 2003 Chignik Management Area salmon fishery. I understand this information will be used for reporting of stock condition on Chignik Management Area salmon. I also agree to abide by all permit terms stated above.

OPERATOR

DATE

PROCESSOR

DATE

ADF&G REPRESENTATIVE

DATE

9. The ADF&G may verbally request the removal of the leads at any time; upon the removal request by ADF&G, the operator must completely remove the leads from the water within two hours.
10. Leads shall be completely removed from the water prior to the closure of each co-op fishing period and may be installed, in the water, at the beginning of each co-op fishing period.
11. One end of a harvesting vessel's seine may be attached to the seaward end of the lead for the purpose of harvesting salmon.
12. The aggregate length of the lead and purse seine may not be more than 250 fathoms.
13. An ADF&G observer may sample and measure all catch and bycatch of the leads and the harvesting vessel's seine. The vessel operator and crew must exercise patience and slow the pace of fishing, if required, to accommodate the accurate collection of all data required from the ADF&G observer.
14. Participants will notify ADF&G in Chignik prior to commencement of lead operation and at the conclusion of lead operation.
15. The Chignik Seafood Producers Alliance will provide ADF&G a logbook for each lead specifying, on a daily basis, the time each lead is fishing, repairs, alterations, maintenance (cleaning), and other data as requested by ADF&G.
16. Vessels must adhere to all commercial fishing and landing requirements.
17. The Chignik Seafood Processors Alliance is responsible for the actions of contractors, agents, or other persons who perform work to accomplish the goals of the cooperative fishery management plan, 5 AAC 15.359. For any activity that significantly deviates from the approved plan and permits, the permittee shall notify ADF&G, Division of Commercial Fisheries, and obtain written approval in the form of a permit amendment before beginning the activity. Any action taken by the permittee or an agent of the permittee that increases the project's overall scope or that negates, alters, or minimizes the intent or effectiveness of any stipulation contained in this permit will be deemed a significant deviation from the approved plan. The final determination as to the significance of any deviation and the need for a permit amendment is the responsibility of ADF&G. Therefore, it is recommended that ADF&G, Division of Commercial Fisheries, be consulted immediately when a deviation from the approved plan is being considered.

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18. This permit does not relieve the Chignik Seafood Processors Alliance, their contractors, agents, or other persons who perform their work from the responsibility for securing other permits: state, federal, or local.

19. This permit may be modified or voided by the ADF&G at any time.

I _____, for the Board of Directors of the Chignik Seafood Producers Alliance, hereby authorize the release of confidential fish ticket harvest information that results from my participation in the 2003 Chignik Management Area salmon fishery. I understand this information will be used for reporting of stock condition on Chignik Management Area salmon and any effects the lead may have on the salmon stocks and habitat in Chignik Lagoon. I also agree to abide by all permit terms stated above.

Axel Kopun, President CSPA
OPERATOR

DATE

ADF&G REPRESENTATIVE

DATE

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
CHIGNIK MANAGEMENT AREA COMMISSIONER'S PERMIT
SALMON HARVEST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS - 2003

NAME: Chignik Seafood Producers Alliance (CSPA) ADF&G # 2003-13

OPERATOR: Axel Kopun, President CSPA

ADDRESS: Summer: P.O. Box 30 Winter: 16435 Nicole Way
Chignik Bay, AK 99564 Eagle River, AK 99577
phone (907) 749-2204 phone (907) 622-6226

NAME: _____

PROCESSOR: _____

ADDRESS: Summer: P.O. Winter:.
Chignik Bay, AK 99564
phone: (907) 749- phone: ()

In addition to current Chignik Management Area salmon commercial fishing regulations, participants agree to the following conditions:

- 1) Permit is valid from 8:00 A.M. June 1, to NOON September 30, 2003.
- 2) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 15.355 Reporting requirements (a) and (b) and AS 16.10.270 Purchase of fish by the pound, tendermen may record multiple sets by a single CFEC permit holder on a single fish ticket; one fish ticket per CFEC permit holder harvesting salmon per day per tender per processor.
- 3) The number and pounds of salmon by species by day, and by delivery (set), will be estimated by the tenderman, to the best of the tenderman's ability and entered on the fish ticket (e.g., Fish Ticket Series T). During the first delivery, the tenderman will also record on the fish ticket, the processor code. In the case of a tender delivery to multiple processors, a separate fish ticket will be required that indicates the approximate number and pounds of salmon by species delivered to each processor. Also during the first delivery the CFEC permit holder must sign the fish ticket. The time of delivery and initials of the CFEC permit holder must also be on the fish ticket,

-Continued-

adjacent to the estimated number of fish and pounds by species. During any subsequent deliveries by the same CFEC permit holder, the number of fish and pounds by species may be estimated and the CFEC permit holder will initial next to any estimates and provide the time of delivery.

- 4) The number of sets per vessel and the number and pounds of salmon by species by day must be estimated, on-the-grounds; the actual harvest by species by day will be corrected upon processing. The actual values must be provided to the Chignik ADF&G within 3 days of the salmon being caught.
- 5) Wild Alaska Seafoods will notify the Chignik ADF&G of their daily commercial salmon purchases and any personal use harvest estimates prior to 10:00 AM. The estimate will include, by statistical area: the number of purse seine vessels making at least one delivery and the name of each tender that delivered the prior day and the name of each tender with salmon aboard (i.e. tied to dock or in-route but not yet offloaded).
- 6) The Chignik Seafoods Producers Alliance (CSPA) will notify Chignik ADF&G if CSPA intends to sale salmon to any processor other than Norquest, Trident, and Wild Salmon. Notification must be received by Chignik ADF&G in a timely enough manner to issue a separate Commissioner's permit and obtain required signatures.
- 7) Catcher, tender, and processing vessels must adhere to all other commercial fishing and landing requirements.
- 8) This permit may be modified or voided by the ADF&G at any time.

I _____, for the Board of Directors of the Chignik Seafood Producers Alliance, hereby authorize the release of confidential fish ticket harvest information that results from my participation in the 2003 Chignik Management Area salmon fishery. I understand this information will be used for reporting of stock condition on Chignik Management Area salmon. I also agree to abide by all permit terms stated above.

CSPA OPERATOR

DATE

PROCESSOR.

DATE

ADF&G REPRESENTATIVE

DATE

Appendix E. Chignik Management Area preliminary sockeye salmon forecast, 2003.

| Forecast Area: Chignik | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Species: Sockeye Salmon | | | |
| Preliminary Forecast of the 2003 Run: | | Forecast Estimate (thousands) | Forecast Range (thousands) |
| Total Production: | | | |
| Early Run (Black Lake) | Total Run Estimate | 1,640 | 1,070-2,820 |
| | Escapement Goal | 400 | 350-400 |
| | Harvest Estimate | 1,240 | |
| Late Run (Chignik Lake) | Total Run Estimate | 1,190 | 765-2,200 |
| | Escapement Goal | 250 | 200-250 |
| | Harvest Estimate | 940 | |
| Total Chignik System | Total Run Estimate | 2,830 | 1,840-5,020 |
| | Escapement Goal | 650 | 550-650 |
| | Harvest Estimate | 2,180 | |

These figures include harvests of Chignik-bound sockeye salmon by the Southeastern District Mainland and the Cape Igvak fisheries; approximately 1,770 thousand sockeye salmon are projected to be harvested in the Chignik Management Area.

Forecast Methods

The forecasts for the 2003 early and late Chignik sockeye salmon runs were based on simple linear regressions using sibling relationships, escapements and subsequent year-class returns, or median estimators of age class returns from brood years since 1977. In constructing and evaluating each of the regression models, standard regression diagnostic procedures were used. Regression models were only used in cases where the slope of the regression was significantly different from zero ($P < 0.25$). The early-run age 1.3 and 2.3 returns were estimated based on the abundance of their sibling returns (1.2 and 2.2) in 2002. The late-run age 1.3 and 2.3 returns were estimated using regression relationships based on the abundance of spawners in their parent years. Following non-significant regression results, the median brood year return by total age was used to estimate all other age class components of the run. When regression relationships were used, the variance of the estimate was calculated from the error structure of the regression. When the median returns by age class were used, the 10th and 90th percentiles of the data were used to describe the range of the data. The variances associated with individual estimates were summed to estimate 80 percent prediction intervals, which were then added to the percentile estimates to calculate the forecast ranges.

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Forecast Discussion

The 2003 sockeye salmon run to the Chignik River is expected to be 2.83 million fish, which is approximately 850 thousand fish greater than the run of 2002 (1.98 million). The early run is expected to be approximately 570 thousand fish greater than the estimated early run in 2002 of 1.07 million fish. The late run is expected to be approximately 281 thousand fish greater than the estimated 2002 late run of 909 thousand. The 2003 sockeye salmon run to Chignik is expected to be approximately 60 thousand fish less than the recent 10-year average run (2.89 million).

Approximately 86 percent of the 2003 early run was forecasted using sibling relationships. Using similar methods, the 2002 early run forecast of 1,025 thousand was 39 thousand fish less than the actual 2002 early run of 1,064 thousand sockeye salmon. The majority of the 2003 late run (85 percent) was forecasted using relationships between parent escapement and returns for the two major age classes (ages 1.3 and 2.3). Using similar methods, the 2002 late run forecast of 1,088 thousand was 178 thousand fish greater than the actual 2002 late run of 910 thousand sockeye salmon.

Available smolt data were analyzed and significant regression relationships were found between the total number of emigrating smolt and subsequent 3-ocean (usually about 80 percent of the run) returns. This estimate was then expanded to account for other ocean ages. In 2002, this method over-estimated the total run by about 87 thousand sockeye salmon. The smolt-based forecast of sockeye salmon returns in 2003 to Chignik is 1,820 thousand sockeye salmon which is substantially (about 1 million fish) lower than that predicted from sibling relationships.

Both runs were also forecasted together as one run as an alternative method, and the resultant 2003 forecast was approximately 140 thousand sockeye salmon higher than when both runs were forecasted separately. Historically, this method has been at least as accurate as forecasting the runs separately. It was not used to officially forecast the 2003 run, however, because of the loss of information of the relative magnitude of the two runs.

The disparity between the smolt forecast and the sibling forecast suggest the actual return may fall between the point estimate and the lower 80 percent confidence interval. Given this ancillary data, our confidence in this forecast is fair.

Kenneth A. Bouwens
Finfish Research Biologist
Kodiak

5 AAC 18.360 CAPE IGVAK SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) In years when a harvestable surplus beyond escapement goals for the first (Black Lake) and second (Chignik Lake) runs of Chignik River system sockeye salmon is expected to be less than 600,000, there will be no commercial salmon fishery allowed in the Cape Igvak Section, as described in 5 AAC 18.200(g)(8), until a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon in the Chignik Area, as described in 5 AAC 15.100, is achieved. After July 8, after 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 and the harvest in the Cape Igvak Section will approach as near as possible 15 percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

(b) 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, 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 may not be achieved, the Cape Igvak Section commercial salmon fishery will be curtailed in order to allow at least a minimum harvest in the Chignik Area of 300,000 sockeye salmon by July 9 if that number of fish are determined to be surplus to the escapement goals of the Chignik River system. After July 8, after 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 and the harvest in the Cape Igvak Section will approach as near as possible 15 percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

(c) On 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 and the department determines the runs are as strong as expected, the department will manage the fishery in such a manner whereby the number of sockeye salmon taken in the Cape Igvak Section will approach as near as possible 15 percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

(d) The total Chignik sockeye salmon catch constitutes those sockeye salmon caught within the Chignik Area plus 80 percent of the sockeye salmon caught in the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, as described in 5 AAC 09.500 (f), plus 90 percent of the sockeye salmon caught in the Cape Igvak Section. The harvest in the Cape Igvak Section at any time before July 25 may be permitted to fluctuate above or below 15 percent of the cumulative Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

(e) This allocation method will be in effect through July 25. The first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Cape Igvak Section will not occur before the first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Chignik Area. After July 25, commercial salmon fishing in the Cape Igvak Section may be allowed on the local Kodiak Area stocks.

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(f) During the period from approximately June 26 to July 9, the strength of the second run of Chignik River system sockeye salmon cannot be evaluated. In order to prevent over-harvest of the second run, commercial salmon fishing in the Cape Igvak Section will, in the department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted during this period.

(g) The department shall announce commercial salmon fishing periods by emergency order. The department shall give at least one-day notice prior to the opening of a commercial salmon fishing period unless it is an extension of a fishing period in progress.

5 AAC 09.360. SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT MAINLAND SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

(a) This plan pertains to the management of the interception of Chignik River sockeye salmon caught in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery: East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Northwest Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections. Before July 11, only set gill net gear may be used in these sections. For the purpose of this plan, local runs include only those salmon in the waters:

- 1) beginning July 1, in the Northwest Stepovak Section described 5 AAC 09.200(f):
- 2) the Stepovak Flats Section as 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, no commercial salmon fishery is allowed in the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and in the Northwest Stepovak Section, as described in 5 AAC 09.200(f) excluding Orzinski Bay of the Northwest Stepovak Section north of a line from Elephant Point at 55°41.92' N. lat., 160°03.2' W. long., to Waterfall Point at 55°43.18' N. lat., 160°01.13' W. long., until a harvest of 300,000 sockeye salmon is achieved in the Chignik Area, as 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 and the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible six percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

(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 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 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 of the Northwest Stepovak Section 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., shall be curtailed in order to allow a harvest in the Chignik Area of 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 and the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible six percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

(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 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 taken in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, approaches as near as possible six percent of the total Chignik sockeye salmon catch.

(e) The fishing schedule in the Northwest Stepovak Section, excluding the waters of Orzinski Bay located 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., will not exceed four days during a seven day period. The maximum number of consecutive fishing days is two.

(f) 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 and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section. The sockeye salmon taken in the Northwest Stepovak Section beginning July 1 are considered to be 100% destined for Orzinski Bay.

(g) The total Chignik sockeye salmon catch constitutes those sockeye salmon caught within the Chignik Area, plus 80 percent of the sockeye salmon caught in the East Stepovak, Stepovak Flats, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections, and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, as described in 5 AAC 09.200(f), plus 90 percent of the sockeye salmon caught in the Cape Igvak Section of the Kodiak Area. The percentage of Chignik sockeye salmon may be permitted to fluctuate above or below six percent at any time before July 25.

(h) This allocation method is in effect through July 25. The first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the East Stepovak, Southwest Stepovak, Balboa Bay, and Beaver Bay Sections and before July 1 in the Northwest Stepovak Section, may not occur before the first fishing period of the commercial salmon fishing season in the Chignik Area. After July 25, commercial salmon fishing in the entire Southeastern District Mainland area may be allowed on 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 over-harvest 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 during this period, and from June 26 through June 30 in the Northwest Stepovak Section

(j) The department shall announce all commercial salmon fishing periods by emergency order. The department shall give at least 24 hour notice before the first opening of the season. After the season opening, the advance notice will be 12-hours, unless it its an extension of a fishing period in progress.

5 AAC 15.359. CHIGNIK AREA COOPERATIVE PURSE SEINE SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN. (a) The purpose of the management plan under this section is to establish the criteria and management measures for a salmon purse seine cooperative fishery in the Chignik Area.

(b) Chignik Area CFEC salmon purse seine permit holders may receive a permit issued by the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, to form an annual cooperative fishery only under the following conditions:

(1) at least 51 CFEC salmon purse seine permit holders must, together, apply to the commissioner for a permit to fish as a cooperative fishery each year;

(2) an application for an annual cooperative fishery permit must be submitted to the commissioner by April 1 in 2002, or March 1 in any year after 2002; the application must contain the name and CFEC permit number of each applicant; a copy of a cooperative fishery agreement containing the contractual terms upon which the cooperative will be operated must be submitted with the application, including articles of incorporation, corporate by-laws, partnership agreements, or other similar documents that contain the contractual terms of the cooperative;

(3) a CFEC salmon purse seine permit holder who did not apply by the deadline specified in (2) of this subsection, may elect to participate in the cooperative fishery by registering with the department by April 15 in 2002, or March 15 in any year after 2002; a CFEC salmon purse seine permit holder who does not register by the applicable date specified in this paragraph may not participate in the cooperative fishery;

(4) the contractual terms of the annual cooperative fishery agreement must

(A) provide for participation in the cooperative fishery by registering permit holders who registered after the original deadline, as provided in (3) of this subsection, on the same terms as applicants who did apply by the original deadline;

(B) be consistent with state laws that apply to the salmon fishery resources of the state;

(5) if an annual cooperative fishery permit is approved and issued by the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, for that year, all permit holders that applied by the original deadline or registered after the original deadline to participate in the cooperative fishery may only participate in that cooperative fishery;

(6) a CFEC permit holder who participates in the annual cooperative fishery

(A) in the Chignik Area may not participate in any other commercial salmon net registration area as either a permit holder or crew member from June 1 through August 31 of that year; and

(B) who holds salmon net gear permits for more than one commercial salmon net registration area listed in 5 AAC 39.120(d) , must designate the Chignik Area as the single area for salmon net fishing for that year as specified in 5 AAC 39.115 and 20 AAC 05.1940;

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(7) at least one CFEC purse seine permit holder who is a participant in the cooperative must be on board a purse seine vessel engaged in the taking and delivery of salmon for the cooperative.

(c) If an annual cooperative fishery permit application meets the qualifications and requirements of this section, the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, will issue a permit, which may contain registration requirements, reporting requirements, gear requirements, and other requirements or conditions that the commissioner determines necessary for conservation and management purposes.

(d) For each year that an annual cooperative fishery permit is issued under this section, the Chignik Area cooperative fishery shall be allocated a percentage of the annual Chignik Area commercial sockeye salmon harvestable surplus based on the number of permit holders participating in the cooperative as follows:

(1) if participation in the cooperative is less than 85 percent of the registered Chignik Area CFEC purse seine permit holders, the allocation to the annual cooperative fishery will be nine-tenths of one percent of the harvestable surplus for each participant in the cooperative; and

(2) if participation in the cooperative is 85 percent or more of the registered Chignik Area CFEC purse seine permit holders, the allocation will be one prorated share of the harvestable surplus for each participant in the cooperative.

(e) The commissioner may, by emergency order, open and close separate fishing periods and areas for the cooperative fishery and the open fishery as necessary to achieve the allocation established in (c) of this section. The allocation established under (c) of this section is secondary to escapement and harvest objectives, and the commissioner may, by emergency order, reduce or expand fishing opportunity to ensure escapement and harvest objectives.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of 5 AAC 39.999, at its first meeting in the fall of each year, the board may consider written requests for regulation changes to the provisions of this section that are sent to the executive director of the board at least 45 days before the meeting. If the board accepts a request, it will schedule the proposed regulation change as necessary to consider the merits of the request.

(g) In this section,

(1) "cooperative fishery" means a commercial purse seine salmon fishery in which, by agreement of the participants, the number of fishing vessels may be reduced with the intent of decreasing overhead expenses associated with commercial fishing and controlling the rate of harvest to achieve a higher quality product;

(2) "open fishery" means a commercial purse seine fishery conducted by CFEC permit holders who do not participate in the cooperative fishery.

(B) and who holds salmon net gear permits for more than one commercial salmon net registration area listed in 5 AAC 39.120(d), must designate the Chignik Area as the single area for salmon net fishing for that year as specified in 5 AAC 39.115 and 20 AAC 05.1940;

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