

April 24, 2023

RE: Committee Hearing, Monday, May 1, 2023

Dear Members of the Senate Resources Committee,  
We have included the following materials for your reference:

- Ridley Revisions Area M Briefing 3-1-2023
- RC190 ADFG Member Jenson substitute language and calendar proposal
- Migration Map
- Graphics showing AYK chum declines
- Doctor Daniel Schindler 2-24-2023 BOF Area M Meeting notes- Deliberations
- RC191 Chignik intertribal coalition amended language proposal

Mahsi'

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'BR' followed by a stylized flourish.

Brian Ridley,  
Chief/Chairman

---

## **RECONSIDERATION REQUEST ON BOARD OF FISHERIES ACTIONS ON THE SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA JUNE INTERCEPTION SALMON FISHERY, FEBRUARY 25-26, 2023**

The February 2023 Alaska Peninsula (Area M) Board of Fisheries meeting modified the South Unimak and Shumigan Islands June intercept fishery management plan by adopting a proposal that does not allow for sufficient harvest savings on failing AYK chum and Chinook salmon stocks.

This action, noted as RC190 amendment for Proposal #136, was the Board's alternative to Proposal #140,<sup>1</sup> which was the standard supported by the AYK, Bristol Bay, and Chignik stakeholders going into the Area M meeting. Proposal #140 would have been a more substantial reduction of harvest in the June fishery, providing for greater passage of chum through the intercept fishery while still allowing Area M fishermen an opportunity to prosecute a more lucrative sockeye fishery.<sup>2</sup>

This is a conservation issue measured against the immense loss of summer and fall chum, Chinook and coho stocks in the AYK, predominantly the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. Interceptions have been a lot higher in the past when chum runs were larger, but the smaller interceptions in recent years are likely due to depressed chum populations rather than voluntary self-management actions of the commercial fleet. The result of ongoing interception of the critically depressed AYK stocks is that tens of thousands of Yukon River chum salmon continue to be harvested and sold when AYK and Bristol Bay chum salmon escapement goals were not met.<sup>3</sup> This is especially significant for the Yukon River where complete closures of all salmon fisheries still failed to result in achieving escapement goals. No other alternatives are available other than a reduction in incidental harvest. Literally every fish counts in the need to rebuild Western Alaska chum stocks.

Three days of significant public testimony before the Board included evidence from Dr. Daniel Schindler<sup>4</sup> that the abundance and run timing of chum salmon through Area M is variable from year to year, requiring a robust chum harvest savings strategy to provide weekly windows of unmolested chum salmon passage through the intercept fishery area. Dr. Schindler explained that commercial closures must be at least 72 hours long to allow chum to migrate through the South Peninsula districts.

This expert advice provided by a world-renowned salmon fisheries scientist was largely ignored by ADF&G and the Board of Fisheries. RC190 reduced the purse seine fleet commercial fishing periods by a total of 12% or 42 hours (310 hours compared to 352 in the existing management plan). RC190 did not reduce the drift gillnet fleet or the set net fleet and only provided a single 76 hour window to provide for chum salmon passage through Area M. Because chum migration

---

<sup>1</sup> See RC190 attached. Proposal 140 was developed by the Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

<sup>2</sup> See attached infographic entitled, "Migration Map attached."

<sup>3</sup> See attached infographic entitled, "Graphic Showing AYK CHUM Declines 2-17-23."

<sup>4</sup> See Schindler partial transcript of testimony on Proposal 140 attached.

is variable from year to year, a single window may miss the period when the majority of migrating fish pass through, which is why multiple windows are needed to spread the risk of intercepting depressed Western Alaska chum salmon throughout the entire month of June.

There are multiple other reasons for special action:

- (1) The Area M South Peninsula June fishery is not managed by ADF&G but rather by the Board of Fisheries on a three-year regulatory cycle. The current management plan, and its recent revision, includes no measures related to escapement goals in the regions intercepted salmon would otherwise have returned to spawn. This is different from every other fishery in Alaska, the majority of which are managed on in-season assessments to ensure escapement goals are achieved. As a result, ensuring that the Area M commercial fishery is sustainable falls solely on the Commissioner's statewide emergency order authority, which he appears unwilling to use.
- (2) A 2022 preliminary report estimating Area M harvest rates and impacts on Western Alaska chum escapement was submitted by ADF&G only three days prior to the meeting without scientific peer review or adequate public review. The report contains many premature assumptions and serves only to diminish the impact of Area M interception.
- (3) A "gift" of no fishing around Sanak Islands is an empty promise as not much commercial fishing typically occurs in this area.
- (4) The AYK and Bristol Bay stakeholders have no confidence that chum chucking will not occur.
- (5) The AYK and Bristol Bay stakeholders have no confidence that caps will be enforced.

Tanana Chiefs Conference on behalf of the BB-AYK Tribal coalition is seeking legislative support for the following:

- (1) For an emergency meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries to reconsider Proposal #136, as amended by RC190, which was adopted on February 26, 2023.<sup>5</sup>
- (2) To replace action on amended Proposal #136 with Proposal #133, as amended by RC191<sup>6</sup> to provide four 72-hour seine and drift gillnet commercial periods with 72-hour windows to provide for unmolested chum migration through the area. This would represent only 22 hours of reduced fishing time but would allow for multiple 72-hour windows as recommended by Dr. Schindler.
- (3) TCC would be willing to amend RC191 to increase the cap from 250k/400k thresholds in RC191 to the 300k/450k thresholds the Board recently adopted in RC190.
- (4) For budgetary line item appropriation to the ADF&G collect real-time genetic stock identification for summer and fall chum, coho, and Chinook salmon to inform in-season conservation-based decision making.
- (5) For a legislative report on the application of onboard observer or electronic surveillance on the Area M seine and drift gill net fleet vessels.

---

<sup>5</sup> Proposal #140 was more responsive to ensuring Western Alaska chum salmon conservation; however, TCC's goal is to continue allowing Area M fishermen to harvest abundant sockeye stocks while assisting in rebuilding Western Alaska chum stocks. Curtailing chum interception is the only other management measure that can assist given that all Yukon River salmon fisheries remain closed.

<sup>6</sup> See attached RC191.

**Submitted by Board Member Jensen, prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game<sup>i</sup>.**

February 26, 2023

Substitute language for proposal 136.

Explanation:

- 1) For purse seine gear only, establishes a 76-hour closure between the first and second fishing periods in June, reduces duration of the first fishing period in June from 88 hours to 68 hours, and duration of the second fishing period in June from 88 hours to 66 hours. The third and fourth fishing periods in June will be 88 hours in duration.
- 2) Fishing periods and closures for set and drift gillnet gear are unchanged from the current management plan.
- 3) Chum salmon harvest triggers are established for purse seine gear in June. Harvest from purse seine, set gillnet, and drift gillnet gear accrues against the triggers.
- 4) Closes Sanak Island Section of the South Unimak District, during June for all gear types.

**5 AAC 09.365. South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan** is amended to read:

...

(2) for seine and DRIFT GILLNET] gear,

[(A)] beginning June 10, **the first** commercial fishing period[S] will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run **68** [88] hours, **closing at 2:00 a.m.** [UNTIL 10:00 P.M. THREE DAYS LATER]; **the second** commercial fishing **period** will **begin 76 hours later at 6:00 a.m. and close after 66 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the third commercial fishing period will begin 32 hours later at 8:00 a.m. and close after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m.; the final commercial fishing period in June will begin 32 hours later at 8:00 a.m. and close after 88 hours at 11:59 p.m.;** 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]

...

**(h) If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 300,000 fish by June 18, based on fish ticket information, the commissioner shall reduce commercial fishing time in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands 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 the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June commercial salmon fishery for the remainder of June for purse seine gear.**

## **5 AAC 09.330. Gear**

(c) In the Unimak District, salmon may be taken with drift gillnets, set gillnets, purse seines, and hand purse seines, **except the Sanak Island Section of the Unimak District will remain closed to commercial salmon fishing for all gear types from June 1 through June 30.** Salmon may be taken by gillnet gear during periods when the seine fishery is closed by emergency order due to the presence of immature salmon.

---

<sup>i</sup> Preparation of draft substitute language at the request of a Board member does not imply ADF&G support. The Department will state its position on the language during deliberation.

# Submitted at the Request of Board Member Jensen by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

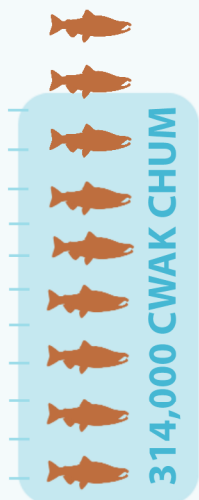
February 26, 2023

June All Gear Types Schedule						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
Proposed fishing times in RC 1xx for seine gear (42 hr reduction from 352 to 310 hrs)						
Set and drift gillnet gear fishing periods						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	6 a.m. Open 64 hours (Set Gillnet Gear Only) 10 p.m.				6 a.m. Open 68 hours Open 88 hours	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
2 a.m.		76 hr closure		6 a.m.	Open 66 hours	11:59 p.m.
	10 p.m.		6 a.m.	Open 88 hours		10 p.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
32 hr closure 300,000 chum trigger evaluation point	8 a.m. Open 88 hours 6 a.m. Open 88 hours 10 p.m.			11:59 p.m.	32 hr closure 450,000 chum trigger evaluation point	8 a.m. Open 88 hours 6 a.m.
26	27	28	29	30		
Open 88 hours						
Open 88 hours						

# IMPACT OF **AREA M CHUM INTERCEPTION** ON WESTERN ALASKA SUBSISTENCE COMMUNITIES

1

The June **AREA M** intercept fishery targets chum and sockeye as they pass from the Gulf of Alaska to the Bering Sea.



## UNRESTRICTED HARVEST

ADF&G and current BOF regulations allowed AREA M fishers to harvest over **314,000** Western Alaska chum salmon during 2021 - 2022

2

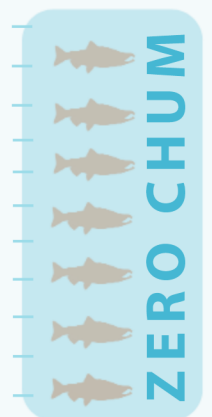
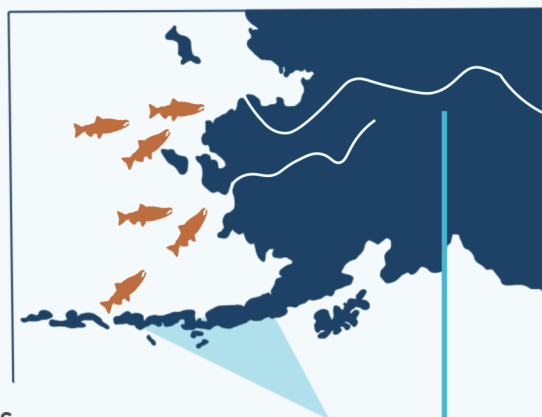
## AREA M

Coastal Western Alaska (CWAK) chum salmon harvested in Area M in 2021-2022

## YUKON & KUSKOKWIM

- Harvest severely restricted
- Failure to meet escapement goals
- Subsistence needs not met

3



**YUKON**  
2021-2022

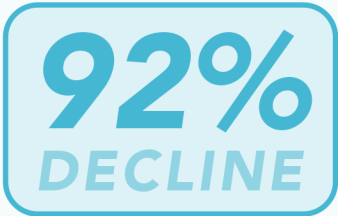
# CHUM SALMON CRASH THREATENS SUSTAINABILITY OF SALMON STOCKS

Impacts on Coastal Western Alaska subsistence communities from the recent chum salmon crash

## YUKON RIVER

Anvik River

Failed to meet escapement goals for multiple years since 2016

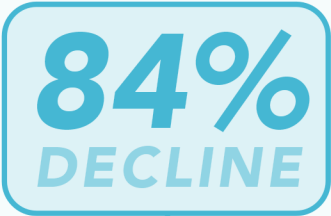


2021-22 compared to 2010-19 average

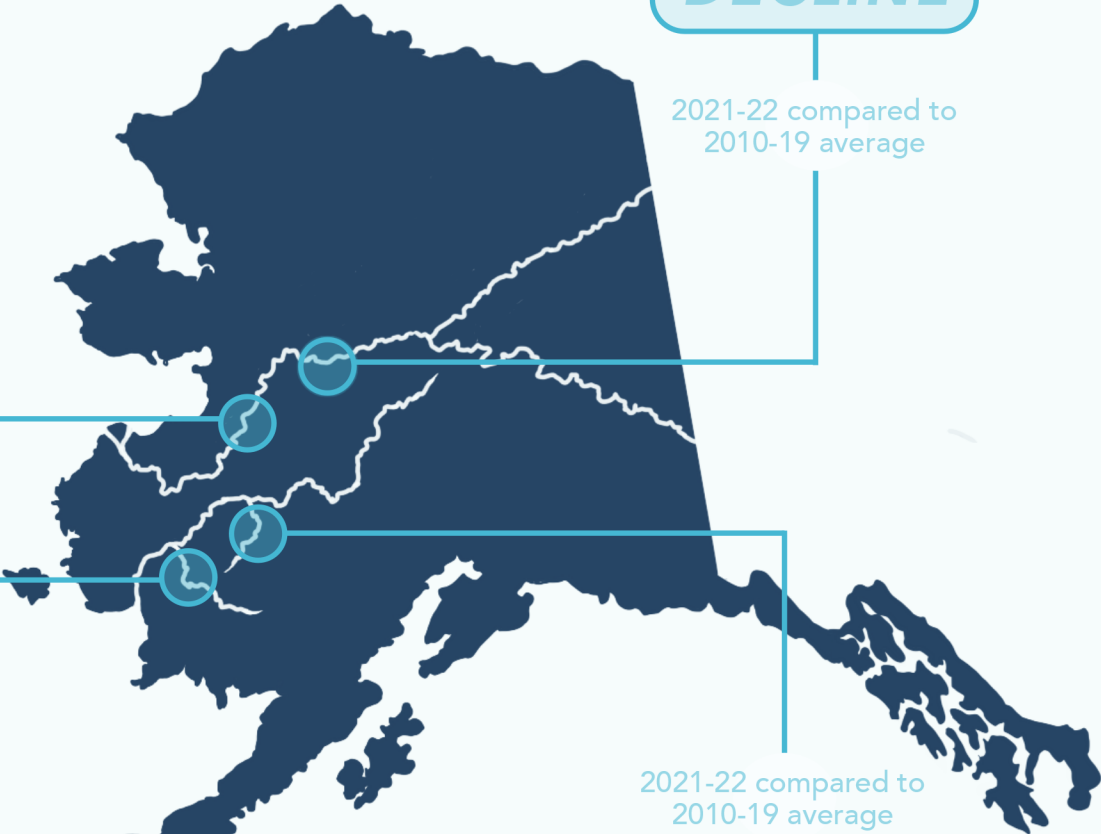
## YUKON RIVER

Drainage Wide

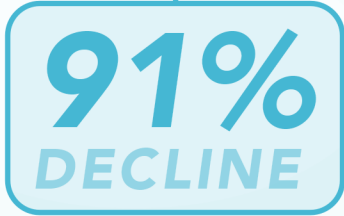
Summer chum escapement in 2021 was the lowest on record



2021-22 compared to 2010-19 average

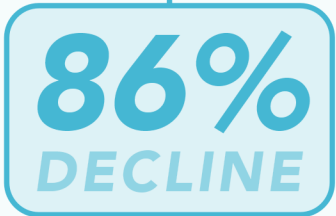


2021-22 compared to 2010-19 average



KUSKOKWIM RIVER

2021-22 compared to 2010-19 average



KUSKOKWIM RIVER



## **FEBRUARY 24, 2023- ALASKA BOARD OF FISH, ALASKA PENINSULA / CHIGNIK**

**DR. DANIEL SCHINDLER 1:30PM**

Professor of Fisheries, UW. Comments on #140

Alaska's fisheries management is the envy of the world. And the reason for that is that there is sustainable salmon policy that emphasizes escapement as a way of management. And also emphasizes subsistence priority as a way of respect and social equity. Another issue is the challenges of mixed stock fisheries and that it is of the case, and I would argue pretty much in every fishery in Alaska, you have multiple stocks that are being exploited at the same time. Some of those stocks are very strong and abundant, some of them are very weak with low abundance and productivity. Alaska has grappled with this problem for decades. In fact, the escapement policies that are in place show time and time again that this is the way to manage different stocks and to conserve stocks that are on the ropes.

One example of this, from the Kvichak, the world's largest sockeye producer, period. Nothing even comes close to it in the last century. But in the 1990's and early 2000's, for reasons we still don't understand, the Kvichak started declining in abundance and productivity. It got to the point where ADF&G had to put severe restrictions on harvest and it was essentially shut down for several years. The whole purpose for doing that was to allow escapement into the river and allow that stock to recover, which it subsequently has. At the same time, the Alagnak River, or what some people called the Branch in those days, literally exploded and for several years salmon escaped up that small system. Those fish could have been harvested but they weren't. That was the cost of conservation on the Kvichak.

So there is precedence for this type of approach in the past and it is very effective form of salmon management in Alaska. With the respect to weak stocks, last week, ADF&G reported, trying to put into context what percentage of the runs were actually harvested. Lots of details in that report, an immense amount of work, getting down to one number, and that's 5%. The average percent of all (AYK bound) stocks harvested in the South Peninsula fishery.

That sounds like a low number but I think there are two important points to think about what 5% really means.

First of all, that 5% is a number that is reached after a long chain of calculations and assumptions. And then you average across all that stuff. From a precautionary approach, which is part of the Sustainable Salmon Policy, we should be considering that 5% against the alternative of how bad can that number actually be? It could be a lot higher because those numbers are subject to so much uncertainty. So the 5% is averaged against a precautionary approach, I guarantee it is higher than 5%.

The other issue is that 5% still needs interpretation and context. When a run is up against its carrying capacity, plus or minus 5% means little to contributing reproductive potential to that population. But when a population is down at a very low abundance, 5% can mean a lot. You have heard this week that "every fish matters" and see slogans outside, it sounds like hyperbole but when the stocks are on the ropes every fish *does* count a lot more than when the populations

are high abundance. In the case of AYK stocks right now, it is very obvious to everyone in this room that those stocks are very depressed abundances. 5% means a heck of a lot more to those populations now that if they were more abundant.

The last point I want to make – RC84, the original proposal referred to as the original “adaptive management proposal” as an alternative to Proposal #140.

- (1) It’s a complicated scheme. And we would have to trust that these guys could pull it off in terms of coordination, sampling, etc. But those aren’t my concerns.
- (2) My first concern is that the use of the term has been co-opted with this proposal. This is *not* adaptive management. “Adaptive management” means having a clear objective. The objective here is to reduce fishing pressure on AYK chum stocks. But the way RC84 is set up as an objective is to avoid a cap. In other words, to conduct adaptive management you
  - a. Set an objective
  - b. You initiate whatever you are going to do
  - c. You assess relative to the objective
  - d. You adjust your plan

But in RC84 there is no way to assess how well you are doing relative to the objective because the objective is back in the watersheds of the AYK. You won’t know how well you did until the end of the season when you can count escapements up all those rivers. So we should not be talking about “adaptive management” for RC84.

- (3) My last point is about trigger points, or caps. This comes back to the 5% statistic. What is reasonable for a cap if the objective is to protect biological productivity? It depends on the status of the stock. If, for instance, the Yukon and the Kuskokwim produce as many chum as they have in the past, on peak years the chum are upwards of 4million fish, if we get one of those years, Area M is going to reach a cap really quickly because the number of fish that are intercepted is a function of how many fish are there, when you fish, and where you fish. So, having a cap actually works against what Area M should be striving for. If there are a lot of chum out there, the number of chum caught probably doesn’t matter to the populations back in AYK rivers. But if the populations in western Alaska river are severely depressed like they are now, then a few thousands of fish can make a big difference. So, proposing these caps or trigger points, I would argue works against the interests of Area M fishermen and it doesn’t protect Area M’s chum stocks.

#### Q&A

Wood: Just for the record, give a brief background. I know you have been involved in these fisheries a long time.

Schindler: I started working on Alaska fisheries in 1997, so about 25 years. I am faculty for what used to be called the Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) at the University of Washington. FRI started working in Alaska salmon in 1946, before Statehood. We have maintained camps in Bristol Bay, out of Chignik. We do independent science, working collaboratively with ADF&G,

with the fishing industry, many fishing communities, etc. Many of our grad students now have jobs within ADF&G. My work on salmon ecosystems started in the '80's on the Fraser River in British Columbia. Since then, most of my work has been in Bristol Bay and Chignik. In the last 15 years I have been working on AYK Chinook and chum salmon.

(BOF member) Wood: We have been given presentative by Dept staff (on the run reconstruction) and CWAK came out a 5.9%. With the stocks being in the state that they are, what is the significance of a 5.9% harvest rate?

Schindler: That's going to require some calculation. 2 things I think are noteworthy.

- (1) That's a highly uncertain estimate. We know it has to be above 0%, but the upper bound is something greater than 5.9% and what we really need to ask is: how high could it be?
- (2) The second issue is the relevance to the population depends on status and goal. If your goal is to rebuild these stocks, then a higher harvest rate is going to suppress how quickly they can rebuild. Obviously, any harvest will reduce the number of fish that spawn. And that feeds back into the recovery rate when conditions becomes more favorable.

Wood: Should we be shocked at 5.9% or is it to be expected with the state of the salmon

Schindler: I don't know what the expectation is. The expectation could be anything. The reality is that that 5.9% is calculated where the harvest is (Area M) I think those data are probably reasonable. The ADF&G Gene lab is state of the art. Genetics tools exist now that would have seemed impossible ten years ago. The uncertainties in the genetics are very low. Where the uncertainty is is comparing that number to whatever fish made it to the terminal watersheds. Because we have very poor data on how many of those fish have actually returned to western Alaska waters. So what you need to do is run scenarios, with different assumptions about the few observations we do have into watershed scale estimates. The way you approach this is to do a full uncertainty analysis for the first assumption to the last assumption you make to come up with that 5.9%. As far as I can tell that hasn't been done as part of that report. So the upper bound is certainly higher than 5.9% with a higher impact on the population.

(BOF member) Zuray: I have a question about these moving caps that are being presented in various proposals. Could these moving caps be valid? Like right now chum abundance in AYK, if that never change, could a set moving cap be valid? Because it is the variability that screws it all up?

Schindler: Absolutely. This is Fisheries 101. The variability in any fishery is a function of where do you fish, when do you fish, how long do you fish *and how many fish are there*. The only thing we have control over are the first three things. We have no control over how many fish area there in any given time strata and its very unpredictable. If you look at the returns of chum to the Yukon... and our errors on those estimates are very high... but they are also boom/ bust, boom/bust... So our ability to predict so that we could proactively manage that is pretty close to zero. Basically, what you have to be able to do is figure out a mechanism to allow enough fish though, independent of knowing how many fish are coming. That's why 140 is a very reasonable proposal because it provides windows for fish to come through. The number of fish

to be caught is a function of the number of fish that are there (when fishing occurs.) But we don't know that number ahead of time.

Zuray: I see your point, thank you.

Commissioner DVL: So, I guess, coming back to that, if you don't know what's there, why wouldn't you want some kind of trigger cap if these rates are harvest are potentially underestimated. Why wouldn't you want to have some trigger as an upward cap?

Schindler: Because the biologically relevant cap depends on abundance. If next year, by some miracle of nature, we have 6million chum coming back to Western Alaska, and you have a 300,000 fish cap, in Area M they are shut down. So 6million fish swim by, more than is needed for escapement, subsistence harvest, or other harvest, but Area M is shut down and can't fish sockeye. On the other side, what if next year, western Alaska rivers produce 200,000 chum.. which is possible given current conditions... and your cap is 300,000, 1/3 of which are western Alaska chum, then you are seriously hitting them. The problem is, we don't know how many fish are coming next year. So caps do not work. Caps are a good way to estimate how many fish are there (in Area M interception rates.) The more fish are there, the more you can catch.

DVL: I would agree with that, however, if we can't accurately predict what will come back, why wouldn't you want a fail safe to keep chum harvest at some current level? So that you don't end up with 800 or 900,000 chum harvested?

Schindler: I agree. You want something that is failsafe. But putting a cap on is not failsafe. Because putting a cap on does two things. (1) runs the risk of having too high a cap, or (2) runs the risk of having too low a cap if returns are big. And that will constrain Area M fisheries. So, the alternative is to say, if we don't know how many fish are coming, providing the occasional window to allow fish to move through the district and clear the district, which means it has to be longer than one or two days, so that you make sure you get enough fish back. That's the way that every mixed stock fishery I know of is managed. There is a front-end closure on the Kuskokwim for Chinook to allow the first pass of fish to get through because they are going to the upper watershed. In Bristol Bay, they have gone out of their way to make sure that they distribute their escapement over the course of run as a way to maintain stock diversity.

Chair Carlson-Van Dort: To follow on the Commissioner's line of thinking, I understand the bind that puts a manager in, it almost sounds like an allocation plan but we are allocating to the river and then when you get into a harvestable surplus, if focusing just on escapement and ANS, potentially a trigger could go away if you tie it to the fact that AYK ... (could not hear)

Schindler: That's true, from year to year you don't really know if you have made escapement until July or August. So what you need is a strategy that is robust under the uncertainty. Caps don't do that. Caps do just the opposite. They may not be enough when stocks are down and too restrictive when stocks are up, so you need an alternative strategy. And that's why windows work. They aren't perfect ... It's sort of the way Chignik and Bristol Bay work because they have real time data, with counting towers or weirs right where fisheries occur. Area M operates differently. You need robust management strategies to give fish the best chance for getting

through. In my professional opinion, windows is the way to do that. Caps constrain both the high end and the low end.

Heimbuch: I feel the same way. I have been working a solution using relative abundance of chum to sockeye. Maybe adaptive is not the right word. Sideboards, triggers would have been a better way.....

Schindler : The challenge is that sockeye numbers are also bouncing around the map. Right now we are seeing record catches of sockeye in South Pen fisheries because Bristol Bay sockeye runs are so high. So my guess is that chum are going to have a lower proportion of catch while sockeye are so abundant. Ratio tactics are easily seductive and tricky – I don't think it is the solution.

Wood: Windows have been advocated twice here. 72 hours is the proper time. What is your opinion?

Schindler: I can't tell you what that number is. I think we should explore that. What I can tell you with certainty that it has to be long enough for fish to enter and exit that area before they are harvested. Boats are mobile. They can get on fish within 24 hours. Two days gives fish more opportunity to pass through. Three days is a reasonable starting point. But that number could be refined based on some science, computer simulations. One day is not enough... that's pretty clear. That's a big district – fish cannot move through that district in one day.

Wood: We aren't going to have time to calculate all that before we have to vote, but 72 hours is a good starting point.

Schindler: in my opinion, that is a very good starting point.

**Chair Carlson-Van Dort: What I am taking away from this discussion right now is to “keep it simple, stupid” and we are over complicating with triggers and caps. It really boils down to passage.**

Schindler: Absolutely. Keeping it simple is always going to be effective. The times when you can get very technical and complicated are places you have a lot of control. An example is the Chignik weir with literally hourly passage info. There you can get fancy with management. I would not be fancy with Area M. Simpler is better.

Heimbuch: I am also taken with the notion that windows are completely --- with proportionate abundance through that time. No one gets off scot free. There are still some contingencies.

Schindler: What you can do if you really want to with conservation is to have windows *and* caps. You would be letting fish through on windows, and you would also be allowing some fish to be caught to run genetics, But, because we don't know abundance, allowing fish passage has got to be priority 1

Zuray: To keep things simple, for this meeting, would you say looking at 140 as it stands and making it acceptable with time adjustments, windows

Schindler: That's a tough question on what is acceptable depends on who you ask. But from a biological stand point, giving those stocks a chance to get to their natal rivers, windows have to be implemented. There has to be enough of them and they have to be long enough so fish can get through the district before they are exploited.

Zuray: I just see that as something that could be worked out within the time we have.

Schindler: short term, windows is a place to start. Long term, you may want to do some science, simulations, tagging, and figure out what is the optimal way to figure out passage.

Wood: You raised genetics, but we are told that we can't tell one stock from another. Is that because studies haven't been done or because we can't distinguish?

Schindler: A bit of both. The fish that can't be distinguished are populations within coastal western Alaska. But fish going to the upper Yukon are distinct. CWAK chum are distinct from Asian chum. So there is some resolution in the genetics. The ADF&G gene lab is pushing the frontiers of genetics and fish stocks at a global level. I say keep funding them, letting them try to find markers that would allow them to distinguish stocks more.

February 25, 2023

Substitute language for proposal 133

Explanation:

- 1) Fishing periods and closures for set gillnet gear remain unchanged.
- 2) For seine and drift gillnet gear, establishes a fishing schedule of 72 hour openings followed by 72 hour closures.
- 3) For seine and drift gillnet gear, the final commercial fishing period will end at 6:00 a.m. on June 25.
- 4) A combined chum salmon cumulative harvest trigger is established for seine and drift gillnet gear.

## **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 of Bristol Bay [AND ALASKA PENINSULA] origin **but are also bound for Chignik and Cook Inlet**. 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 (excluding the Volcano Bay Section), 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,

(A) beginning June 10, commercial fishing periods will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run 72 [88] hours until 6:00 a.m. three days later; commercial fishing will then close for 72 [32] hours and reopen at 6:00 a.m. three [two] days later;

(B) notwithstanding (A) of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 6:00 a.m. [10:00 p.m.] on June 25 [28].

**(e) If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 250,000 fish on or before June 18, based on fish ticket information, the commissioner shall reduce fishing time in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands by 44 hours during each of the remaining fishing periods in June. If chum salmon harvest equals or exceeds 400,000 fish on or before June 23, based on fish ticket information, the commissioner shall close the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fishery for the remainder of June.**

**(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.