

PROPOSAL 176 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Amend Southeastern District Mainland commercial salmon set gillnet fishery season opening times and fishing periods, as follows:

Reestablish the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) set net fishery beginning June 6, 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;

a) notwithstanding of this paragraph, the final commercial fishing period will end at 10:00 p.m. July 25.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Modify the Southeastern District Mainland Management Plan to establish fishing periods for the set net fleet from June 6 through July 25.

Reestablish the SEDM set net fishery to be 88 hours fishing and 32 hours off continuously starting June 6 at 6:00 a.m. until June 9 at 10:00 p.m. for 88 hours open and 32 hours closed then opened again June 11 at 6:00 a.m. for another 88 hours and closed 32 hours continuously this schedule until July 25th managed under its own system, for the set netters. Due to political pressures from outside the area the set net fleet has been squeezed out of fishing on the mainland onto less productive sites on the islands overcrowding and reducing catches to a point where viability is uncertain.

While Chignik fishermen realized historic returns in 2011 despite continuous fishing in the SEDM by the set net fleet only we realized moderate returns with no obvious effect on Chignik. 2014 we weren't able to fish on the SEDM while Chignik continued to harvest great catches of salmon.

Because of the recent high catches of salmon in the Chignik area and the less impressive SEDM catches there should be new valuable information to be calculated into the SEDM management plan. Considering this proposal only asks for what has been in place before in this area, fishing time this area originally had, it should not be too hard to simplify the plan into its own SEDM Management Plan, minus the political distractions. This proposal would be very similar to the reinstatement of the June Shumagin Island fishery.

If nothing is changed the local set net fishermen will continue to be denied access to historical fishery areas, which is affecting the viability of set netting in the area and continues to overcrowd in the islands. The value of the permits will diminish in value along with the viability of the set net fishery as the islands have a few good producing sites to be shared by too many.

No one will suffer if this proposal is passed. After the 2011 season which Chignik area realized massive returns and to this day yearly continue to have great catches and returns, the SEDM didn't see any spectacular fish runs in the area proving beyond a doubt the management plan for SEDM is seriously compromised and needs a serious overhaul in order for the once profitable historic fishery to be returned to the set net fishermen.

Other solutions I considered was asking the board to put an L on my permit card right alongside Area M, if we are going to be managed under Area L regulations then we should be able to also set net in Area L. My immediate goal is to have the board seriously consider my proposal more than a cursory examination and to take into account the fact that SEDM set netters have had undo hardships put upon us, from previous board decisions and have in effect been squeezed out of a historic and traditional fishery, which has resulted in the devaluation of the permits, our business and sites that we have fished for well over 60 years. It is our desire as set netters to once again realize and obtain the SEDM fishery that has been historically and traditionally fished by ourselves, our parents and our grandparents well before statehood with an ultimate goal to sustain a living and pass down this fishery to our children and grandchildren, our future generation of fishermen.

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