

PROPOSAL 177 – 5 AAC 09.360. Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan. Revise the Southeastern District Mainland Salmon Management Plan to allow commercial salmon fishing with set gillnet gear concurrent to the Chignik Area commercial sockeye salmon fishery, as follows:

Conduct concurrent fishing periods between Area L (Chignik) and Southeast District Mainland (SEDM).

a) the elimination of the harvest of 300,000 red salmon in the Chignik area before set net fishermen in the SEDM can harvest salmon;

b) to fish concurrently while Area L (Chignik) fishermen are fishing Area M set net fishermen are fishing in the SEDM area;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The SEDM Salmon Management Plan guidelines are currently being based on a fictitious assumption that 20% of the fish caught in the SEDM are local stocks, while the other 80% are Chignik bound. This 80% figure needs to be eliminated from the SEDM Management Plan. SEDM set net fishermen are only allowed to harvest 7.6% of what Chignik fishermen harvest. Before any fishermen in the SEDM can harvest any fish Chignik fishermen have to harvest a minimum of 300,000 red salmon before we can begin to put our nets in the water and harvest our local stock of red salmon.

We rarely catch or come close to catching the 7.6 allocation, which is a low number for a historical fishery. We seldom fish on the SEDM because of the restrictions set forth upon the fishery. This allocation needs to be eliminated. 2014 fishermen in the SEDM weren;t allowed to harvest any salmon in the SEDM area and are being denied access to their historical fishery which is affecting the viability of set netting in the area. The harvest of 300,000 red salmon in the Chignik area before set netters on the SEDM can harvest salmon needs to be eliminated and done away with.

When Chignik area fishes, we as set netters would like to fish at the same time on SEDM District.

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