

**Draft Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries**

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**Chignik River Sockeye Salmon Stock Status and  
Action Plan, 2026**

by

**Carlton Burnside,**

**Myra Scholze,**

**and**

**Tyler Polum**

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**February 2026**

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries





***REGIONAL INFORMATION REPORT NO. RRY-XX***

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PLAN, 2026**

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February 2026

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## ABSTRACT

In response to guidelines established in the Policy for Management of Sustainable Fisheries (SSFP), in April 2022, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) designated Chignik early-run sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) be designated a “stock of management concern” based on failure to achieve escapement goals over a 4- to 5-year period. In February of 2023, the department presented an action plan identifying options to rebuild the stock. Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon have met escapement goals every year since the stock of management concern designation. In October 2025, the board opted to retain Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon as designated a stock of management concern. This plan reviews escapement and management history, lays out an overview of options for both directed and indirect (incidental) fisheries that could impact rebuilding, and potential alternative delisting criteria.

Keywords: Chignik Management Area (CMA), Chignik River, sockeye salmon, *Oncorhynchus nerka*, stock of management concern, Alaska Board of Fisheries, BOF, commercial fisheries, sport fisheries, subsistence fisheries, escapement.

## INTRODUCTION

In April 2022, the Board of Fisheries (board) designated Chignik River (Figures 1 and 2) early-run sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) as a stock of management concern after an agenda change request was taken up out of cycle at the board meeting for the Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Westward, Arctic Shellfish and Shellfish General Provisions, and Prince William Sound Shrimp meeting in Anchorage from March 26 to April 2 (Appendix A1). This recommendation was based on guidelines established in the Policy for Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries ((SSFP); 5 AAC 39.222). The SSFP states that “management concern means a concern arising from a chronic inability, despite use of specific management measures, to maintain escapements for a salmon stock within the bounds of the sustainable escapement goal (SEG), biological escapement goal (BEG), optimal escapement goal (OEG), or other specific management objectives for the fishery...”. Chronic inability is further defined in the SSFP as “...the continuing or anticipated inability to meet escapement thresholds over a 4 to 5-year period...” based on the generation time of most salmon species. At the time of designation, the Chignik River sockeye salmon early run had failed to make the escapement goal for 4 of the previous 5 years (Tables 1 and 2) despite specific management measures taken by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) to reduce harvest in the commercial fisheries since 2018 (Tables 3 and 4). However, the Chignik River sockeye salmon early run has surpassed escapement thresholds in every year since 2022.

This action plan covers existing regulations and emergency order (EO) authority that the department follows to manage Chignik River sockeye salmon, management actions for the commercial, subsistence, and sport fisheries that the department took between 2022 and 2025, and department research projects for Chignik River system sockeye salmon.

## STOCK ASSESSMENT AND ESCAPEMENT GOAL HISTORY

Assessment of salmon escapement through a weir to the Chignik River has occurred since 1922. Since 1970, the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon escapement has ranged from 178,785 fish in 2020 to 835,060 in 2001. During the 10 years prior to the 2018 run failure (2008–2017), early-run escapements averaged 420,847 sockeye salmon. After 2017, there was a sharp decline in productivity, as measured both by total harvest and escapement. From 2018 through 2022 early-run escapement decreased to an average of 291,365. The decline in escapement is not attributed to increased fishing pressure, as both subsistence and commercial harvest declined during the same period (e.g., early-run sockeye salmon commercial harvest went from an estimated average of 884,472 during 2008–2017 to 9,080 during 2018–2022). Since 2022, the early-run sockeye escapement has steadily increased, allowing harvestable surplus

in 2023, 2024, and 2025 (average of 180,657 fish) while maintaining an average early-run escapement of 401,044 sockeye during that period (Table 2).

In 4 of the 5 years preceding the adoption of this action plan (2018–2022), Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon escapement was below the previous BEG of 350,000–450,000 fish (Schaberg et al. 2015) with escapement ranging from 178,785 fish in 2020 to 412,228 fish in 2022 (Table 1 and 2). Since 2022, Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon reached or surpassed the current OEG of 300,000–400,000 fish each year (Tables 1 and 2; Finkle et al. 2026).

Escapement goals for Chignik River sockeye salmon were originally established in 1968 and set at 350,000 to 400,000 fish for the early run and 200,000 to 250,000 fish for the late run (Dahlberg 1968). These initial escapement goals were developed using spawner-recruit relationships from periods of high (1922 to 1939) and low (1949 to 1960) productivity to rebuild declining Chignik sockeye salmon runs (Dahlberg 1968). The original estimate of escapement to Chignik Lake (340,000 fish) was reduced by Dahlberg (1968) to account for early- and late-run stock interactions of rearing fry in Chignik Lake to facilitate restoring Black Lake productivity. In 1998, the board established a September 1–15 management objective of 25,000 fish, supplemental to the lower bound of the late-run goal, to accommodate subsistence fishers upstream of the Chignik weir. In 2004, the numerical ranges of the goals were left in place, but the goals were reclassified as SEGs because scientifically defensible estimates of spawners that create maximum sustained yield (SMSY) were not possible. Also in 2004, the board established an August management objective of 25,000 fish (in addition to the existing September management objective) to provide additional subsistence opportunities upstream of the weir. In 2007, the late-run SEG was changed to 200,000 to 400,000 fish, and the two 25,000-fish management objectives were reclassified as inriver run goals ((IRRG); Witteveen et al. 2007)). Actual timing of adoption of the inriver goal is unclear because it was initially a management objective that was expanded over 2 board cycles (1998 and 2004) but was adopted as a formal inriver goal in 2007. In 2013, the early-run goal was changed from an SEG to a BEG, the range was increased to 350,000 to 450,000 fish, and the IRRG was officially put into regulation (Sagalkin et al. 2013). In 2015, no changes were made to the Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement goals (Schaberg et al. 2015); however, the board increased the IRRG by 25,000 fish in September for a total IRRG of 75,000 fish. At the 2019 meeting, the board reduced the IRRG to 20,000 fish, with 10,000 fish required to pass the Chignik River weir during August and another 10,000 fish in September. At the 2023 board meeting, the early- and late-run goals were combined for a total run goal of 450,000 to 800,000 fish; however, the board implemented an OEG of 300,000 to 400,000 fish and 240,000 to 360,000 fish for the early- and late-run sockeye salmon, respectively, effective beginning in the 2023 season. Additionally, the late-run IRRG of 20,000 sockeye salmon (10,000 fish in August and 10,000 fish September 1–30) was removed at the 2023 BOF meeting.

## **HABITAT**

The Chignik Management Area (CMA) comprises all coastal waters and inland drainages on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula, bounded by a line extending 135° southeast for 3 miles from a point near Kilokak Rocks (57°10.34' N. lat., 156°20.22' W. long.) then due south to a line extending 135° southeast for 3 miles from Kupreanof Point at 55°33.98' N. lat., 159°35.88' W. long. (Figure 1). The area is divided into 5 commercial fishing districts: Eastern, Central, Chignik Bay, Western, and Perryville Districts. These districts are further divided into 14 sections and 41 statistical reporting areas.

The Chignik River is the major watershed in the CMA and consists of 2 interconnected lakes (Black and Chignik Lakes) with a single outlet river (the Chignik River) that empties into the Chignik Lagoon (Figure 2). All 5 species of Pacific salmon *Oncorhynchus spp.* found in Alaska return to the Chignik River.

Sockeye salmon returns consist of an early run and a late run, and king salmon (*O. tshawytscha*) are only monitored in the Chignik River. Pink (*O. gorbuscha*), chum (*O. keta*), and coho (*O. kisutch*) salmon also return to other streams throughout the CMA.

When the confluence of the West Fork and Black River migrated downstream in the 1960s, the hydrology of the watershed was altered. Notable changes to the rearing habitat of Chignik sockeye salmon have occurred since then. At the Black Lake Workshop hosted by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), November 3-4, 2021, the USACE revealed that the Chignik River watershed stabilized around 2000.

## **HARVEST MANAGEMENT**

The 2025 CMA commercial salmon fishery was managed based on the Chignik Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 15.357). Sockeye salmon bound for the Chignik River watershed were also allocated under two additional management plans: the Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 18.360) in the Kodiak Management Area (Area K) and the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 09.360) in the Alaska Peninsula Management Area (Area M; Figure 3).

The Chignik Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 15.357) was originally adopted in 1999. The goal of this plan is to allow traditional salmon fisheries in the CMA while achieving the established escapement goals for early-run (Black Lake) and late-run (Chignik Lake) sockeye salmon (Table 2), as well as local stocks of king, pink, coho, and chum salmon. Purse seines and hand purse seines are the only legal commercial salmon fishing gear within the CMA. Legal seine gear ranges from 100 to 125 fathoms in length in the Chignik Bay District and from 100 to 225 fathoms in length in all other districts (5 AAC 15.332). To assist management efforts, the management plan is organized into districts or groups of districts: the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, the Eastern District, and the Western and Perryville Districts (Figure 1).

The first commercial fishing period may not open in the CMA until at least 40,000 sockeye salmon have escaped into the Chignik River, or if the department determines that a strong buildup of sockeye salmon exists in Chignik Lagoon and it is anticipated that 40,000 sockeye salmon will escape into the Chignik River. The purpose of this regulation is to allow subsistence fishing opportunity prior to the commercial fishing season and to avoid a large buildup of salmon in the lagoon. Once the 40,000 sockeye salmon minimum is achieved or is expected to be achieved, the Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts, as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District (Figure 1) may open concurrently as long as the Chignik Lakes' sockeye salmon runs are meeting escapement objectives [5 AAC 15.357 (b)]. Management action may also be taken to protect or harvest local stocks of king, coho, pink, and chum salmon.

In June, the Eastern District, by regulation [5 AAC 15.357 (c)(1)], opens concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts, and the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District (Figure 1). Beginning in July, management of the Eastern District is based on local pink and chum salmon stocks as well as the strength of the Chignik River sockeye salmon runs. After July 31, the Eastern District is managed based on the department's evaluation of local pink, chum, and coho salmon or the strength of the Chignik Lake sockeye salmon runs [5 AAC 15.357 (d)(3)].

By regulation, the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District opens concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts throughout the commercial salmon fishing season [5 AAC 15.357 (b); Figure 1]. Also, by regulation [5 AAC 15.357 (d)], from June 1 through July 5 in the Western District, excluding the Inner Castle Cape Subsection, and in the Perryville District, the department may open the commercial salmon fishery concurrently with the Chignik Bay and Central Districts as well as the Inner Castle Cape Subsection of the Western District.

Federal subsistence fisheries are authorized in portions of the CMA for federally-qualified residents, who must reside in one of the CMA communities as their permanent place of residence. Federal subsistence fishing regulations in the CMA apply to waters within or adjacent to the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge, Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve, and the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (Brown et al. 2022:120).

Federal and state subsistence regulations in the CMA generally parallel each other; however, in portions of the CMA, federal regulations authorize additional gear, harvest locations, and harvest seasons not authorized by the state. Reference the Federal Subsistence Management Regulations for the Harvest of Fish and Shellfish on Federal Public Lands and Waters in Alaska for more information.

For management of Chignik River sport fisheries, the commissioner may, by EO, change bag and possession limits and annual limits and alter methods and means in sport fisheries (5 AAC 75.003). These changes may not reduce the allocation of harvest among other user groups. An EO may not supersede provisions for increasing or decreasing bag and possession limits or changing methods and means specified in regulatory management plans established by the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

## **2023 ACTION PLAN REVIEW**

### **COMMERCIAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

#### **Past Management Actions**

Fisheries managers responded to the recent early-run declines with inseason management actions designed to reduce commercial harvests when sockeye salmon runs were low. Starting in 2018, the department restricted sockeye salmon fishing within the CMA (Tables 3 and 4) until such time as there was sufficient surplus sockeye salmon beyond escapement needs. To provide some fishing opportunity, pink and chum salmon-targeted fishing periods prior to July 10 occurred during early July in 2018 and 2019 (Table 3), which were restricted to terminal statistical areas within the Central, Western, and Perryville Districts. Fishing periods after July 10 targeting late-run sockeye occurred in 2019, 2021, and 2022. No commercial fishing periods occurred in 2020.

Since 2018, the department has taken action outside of regulatory management plans in the South Alaska Peninsula with the intent of reducing the commercial harvest of Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon (Table 4). Those actions included reducing the fishing time from 88 hours to 40 hours in 2018 for the last 2 June commercial fishing periods for all gear types and across the entire South Peninsula. In 2020, the department closed the “Dolgoi Island area” on June 13 and reduced fishing time in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District from 88 hours to 40 hours for all gear types in the last 2 openings in June.

In 2022, after the board designated the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon as a stock of management concern, an agreement was signed between the Area M Seiners Association and the Chignik Intertribal Coalition (Appendix A2) that would restrict purse seine effort in the Shumagin Island Section if Chignik early-run sockeye escapement objectives were not being achieved. As a result, commercial salmon fishing in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District was reduced for purse seine gear on June 15, 20, and 25 during the 2022 salmon season; June 16 and 20 during the 2023 salmon season; and June 16, 20, and 25 during the 2024 salmon season. Early-run sockeye escapement numbers did not prompt closures in the Shumagin Islands in 2025.

#### **2023 Stock of Concern Designated Management Action**

During the board meeting for the Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian Islands meeting in February 2023, action #1 (below) was chosen to follow status quo, though it was modified to relate to the early-run sockeye OEG assigned at the 2023 board meeting, rather than the first half of the total run BEG. The department would continue using EO authority to manage the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon stock to achieve the escapement goal and rebuild from the recent period of low productivity. Management actions outlined in Record Copy (RC) 104 (Appendix A2) would also continue to be implemented. The specific language of the action adopted in 2023, including specific action, background, benefits, and detriments, was as follows, with values and text updated to reflect amendments made at the 2023 meeting:

Status quo. Maintain regulations as currently specified in 5 AAC 15.357. Chignik Salmon Management Plan. The plan regulates commercial salmon seine fisheries within the CMA for sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon.

Also, within the South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery, continue with similar management actions taken in the 2022 commercial salmon fisheries in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District as outlined in the agreement made by the Chignik Intertribal Coalition and Area M Seiners Association at the April 2022 board meeting. This agreement is summarized in RC 104 and states that:

Based on early-run sockeye salmon escapement at the Chignik weir, fishing time for purse seine gear, during the second fishing period, under the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* would be reduced by 50%, in the Shumagin Islands Section, in order to achieve the lower bound of the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon escapement goal. Fishing time for purse seine gear under the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* would continue being reduced during subsequent fishing periods to meet the lower bound of the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon escapement goal. If the lower bound of the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon escapement goal is projected to be met, restrictions in the South Alaska Peninsula fishery would be lifted and commercial salmon fishing periods in the Chignik Management Area may be warranted.

If the lower bound of the Chignik River sockeye salmon run escapement goal is not projected to be met by July 1, a mixture of restrictions, including a 50% reduction in fishing time for purse seine gear during the first commercial salmon fishing period in July in the Shumagin Islands Section, would be applied to fishing opportunity in the South Alaska Peninsula Area under the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula and in the Chignik Management Area.

Also, the department will continue to manage the Southeastern District Mainland and “Dolgoi Island area” as directed in regulation (Figure 4).

#### Specific Actions:

Since 2018, the department has managed the Chignik River system commercial sockeye salmon fishery conservatively due to weak Chignik early-run sockeye salmon returns (Table 2). The department would target the midpoint of the early-run sockeye salmon run OEG of 300,000–400,000 fish. In June the department establishes commercial salmon openings in the CMA via EO based on existing and incoming sockeye salmon escapement through the Chignik weir. Commercial salmon openings are allowed within the entire CMA, although there are constraints to the Perryville Section. When sockeye salmon runs to the Chignik system are weak, the department continues to manage conservatively and use EO authority to only invoke commercial salmon fishing periods when there is sufficient surplus of sockeye salmon beyond escapement needs.

In the South Peninsula, if the first half of the escapement through the Chignik weir is not projected to meet the lower end of the OEG, the commercial fishing periods for seine gear will be reduced by 50% in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District on June 16, June 20, and June

25. The second commercial salmon fishing period would begin at 6:00 a.m. June 16, remain open for 33 hours, and close at 3:00 p.m. the following day. The third and fourth commercial salmon fishing periods would begin at 6:00 a.m., remain open for 44 hours, and then close at 4:00 a.m. 2 days later. In years when Chignik is meeting the lower end of the goal through July 10, or if commercial salmon fishing opens in Chignik, the commercial seine openings in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District would remain open for their full regulatory hours.

#### Background:

Chignik Management Area commercial salmon fishing periods targeting sockeye salmon are established through EO and are based on escapement through the Chignik weir and evaluation of incoming sockeye salmon through harvest and test fisheries. The first commercial fishing periods typically occur in early to mid-June, although no openings targeting sockeye salmon have occurred in June since 2017.

Some sockeye salmon harvests in the South Peninsula area of Area M commercial fisheries are a mixed stock fishery and do include varying proportions of Chignik River sockeye salmon, depending on relative abundance. Currently, there are management plans in place for the SEDM and “Dolgoi Island area” as defined in 5 AAC 09.365 and 5 AAC 09.366 for the South Alaska Peninsula that provide specific allocative direction about sockeye salmon management based on both the Chignik run and sockeye salmon harvest within the South Alaska Peninsula (Figure 4).

#### Benefits:

Potentially allowing some amount of Chignik sockeye salmon to pass through the South Peninsula fishery for escapement purposes.

#### Detriments:

Loss of harvest of non-Chignik bound sockeye salmon due to restricted time and area.

### **2023 Through 2025 Performance Review**

In 2023, commercial salmon fishing opened on June 29th in the Chignik Bay, Central, Eastern, Western, and Perryville districts. Commercial salmon fishing remained open throughout July and August, excluding closures mandated by regulation. Early-run escapement was 431,283 and harvest was 259,676 fish, for a total run size of 690,959. In 2024, Chignik commercial salmon fishing opened on July 4th in all districts. Early-run escapement was 372,831 and harvest was 49,277 fish, for a total run size of 422,108. In 2025, commercial salmon fishing opened on June 20th in all districts. Early-run escapement was 399,018 and harvest was 233,018 fish, for a total run size of 632,037.

In accordance with RC 104, opportunity in the Shumagin Islands section of the Southeast District was reduced during the 2nd and 3rd fishing periods in 2023, and the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th periods of 2024 (Table 4). There were no reductions in 2025.

## **SUBSISTENCE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

### **Past Management Actions**

While the department has the authority to restrict subsistence harvest of sockeye salmon within the CMA via emergency order, no subsistence restrictions have been made by the department. Relative to the run size, subsistence harvest is insignificant (Table 2), and subsistence harvest is of high importance to communities within the CMA.

In 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021, the federal Chignik Area In-Season Manager issued Emergency Special Actions to close the federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage to the harvest of sockeye salmon except by federally-qualified subsistence users due to concerns for the conservation of healthy Chignik River sockeye salmon (Appendices B1–B4). During these closures, sockeye salmon could only be harvested by federally-qualified subsistence users who were residents of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, or Perryville and who were in possession of a federal subsistence harvest permit. Federal subsistence fishing did not close for sockeye in 2022.

### **2023 Stock of Concern Designated Management Actions**

During the board meeting for the Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian Islands in February 2023, action #1 (below) was chosen to maintain status quo. The department is tasked with the management of salmon according to the priority for subsistence uses (A.S. 16.05.258) and uses EO authority to manage CMA subsistence fisheries. The specific language of the action adopted in 2023, including specific action, background, benefits, and detriments, was as follows:

#### Specific Actions:

When sockeye salmon runs to the Chignik system are weak, the department can enforce nonretention of sockeye salmon in the subsistence fishery in the Chignik River drainage.

#### Background:

Currently, the department is directed to ensure some escapement for subsistence needs prior to opening commercial fishing. In addition to escapement needs, there is an IRRG of 20,000 sockeye salmon, with 10,000 required to pass in both August and September (the IRRG was removed at the 2023 board meeting).

In 1993, the board reaffirmed that salmon in the CMA support customary and traditional (subsistence) uses (5 AAC 01.466). In 2019, based on new information regarding run timing, the board modified the amounts of sockeye salmon that are reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) in the CMA as follows: for Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern districts combined the ANS is 2,900–5,400 early-run sockeye salmon and 3,200–6,000 late-run sockeye salmon. The board retained the Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts ANSs of 100–150 king salmon and 400–700 salmon other than sockeye or king salmon. The board also did not change the ANSs for the Perryville and Western districts combined, which are 1,400–2,600 coho salmon and 1,400–2,600 salmon other than coho salmon [5 AAC 01.466 (a)(b)].

The department has opted not to limit subsistence harvest of sockeye salmon since the impact towards the run based on amount harvested relative to the run size is insignificant. While the state did not make restrictions, subsistence harvest opportunity was limited to only federally-qualified residents each year, 2018 through 2022.

Benefits:

Customary and traditional subsistence uses that have been deemed necessary are able to be maintained without measurable harm to the run. The department retains the ability to restrict subsistence harvest of sockeye salmon via emergency order if determined necessary.

Detriments:

None.

## **2023 Through 2025 Performance Review**

The department has not limited subsistence harvest of sockeye salmon. Federal subsistence regulations did not limit the harvest of sockeye salmon in 2023, 2024, or 2025 because of increased early-run returns.

## **SPORT FISHERY MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

### **Past Management Actions**

The Chignik River has very low participation by anglers targeting sockeye salmon, even compared to other drainages on the Alaska Peninsula where some of the lowest angler effort in the State of Alaska occurs. Most angler effort in the Chignik River is attributable to targeting king salmon, coho salmon and resident species in Chignik Lake. There are no estimates of harvest or effort for Chignik sockeye salmon available from the Statewide Harvest Survey due to the low participation rates and subsequent limited response to the survey. There was also only occasional harvest of sockeye salmon reported in the previously available freshwater guide logbooks, all of which is confidential information due to the low number of participants in the fishery. Harvests by anglers of Chignik River sockeye salmon are very low and likely close to zero in some years and are inconsequential as related to achieving escapement objectives. In addition, the department rarely receives any angler observations or reports regarding Chignik River sockeye salmon sport fishing.

### **2023 Stock of Concern Designated Management Actions**

During the board meeting for the Chignik Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian Islands meeting in February 2023, action #1 (below) was chosen to maintain status quo management to allow the department to continue to use its EO authority to manage the Chignik River sockeye salmon. If a sport fishery develops for sockeye salmon in the drainage, actions could include preseason or inseason sport fishery restrictions, such as reduced bag limits and fishery closures. This would likely occur in response to a new or developing sockeye salmon sport fishery in the area. The specific language of the action adopted in 2023, including specific action, background, benefits, and detriments, was as follows:

Specific Action:

Use EO authority to allow department flexibility to restrict bag limits or close the Chignik River sockeye salmon sport fishery, as needed.

Background:

The Chignik River is open to fishing for sockeye salmon year-round. The salmon, other than king salmon, bag limit is 5 fish with a 10 fish possession limit, all of which may be sockeye salmon. The department has not taken action in the sport fishery in regard to sockeye salmon to date given the low participation rates and low interest in sockeye salmon in the Chignik Drainage.

Benefits:

The benefits of providing the department the flexibility to manage Chignik River sockeye salmon stocks inseason with EO authority are timely and meaningful management actions, based on current run strength, and in response to the development of a sport fishery in the area targeting sockeye salmon. The department has EO authority to manage the sport fishery to achieve established escapement goals if such a fishery were to develop.

Detriments:

Some harvest of Chignik River sockeye salmon could occur by anglers in the drainage if EO action is not taken by the department.

**2023 Through 2025 Performance Review**

The department has not taken any management actions regarding Chignik River sockeye salmon to date due to the lack of participation and interest regarding sockeye salmon for sport fishing in the drainage.

**Summary of 2023 Designated Actions**

<b>Fishery/Action number</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b>CF/#1</b>	Status quo. Maintain current regulations. Continue to implement RC104 in the Shumagin Islands.
<b>Sub/#1</b>	Status quo. Maintain current EO management for subsistence harvests.
<b>SF/#1</b>	Status quo. Continue to use EO authority to manage the Chignik River sockeye salmon stock.

# 2026 ACTION PLAN FOR ADDRESSING STOCK OF CONCERN

## COMMERCIAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

### Action Plan Renewal

In each year since the adoption of the 2023 action plan, Chignik early-run sockeye salmon have exceeded the lower bound of the OEG, and commercial harvest on early-run sockeye salmon has occurred. Reductions on the Shumagin Islands commercial fishery went into effect for the 2nd and 3rd periods in 2023 and the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th periods in 2024, but no restrictions were implemented in 2025. The criteria set by the board in 2023 to delist the early-run sockeye as a stock of concern was to reach the lower bound of the OEG for 3 consecutive years or 4 out of the last 6 years, with the expectation that the goal will continue to be met. As of 2025, both escapement criteria were met, and the department expects that the goal will continue to be met (i.e., escapement has been at or above upper OEG even with harvest). Given the board's criteria, at the 2025 October work session it was the department's recommendation that the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon action plan be delisted as a stock of concern. However, the board decided to retain Chignik early-run sockeye salmon as a stock of concern. As such, the department is recommending status quo to the 2023 Chignik early-run sockeye salmon action plan:

### Recommended Management Actions

#### *Commercial Action #1*

Status quo: Maintain regulations as currently specified in 5 AAC 15.357. *Chignik Salmon Management Plan*. The plan regulates commercial salmon seine fisheries within the CMA for sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon.

Also, within the South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishery, continue with management actions taken in the commercial salmon fisheries in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District as outlined in the agreement made by the Chignik Intertribal Coalition and Area M Seiners Association at the April 2022 board meeting. This agreement is summarized in RC 104 (Appendix A2) and states that:

Based on early-run sockeye salmon escapement at the Chignik weir, fishing time for purse seine gear, during the second fishing period, under the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Sockeye Salmon Management Plan, would be reduced by 50% in the Shumagin Islands Section in order to achieve the lower bound of the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon escapement goal. Fishing time for purse seine gear under the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Sockeye Salmon Management Plan would continue being reduced during subsequent fishing periods to meet the lower bound of the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon escapement goal. If the lower bound of the Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon escapement goal is projected to be met, restrictions in the South Alaska Peninsula fishery would be lifted and commercial salmon fishing periods in the Chignik Management Area may be warranted.

If the lower bound of the Chignik River sockeye salmon run escapement goal is not projected to be met by July 1, a mixture of restrictions, including a 50% reduction in fishing time for purse seine gear during the first commercial salmon fishing period in July in the Shumagin Islands Section, would be applied to fishing opportunity in the South Alaska Peninsula Area under the Post-June Salmon

## Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula and in the Chignik Management Area.

Also, the department will continue to manage the Southeastern District Mainland and “Dolgoi Island area” as directed in regulation (Figure 4).

### Specific Actions:

If Chignik early-run sockeye salmon are not projected to meet the lower end of the OEG (300,000 sockeye salmon) based on inseason historical run timing estimates, the commercial fishing periods for seine gear will be reduced by 50% in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District on June 16, June 20, and June 25. The second commercial salmon fishing period would begin at 6:00 a.m. June 16, remain open for 33 hours, and close at 3:00 p.m. the following day. The third and fourth commercial salmon fishing periods would begin at 6:00 a.m., remain open for 44 hours, and then close at 4:00 a.m. two days later. In years when Chignik early-run sockeye salmon are meeting the lower end of the goal, or if commercial salmon fishing opens in Chignik, the commercial seine openings in the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District would remain open for their full regulatory hours.

### Background:

Chignik Management Area commercial salmon fishing periods targeting sockeye salmon are established through EO and are based on escapement through the Chignik weir and evaluation of incoming sockeye salmon through harvest and test fisheries. The first commercial fishing periods historically occurred in early to mid-June, and more recently have occurred mid-June to early July. Because Chignik commercial fishing periods are entirely based on local early-run escapement, the CMA fishery cannot be further restricted; the commercial fishery will not open without adequate escapement.

Some sockeye salmon harvests in the South Peninsula area of Area M commercial fisheries are a mixed stock fishery and do include varying proportions of Chignik River sockeye salmon, depending on relative abundance. Currently, there are management plans in place for the SEDM and “Dolgoi Island area” as defined in 5 AAC 09.365 and 5 AAC 09.366 for the South Alaska Peninsula that provide specific allocative direction about sockeye salmon management based on both the Chignik run and sockeye salmon harvest within the South Alaska Peninsula (Figure 4).

### Benefits:

This may allow some amount of Chignik sockeye salmon through the South Peninsula fishery for escapement purposes.

### Detriments:

This may lead to loss of harvest of both Chignik bound and non-Chignik bound salmon due to restricted time and area.

# **SUBSISTENCE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

## **Action Plan Renewal**

Since the adoption of the 2023 action plan, Chignik early-run sockeye salmon have exceeded the lower bound of the OEG each year. The department has not limited subsistence harvest of sockeye salmon. Due to increased early-run returns in 2023–2025, federal subsistence opportunity was not limited to only federally-qualified users.

## **Recommended Management Actions**

### ***Subsistence Action #1***

Status quo: The department is tasked with the management of salmon, according to the priority for subsistence uses (AS 16.05.258); the department uses EO authority to manage CMA subsistence fisheries.

#### Specific Actions:

When sockeye salmon runs to the Chignik system are weak, the department can enforce nonretention of sockeye salmon in the subsistence fishery in the Chignik River drainage.

#### Background:

Currently, the department is directed to ensure harvestable surplus for subsistence needs prior to opening commercial fishing.

In 1993, the board reaffirmed that salmon in the CMA are customarily and traditionally used for subsistence (5 AAC 01.466). In 2019, based on new information regarding run timing, the board modified the amounts of sockeye salmon that are reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) in the CMA as follows: for Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern districts combined, the ANS is 2,900–5,400 early-run sockeye salmon and 3,200–6,000 late-run sockeye salmon. The board retained the Chignik Bay, Central, and Eastern Districts ANSs of 100–150 king salmon and 400–700 salmon other than sockeye or king salmon. The board also did not change the ANSs for the Perryville and Western districts combined, which are 1,400–2,600 coho salmon and 1,400–2,600 salmon other than coho salmon [5 AAC 01.466 (a)(b)].

Subsistence harvests of sockeye salmon are small relative to the size of the run. The department has opted not to limit subsistence harvest of sockeye salmon because the impact of harvest on achieving escapement goals is insignificant. While the state has not implemented subsistence harvest restrictions, the Federal Subsistence Board limited federal subsistence harvest opportunity to federally-qualified residents each year from 2018 through 2022.

#### Benefits:

Customary and traditional subsistence uses are maintained without measurable harm to the run. The department retains the ability to restrict subsistence harvest of sockeye salmon via EO if determined necessary.

#### Detriments:

None.

## **SPORT FISHERY MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

### **Action Plan Renewal**

The Chignik River continues to have very low participation by anglers targeting sockeye salmon and most angler effort recently in the Chignik River is attributable to anglers targeting coho salmon and resident species in Chignik Lake. There continue to be no estimates of harvest or effort for Chignik sockeye salmon available from the Statewide Harvest Survey due to the low participation rates and subsequent limited response to the survey. Harvests by anglers of Chignik River sockeye salmon are very low and likely close to zero in some years and are inconsequential as related to achieving escapement objectives. In addition, the department, as well as staff stationed at the Chignik River weir, rarely observe or receive any angler observations or reports regarding Chignik River sockeye salmon sport fishing.

### **Recommended Management Actions**

#### ***Sport Action #1***

Status quo: Allow the department to continue to use its EO authority to manage the Chignik River sockeye salmon. If a sport fishery develops for sockeye salmon in the drainage, actions could include preseason or inseason sport fishery restrictions, such as reduced bag limits and fishery closures. This would likely occur in response to a new or developing sockeye salmon sport fishery in the area.

#### Specific Action:

Use EO authority to allow department flexibility to restrict bag limits or close the Chignik River sockeye salmon sport fishery, as needed.

#### Background:

The Chignik River is open to fishing for sockeye salmon year-round. The salmon, other than king salmon, bag limit is 5 fish with a 10 fish possession limit, all of which may be sockeye salmon. The department has not taken action in the sockeye salmon sport fishery to date given the low participation rates and low interest in sockeye salmon in the Chignik Drainage.

#### Benefits:

The benefits of providing the department the flexibility to manage Chignik River sockeye salmon stocks inseason with EO authority are timely and meaningful management actions based on current run strength and in response to the development of a sport fishery in the area targeting sockeye salmon. The department has EO authority to manage the sport fishery to achieve established escapement goals if such a fishery were to develop.

#### Detriments:

None.

### Summary of 2026 Potential Management Actions

Fishery/Action number	Summary
<b>CF #1</b>	Status quo. Maintain current regulations within the CMA. Continue to implement RC104 in the Shumagin Islands
<b>Sub/#1</b>	Status quo. Maintain current EO management for a reasonable opportunity for success in subsistence harvests.
<b>SF/#1</b>	Status quo. Continue to use EO authority to manage the Chignik River sockeye salmon stock if a sport fishery targeting sockeye salmon were to develop.

## **RESEARCH PLAN**

The department currently assesses Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement and harvests annually. The following research projects include current and past projects used to gather detailed information about the sockeye salmon stock in the Chignik River.

### **CURRENT MONITORING PROJECTS**

The department counts salmon returning to the Chignik River at a weir located upstream from Chignik Lagoon operated primarily for sockeye salmon. Sockeye salmon return from late May through September. The weir is generally operated from late May to late August. Sockeye salmon are counted via two underwater camera gates for the first 10 minutes of each hour as they pass upstream of the weir. These counts are expanded to obtain hourly escapement estimates which are summed to estimate daily fish passage. It is currently anticipated that Chignik River salmon enumeration will continue in future years.

Sockeye salmon age-sex-length (ASL) data are collected annually at the weir to estimate age and sex structure of the escapement. Along with monitoring fish condition, age, and escapement, the department also monitors the environmental conditions of the 2 main lakes in the watershed for primary production, zooplankton biomass and species composition, and water temperature. Currently, the department is conducting a 4-year watershed-wide ecological assessment comparable to past studies that includes juvenile sockeye salmon stock assignment, energy content, and diet data. Department staff are also serving on the committee of a University of Alaska Fairbanks doctoral student studying Chignik sockeye salmon productivity and ecology.

Sockeye salmon smolt have been captured with beach seine in Chignik Lagoon using standardized location, timing, and methods since 2019. Grab samples of juvenile fish are collected every 2-3 days from approximately May 9 to July 8. All species collected in the beach seine are identified and counted, and 85 smolt are analyzed for age, length, and weight per sampling event. Reports are published every 2 years.

In 2024, research staff also began a hydroacoustics project in Chignik Lake. Monthly hydroacoustic and tow-netting surveys of Chignik Lake between April and September are intended to provide estimates of juvenile sockeye salmon abundance, with paired age and size information. Developing a comprehensive and seasonal understanding of the Chignik Lake habitat utilization by juvenile sockeye salmon and other resident species in Chignik Lake through hydroacoustic assessment will continue through 2028.

### **PAST RESEARCH PROJECTS**

In the past, the department collected ASL data from the harvest, but funding has restricted the ability to collect these samples in recent years. It is unlikely that ASL data from harvest will be collected in the future.

There have also been past efforts to estimate the abundance of outmigrating sockeye salmon smolt from the Chignik River (Loewen and Henslee 2017). Smolt outmigration studies were conducted from 1994 until 2016. Due to budget constraints and uncertainty in estimate precision, this program was discontinued and is unlikely to be funded in the future.

Lake productivity patterns of Black and Chignik lakes and fall hydroacoustic surveys of Chignik Lake were performed in 1991 (Kyle 1992). The department conducted lake productivity and juvenile sockeye salmon responses to rearing conditions between 2000 and 2004 (Finkle 2006). When weir staff were available, they conducted opportunistic limnological sampling from 2004 until 2023.

While there has not been a focused genetics study on the harvest within the CMA, some areas were sampled during the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program study and showed that there is

a mixture of non-local stocks harvested in the CMA (Dann et al. 2012a; Dann et al. 2012b). The department also conducted focused genetics studies on the escapement collected at the weir to define the transition between the Black and Chignik lakes genetic stock groupings from 2012–2021. This research was very informative and allowed refinement of the sockeye salmon run reconstruction for Chignik River sockeye salmon. More recently in 2021, regional staff refined the run reconstruction by including historical genetic harvest data in an expectation-maximization algorithm.

Subsistence harvests have been reported in the department’s Annual Salmon reports since 1999: these are posted on the department’s electronic library at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/publications/>. The department website also hosts a Community Subsistence Information System database of subsistence harvests and uses at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sb/CSIS/>. The department recently collected subsistence harvest and use data for the communities of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, and Perryville for calendar year 2024. Quantitative data are currently undergoing community review; ethnographic data collection will occur in 2026, with a final report published in 2027.

A summary of past research reports is below:

- In an assessment of salmon harvests and local and traditional knowledge of king salmon in the CMA from 2014–2016, researchers documented local observations of an overall decline in the amount and size of all salmon returning to the CMA area, reasons provided for this decline, and changes in run timing of each species (Hutchinson-Scarborough and Koster 2021).
- A study of the harvest and use patterns in six communities (Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Perryville, Port Heiden, and Egegik) for 2016 illustrated the household and community networks that facilitate the harvesting, processing, sharing, bartering, and trading of subsistence salmon resources within the communities, across the broader region, and throughout Alaska (Hutchinson-Scarborough et al. 2020). The study found that subsistence use of salmon was almost universal in the study communities in 2016 and that most households were engaged in the exchange of salmon.
- An ethnographic study of salmon harvests and uses in Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, and Perryville described contemporary subsistence salmon fishing practices, illustrated how subsistence fishing is important to the study communities, and explained what factors influence how fishing practices change over time (Hutchinson-Scarborough et al., 2016).
- Several reports describe fish and wildlife harvests in CMA communities dating back to the 1980s. These include Hutchinson et al. 2010, Fall et al. 1995, and Fall et al. 1991).

## **CONDITIONS FOR REDUCING MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS OR DELISTING THIS STOCK OF CONCERN**

1. If the lower bound of the early-run sockeye salmon OEG (300,000 salmon) is met or exceeded in 3 consecutive years and the department is expecting to meet the goal range in future years, or is met in 4 out of 6 consecutive years and the department is expecting to meet the goal range in future years, the department will recommend removing Chignik River sockeye salmon as a stock of management concern at the first Chignik board meeting after this condition is met. The early-run escapement estimate would be based on the department's post season apportionment method at the time of recommendation, or genetic stock identification results if available.
2. Inseason management measures would be relaxed in other areas if escapement numbers are met and CMA commercial salmon permit holders are fishing.
3. If 2 consecutive years of escapements are near the upper bound of the escapement goal range or above the upper goal bound (400,000 sockeye salmon), management restrictions may be relaxed or set aside using EO authority.

The Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon has exceeded the lower bound of the OEG consecutively for the last 4 years and is expected to meet the goal range in future years. It is the department's recommendation that delisting criteria continue to be tied to the existing OEG.

### **ALTERNATE DELISTING CRITERIA #1**

1. If early-run sockeye salmon escapement of 350,000 salmon is met or exceeded in 3 consecutive years and the department is expecting to meet the goal range in future years, or is met in 4 out of 6 consecutive years and the department is expecting to meet the goal range in future years, the department will recommend removing Chignik River sockeye salmon as a stock of management concern at the first Chignik board meeting after this condition is met. The early-run escapement estimate would be based on the department's post season apportionment method at the time of recommendation, or genetic stock identification results if available.
2. Inseason management measures would be relaxed in other areas if escapement numbers are met and CMA commercial salmon permit holders are fishing.
3. If 2 consecutive years of escapements are near the upper bound of the alternate goal or above the range (450,000 sockeye salmon), management restrictions may be relaxed or set aside using EO authority.

Under these criteria, the department would target an early-run sockeye salmon goal of 350,000 to 450,000, rather than the established OEG of 300,000 to 400,000. Commercial management actions on the Shumagin Islands referenced in the action plan would continue to be linked to the current OEG. Use of this delisting criteria would delay and reduce commercial fishing opportunity within the CMA.

The department notes that use of an alternate early-run sockeye salmon goal may have detrimental results. The current BEG and OEG ranges already target long-standing estimates of maximum sustained yield. King salmon restrictions within the Chignik Bay District will continue to limit harvest opportunity on early- and late-run sockeye returning in July, which has already led to significant sockeye escapement beyond the bounds of the established escapement goals. Targeting a higher early-run escapement goal will lead to escapement further in excess of the established goals for both runs. Because early- and late-run Chignik sockeye salmon overlap in rearing habitat use, there is concern that continued excessive escapement beyond the established escapement goals may be detrimental to one or both sockeye salmon runs.

## **ALTERNATE DELISTING CRITERIA #2**

1. If Chignik River system sockeye salmon total escapement meets 150,000 fish through June 25, 250,000 fish by July 5, and 350,000 fish by July 15 for 3 consecutive years and the department is expecting to meet the goal range in future years, or these delisting targets are met in 4 out of 6 consecutive years and the department is expecting to meet the goal range in future years, the department will recommend removing Chignik River sockeye salmon as a stock of management concern at the first Chignik board meeting after this condition is met. All 3 date targets would need to be reached to be considered a successful year. These goals are accomplishable inseason and are not tied to any post-season run apportionment estimates.
2. Inseason management measures would be relaxed in other areas if escapement numbers are met and CMA commercial salmon permit holders are fishing.
3. If 2 consecutive years of escapements are near the upper bound of the alternate goal or above the range (450,000 sockeye salmon), management restrictions may be relaxed or set aside using EO authority.

Under these criteria, the department would target reaching interim combined sockeye salmon targets of 150,000 for June 25, 250,000 for July 5, and 350,000 for July 15 in addition to the established early-run OEG of 300,000 to 400,000. All 3 interim delisting targets would need to be reached to be determined a successful year. These goals are between typical lower and midpoint interim goals for early and combined Chignik sockeye salmon runs. June 25 acts as a strong indicator of early run strength, as it occurs during peak of the early-run and is early enough to have little influence from late-run sockeye salmon. Commercial management within the CMA and actions referred to in the action plan would continue to be linked to the current OEG. Because these interim delisting objectives are between typical low end and midpoint projection interim goals tied to the current OEG, commercial management is unlikely to be altered in any way. The objective of these delisting goals is to provide an option that is accomplishable during inseason management and not tied to any post season apportionment estimates.

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## **TABLES AND FIGURES**

Table 1.—Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon escapement and escapement range, 2004–2025.

Previous BEG range	350,000-450,000
Current OEG range (2023–present)	300,000-400,000
Year	Escapement
2004	362,033
2005	335,061
2006	411,786
2007	389,781
2008	440,697
2009	446,383
2010	450,518
2011	492,557
2012	360,709
2013	404,753
2014	353,798
2015	421,848
2016	416,711
2017	420,497
2018	182,974
2019	387,110
2020	178,785
2021	295,726
2022	412,228
2023	431,283
2024	372,831
2025	399,019
20-yr avg	383,500
10-yr avg	349,716
5-yr avg	382,217

Table 2.–Chignik River early-run sockeye salmon harvest and escapement, 2004–2025.

Year	Commercial Harvest <sup>a</sup>	Subsistence Harvest <sup>b</sup>	Escapement	Run Size <sup>d</sup>
2004	668,099	7,029	362,033	1,030,132
2005	964,750	8,171	335,061	1,299,811
2006	482,870	8,079	411,786	894,656
2007	256,131	10,191	389,781	645,912
2008	322,172	7,189	440,697	762,869
2009	551,687	6,785	446,383	998,069
2010	810,175	8,148	450,518	1,260,692
2011	2,351,181	10,578	492,557	2,843,738
2012	1,107,488	5,607	360,709	1,468,197
2013	1,915,622	6,588	404,753	2,320,375
2014	23,884	7,855	353,798	377,682
2015	312,949	9,854	421,848	734,797
2016	855,090	8,150	416,711	1,271,801
2017	594,476	6,346	420,497	1,014,973
2018	27	4,538	182,974	183,001
2019	30,702	4,514	387,110	417,812
2020 <sup>c</sup>	0	4,188	178,785	178,785
2021	178	3,973	295,726	295,903
2022	14,492	3,700	412,228	426,720
2023	259,676	3,809	431,283	690,959
2024	49,277	3,761	372,831	422,108
2025	233,018	-	399,019	632,037
<b>Averages</b>				
10-yr avg	203,694	4,775	349,716	553,410
5-yr avg	111,328	3,811	382,217	493,545
2008-2017	884,472	7,710	420,847	1,305,319
2018-2022	9,080	4,183	291,365	300,444
2023-2025	180,657	3,785	401,044	581,701

*Note:* Subsistence harvest averages do not include 2025 (data has not been compiled yet).

<sup>a</sup> Source: ADF&G, Statewide Harvest Receipt (fish ticket) database.

<sup>b</sup> Source: subsistence harvest records maintained by ADF&G's Division of Subsistence.

<sup>c</sup> No Chignik commercial fishery because the Chignik River did not achieve the minimum sockeye salmon escapement value.

<sup>d</sup> Run size estimates do not include subsistence harvest.

Table 3.—Commercial salmon openings in the CMA June 10 through July 10, 2016–2025.

Date	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
10-19 Jun										
20-Jun										CB, C, E, W, P
21-Jun										CB, C, E, W, P
22-Jun										CB, C, E, W, P
23-Jun										
24-Jun										CB, C, E, W
25-Jun										CB, C, E, W
26-Jun										CB, C, E, W
27-Jun										
28-Jun	CB,C,E,W <sup>a</sup>									CB, C, E, W
29-Jun	CB,C,E,W							CB, C, E, W, P		CB, C, E, W
30-Jun	CB,C,E,W							CB, C, E, W, P		CB, C, E, W
1-Jul		CB,C,E,W <sup>a</sup>						CB, C, E, W, P		C, E, W
2-Jul	CB,C,E,W <sup>a</sup>							CB, C, E, W,		C, E, W

continued

Table 3.—Page 2 of 2

Date	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
3-Jul	CB,C,E,W <sup>a</sup>							CB, C, E, W, P		C, E, W
4-Jul	CB,C,E,W <sup>a</sup>	CB,C,E,W <sup>a</sup>						CB, C, E, W, P	CB, C, E, W, P	C, E, W
5-Jul	CB,C,E,W <sup>a</sup>	CB,C,E,W <sup>a</sup>						CB, C, E, W, P	CB, C, E, W, P	C, E, W, P
6-Jul		CB,C,E,W <sup>a</sup>		C <sup>b</sup> ,W <sup>b</sup> ,E <sup>b</sup> ,P <sup>b</sup>				CB, C, E, W	C, E, W, P	CB, C, E, W, P
7-Jul		CB,C,E,W <sup>a</sup>	C <sup>b</sup> ,W <sup>b</sup> ,P <sup>b</sup>	C <sup>b</sup> ,W <sup>b</sup> ,E <sup>b</sup> ,P <sup>b</sup>				CB, C, E, W, P	C, E, W, P	CB, C, E, W, P
8-Jul			C <sup>b</sup> ,W <sup>b</sup> ,P <sup>b</sup>					CB, C, E, W, P	C, E, W, P	C, E, W, P
9-Jul	CB,C,W,P	C <sup>b</sup> ,W <sup>b</sup> ,P <sup>b</sup>						CB, C, E, W, P	C, E, W, P	C, E, W, P
10-Jul	CB,C,W,P							CB, C, E, W, P	C, E, W, P	CB, C, E, W, P

*Note:* blank cells represent fishery being closed.

District codes: CB= Chignik Bay District, C= Central District, E= Eastern District, W= Western District, P= Perryville District

<sup>a</sup> Only the Inner Castle Cape Section of Western District was open.

<sup>b</sup> Inner bay pink and chum salmon directed fishing periods only.

Table 4.–Commercial fishery management actions in the South Alaska Peninsula 2018–2025.

Year	Action Taken
2018	Reduced commercial fishing periods for all gear types throughout entire South Peninsula on June 22 and June 27.
2019	Seine gear removed from "Dolgoi Island area" in regulation at BOF meeting. Fishery windows aligned for all gear types.
2020	Closed "Dolgoi Island area" on June 13. Reduced fishing time in Shumagin Island Section of Southeastern District to 40 hours for all gear types on June 20 and June 25.
2021	No actions taken.
2022	Reduced commercial fishing in Shumagin Islands Section of Southeastern District for seine gear only as per RC104 agreement on June 15, June 20, and June 25
2023	Reduced commercial fishing in Shumagin Islands Section of Southeastern District for seine gear only as per RC104 agreement on June 16, and June 20
2024	Reduced commercial fishing in Shumagin Islands Section of Southeastern District for seine gear only as per RC104 agreement on June 16, June 20, and June 25
2025	No actions taken

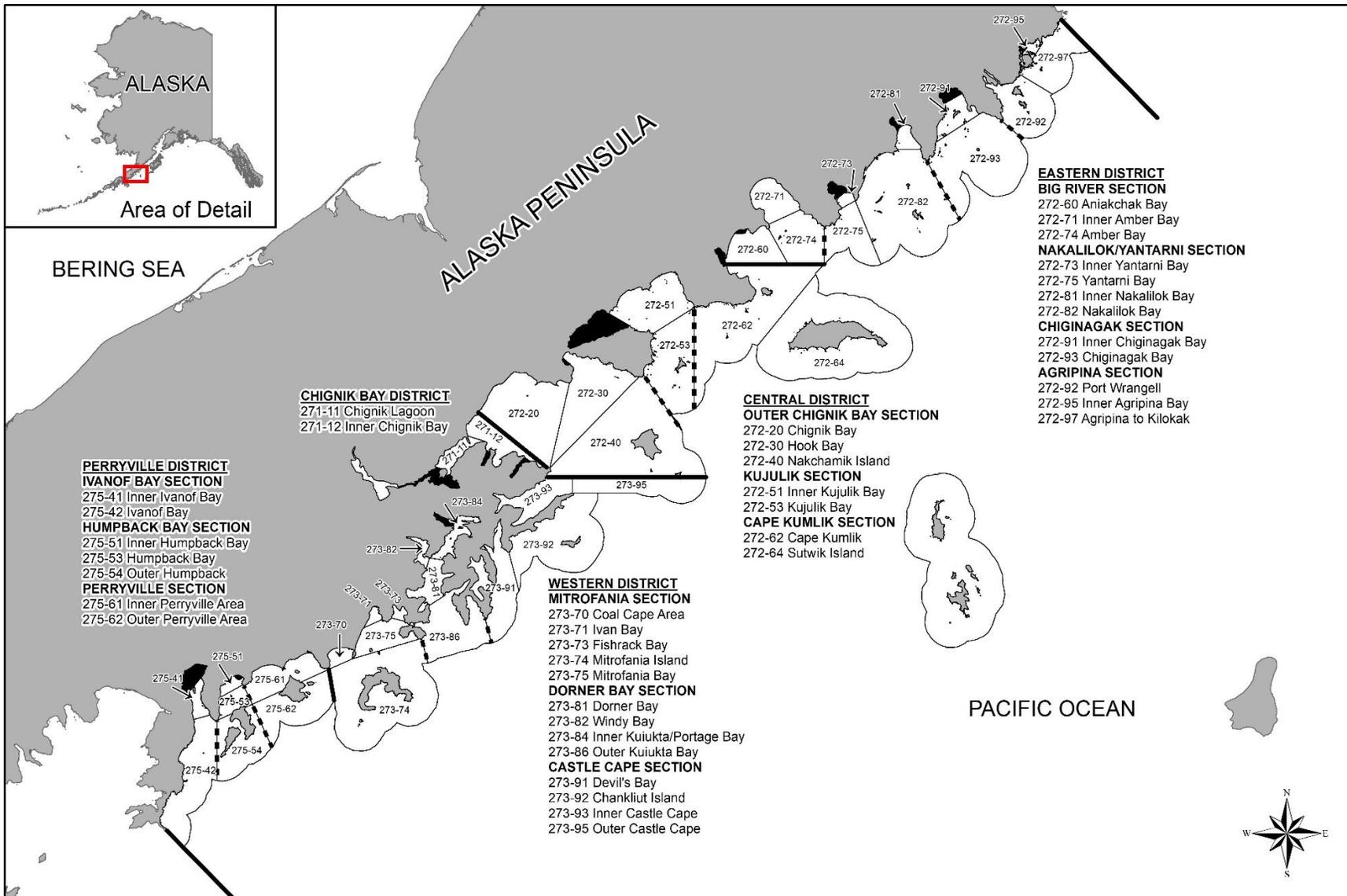


Figure 1.—Map of the Chignik Management Area illustrating district, section, and statistical area boundaries.

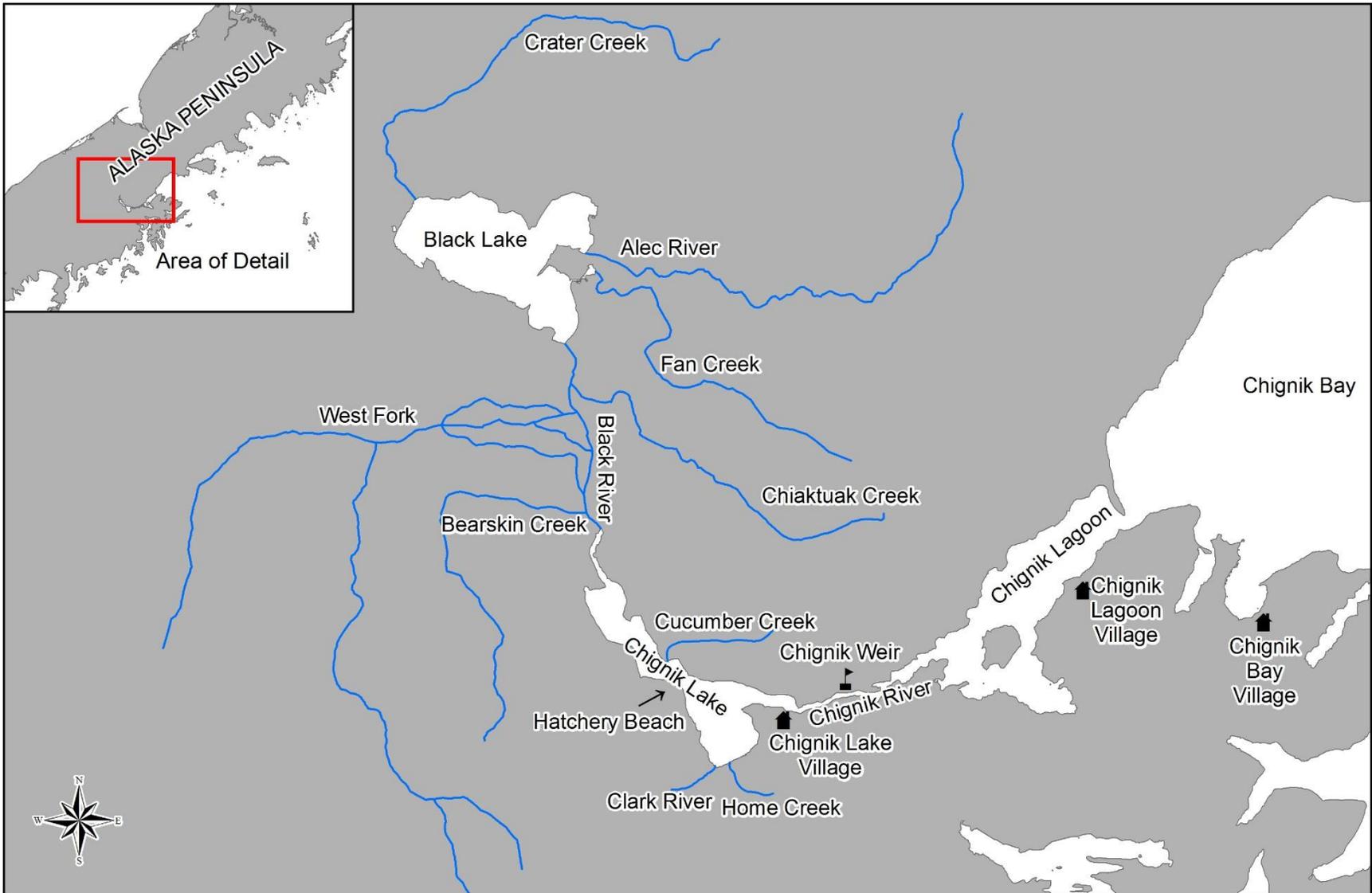


Figure 2.—Map of the Chignik River watershed.

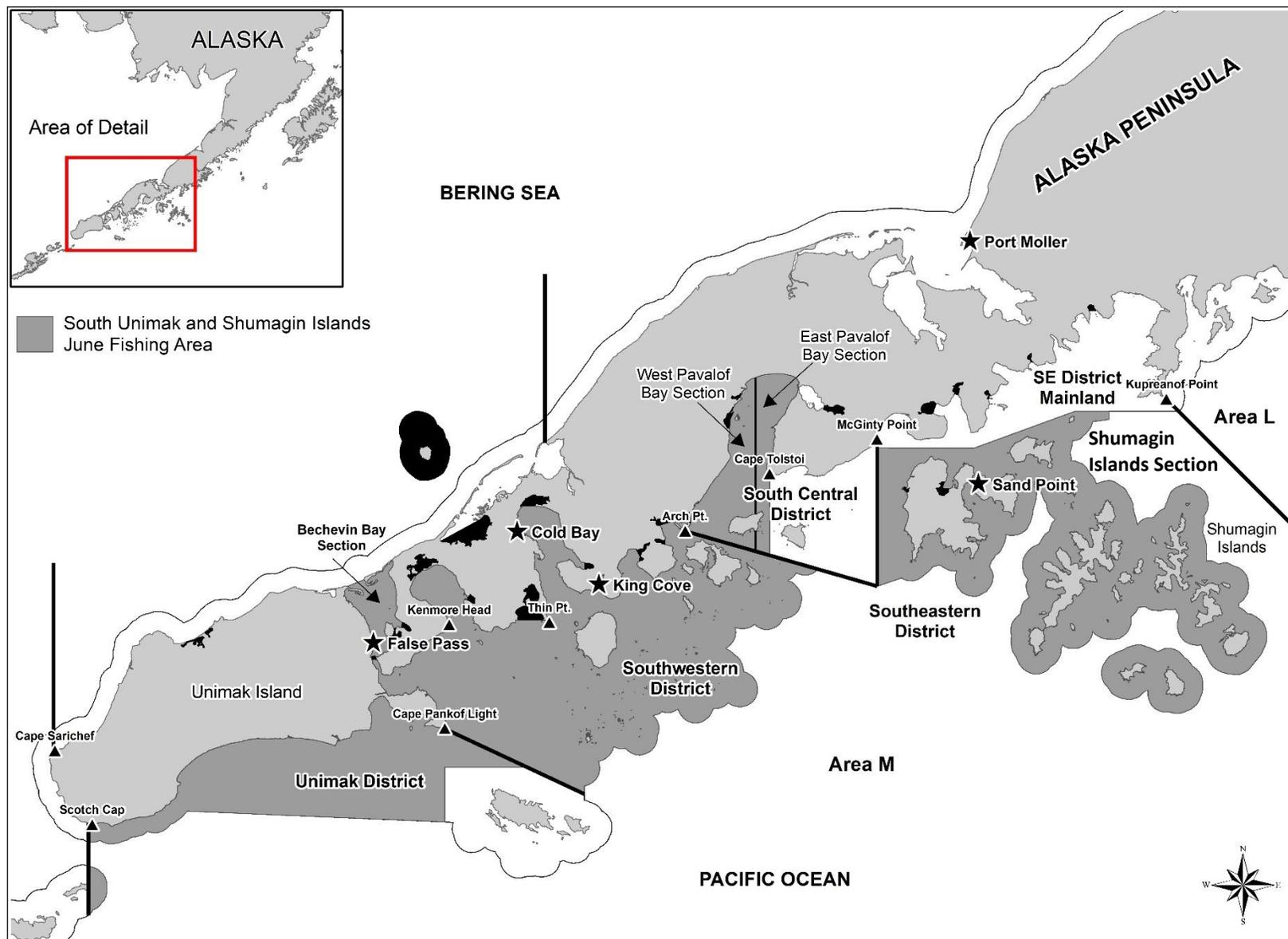


Figure 3.—Map of South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries with areas open to fishing defined.

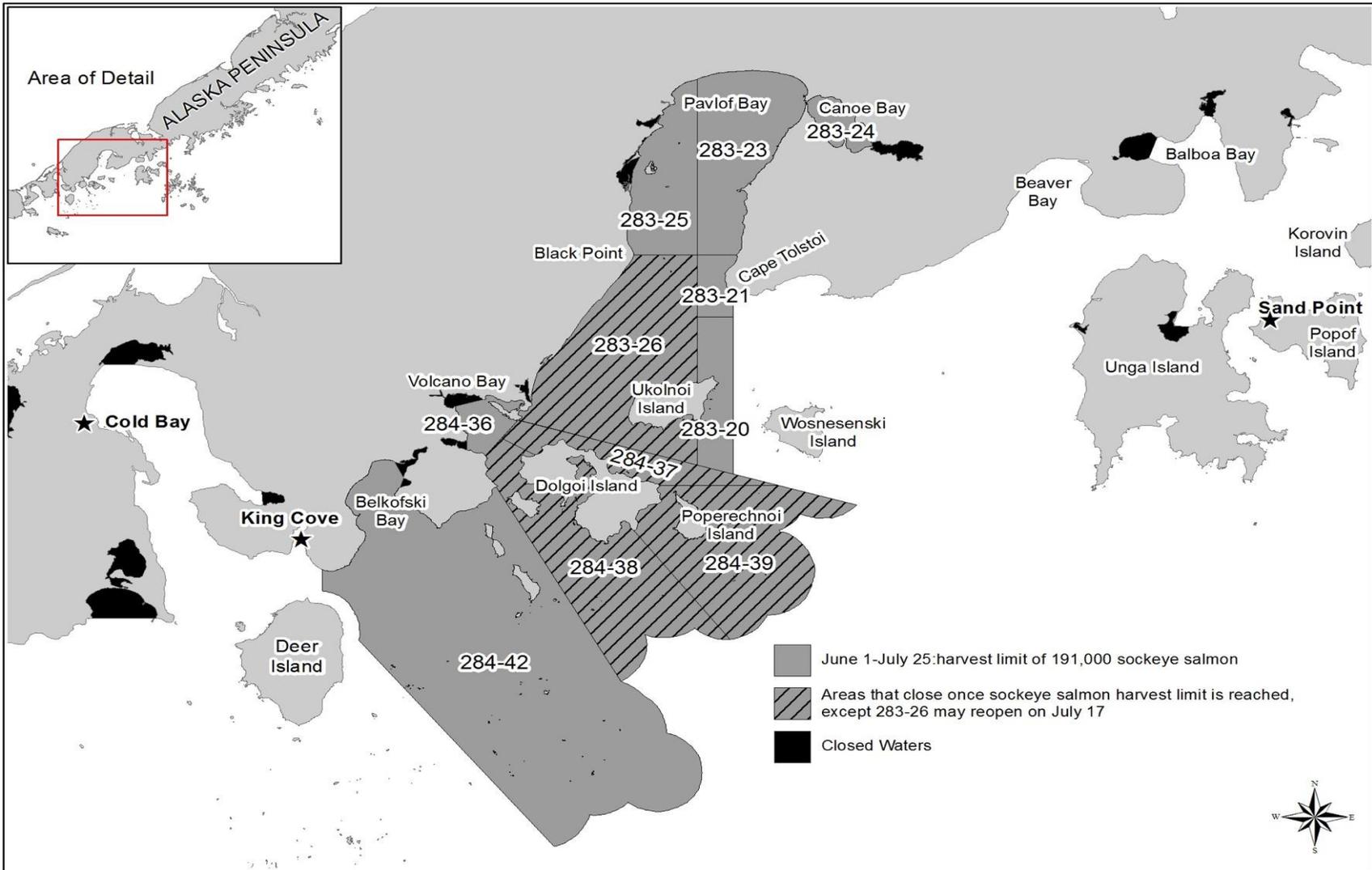


Figure 4.—Map depicting the statistical areas (283-20 through 283-26 and 284-36 through 284-42) that contribute to the “Dolgoi Island area” sockeye salmon harvest for the June Management Plan.

## **APPENDIX A**

Appendix A1.– RC 94 from March 2022 Board of Fisheries Meeting: Chignik River Early-Run Sockeye Salmon Stock of Management Concern Designation.

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Board Member Wood RC094

**Chignik River Early Run Sockeye Salmon Stock of Management Concern Designation. Submitted  
by Board Member John Wood.**

March 29, 2022.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries designates the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon stock a Stock of Management Concern and directs the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to prepare a draft action plan that will be available for review prior to the February 13-17, 2023, Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands/Chignik Finfish meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

The draft action plan will describe a suite of potential management measures designed to rebuild the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon stock and will include a description of conditions that must be met to remove the Stock of Management Concern designation.

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Member Mitchell

RC104

3/29/2022

The framework below represents the understanding between the Chignik Intertribal Coalition and the Area M Seiners Association regarding how the Alaska Department of Fish and Game may manage fisheries to conserve Chignik River early run sockeye salmon in 2022 following the Alaska Board of Fisheries' designation of Chignik River early run sockeye salmon as a Stock of Management Concern. This framework is not an action plan and does not restrict the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's emergency order authority to manage salmon stocks for sustained yield in both the Chignik and South Alaska Peninsula Management Areas.

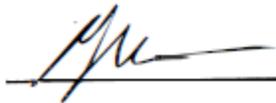
Based on early run sockeye salmon escapement at the Chignik Weir, fishing time for purse seine gear, during the second fishing period, under the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* would be reduced by 50%, in the Shumagin Islands Section, in order to achieve the lower bound of the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon escapement goal.

Fishing time for purse seine gear under the *South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Sockeye Salmon Management Plan* would continue being reduced during subsequent fishing periods to meet the lower bound of the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon escapement goal.

If the lower bound of the Chignik River early run sockeye salmon escapement goal is projected to be met restrictions in the South Alaska Peninsula fishery would be lifted and commercial salmon fishing periods in the Chignik Management Area may be warranted.

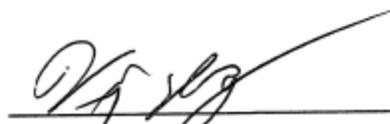
If the lower bound of the Chignik River sockeye salmon early run escapement goal is not projected to be met by July 1, a mixture of restrictions, including a 50% reduction in fishing time for purse seine gear during the first commercial salmon fishing period in July in the Shumagin Islands Section, would be applied to fishing opportunity in the South Alaska Peninsula Area under the *Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula* and in the Chignik Management Area. The department would attempt to balance providing harvest opportunity on Chignik late-run sockeye salmon in the Chignik Management Area, and local South Alaska Peninsula stocks in the South Alaska Peninsula Area while continuing to conserve Chignik early run sockeye salmon.

Subsistence fishing for sockeye salmon in the Chignik Management Area would not be restricted.



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George Anderson, Chignik Intertribal Coalition



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Kiley Thompson, Area M Seiners Association

## **APPENDIX B**



FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

## Federal Subsistence Board News Release



FOREST SERVICE

**For Immediate Release**  
July 12, 2018

**Contact: Jonathon Gerken**  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Federal Inseason Manager  
(907) 271-2776  
jonathon\_gerken@fws.gov

### **Chignik River Federal Subsistence Fishery for Chinook Salmon**

The Federal In-season Manager, pursuant to delegated authority from the Federal Subsistence Board under ANILCA Title VIII section 816, will issue an emergency special action (8-KS-01-18) to close fishing for Chinook Salmon to all users, non-federal and Federally qualified users, in Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage, effective 12:01 a.m. Friday July 13. This action is necessary to ensure the continued viability of the Chignik River Chinook Salmon population. This action prohibits all fishing for Chinook Salmon and they may not be retained or possessed. Chinook Salmon accidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

The biological escapement goal for Chinook Salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 1,300 to 2,700 fish. The weir count as of July 11 was 229 Chinook Salmon. Based on historical run timing, approximately 40% of the escapement has occurred by July 11, and the current projected total escapement is approximately 550 fish. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers have implemented restrictions to sport and subsistence fisheries. No commercial fisheries have been implemented for the 2018 fishing year in the Chignik Area. Effective July 13, parallel with this emergency special action (8-KS-01-18) the Chignik River state subsistence fishery and sport fishery for Chinook Salmon will be closed.

For additional information, contact Federal Inseason Manager Jonathon Gerken at (907) 271-2776. Additional information about the Federal Subsistence Management Program can be found on the Web at <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence>.

-FSB-

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1011 East Tudor Road, Mail Stop 121, Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199 (800) 478-1456 or  
(907) 786-3888

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Land Management  
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## Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121  
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199



Forest Service

### SUBSISTENCE FISHING

#### EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19  
50 CFR 100.10 and .19

Emergency Special Action No: 8-SS-02-19

Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska, July 25, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 25, 2019

**EXPLANATION:** This Emergency Special Action rescinds Emergency Special Action No. 8-SS-01-19 and opens Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon by all users. This action is in response to the genetic stock composition of Chignik River drainage Sockeye Salmon being comprised predominantly of late run Sockeye Salmon. The late run Sockeye Salmon is expected to meet escapement goals and provide subsistence harvest opportunity.

Individuals should consult both State and Federal fishing regulations prior to fishing. A Federal subsistence harvest permit is required while using legal subsistence gear types to fish in Federal waters, and must be in the possession of the individual(s) operating the gear. Federal subsistence harvest permits are available at local tribal council offices or by contacting the Federal in-season manager.

**REGULATION:** 36 CFR 242.27(e)(8) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(8) read:

*(i) You may take fish other than salmon, rainbow/steelhead trout, or char at any time, except as specified by a subsistence fishing permit. For salmon, Federal subsistence fishing openings, closings and fishing methods are the same as those issued for the subsistence taking of fish under Alaska Statutes (AS 16.05.060), unless superseded by a Federal Special Action. Within the Chignik Area, depending upon the area that you may fish, in addition to a State subsistence fishing permit, you may be required to also have a Federal subsistence permit.*

*(ii) You may take salmon in the Chignik River, with rod and reel, from a point 300 feet upstream of the ADF&G weir to Chignik Lake from January 1 through August 9, with no daily harvest or possession limit under the authority of a Federal subsistence fishing permit. You may take salmon by gillnet in Black Lake or any tributary to Black or Chignik Lakes with a Federal subsistence fishing permit. You may take salmon in the waters of Clark River and Home Creek from their confluence with Chignik Lake upstream 1 mile. In the open waters of Clark River and Home Creek you may take salmon by snagging (handline or rod and reel), spear, bow and arrow, or capture by hand without a permit. The daily harvest and possession limits using these methods are five per day and five in possession.*

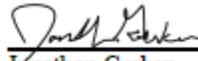
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*(ix) Unless reopened by the Federal in-season manager, Federal public waters in that portion of the Chignik River drainage that are within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge are closed to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon except by a Federally qualified subsistence user in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit.*

*A Federally qualified subsistence user in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit may retain Sockeye Salmon using any legal gear.*

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:



Rectangular Snip

Jonathon Gerken  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Chignik Area In-season Manager  
Anchorage Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office

**JUSTIFICATION:** The biological escapement goal for early-run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 350,000 – 450,000 fish. The total weir escapement estimate as of July 23 was 506,892 Sockeye Salmon. Historical run timing indicates that approximately 94% of the escapement for the early-run Sockeye Salmon has occurred by July 25, and the July 19 genetic stock composition estimate was greater than 80% late-run fish. Based on the current rate of escapement, it is unlikely that the lower end of the escapement goal for early-run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage will be achieved. Late-run Sockeye Salmon are expected to meet escapement goals and provide subsistence harvest opportunity. The restrictions implemented through Emergency Special Action 8-SS-01-19 are no longer necessary as the escapement is now primarily composed of later-run Sockeye Salmon. Impacts to the early-run Sockeye Salmon harvest are likely minimal at this point in the Chignik River drainage Sockeye Salmon run.

This action was taken following consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers. The Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council (Chair and other members) and Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge Manager have been notified, as well as local users of Federal subsistence permits. This action was taken following conversations with Federally qualified subsistence users and potential impacts to all subsistence users were considered, the public announcement was made in a timely manner, and this action fulfills the intent of Title VIII of ANILCA.

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### SUBSISTENCE FISHING

#### EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19  
50 CFR 100.10 and .19

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Emergency Special Action No: 8-SS-01-20 Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska, June 17, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, June 18, 2020

**EXPLANATION:** This Emergency Special Action closes Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon except by Federally qualified subsistence users, beginning 12:01 am on June 18, 2020, through July 31, 2020. This action is necessary to ensure the conservation of healthy populations of Chignik River Sockeye Salmon and the continuation of subsistence uses. Sockeye Salmon may only be harvested by Federally qualified subsistence users who are residents of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, or Perryville who are in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit during this time.

Individuals should consult both State and Federal fishing regulations prior to fishing. A Federal subsistence harvest permit is required while using legal subsistence gear types to fish in Federal public waters, and must be in the possession of the individual(s) operating the gear. Federal subsistence harvest permits are available at the Tribal Councils of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, and Perryville or by contacting the Federal in-season manager.

**REGULATION:** 36 CFR 242.27(e)(8) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(8) read:

*(ix) Unless reopened by the Federal in-season manager, Federal public waters in that portion of the Chignik River drainage that are within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge are closed to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon except by a Federally qualified subsistence user in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit.*

*A Federally qualified subsistence user in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit may retain Sockeye Salmon using any legal gear*

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:

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Jonathon Gerken  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Chignik Area In-season Manager  
Anchorage Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office

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**JUSTIFICATION:** The biological escapement goal for early run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 350,000 – 450,000 fish. The weir escapement estimate as of June 16 was 8,868 Sockeye Salmon, which is well below the 95,000 – 125,000 expected for this point in the run. Based on the current rate of escapement, it is unlikely that the lower end of the escapement goal for early-run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage will be achieved. These low returns of early run Sockeye Salmon decrease fishing efficiency for Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest subsistence fish. Through Section 815 of Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), this Emergency Special Action closes fishing for Sockeye Salmon except for Federally qualified subsistence users who retain a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit. This is in support of the conservation of healthy populations and the continuation of subsistence uses on public lands.

This action: 1) falls within the geographic and regulatory scope of delegation; 2) is needed immediately; 3) is consistent with assessment projects; and 4) is likely to achieve desired results.

This action was taken following consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers. The communities of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, and Perryville submitted a joint letter in support of this action dated June 16, 2020. The Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council (Chair and other members) and Alaska Peninsula/Becherof National Wildlife Refuge Manager have been notified, as well as local users of Federal subsistence permits. This action was taken following conversations with Federally qualified subsistence users and potential impacts to all subsistence users were considered, the public announcement was made in a timely manner, and this action fulfills the intent of Title VIII of ANILCA.

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Forest Service

### SUBSISTENCE FISHING

#### EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19  
50 CFR 100.10 and .19

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Emergency Special Action No: 8-SS-01-21 Issued at: Anchorage, Alaska, July 7, 2021 Effective

Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 8, 2021

• Rectangular Snip

**EXPLANATION:** This Emergency Special Action closes Federal public waters of the Chignik River drainage to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon except by Federally qualified subsistence users, beginning 12:01 am on July 8, 2021, through July 31, 2021. This action is necessary to ensure the conservation of healthy populations of Chignik River Sockeye Salmon and the continuation of subsistence uses. Sockeye Salmon may only be harvested by Federally qualified subsistence users who are residents of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, or Perryville who are in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit during this time.

Individuals should consult both State and Federal fishing regulations prior to fishing. A Federal subsistence harvest permit is required while using legal subsistence gear types to fish in Federal waters, and must be in the possession of the individual(s) operating the gear. Federal subsistence harvest permits are available at the Tribal Councils of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, and Perryville or by contacting the Federal in-season manager.

**REGULATION:** 36 CFR 242.27(e)(8) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(8) read:

*(ix) Unless reopened by the Federal in-season manager, Federal public waters in that portion of the Chignik River drainage that are within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge are closed to the harvest of Sockeye Salmon except by a Federally qualified subsistence user in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit.*

*A Federally qualified subsistence user in possession of a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit may retain Sockeye Salmon using any legal gear*

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:

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Jonathon Gerken  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Chignik Area In-season Manager  
Anchorage Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office

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**JUSTIFICATION:** The biological escapement goal for early run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage is 350,000 – 450,000 fish. The cumulative weir count as of July 5 is 192,403 early-run and 15,861 late-run Sockeye Salmon resulting in a total of 208,264 fish. The interim escapement objective for July 5 is 300,000 – 390,000 fish. Based on the current rate of escapement, it is unlikely that the lower end of the escapement goal for early-run Sockeye Salmon in the Chignik River drainage will be achieved. The early-run is approaching the average three-quarter point, which occurs during the week of July 5. As such, the Federal Inseason manager has been speaking with Chignik Area villages to understand how subsistence fishing has progressed. Chignik Lake subsistence fishing was characterized as slow with 50% harvest completed on July 1. An additional meeting with the Chignik Lagoon subsistence fishing community will occur on July 9.

The ten-year average (2010 – 2019), genetic proportions of early-run and late-run Sockeye Salmon for July 5 are 70% early-run and 30% late-run. It is typical for the late-run Sockeye Salmon run to be a larger proportion during the week of July 19. The action is in place until July 31, 2021. This action may be rescinded once late-run Sockeye Salmon make the greater portion of the run and impacts of additional subsistence harvest to the early-run are reduced.

These low returns of early run Sockeye Salmon decrease fishing efficiency for Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest subsistence fish. Through Section 815 of Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), this Emergency Special Action closes fishing for Sockeye Salmon except for Federally qualified subsistence users who retain a Federal Subsistence Harvest Permit. This is in support of the conservation of healthy populations and the continuation of subsistence uses on public lands.

This action: 1) falls within the geographic and regulatory scope of delegation; 2) is needed immediately; 3) is consistent with assessment projects; and 4) is likely to achieve desired results.

This action was taken after notifying the Alaska Department of Fish and Game fishery managers. The community of Chignik Lake was consulted on July 1, 2021 via teleconference. Additional consultations are forthcoming with the community of Chignik Lagoon via teleconference on July 9, 2021. The Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council (Chair and other members) and Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge Manager have been notified, as well as local users of Federal subsistence permits. This action was taken following conversations with Federally qualified subsistence users and potential impacts to all subsistence users were considered, the public announcement was made in a timely manner, and this action fulfills the intent of Title VIII of ANILCA.

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-continued-



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• Rectangular Snip

Anthony Christianson, Chair, Federal Subsistence Board  
Molly Chythlook, Chair, Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Debbie Carlson, Chignik Bay Tribal Council  
Michelle Anderson, Chignik Lagoon Village Council  
Clinton Boskofsky, Chignik Lake Traditional Council  
Dana Lee Phillips, Native Village of Perryville  
Reid Johnson, Chignik Management Area Manager, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Michelle Stratton, Chignik Management Area Assistant Manager, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Jeff Wadle, Westward Region Management Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Ben Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Mark Burch, Special Projects Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Amee Howard, Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management  
George Pappas, State Subsistence Liaison, Acting Fisheries Division Lead,  
Office of Subsistence Management Orville Lind, Native Liaison, Office of  
Subsistence Management  
Donald Mike, Bristol Bay Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management  
Jarred Stone, Fisheries Biologist, Office of Subsistence Management  
Susan Alexander, Alaska Peninsula NWR Refuge Manager, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Karen Cogswell, Acting Regional Director, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Jill Klein, Interagency Staff Committee, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Pete Fasbender, Assistant Regional Director, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
David Wigglesworth, Deputy Assistant Regional Director, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Crystal Leonetti, External Affairs, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Rory Stark, Law Enforcement, US Fish and Wildlife Service

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