

BBEDC Positions on Alaska Peninsula / Aleutian Island / Chignik Finfish Proposals

BBEDC opposes proposals 113, 115, 119-126, 134, 137-139, 142, 144-146, 149, 150, & 153 that increase fishing time, area, or gear. Current concerns for Western Alaska king & chum salmon stocks do not warrant increased harvest opportunities in these mixed stock fisheries. At a time when these stocks are facing ongoing uncertainty, we should remain precautionary and focused on minimizing additional impacts rather than increasing access or effort.

BBEDC supports proposals 110, 147, 148, & 152 to reduce the amount of gear in the water. Reducing the depth of seine, driftnet, and setnet gear to help prevent the catch of deeper-swimming salmon species like king and chum that are bound for Western Alaska or other Alaskan river systems represents a reasonable, targeted step to reduce impacts on stocks of concern.

BBEDC supports proposals to reduce fishing time, area, and gear. As presented in the Summary of Results in ADF&G's Preliminary Genetic Stock Composition of Chinook Salmon Harvested in Commercial Salmon Fisheries of the South Alaska Peninsula and Chignik, 2024–2025, "Of the Alaska stocks, the only reporting group estimates at or above 10% in any strata were for the Kuskokwim/Bristol Bay stock group. This group was present in the largest percentages in the gillnet fisheries (average 44.5%; Tables 10, 17) and in the Unimak and Southwestern districts seine fisheries (average 34.0%; Tables 9, 14–15)." Given the large percentage of Kuskokwim/Bristol Bay stocks caught in these fisheries, BBEDC supports a reduction in fishing time, area, and gear.