

Comments on RC 181

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Area M Setnetter fishing South Eastern District

Comments to RC 181 submitted by CIC

Slide 1 excluded the SEDM catch, from 1979 to 2000 the **majority of setnet catch came from SEDM and Northwest Stepovak**. Between 2001 and 2025 the fleet shifted to the Shumigans and other areas in the South Peninsula. It isn't an increase in catch, it is because the fleet had to move to Shumigans and other places. The added time in June for setnet did give more time, of which more fish did get caught. Now for Chignik to say these fish were not deserved for setnetters in the South Peninsula, is wrong.

Slide 2, shows increase in setnet catch after 2001, which is from the increased time for Unimak. **Pre 2000 the Unimak setnetters were so restricted by restricted time and chum caps**, and red salmon allocation towards Bristol Bay. Why is Chignik worried about Unimak? There are hardly any Chignik fish migrating through Unimak. We move to the South Peninsula because we have to buy regulations and restrictions. Every setnetter has a preferred spot to fish, mine is South Eastern District, Shumigan Islands.

Slide 3, in Shumigan Islands time was restricted between 1979 and 2000, and the main area setnetters wanted to fish in and did was SEDM. That shifted after 2004 to Shumigans, because of time to fish. Its not increasing in fish, it is moving the setnet fleet to fish. It is proven the Shumigans have less migrating salmon stocks bound for Chignik traveling through the Shumigans, **I would think Chignik would be ecstatic about the setnet fleet having to move to the Shumigans.**