



Dolgoi Area: in June by 66% for drift net and purse seine gear, and a 71% reduction in fishing hours for set net fishermen. In July, there would be a 49% reduction of fishing hours for all gear types. These Shumagin/Dolgoi restricted fishing times *could* then be lifted if “the department expects the mid-point of the Chignik early-run escapement to be met or Chignik has its first salmon opening”.

The Shumagin Islands Section and the ‘Dolgoi Island Area’ restrictions, added to the Southeast District Mainland that has been closed to fishing for the past four (4) years, represent a majority of the South Alaska Peninsula salmon fishing grounds. Further restrictions in these historical fishing areas right outside of the communities of Sand Point and King Cove will damage and likely end some local fishing businesses.

The problem Chignik residents are trying to solve by further closing South Alaska Peninsula fisheries, is the low Chignik sockeye salmon early-run or Black Lake returns. However, Chignik residents are also “concerned that ongoing geomorphic changes in the Chignik watershed, specifically those impacting Black Lake water levels, pose a risk to salmon and their rearing habitat,” according to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), currently updating a 2012 study on the Black Lake/Chignik Ecosystem.

The Board voted to accept ACR 7 four to two, with one recusal. Newly appointed Board Member Indy Walton, a Bristol Bay fisherman, was recused from voting or participating in deliberations on four of the 14 ACRs including #7, due to a fractional ownership share in Silver Bay Seafoods. Board members John Jensen and Gerad Godfrey voted against, while Israel Payton, Märit Carlson-Van Dort, John Wood and McKenzie Mitchell voted to accept. Three of those members, Carlson-Van Dort, Wood and Mitchell, traveled out to Chignik this summer.

Board of Fish policy on accepting ACRs is to only accept an agenda change request for a fishery conservation purpose or reason, to correct an error in a regulation or to correct an effect on a fishery that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted. Additionally, the policy states that the board will not accept an ACR that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of new information found by the board to be compelling. Both Board members Jensen and Godfrey noted that the ACR/proposal is allocative, and as such should be taken up during the regular meeting scheduled for February 2023. ADF&G Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang also noted during deliberation that escapement goals would be evaluated during the next regular cycle. Given the concerns around failing production in the Chignik lakes system, escapement goals for the early run may be changed, thus requiring the Board to reopen this management plan yet again to consider any changes to the escapement.

The on-time comments opposed to ACR 7 outnumbered the written comments in support, 24 to 8. The Aleutians East Borough submitted comment during the meeting, RC 17, noting that the March Board Statewide Shellfish meeting will occur during the local Sand Point & King Cove State Pacific cod fishery. The Board Chair, however, scheduled ACR 7 deliberations for the March meeting. The AEB also noted that fishermen expect members of the Board to visit AEB communities before deliberation of this out-of-cycle proposal, given that several Board members traveled to Chignik this summer.

The AEB Natural Resources Department plans to meet with fishermen next week to discuss the best way to prepare for the March 2022 Board of Fisheries meeting that will address the South Alaska Peninsula Salmon management plan.

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## **AEB Seafood Raffle Drawing to occur during November 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly Meeting**

The Seafood Raffle tickets can still be purchased for ten dollars at AEB offices in Sand Point, King Cove and Anchorage until noon, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Drawings for the cases of seafood and other prizes will be held during the November 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 regular AEB Assembly meeting. Local seafood processors Trident Seafoods, Silver Bay Seafoods and Peter Pan Seafoods all contributed seafood to benefit local young fishers. Prizes include 1 case frozen Dungeness crab, 1 case frozen sockeye fillets, 2 cases canned salmon, 3 15lb. boxes of frozen shatter pack cod and 5 excellent AEB coffee mugs. Hurry to get your raffle tickets!

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