SALMON MANAGEMENT OPTION HEARING SUMMARY

Date: March 27, 2006
Location: Chateau Westport
Westport, WA

Hearing Officer: Mr. Bob Alverson
Other Council Members:
Mr. Phil Anderson
Mr. Mark Cedergreen
Mr. Jim Harp

NMFS: Dr. Peter Dygert
Coast Guard:
Salmon Team Member: Mr. Doug Milward
Council Staff: Dr. Kit Dahl

Organizations Represented: Washington Trollers Association,
Oregon Trollers Association,
Ilwaco Charterboat Association
Westport Charterboat Association,
Willapa Bay Gillnetters Association

Synopsis of Testimony

Of the 9 people testifying:

• 5 commented primarily on the commercial troll fishery.
• 2 commented primarily on the recreational (charterboat) fishery.
• 2 commented primarily on the gillnet fishery.

Special Opening Remarks

Mr. Doug Milward reviewed options for the commercial and sport salmon seasons.

Commercial Troll Comments

• Address problems in Klamath River, do not take it out on ocean fishers.

• Favor an option in the Option I-II range with a 75 fish limit for 3-day openers and 100 fish for 4 days; July 15th opener; plugs with 4 Chinook limit in the northern area; 2:1 halibut retention ratio

• Consider all-gear proposal for fin-clipped coho.

• Consider trade between sport and troll.

• Consider 2-quota package (as in 1996) if emergency rule implemented.
• Would like more information on Canadian interceptions, particularly Coweeman and Snake River fall; emergency rule process; yelloweye rockfish situation, especially proposed new closed area.

• Would like information on Klamath impacts north of Cape Falcon.

• Mark Klamath fish so ocean fishers can release them; selectively close and open areas to avoid impacts.

• Reduce whiting fishery salmon bycatch and make these fish available to troll fishery.

• Reevaluate September cutoff in Klamath model for assigning spawners to a particular year.

Recreational Comments

• Recognize linkages between south of Cape Falcon fisheries and north of Cape Falcon. Do not allow North of Falcon fisheries to be painted into a corner during the upcoming Council meeting.

• Make unused impacts south of Cape Falcon available to north of Cape Falcon fisheries.

Commercial Gillnet Comments

• Would like opportunity to take surplus (to escapement) fish entering Willapa Bay in gillnet fishery.

• Economic impact study needed on shutdown of summer gillnet fishery in Willapa Bay.

• Washington State fish manager should model impacts of taking surplus fish in Willapa Bay.

• Opposed to sport/troll trade.

Written Statements (Attached)

None.

PFMC
03/30/06