6 April 2006

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Theodore Kulongoski
Governor of Oregon
160 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4047

RE: Request for Joint State Action to Address Klamath River Salmon Crisis

Dear Governors:

The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations (PCFFA) respectfully requests your development of a joint Oregon-California state action plan to address the current crisis in the Klamath River and its salmon stocks that affects the fisheries, citizens and economies of both the states.

At the outset, we wish to thank you both for your assistance to date. Governor Schwarzenegger, your California Resources Agency has been outspoken in its calls for fixes in the Klamath Basin, from the late summer 2002 spawner fish kill to the current negotiations aimed at resolving the problems created by the four PacifiCorps dams on the mainstem Klamath. Governor Kulongoski, you have provided badly needed leadership, too, demonstrated last week by your calling an “emergency summit” on Tuesday to mobilize state and federal agencies to provide relief for fishermen and their communities and for your staff to report by 14 April on steps the state can take in response to the economic hardship heading for Oregon’s salmon fleet and its coastal economy.

We believe the time is now for the two states to jointly develop a plan aimed at addressing the environmental and economic needs of the basin’s fish and the fisheries and the wide swath of West Coast affected by actions in the Klamath.

Joint action is certainly called for. The actions in a river system in one state, we have learned, affect the fisheries and citizens of another, as assuredly as they would if one were downstream of the other. California has an interest in the Columbia, since listed stocks of Snake River salmon can affect fisheries pursued off California. Oregon has an interest in the Sacramento and the rest of the Central Valley river system that produces much of the salmon harvested offshore Oregon. And while the salmon problems in the Klamath may be occurring on the California side, actions
PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION
of FISHERMEN’S ASSOCIATIONS

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upstream in Oregon can affect the survival of the fish downstream and Oregon’s salmon fisheries and coastal economies are directly affected, as we saw last year and this year, by federally imposed fishing restrictions for the Klamath.

It is an understatement to say we are in a crisis right now, desperately in need of leadership. Fishing didn’t cause the problem in the Klamath, as any reputable scientist will confirm. The fish kills that occurred from 2002 forward that have led to the low numbers of Klamath salmon could have been prevented by the federal government or at least mitigated, but that did not happen. The federal government’s response to its failure - to close the fishery - is unconscionable. Moreover, for them not to have a plan in place to address and prevent the parasitic infestation in the mainstem of the river is grossly irresponsible. Although the recent rains and good snowpack may provide some relief, we cannot be sure die-offs will not continue in the river this year or in the next few years until some of the promised long-term fixes are in place. This is why your leadership is needed and why a joint state action plan is warranted.

We are requesting a joint state plan of action that would include the following five elements:

**Intervention – Action Plan to Prevent Further Die-Offs in the River**

The first thing we believe is called for is the implementation of an immediate plan in the basin to prevent the parasitic infestation of salmon in the river and any further die-offs of the juvenile fish. Such a plan should have been in place at least two years ago and could have mitigated the impact of the parasite in the mainstem of the river – a reported 80 percent of the juvenile fish were infected, with a near 100 percent mortality resulting from the parasitic infestation. Bear in mind the removal of the dams is probably at least a decade away and other fixes will take time to put in place; we need a plan now to address the fish die-offs taking place in the river, so there will be fish to repopulate the basin when the long-term fixes are implemented.

Without an implementable action plan to prevent the die-offs, we may as well have a full-on fishery this year in the ocean, since the fish that escape to the river or their progeny will likely be lost to the parasites or from other adverse conditions in the river. We need to be sure that any sacrifices made by fishermen – commercial, recreational and tribal – will in fact benefit the resource and are not wasted due to agency inaction and failure to address in-river conditions.

To this end, we suggest you call for an immediate meeting in the region – either Eureka/Arcata, Yreka or Klamath Falls - within the next two weeks to bring together the key fishery biologists, as well as water managers, from the two state fishery agencies, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Yurok, Hupa and Karuk tribes, academia, and a few key representatives from the fishery (commercial and recreational) organizations, to develop a plan of action for protecting the fish in-river over the intervening period until such time as the long-term fixes are put in place.

Some of the elements of such a plan we recommend for consideration, include:

1) Implementing and funding an active and thorough monitoring for water quality and parasites in the river – from Iron Gate Dam to the mouth;
2) Continuing the current fish monitoring program in the basin (the funds for this will soon run out);

3) Developing methods to assist the fish in avoiding infested areas of the river or to better survive those areas, that may include: a) trapping juvenile fish and trucking them around problem areas in the river; b) providing fish flows adequate to move the fish safely through problem areas of the river; c) grow-out pens adjacent to the tributaries for rearing the naturally spawned fish to a larger size to increase their survival in the river; and

4) Fully-funding a fish health program to help our understanding of the river’s parasites that can provide guidance on avoidance measures.

Although some of these elements are in place, their continued funding is uncertain, or the funding is simply inadequate (e.g., fish health). And, there are no plans in place to save the fish in the event of another parasitic infestation. We think a meeting among some of the experts familiar with the river, is needed to put together such a plan and identify the funding needs as quickly as possible. Funding this is mainly a federal responsibility and that is where we would anticipate where the monies would be coming from (e.g., an increase in the appropriation for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Restoration Fund).

Request an Emergency Rule to Allow Some Fishing

Commercial, recreational and tribal fishermen all recognize the fisheries will be restricted this year due to the low numbers of Klamath salmon and for a problem they did not cause. However, we believe the available science indicates some level of fishing is warranted to maintain our fishery infrastructures both to lessen the brunt of an even more severe economic hit, but also because a fishery below the established floor can be sustained over a short term period provided there are still enough spawners to maintain the run, and even more important that those returning fish are able to spawn and their progeny survive in the river so they can go to sea.

The 35,000 natural spawner floor for fall-run chinook salmon is designed to provide for maximum production from the Klamath River over the long-term given the current configuration of the system (i.e., the impassable PacifiCorp dams blocking passage to the upper watershed). Escapement levels have gone below the floor numerous times in the past and, indeed, some of the largest runs in recent history have been produced with an escapement of less than 20,000 natural-spawning fall-run chinook returning to the basin. The point is, the run will not collapse if the escapement is below the 35,000 floor or even at 20,000 fish, nor will it likely affect the time to rebuild the stocks once the problems in the river are addressed.

For the long-term we believe the science is solid supporting the 35,000 natural spawning escapement floor and would probably expect that floor to be raised at some point after the dams come down. For now, however, given the question of the survival of the fish in the river and until that immediate problem is fixed, and coupled with the economic losses – estimated at between a half and one billion dollars to the economies of the two states, it does not make sense to try to achieve something close to the floor. A number of around 20,000 makes more sense for this coming year and perhaps the next two years until the problems that have cropped up since 2002 in the river are addressed.
We should also point out that more than just the salmon fishery is affected here. Certainly if the federal government pursues a salmon closure, then it cannot justify a Pacific Whiting fishery south of the Columbia River because of that fishery’s bycatch of salmon. Any “science” trying to justify a salmon fishing closure while permitting the Pacific Whiting fishery south of the Columbia would be political, not biological.

We ask therefore that you jointly request the Secretary of Commerce for an emergency rule to allow for an ocean salmon fishery this year. This will lessen the economic impact, help maintain a fishery infrastructure for the future (which once lost may never rebuild) and, coupled with the in-river intervention plan outlined above, will do far more for the resource than the federal government’s current proposal to shut down salmon fishing and ignore the immediate threat of die-offs in the river.

Resolution of Basin Issues

Our third recommendation to you is to convene a series of meetings between representatives of Klamath Basin agriculture, the three tribes (Yurok, Hupa and Karuk) and the fishing community, to begin developing, together with agency fishery biologists and water managers, a long-term water strategy for the river to prevent the types of conflicts that arose in 2001 and 2002 and thereafter. The law is settled for now by Judge Armstrong’s decision of the 27th on the flows – unless the federal government pursues an appeal. The good rainfall in the basin coupled with the large snowpack means that both irrigated agriculture in the basin and the fish will have adequate water for this year. This gives us the needed time to craft a solution for how to handle the normal and dry years. Water banking, some land retirement (from irrigation) and farming in the wildlife refuge consistent with the purposes of the refuge are the types of issues we would expect to see discussed in such negotiations, but these should not be seen as exclusive or any one of them necessarily a solution. We should note that private foundation funding is likely to be available for land retirement from willing sellers.

While there have been other efforts to bring together the river’s stakeholders, most of those have simply been talk. We need discussions that will lead to substantive decisions. And, we need your leadership to bring together such negotiations.

Disaster Relief

Even under the most optimistic of scenarios, any fishery this year will be greatly curtailed with economic losses to commercial fishermen, fish processors, recreational fishing businesses, and the vast infrastructure that supports both fisheries, along with the coastal communities. Some form of disaster relief is warranted, particularly since the problem here was not brought on by fishing. We don’t know what can be done for the tribes for their losses, but they certainly have to be considered in these calculations. To that end, we are requesting a disaster declaration for the salmon fishery from both of you and further ask that you request of the Congress an appropriation to provide funding under Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, 16 USC 1861(a), for the adversely impacted fisheries. We recognize the difficulty of this request, given the federal government is now running a nine trillion dollar deficit, there is no money in the MSA fund, and state funds (for any match) are tight, but the economic losses here are real and our fleets are every bit as devastated as those in Louisiana, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi from their vessel and gear losses resulting from hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
It is not simply funds for fishermen and affected businesses, however, which should be considered in any type of disaster relief. We should look to funding fishermen working in restoration efforts (similar to what took place after the 1994 disaster that resulted from a seven year drought and draw downs of salmon rivers) and in research projects to better detect where the various fish stocks are and means of targeting on abundant ones, while avoiding those of concern. This latter research effort is long overdue. Further, to help relieve some of the economic hurt from restrictions or closures some short-term terminal fisheries should be considered for river systems having abundant runs such as the Sacramento.

Press for Long-Term Solutions

Finally, we ask that you jointly press for the long-term solutions needed to fix the Klamath River. We urge the focus be centered on the foundation for that river’s recovery which is clearly flow and removal of the four PacifiCorp dams – Iron Gate, Copco I, Copco II and J.C. Boyle. These dams not only block fish migration to the upper basin, but exacerbate poor water quality in the mainstem of the river by heating up, in their shallow reservoirs during the summer, nutrient rich water that results in toxic algal blooms and hypoxia in the river below Iron Gate (the lowest dam on the river). We believe the water in the reservoirs and the discharges currently violate Clean Water Act standards and the answer is, clearly, the removal of the dams.

While there are many problems facing fish production in the Klamath, it is important that we first build the foundation for that restoration by addressing the problems in the mainstem. Without addressing the mainstem problems, all the good work that has been done in the tributaries is for nothing. Without adequate flow and good water quality on the mainstem of the river, everything in the tributaries is meaningless. Even the implementation of the Trinity River Record of Decision (ROD) and the positive effects it has had for fish in that Klamath tributary has been compromised when Trinity stocks become infected in the mainstem of the Klamath.

The leadership by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, in the discussions on relicensing of these dams by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, has been heartening on the federal side. However, as Governors, we need you to keep the pressure on so the decommissioning of PacifiCorp’s Klamath unit is not met with interminable delays as we’ve seen with planned dam removals on the Elwha River and Battle Creek.

We ask you set as a goal the removal of these dams within the decade. We also ask Oregon cease approving any further water appropriations from the Klamath River, and we ask California implement strong and effective TMDL’s (Total Maximum Daily Loading standards pursuant to the Clean Water Act) for the Klamath and its tributaries (e.g., Scott, Shasta).

Conclusion

The salmon fishery for Native Americans dates back 14,000 years; it has sustained native cultures and been an integral part of both their diet and religion. Salmon is the oldest non-native fishery on the west coast as well, dating back to the 1840’s when the fish were used to feed miners on the way to the goldfields. The fish and the fishery are part of our culture and cuisine too, providing jobs, recreation, food production and exports, sustaining our bodies and souls.
We must commit that we will not lose this fishery or these fish on our watch or ever. We cannot let this all be lost due to failed government policies, inaction and indifference. We urge your immediate action and leadership to save these fish and this fishery and bring about the changes needed for abundant fish stocks in the future and vibrant commercial, recreational and tribal salmon fisheries for the benefit of Oregonians, Californians and all Americans. We look forward to working with you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

W.F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr.
Executive Director

cc: Members of the Oregon and California Congressional Delegation
The Klamath clash

San Francisco Chronicle Editorial
Monday, April 3, 2006

THE KLAMATH may be the sickest river on the West Coast -- dammed, diverted and degraded. But if the competing interests along its shoreline can agree, the waterway's health could be revived.

The first-stage test is a decision later this week on reducing salmon fishing to conserve plummeting numbers of Klamath chinook. Federal authorities should keep at least part of the North Coast season open. Totally closing it would destroy fishermen's livelihood and harm harbor businesses, who suffered through a half-season last year.

But a change in fishing rules is only a start. There is plenty else to do: reviving the riverbed for salmon spawning, evening out waterflows that are diverted to farming with disastrous effects on fish and dealing with impacts from four dams near the Oregon border.

Until now, the federal government has been no help. In 2001, it set in motion policies that shunted water to farmers and left the lower Klamath River running so low that the year's salmon run was nearly wiped out. A federal court last week ordered a new policy to prevent a repeat.

That's not the only change brewing. The operator of the four power dams is engaged in closed-door talks that could yield improvements. Also, federal wildlife authorities, ineffective up to now, are pushing other Washington regulators to unblock a path to spawning grounds imposed by the dams.

Salmon need steady flows of cold, clean water. That sounds impossible in a region where Indian tribes, cattle operations, farms and timber companies all work the land and river.

But improved management and science have elevated salmon numbers on the nearby Sacramento, an even bigger river. It will take time and cooperation, but the Klamath can be saved.

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On the Klamath River, pain flows downstream
It's business as usual for irrigators and dam operators, while salmon and coastal towns suffer the consequences

The Oregonian  
Friday, March 10, 2006

Remember when the government shut off water to farmers in the upper Klamath Basin, and everybody from the White House to The Wall Street Journal came running to the rescue?

Well, where are they now that the feds are poised to shut off the economic lifeblood of coastal towns from central Oregon on down the full length of California, because the Klamath River is too shallow and sick to sustain salmon?

When it comes to economic power, political support and public sympathy, it sure makes a difference what end of the river you call home. It seemed like every elected official in Oregon trooped down to Klamath Falls during that long, hot summer of 2001 to stick up for the family farmer. Today, with federal fisheries officials talking seriously about shutting down fishing along 700 miles of coastline, there is no similar rush to the aid of the family fisherman.

Dave Bitts, vice president of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman Associations, a California fish lobby, predicted that one closed season would knock out much of the already weakened Pacific salmon fishing fleet. This is no small economic hit to the region: Salmon trolling and its associated jobs represent $150 million in economic activity in Oregon and California.

A full closure would be a tragedy for fishing ports and families up and down the coast. But at this point, it's hard to see how a fishing shutdown can be avoided this summer. Klamath River chinook populations have plunged below the numbers needed to sustain the species. Yes, there are many other salmon from other rivers in the ocean, but there is no selective way to harvest them without killing more Klamath salmon.

The real issue here is that the Klamath River is sick, rife with disease, dewatered by irrigation and blocked by dams. No one should lay all this at the feet of upper Klamath Basin farmers, who are among a cast of thousands, including huge agribusinesses in California's central valley, that rely on water from the Klamath River and its tributaries.

Yet if you want to understand who's won and who's lost the fight for water in the Klamath, look upriver, and look back to 2002. The farmers, thanks to the intervention of the Bush administration and Congress, got their water back. Then a few months later, an estimated 70,000 salmon, some of them chinook, died in the warm, diseased waters of the Klamath.

There's been a fierce debate about the cause of the die-off. However, an investigation by the California Department of Fish & Game blamed federal policies for the low, warm water and disease outbreak. However you want to assign blame, the region sure could use the offspring from those 70,000 Klamath fish about now.
Of course, that is warm water under the bridge. But what is still alive is the question of whether the federal government is willing to balance the economic interests of upstream and downstream communities, not just on the Klamath, but everywhere fish and fishermen continue to come in last.

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http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/editorialsopinion/2002850635_fished08.html

**Editorial: Klamath Basin salmon echoes**

*Seattle Times*

3/8/06

A sharply reduced salmon-fishing season may be the unhappy outcome of a meeting of policymakers in Seattle this week. They are dealing with poor decisions made by others five years ago in Oregon's Klamath Basin.

Dramatically reducing the season from Northern Oregon into California, a 700-mile stretch, is necessary to save chinook at sea as they commingle with other salmon. Protecting one means cutting back on the catch of all. The options for the Pacific Fishery Management Council range from bad to devastating, but the choices between levels of curtailment and outright ban are about saving a fishery. It's that fundamental.

Chinook runs on the Klamath River never rebounded from a historic fish kill in the basin in fall 2002, and from devastating and successive bouts of a parasite that claimed juvenile salmon.

In a region with complex water issues, a brutal political shorthand reduced the competition for water to one of fish vs. farmers. Agriculture had suffered through a terrible drought in 2001. Over the protests of federal agencies, the headgates were opened with a flourish in spring 2002 by two Bush administration Cabinet members to increase water for irrigation.

By fall, salmon died in numbers subsequently estimated at 70,000 because of low flows of warm water. An investigation by the California Department of Fish & Game laid the blame on the federal government for conditions that allowed disease to flourish and spread.

This fishery is dwarfed by the salmon harvest from Alaska and competition grows from farm-raised salmon, but the economic impact is still significant. The alternative, really not a choice at all, is to risk harm that jeopardizes incomes beyond recovery.

The council's final recommendation will come next month at a meeting in Sacramento. The hard choices driven by the Klamath experience come after a success story on the Sacramento River, which enjoyed a healthy rebound of salmon.

Poor choices five years ago in one basin haunt an entire industry.

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THE SEASON THAT GOT AWAY?
Salmon season at risk for state's fishermen

By Ken McLaughlin
San Jose Mercury News
Posted on Sat, Apr. 01, 2006

The picturesque harbors that dot the central and Northern California coast are unusually sleepy these days, and the fishermen are unusually angry.

The federal government is on the verge of canceling the salmon fishing season -- a move that would idle a $150 million industry and drive up the cost of the West's signature seafood.

Fishermen like Duncan MacLean of Half Moon Bay are being told they must sacrifice to save a strain of salmon that breeds 400 miles to the north in the once-mighty, now-sickened Klamath River.

The Klamath's parasite-infected water, too warm and clogged with toxic algae, is killing its fish. So regulators are proposing drastic steps to protect them, both in the river and in the ocean, where they mingle with more plentiful salmon from other West Coast tributaries.

"What's wrong with the Klamath has nothing to do with fishing," said a frustrated MacLean, 56, who makes his living crabbing and fishing for salmon out of Pillar Point Harbor. "But fishermen are paying the price. The federal regulators know what kind of economic hardships and devastation closing the salmon season will cause."

The powerful Pacific Fishery Management Council will meet in Sacramento next week to decide whether to cancel or drastically reduce the salmon season. The action would affect 700 miles of the Pacific coast, from Falcon Point in northern Oregon to Point Sur south of Monterey.

Though they spawn in specific rivers, salmon live much of their life in the ocean, where it is impossible to distinguish Klamath salmon from any other variety. "There's no way to tell which ones you're catching," said Brian Gorman, spokesman for the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The fishermen are furious at regulators for suggesting that the only way to protect salmon is to rope off a huge part of the ocean. Fishermen point out that there is no evidence ocean salmon are being overfished -- and that the salmon-rich Sacramento, Columbia and American rivers have been revived.

The way to solve the problem is to fix the Klamath, they say.

Gorman said this will be the third year that the number of Klamath salmon dips below a previously set "floor" of 35,000 spawners -- and the council's management plan calls for drastic measures if that happens.
Surprisingly, the government finds little support among environmental groups. They blame the Bush administration for triggering the Klamath fiasco by giving water to southern Oregon farmers in 2002 -- a decision that killed as many as 70,000 adult salmon.

"We are really sympathetic to the salmon fishermen," said Rod Fujita, a marine ecologist in the Oakland office of Environmental Defense. "Overfishing is not the problem. It's under-watering of the river."

The fishermen say that the "fishing infrastructure" in towns from Morro Bay to Moss Landing to Bodega Bay is so fragile that one lost salmon season could kill California's fishing culture.

"If we lose the processors and the businesses that buy the salmon, we'll lose the market and never get it back," said Monterey native Mike Ricketts, 70, who's been salmon fishing commercially for 35 years.

The Klamath debacle is the latest crisis facing commercial fishing in California. Global markets and the proliferation of fish farms have exported jobs and sent prices plummeting. Many fishermen feel they're under siege because of soaring fuel prices and the current movement to establish more marine reserves -- akin to oceanic national parks that provide a haven for sea life.

The uncertainty is already having a dramatic effect on fishing towns like Half Moon Bay, Santa Cruz, Moss Landing and Monterey. At this time of year, the harbors are usually buzzing with activity as excited salmon fishermen get their boats ready for the commercial season, which traditionally begins May 1 in California.

Not this year.

Joe Donatini, owner of Johnson Hicks Marine Electronics in Santa Cruz, said his sales are down more than 20 percent this month.

"Everybody is really still hesitant to go out there and spend a lot of money on electronic equipment until we know we will actually have a season," said Donatini, whose business sells GPS and radar devices, fish finders and auto pilots.

The recreational salmon season starts today, allowing sport fishermen to fish in state waters, three miles from shore. But the state Fish & Game Commission is expected to quickly end the season if regulators prohibit fishing in federal waters -- hurting businesses such as charter-boat companies and bait-and-tackle shops that depend on the recreational fishermen.

Canceling the salmon season will devastate the fishermen more than economically.

Many of the commercial salmon fishermen are in their 50s, 60s and 70s and see themselves as a dying breed. They have hands as weathered as their boats and faces creased through years of exposure to the sun, wind and constant spray of salt water.
"Salmon to the West Coast is like lobster to New England," said Zeke Grader, executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations in San Francisco.

"It's part of California's heritage," said Mike Stiller, current president of the Santa Cruz Commercial Fisherman's Association.

The collapse of the Klamath salmon runs can be traced to a drought in 2001, when federal authorities cut water deliveries to farmers in the Klamath basin, causing bankruptcies and other economic hardship among southern Oregon farmers.

A year later, then-Interior Secretary Gale Norton decided to open the headgates on irrigation canals in Klamath Falls, Ore., to give the farmers the water they needed. Environmentalists, American Indian groups and fishermen protested, predicting calamity for the fish downstream.

They were right. In September 2002, an environmental disaster left between 50,000 and 70,000 adult salmon rotting in the Klamath.

The California Department of Fish and Game concluded the fish kill -- the largest die-off of adult salmon ever recorded in the West -- was directly caused by Norton's decision to pump extra water to the farmers.

The administration was embarrassed again six months later when the Wall Street Journal reported that White House political strategist Karl Rove had worked behind the scenes to shore up Oregon's GOP agricultural base by pushing for a change in the Klamath policy.

Rep. Sam Farr, D-Salinas, said Friday that he agrees with fishermen who say federal agencies have not done enough to rescue the Klamath. And he hopes that regulators can be convinced to allow at least a partial salmon season -- a compromise now being proposed by fishermen.

"The only way to get attention to a problem in Washington is to create a crisis and hear the whistle blow," Farr said. "The whistle has certainly blown on this one, and the administration needs to show some leadership."

Contact Ken McLaughlin at kmclaughlin@mercurynews. com or (831) 423-3115.

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http://cbs5.com/localwire/localfsnews/bcn/2006/03/25/n/HeadlineNews/SALMON-SEASON/resources_bcn_html

**SALMON SEASON SEES FACE-OFF ON FISHING RESTRICTIONS**

*03/25/06 7:20 PST
Bay Cities News Service*
Salmon season in the Bay Area this year may offer slim pickings for fans of the popular fish when the Pacific Fishery Management Council decides in early April which level of restrictions on salmon fishing in California and Oregon to impose for 2006 - and opponents are already up in arms.

Diminished numbers of naturally spawning Klamath River Chinook salmon has prompted the council to consider three options for 2006 ocean salmon fisheries.

The three plans provide for various combinations of restrictions, including limits on the time and geographic area of the season and the size of catch permitted, according to council documents.

The April 2-7 meetings will involve public comment followed by a preliminary decision, and then consultations with scientists, more public comment and a revision of preliminary options, according to the council.

The final decision will be made late in the week either Thursday or Friday.

Critics of the plans to restrict salmon fishing include commercial, recreational and Karuk Nation fishers, according to Small Boat Commercial Salmon Fishing Association president Mike Hudson.

Canceling the salmon season could result in losses as high as $150 million, according to SBCSFA.

Consumer could face higher salmon prices too.

"We're probably talking in the neighborhood of $15 to $20 a pound," depending on the availability of Alaskan fish, said Zeke Grader, executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations.

Grader said that restricting fishing won't solve the real problem, the prevalence of the naturally occurring C. Shasta and two other viruses that in large quantities become deadly and infect young salmon once they reach the main stem of the Klamath River.

"It doesn't matter whether we're fishing or not, the fish are dying," he said.

"Our request is that all these problems the government has known about for years would be addressed," Hudson said. Hudson also argued that over-fishing is not the problem and urged the government to help bring "fresh, clean water," essential to the survival of salmon to the river.

"We would like to see the whole river system fixed in a way that is workable for us and the farmers and everybody, the whole neighborhood," he said.

SBCSFA and other opponents of the fishing ban are calling for Portland based utility PacifiCorp to take down "the antiquated complex of dams" it owns along the lower Klamath River. The four dams prevent fish from making their way along the river, he explained.
The Federal Regulatory Commission is in the process of considering whether to re-license the dams, a process that takes place once every 50 years, Hudson said.

In a statement Grader said "we cannot continue to give power companies free reign over our rivers. It is costing fishing families and their livelihoods and destroying salmon dependent Tribal cultures. It's time we fought back and held PacifiCorp accountable for the damage they have caused."

Hudson also stressed the importance of tracking river fish around hotspots in rivers.

The SBCSFA and other opponents to restrictions on salmon season will meet and rally in Santa Rosa on Tuesday, when the PFMC will meet to discuss which fishing restriction options to present at its April meetings.

The rally will include representatives of sport fishing organizations, a California commercial fishing fleet, recreational fishers' groups and a Karuk Nation fisherman.

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http://www.tidepool.org/original_content.cfm?articleid=187854

Net Loss for Salmon Fishermen

**What's behind the drastic call to ban the chinook catch**

by SETH ZUCKERMAN

*The Tidepool*

Posted 03.28.06

Sometime during the first week of April, regulators will decide whether to close a 700-mile stretch of the California and Oregon coasts to commercial salmon fishing, and much of the West Coast will learn whether locally caught king salmon will show up at fish markets this summer.

At first blush, it seems like a case of short-run consumption versus far-sighted conservation. But it's not that simple. It's a tale of the tangles that snarl the West when our appetites grow so big that there isn't enough to go around.

King salmon -- also known as chinook -- were hammered by twin catastrophes on the Klamath River in 2002-'03, when most of this year's catch would have hatched. Tens of thousands died in the fetid lower river on their way to reproduce. Then the progeny of the surviving spawners emerged into a river swarming with parasites, dooming the vast majority of fingerlings.

As a result, even without any fishing, just 29,000 Klamath chinook are expected to reach their spawning grounds this year -- below the minimum level needed to sustain the run, according to biologists. The anticipated fish number is just a few percent of the hordes that used to throng the river, originally the third-mightiest salmon producer in the Lower 48.
The proposal to take a break from fishing this year might be an open-and-shut case if Klamath chinook were the only fish affected. But the region's commercial salmon fishing occurs at sea, where Klamath fish mingle with much more numerous runs from other rivers. The Sacramento alone is expected to yield several hundred thousand catchable kings this year.

This system of ocean fishing, known as trolling, worked fine when all rivers produced relatively strong runs. Now, fishermen are held hostage to the weakest of them. This year, that's the Klamath.

Projections from the Pacific Fishery Management Council suggest that keeping the fishermen at their docks would save about 5,000 Klamath chinook, while letting nearly a quarter-million other kings off the hook.

As fishermen see it, that's a lot of fish to forgo just to let a few thousand more spawners take their chances in an inhospitable Klamath. Without efforts to address the root causes of the fishery's decline, says Zeke Grader, executive director of the Pacific Federation of Fishermen's Association, "putting fish back into a river that's killing them makes as much sense as tossing virgins into a volcano."

Behind the 2002-03 fish kills lies a river that is worked to the bone. Its upstream waters are captured to irrigate fields of hay, potatoes and barley near the California-Oregon border; several aging hydroelectric dams stopper its main stem; and its largest tributary is tapped for agribusiness hundreds of miles to the south, in California's Central Valley. With the Klamath's life-giving flow sidetracked, river conditions leave the salmon susceptible to infections like the ones that overtook them three years ago.

Unfortunately, the way the West is run, it's almost impossible to address those root causes comprehensively. The dams go up for relicensing before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Water diversions are the province of the Bureau of Reclamation and private irrigation districts. Fishing seasons are set by the Department of Commerce.

Apart from the difficulty of coordinating those agencies' efforts, any federal action these days is colored by the calculus of what seems like a perpetual campaign. As the Wall Street Journal uncovered in 2003, the decision to allow upstream farmers to irrigate full-bore in 2002 -- which precipitated subsequent salmon die-offs -- revolved around a photo of Republican Sen. Gordon Smith of Oregon opening the irrigation headgates as part of his re-election drive.

The effects may reverberate much longer than Smith's senate term. Fishermen worry that missing an entire season will cripple their industry. The salmon fleet in California and Oregon has dropped to less than a third of its 1990 numbers, at about 1,500 boats. By the time the salmon regain their strength, fishermen warn, condos and arcades are apt to have displaced their harbors' ice houses and fuel docks. At that point, the West Coast's fishing towns would become one more example of Old West resource-industry facades hiding New West gentrification within their hollow shells.
The saddest part of that scenario is that mining towns have inherently limited lifetimes, since they are based on finite deposits of minerals. But if we would take good care of salmon and their rivers, the story on the coast wouldn't have to end that way.

*Seth Zuckerman, the former publisher of Tidepool, also contributes to Writers on the Range. He divides his time between Seattle and his home on the northern California coast.*

Writers on the Range is an op-ed service of High Country News. Please contact Betsy Marston if you are interested in writing or buying articles.

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http://www.dailyastorian.com/main.asp?SectionID=2&SubSectionID=398&ArticleID=32143&T M=67024.02

**White House is ‘screwing fishermen’**

By KATE RAMSAYER  
*The Daily Astorian*  
3/24/2006 1:21:00 PM

Cutting fishermen’s salmon catch is not the way to recover healthy salmon runs, commercial and recreational fishermen agreed at the Fishermen’s Rally for Salmon Solutions Thursday in Astoria.

“Restricting fishing is not going to bring back the salmon,” said Hobe Kytr of Salmon for All. “It’s a smokescreen to focus on fishing restrictions and then ignore the hydropower system.”

A couple hundred fishermen and politicians at the rally in front of the Columbia River Maritime Museum voiced opposition to the Bush administration’s support for Northwest dams and policies that reduce fishing opportunities.

Studies have shown that the dams account for approximately 80 percent of salmon mortality in the Columbia River system, said Jim Wells, president of Salmon For All. Habitat loss accounts for another 15 percent, he said, and fishing of all kinds – tribal, commercial, and sport - makes up the remaining 5 percent of salmon deaths.

But the government’s response is to promote ways to curb fisheries.

“It’ll kill coastal communities like ours, it’s not the way to do it,” Wells said.

U.S. Rep. David Wu spoke to the assembled fishermen and warned the administration, and Bush’s environment and natural resources advisor James Connaughton, not to cut into the salmon catch.

“What we don’t need is some pencil-necked presidential science advisor come in here to build a wall between us and our river, between us and our fish,” Wu said.
The salmon crisis is the result of the administration’s mismanagement of upriver water resources, Wu said, but the response to fishermen has been “a sharp stick in the eye.”

“We are not going to take this, we are not going to accept this,” he said.

He said that if the fisheries managers close the salmon season, fishermen should come back in August with a couple tons of dead salmon to dump at the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration regional headquarters in Seattle.

“If they dare to close our salmon season, we will lay the dead fish where they belong, at the doors of the people who made the bad water policy that caused the problem in the first place,” Wu said.

State Rep. Brad Witt also sent a message to the federal administration, calling its policy for salmon recovery simplistic and misguided.

“We’re not going to tolerate our fishing people, our heritage, being pushed off this river,” Witt said. “I won’t tolerate it, you won’t tolerate it, and that’s why we’re here today. We’re here to ask for help, not for destruction.”

He asked the administration to work toward improving ocean conditions, the Columbia’s estuary, upland spawning beds and passage for fish around the dams.

Representatives of fishing organizations spoke up as well.

Zeke Grader, of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations, said that the administration’s “wrong-headed” policies call for “saving the dams, killing the fish and closing the fisheries.”

“It’s clear here that until we fix the problems of fish passage around the dams, and until we remove those four Snake River dams, things aren’t going to get better,” Grader said.

Looking at salmon from an angler’s point of view, Bob Rees of the Northwest Guides and Anglers Association said that people get excited by the chance to come to coastal communities to fish. Together they spend millions of dollars while they’re here.

“And now our government is telling us they want to take this all away,” Rees said. “They have the audacity to point the blame at harvest ... while hydropower quietly sends millions of juvenile salmon through the turbines in the name of progress.”

It’s vital that fishermen from along the coast unite to oppose the administration’s policy, said Dale Kelley, executive director of the Alaska Trollers Association. “The one thing we haven’t tried is unity, and we must,” she said.

“In a just world we would all be pursuing our livelihoods or our recreation,” instead of making or
listening to speeches, said Bruce Buckmaster. He said that there are “well-informed and powerful people” who know that cutting salmon catch won’t help, but don’t want “any solution that is politically or economically inconvenient.”

Prior to the speakers, Joel Kawahara of the Washington Trollers Association said that the rally was a way to protest and publicize the federal government’s anti-fishing policies.

“I want people to know how badly the Bush administration is screwing fishermen,” he said. The rally is a watershed one, he said, in that it’s bringing all kinds of fishermen together.

One of the many who attended was Bart Oja, a gillnetter from Astoria.

“The fish deserve water to be left in the river, that comes first,” he said. He added that he hoped the rally would bring a change in policy and changes within the hydropower system, although he added that “it’s easy to restrict harvest.”

Still, as a fourth generation fisherman, he said that he is optimistic that future generations will be able to fish the river.

“I’m always hopeful. That’s the nature of being a fisherman.”

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http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/6420AP_WST_Shinking_Salmon.html

**Salmon fishermen's turn to pay price for Klamath River failures**

By JEFF BARNARD  
AP ENVIRONMENTAL WRITER  
Saturday, March 18, 2006 · Last updated 9:48 a.m. PT

NEWPORT, Ore. -- Just two years ago, Don Snow boated a chinook salmon that dressed out at 48 pounds 6 ounces - the biggest he's ever caught in the lower 48 states.

Commercial fishermen were feeling good about salmon in 2004. As a result of aggressive marketing, prices for chinook caught by trolling the Pacific were up after years of being driven down by more plentiful farmed fish.

Those good times have gone bust this year. The third straight season of poor chinook returns to Northern California's Klamath River to spawn have federal fisheries managers considering closing 700 miles of coastline to salmon fishing for this year's May through October season, despite plentiful stocks elsewhere. They have already closed this year's spring season and forecasts for next year are not good.
Because there is no way to harvest plentiful stocks from other watersheds without killing Klamath fish, fans of wild salmon expect to have a tough time getting troll-caught chinook, and salmon fishermen like Snow will be scrambling to keep their boats.

The problems affecting salmon in the Klamath River - aging dams, poor water quality, deadly parasites attacking young fish, and battles over allocating scarce water between farms and wildlife - remain.

"For so many years we were told nobody wants your product, they just want it cheap," Snow said. "We finally turn the tide, and now this.

"I'm sure if we have a zero season or a severely restricted season, some people will go broke, and it doesn't really need to be," he said. "We need proper science and agreements with water users for habitat."

The Pacific Fishery Management Council makes its final decision the first week of April. If it shuts down sport and commercial salmon fishing from Cape Falcon on the northern Oregon Coast to Point Sur south of San Francisco, salmon won't disappear from supermarkets. Sixty percent of world supply is farm-raised in Chile, Norway and Canada, and the bulk of the ocean catch - pink and sockeye - comes from Alaska.

The 668,000 chinook or king salmon caught by some 1,200 active West Coast trollers last year account for less than 1 percent of U.S. consumption. But it is the filet mignon of salmon, prized for superior taste and texture as well as heart-healthy oils.

The demand for wild salmon has encouraged fishermen to boost their prices by handling their fish carefully - bleeding them before putting them on ice, avoiding bruising, and sometimes flash-freezing them at sea.

Some will still be caught off southeast Alaska and Washington, and small harvests may be allowed inside state waters off Oregon and California. But millions of pounds will be off the market.

Mark Newell, a salmon fisherman and wholesaler who serves on the Oregon Salmon Commission said the $3.18 per pound he was paying fishermen last year is likely to go over $4 this year if there is any fishing allowed.

"They're saying next year doesn't look any better than this year," said Newell. "If you lose this for two years, you'll lose a lot of these fishermen."

Commercial salmon landings last year were worth $13 million in Oregon and $23.3 million in California, according to the council. Recreational fisheries were worth another $5.2 million in Oregon and $17.9 million in California.
By the time that money runs through restaurants, seafood markets, and gear stores, the overall losses from closing the season will be more like $150 million, said Glen Spain of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, which represents California salmon fishermen.

That money depends on healthy salmon in the Klamath River.

Cutting through the Cascade and Siskiyou mountains in southern Oregon and Northern California, the Klamath was traditionally the third-biggest producer of salmon on the West Coast, after the Columbia and Sacramento, which this year expect healthier returns than the Klamath.

During the gold rush of the 1850s, the Klamath suffered the ravages of hydraulic mining. In 1917, the first of a series of hydroelectric dams blocked hundreds of miles of spawning habitat. Political and legal wrangling continue over how much water goes to irrigating 180,000 acres of potatoes, hay, mint, grain and cattle pasture in the Klamath Reclamation Project and how much goes down the river for salmon.

In 2001 those farmers paid the price. Drought forced the federal government to cut back irrigation so there would be enough water for coho salmon, a threatened species that shares the Klamath with chinook. An Oregon State University study put crop losses between $27 million and $46 million. That's comparable to the $36.3 million in 2005 commercial salmon landings in Oregon and California that fishermen stand to lose this year.

The Bush administration threw its support behind farmers, and in 2002 Interior Secretary Gale Norton and Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman made a special trip to turn the valves that restored full irrigation. That September, low warm water led to the deaths of some 70,000 adult chinook returning to the Klamath to spawn, according to the California Department of Fish and Game.

The fish kill meant thousands of fish would not be spawned to return this year.

"The fix is obvious. It is the political will that is not," said Spain. "You've got to put more water in the river and you need to take down the four hydropower dams."

The Oregon Natural Resources Council, a conservation group, figures the Bush administration has put $100 million into the Klamath to boost flows for fish, help struggling farmers, and improve fish habitat, but problems remain.

Four dams block salmon from hundreds of miles of habitat upstream. Their reservoirs warm the water, which carries high levels of agricultural runoff. Young fish migrating to the ocean run a gauntlet of parasites whose impacts are poorly understood, but may be exacerbated by the poor water quality and the lack of high flows.

The dams are up for relicensing this year by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which will decide whether they need to be modified or removed to restore salmon access to hundreds of miles of habitat. Indian tribes, fishermen and conservation groups would like to see them
removed, but the Portland utility PacifiCorp wants to keep them. Participants in closed-door negotiations report a growing spirit of cooperation after years of fighting.

Bob Kemp, who bought his first salmon boat in 1973, is planning to fill a cooler with crab and beer and head to the Klamath Basin to get to know farmers better. He is less interested in getting disaster relief than fixing the Klamath so he can fish for salmon. He's already been working as a deck hand on a crab boat, putting out traps for black cod, and is a partner in an albacore canning operation, so figures he can survive a closure.

"I'm determined not to get angry," said Kemp. "And I'm not going to give up."

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On the Net:

Pacific Fishery Management Council: http://www.pcouncil.org

Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations: http://www.pcffa.org

Local Ocean Seafoods: http://www.localocean.net

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**Salmon Ban Would Hit Towns Hard**

By Steve Chawkins, Times Staff Writer

*Los Angeles Times*

March 11, 2006

Fishing towns along the Northern California coast are bracing for a shutdown of this year's salmon season — a possibility that grew more real with a decision Friday by a federal advisory panel.

At its meeting in Seattle, the Pacific Fishery Management Council included an unprecedented closure of the six-month fishing season as one of three options it will place before the National Marine Fisheries Service this spring after a series of public hearings. The action was triggered by dramatically dwindling stocks of Chinook salmon on the Klamath River, which empties into the Pacific north of Eureka, Calif.

After a week of bitterly contentious meetings with commercial fishermen and charter-boat operators, the council also laid out two other options, according to Jim Martin, a Fort Bragg sportfishing advocate who was at the meeting: continuing salmon fishing at last year's
diminished level, and banning salmon fishing at different times along different stretches of coast.

The fisheries service will make the final decision.

The management council will hold hearings on the proposals in Washington state, Oregon and Santa Rosa, Calif., in the last week of March.

Canceling the season would be a blow to towns along the rugged Mendocino coast, where the timber and fishing industries have been severely curtailed.

"It's depressing," said Martin, with the Recreational Fishing Alliance in Fort Bragg. "It's so much a part of our identity here."

As recently as the 1980s, the town, 150 miles north of San Francisco, was known as one of the biggest salmon ports on the West Coast.

Since then, an annual Fourth of July cookout touted as "the world's largest salmon barbecue" has raised funds for a nearby salmon hatchery. Last year, the local fish supply was so thin that the salmon had to be shipped in from Alaska, Martin said.

Debbie DeGrew, executive director of the Mendocino Coast Chamber of Commerce, said she's spoken with charter operators who fear a salmon ban would drive them out of business.

"We're very concerned," she said. "If the charter boats are gone, it'll be like a ghost town down at the harbor, and the effects will start to ripple all through town and down the coast."

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http://www.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/localnews/ci_3504909

Salmon ban crushing blow to fishing industry
Local fishermen could feel the devastation brought on by controversial decision

By Julia Scott, STAFF WRITER
San Mateo County Times
Article Last Updated: 03/12/2006 6:25 AM PST

PRINCETON BY-THE-SEA — A total ban on commercial and sport salmon fishing, or even a sharp curtailment, would mean the loss of at least half the annual income of the 40 salmon skiffs docked in Pillar Point Harbor.

But its true impact would ripple far beyond the fishermen themselves to an entire industry built around them — and by extension, an entire way of life on the San Mateo County coast.
"This is a fishing community — it's what we're based on," said Pillar Point Harbormaster Dan Temko. "Salmon is the big fishery. The small guys are going to get hammered. ... It could be devastating for the restaurants, the hotels — everyone."

Mike McHenry has been fishing salmon off the San Mateo coast for 47 years. His boat, the Merva W., was built with salmon money in 1971. A total fishing ban would be unprecedented and would cost him most of his annual livelihood, he said.

"There's going to be no income from April all the way to September. The docks, the gear shops, the buyers, the bars — there's going to be a huge trickle down. We're all going to suffer over this," McHenry said.

Captain Tom Mattusch of the Huli Cat, a sport fishing vessel docked in Princeton, said he stood to lose $120,000 from a salmon ban this year.

He said he would attempt to make up for the shortfall by fishing albacore, crab, shrimp and squid, but there was no guarantee that they would be in good supply. And the cost of slip rent, insurance and maintenance would add up regardless of whether he took the boat out, he said.

"We're wondering if we're going to have to look for jobs," Mattusch said. "We can't sit around and do nothing." Losing local boats would mean losing a full 25 percent of Pillar Point Harbor's annual income as well, Temko said. The district sometimes makes more than $300 a day on vessels that pay to use its launch ramp, not to mention berth rent.

Temko said he felt for the fishermen, whom he believed were being punished for a problem they didn't create on the Klamath River. He said the Klamath salmon die-off occurred when the water was diverted for agriculture, leaving the salmon stranded in shallow, cloudy, warm water filled with parasites.

"It's not because (the boats) were overfishing. They were killed by man-made conditions," Temko said. "Rice farmers get subsidies for not farming their fields, but there's no subsidy for our local fishermen. It's hard for them to swallow."

Temko pointed out that Sacramento River salmon had always been plentiful. Banning salmon fishing outright was no way to address the real problem, he said.

"I think we need to look at how the fishing is managed and the fact that the river has failed, and move on from that," Temko said.

McHenry remembered the first time regulators tried to scale back the salmon season because of dwindling Klamath numbers — by pushing the start date from April into May, sometime in the late 1970s or early 80s. He and nearly 100 other Bay Area fishermen formed a protest blockade with their boats under the Golden Gate Bridge and served free salmon to the public, a move that sparked a huge local demand for the fish.
"We saw what was happening," McHenry said. "Once the government gets their foot in the door, it's not going to stop."

He said fishermen would have "nothing to lose" if they staged a similar action this year, and said he would be happy to join them.

Just as serious as a possible loss in earnings would be the loss of fishermen who could abandon the industry as a result of the Fisheries Management Council decision, said Mattusch.

"There's always doom and gloom with fishermen, but this year it's real," he said. "How do you ask people to buy a fishing license if there's no opportunity to fish?"

Staff writer Julia Scott can be reached at (650) 348-4340 or at jscott@angnewspapers.com.

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http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2006/03/20/EDGU9GJD121.DTL

**Where are the Klamath salmon?**

*San Francisco Chronicle* Editorial  
Monday, March 20, 2006

GOT SALMON? Come next month, federal rule-makers may so restrict fish-catching off Northern California that the season will all but end.

The reason is diminishing population of the migrating fish on the Klamath River. Farm diversions, dams and a long drought have reduced river flows, decimating salmon schools stuck in warm, unhealthy pools along the North Coast river. For several years, the numbers have dipped below a 35,000-fish-count judged minimal to perpetuate chinook salmon.

The water-quality problem isn't much in doubt, not after federal studies and a review by the National Academy of Sciences. The hard part is coming up with a solution that will revive salmon runs.

One painful step will begin in April. A federal fishery agency will likely recommend a reduced salmon season that will drop from a half to a quarter of last year's catch. Though salmon pour into the Pacific from many rivers, the silvery schools are impossible to tell apart -- hence the need to limit all fishing to save a sub-species reared in just one watershed.

But stopping fishing, by itself, won't fill the Klamath with future generations of fish. If boat owners, deck hands and their orbit of wharf-side businesses endure hardship, there should be a response by the federal government that can do much to repair the larger problem of a sick river.

For years, upstream farmers in eastern California and southern Oregon have held off calls for change. The salmon will come back after a bad patch, this group says in defending their historic
water rights. But that's a delusional position, given the weak fish numbers. Farm runoff is
tainting the water. Dams warm the water flows to fish-killing temperatures.

Change can only come if there is concerted pressure on Washington to negotiate a compromise
to a complicated, multisided problem. U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Rep. Mike Thompson, D-
Napa, have shown an interest in the problem and should push for a solution.

For starters, the Department of Commerce, which sets fishing catches, needs to press the
Department of Interior, which watches over crucial water flows. The Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission also has a role because it is relicensing four dams on the Klamath River's upper end.

Finding the money for these changes won't be easy. Washington has little to spare with the Iraq
war, a Katrina fix-up and a deficit hitting $400 billion this year. But doing nothing means fewer
salmon, ever-shorter fishing seasons and angrier participants from all sides.

The prospects aren't hopeless. Sinking numbers of salmon along the Sacramento River, the state's
biggest fish-nursery waterway, have shot up, thanks to better management and water conditions.
That's a fish story worth repeating.

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http://www.times-standard.com/opinion/ci_3608126

**Fix the damage before it is too late**

*The Times-Standard*

Article Launched: 03/16/2006 4:46 AM PST

Lawmakers are working on an infrastructure bond that contains money aimed at buying and
removing dams on the Klamath River.

The Klamath provision is an unspecified amount of money in a $700 million article that includes
money to restore the San Joaquin River, the Sacramento River delta and Lake Tahoe.

In 2001, there was an uproar when the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation cut off water to some farms
in the upper basin. The next year, the policy was reversed, and up to 68,000 fish died in a warm,
shallow river. Diseases have been killing young fish and reservoirs have seen spikes in toxic
algae. Fish runs have been small the past three years, and this year federal fisheries managers
may close all salmon fishing from Northern Oregon to Big Sur.

It is hoped that the money involved will help facilitate a settlement of this issue. It is important
that the removal of the dams be a part of the restoration of the Klamath.

There is more at stake than fish. While every measure must be taken to guarantee the survival of
our once-rich fisheries, fish kills and toxic algae are signs that we are killing the river and our
resources. The quality of the river is in serious decline and if something is not done to reverse the damage we may reach the point where we won't be able to.

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Judge weighs in on side of salmon
Courts - A ruling orders an immediate plan to manage water in the Klamath River Basin

*The Oregonian*
Wednesday, March 29, 2006

SAN FRANCISCO -- A federal judge has ordered the government to institute a Klamath River management plan immediately instead of waiting five more years, which means farmers could be deprived of irrigation if water levels drop low enough to threaten the survival of coho salmon.

U.S. District Judge Saundra Armstrong, who sits in Oakland, Calif., said that if river levels fail to meet 100 percent of the water flow needed for the coho as determined by the National Marine Fisheries Service, then farmers who rely on the Klamath will have to do without.

That should not be a problem this year because a wet winter has left Northwest rivers swollen.

"Everyone should get what they need," said Kristen Boyles, an Earthjustice attorney who represents the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations and other groups that oppose the government's plan for balancing water needs between the coho salmon and farms.

But how to meet the salmon water requirements of farmers during dry seasons remains an open question.

"The wet winter does give us time to sit down with them and see how we can meet those requirements," said Zeke Grader, executive director of the fishermen's associations in San Francisco.

Commercial fishing organizations and environmental groups sued the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 2002, alleging that the government's plan to wait eight years to provide the full amount of water needed for coho survival in the water-scarce basin was insufficient to ensure the salmon's survival.

The 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals agreed last year, ruling that the plan was arbitrary and capricious and not supported by science. Judge Armstrong on Monday rejected government arguments that it had new explanations supporting its plan.

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Coast fishermen win court ruling

Federal judge orders government to boost Klamath River flow to protect salmon.

By Matt Weiser – Sacramento Bee Staff Writer
Published 2:15 am PST Tuesday, March 28, 2006
Story appeared on Page A3 of The Bee

Embattled Pacific Coast salmon fishermen won a key court victory Monday against the federal government, but it probably comes too late to save this year's fishing season.

A federal court in Oakland on Monday ordered the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to boost flows in the Klamath River as soon as Saturday. It marks a major setback for federal water policy on the river, where water diversions in 2002 have been blamed for killing thousands of fish and touching off a population crash that could force a closure of this year's ocean salmon season.

"It's not going to save this season. We're going to have a diminished season or maybe no season," said Zeke Grader, executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations. "It does point to the fact that there is hope for the future with this decision if we can keep the fleet alive."

The case stems from a decision by the Bush administration to divert more water from the Klamath River in spring 2002 to benefit farmers in the Klamath basin. It was a drought year, and by fall, there wasn't enough water in the river to accommodate migrating fish. About 70,000 fish died - at least half of them salmon.

Grader's group and nine other plaintiffs sued the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Marine Fisheries Service, claiming the government's 10-year water management plan for the Klamath River was based on biological studies for the salmon that failed to follow federal law and relied on flawed science.

In October, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against the government, saying the studies, called a "biological opinion," failed to provide enough water for salmon until the end of the 10-year management period, the so-called "phase 3" water flows.

That decision sent the case back to U.S. District Court in Oakland for resolution. On Monday, Judge Saundra Armstrong issued an injunction ordering the government to boost water flow in the Klamath River to the phase 3 level starting April 1, the usual start of the irrigation season.

The judge also ordered the government to develop a new biological opinion for Klamath salmon, and to maintain flows at the phase 3 level until it is finished.
"An injunction is necessary to ensure that flows in the Klamath River are sufficient to prevent harm to coho salmon and their habitat while the agencies comply with the law," Armstrong wrote.

The plaintiffs sued to protect the coho salmon because it is protected under the Endangered Species Act, but the ruling also benefits chinook salmon in the Klamath River, the target of commercial fishermen.

The ruling came on the eve of a hearing by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council in Santa Rosa, which will take testimony today on a National Marine Fisheries Service plan to close all salmon fishing along 700 miles California and Oregon coast to protect the few Klamath River fish still alive in the ocean.

Commercial and sport fishing groups plan a rally at today's meeting to demand at least a partial salmon season.

A final recommendation by the council won't come until it meets next week in Sacramento. The council's opinion carries weight, but is only advisory.

Fishermen hope the court ruling persuades the government to allow at least a partial season so the fishing fleet can hold on until salmon recover.

"It says there is a future for these fish and for the fishery," said Grader.

The case was argued for the plaintiffs by Kristen Boyles, an attorney with Earthjustice, a nonprofit organization based in Oakland. She said the ruling could mean 45 percent more water in the river for fish.

The government can appeal the ruling, but no decision has been made, said Jeff McCracken, a spokesman for the Bureau of Reclamation. He said bureau and fisheries service officials are already discussing a new biological opinion and preparing to meet the court-ordered flow requirements.

"That will obviously be our primary responsibility, to meet those flows, and then do the best we can with the remaining supply," McCracken said. "It could mean less water for farmers."

No shortages are expected this year because of a wet winter. There should be ample water for fish and farmers, he said.

Greg Addington, executive director of the Klamath Water Users Association, said there should be adequate water in an average year, but not in a dry year.

"In a dry water year it would be devastating, there's no doubt about it," said Addington. His group is a co-defendant with the government. "There would just flat out not be enough water."

###
River May Flow Again, Full of Salmon
Decisions Limiting Irrigation and Damming on Klamath Could
Lead to Revival

By Blaine Harden
Washington Post Staff Writer
Sunday, April 2, 2006; A03

SEATTLE -- Big rivers in the West are reliable sources of bad news. Dammed for electricity and drained for irrigation, they have pushed salmon into extinction, fishermen into bankruptcy and Indians into despair.

This dismal pattern, though, may be ending on the Klamath, which straddles the Oregon-California border and has long been one of the nation's most thoroughly fouled-up rivers. Its woes include massive fish kills, blooms of poisonous algae, diabetic Indians, fuming irrigators, litigious environmentalists and aging dams that produce little power while squatting stolidly in the way of reviving the river.

Two decisions last week -- one by a federal court in California, the other by the Bush administration -- raise the surprising possibility that the Klamath may overcome many of these troubles. For the first time in the nearly eight decades since the river was dammed, Indians and commercial fishermen, environmentalists and federal fish scientists agree that there are sound reasons to believe in the comeback of a river that once supported the third largest salmon runs on the West Coast.

"After a lot of grim years, this was a big week for us," said a spokesman for the Karuk, a tribe whose salmon-centered existence collapsed when the river was dammed. Tribal members have since skidded into an epidemic of obesity, heart disease and early-onset diabetes.

"People may look back on this past week and say that is when things really turned around for fish in the Klamath," said Brian Gorman, a spokesman for National Marine Fisheries Services, the federal agency charged with protecting endangered fish.

"It feels hopeful, and it feels different," said Kristen L. Boyles, a staff lawyer for Earthjustice, which has often sued the Bush administration to protect West Coast salmon. "Credit is due the government scientists who are finally saying the right thing and the politicians who are allowing them to say it."

For generations, the Klamath has had two overarching problems: low flows of water as a result of irrigation diversions and dams that block migrating salmon, and also make the river an unnaturally warm breeding ground for fish-killing bacteria and algae.
Salmon runs have plummeted from historic highs of a million fish a year in the early 1900s to a prediction this year of fewer than 30,000. Three consecutive years of such near-record low returns of adult salmon are forcing the likely closure this year of commercial and sport fishing in all areas where Klamath chinook salmon might be caught. A decision is expected this week. If it occurs, it would be one of the largest and most costly fishery closures in West Coast history, affecting 700 miles of the Oregon-California coastline.

A federal court ruling last week, however, may go a long way toward solving the problem of lethal low flows in future years.

In Oakland, U.S. District Court Judge Saundra B. Armstrong ordered that the federal Bureau of Reclamation, which operates one of the nation's oldest irrigation projects on the Klamath, must limit the quantity of water sucked out of the river for farmers in dry years. There are scientifically set minimum flows needed to protect migrating salmon, the judge ordered, and the federal government cannot fiddle with them.

This was a repudiation of Bush administration policy. During a severe drought in 2002, the administration -- with Karl Rove, the president's senior adviser, personally championing the cause of farmers -- gave the Klamath federal irrigation project its normal allotment of water. Salmon were left to bear the brunt of the drought. That fall, in a fish kill that made national headlines, more than 30,000 adult salmon died. The state of California blamed it on low river flows, warm water, crowding of fish and an outbreak of bacterial disease.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit last fall found the Bush administration's plan for operating the Klamath to be in conflict with the "underlying science" of salmon biology. Implementing that finding last week, Armstrong ordered the federal government to come up with a "new biological opinion based on the current scientific evidence."

Environmental groups and Indian tribes said the fish have won what they need to survive, while irrigators said that they have been pushed into a new era of uncertainty. Dry years, said Greg Addington of the Klamath Water Users Association, "are going to be very tough."

As for the four large dams that block salmon passage, it was the Bush administration's own fisheries experts who demanded last week that the privately owned dams either be removed or rebuilt in a hugely expensive way that allows fish passage.

The decision surprised environmentalists because the Bush administration in recent years has insisted that hydroelectric dams on some Western rivers are part of the "environmental baseline." During visits to federal dams on the Snake River in Washington state, Bush has personally vowed that they would never be removed -- despite environmentalists' assertions that they are marginal power producers and responsible for the extinction of salmon.

But the Klamath, as of last week, seems to be different, as far as the federal government is concerned.
"Dam decommissioning and dam removal," the Department of Interior and the National Marine Fisheries Service declared last week, "would go a long way toward resolving decades of degradation where Klamath River salmon stocks are concerned."

In its prescription for relicensing Klamath dams, whose license expired in March, the federal government is pushing the dam owner into what may be a financially untenable position:

Get started on what would be the largest dam demolition project in U.S. history, or spend about $200 million on fish ladders and other fish-passage equipment. The annual value of electricity produced by the four dams is only about $27 million, according to the California Energy Commission.

The dams' owner is PacifiCorp, a Portland, Ore., company that was recently acquired by MidAmerican Energy Holdings Co., a company owned by Warren E. Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

As of now, PacifiCorp wants to keep the dams in the river producing electricity, and it does not believe that spending $200 million for fish ladders will help revive salmon runs, said Dave Kvamme, a company spokesman.

PacifiCorp, though, has a record for flexibility when it comes to the labyrinthine process of renewing a federal license to operate a dam. It has recently agreed to remove three dams in the Pacific Northwest. For the past two years, it has been in private settlement talks with other stakeholders on the Klamath.

Federal biologists believe that those settlement talks -- in the aftermath of the court ruling and administration demand last week -- may soon produce a breakthrough for the Klamath.

"We have an historic doorway that is opening here," said Steve Thompson, California-Nevada operations manager for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. "It is potentially very good for everybody who lives on the river."

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This booklet was produced by the Commercial Salmon Trollers Advisory Committee (Commercial Salmon Stamp) under contract with the California Salmon Council. The Committee would like to recognize the Department of Fish and Game and the following individuals for assisting in the production of this booklet: Jerry Ayers, David Bitts, Mitch Farro, Zeke Grader, Bob Mandella, Diane Pleschner, Jimmy Smith, John Staiti and Roger Thomas. The Committee also recognizes the achievements made by Nat Bingham, and the dedicated commercial and charter boat industry fishermen.
This booklet is dedicated to Nat Bingham, without whose efforts there would most likely be no commercial salmon fishery in California today. Nat initiated, organized, and shepherded so many projects essential to the continuation of the fishery that we probably couldn’t list them all in this booklet. They included helping found PCFFA in the ‘70s, successfully opposing the Peripheral Canal, in the early 1980s, and initiating the Winter Run Captive Broodstock Program and getting the legislation passed that made it happen, as well as getting the Spring Run Work Group up and running in the early ‘90s.

Nathaniel Shaw Bingham, (1939-1998), was a husband, father, civic leader, fisherman, historian, environmentalist, activist, and consensus builder. Nat was all these and more.

A native of New London, Connecticut, Nat came from a prominent New England family. He was named after an ancestor who had been a whaling captain and arms supplier to George Washington. His great-great-grandfather, Hiram Bingham, and great grandfather, Hiram II, were early Congregationalist missionaries to the Gilbert and Sandwich (Hawaiian) Islands. His grandfather, Hiram III, was the Yale archaeologist who led the exploration discovering the Inca city of Machu Picchu in 1911 and later became Governor and U.S. Senator from Connecticut.

Nat carried on the family tradition of public service through his efforts to protect and restore our nation’s fisheries. Nat’s professional history is impressive and demonstrates his boundless energy, dedication, and ability.

Growing up in New England and the Bahamas, Nat developed a relationship with the sea which led him to begin fishing in Northern California nearly forty years ago. In 1964 he bought his first boat and began commercial fishing for salmon, crab, and albacore tuna. He sold his last boat, FV Elliot-M, in 1995, after his more than full-time work on salmon restoration and fish habitat issues had kept him off the water for several years. During his early years he took on the first of many Northwest fisheries leadership positions, serving as president of his local fisherman’s association, the Fort Bragg Salmon Troller’s Marketing Association. In 1982, Nat became president of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations (PCFFA, the largest commercial fishermen’s organization on the west coast), a position he held for nine years. He served as the organization’s Habitat Coordinator at the time of his death. Nat received the fishing industry’s highest award, “Highliner of the Year”, in 1989. In 1993, at President Clinton’s Forest Conference in Portland, Oregon, Nat was the leading fishing industry representative and delivered eloquent testimony on the declines of the salmon fishery and healthy salmonid habitat. (Nat Bingham continued on page 23)

"Everyone has to be able to envision a future."
—Nat Bingham
California has a long tradition of harvesting salmon for food. With the coming of settlers and gold miners to California, commercial gillnetting began as early as 1851 on the Sacramento River. The spawning runs awed those early fishermen; the fish were large and their huge populations seemed inexhaustible. All too soon the runs began to decline as sediment from hydraulic mining washed into the rivers, choking spawning gravels and smothering juvenile salmon.

As California’s human population grew, some of the nation’s first environmental protection laws were enacted by the State of California to prevent mining debris from damaging the Sacramento and Feather rivers. Just as salmon runs were beginning to recover, irrigated agriculture began to develop, driven by droughts and the need to feed California’s growing population. Hundreds of small dams and diversions were built in the Central Valley for hydropower and irrigation; then, beginning in the 1940’s, and continuing today, the largest water diversion and delivery systems in the world were constructed. Unfortunately, mitigation for losses of salmon caused by the water projects was all too often an afterthought, insufficient to maintain runs at pre-project levels, or nonexistent.

Below some of the largest dams, salmon hatcheries were constructed to mitigate for the thousands of miles of habitat lost to dam construction. The hatcheries produced fish, but not enough to stem the tide of decline, not even in the rivers where hatcheries were built. In undammed drainages, problems caused by logging, road building, livestock grazing, irrigation, and other land-use practices added tremendously to the overall decline in salmon numbers. In dammed drainages where hatcheries were built, success in restoring salmon numbers has been mixed. In California’s Central Valley drainage, where five major production hatcheries attempt to mitigate losses of salmon from dams, fall-run chinook salmon populations appear to have responded well to hatchery culture, while the spring and winter runs have declined dramatically. But throughout the Central Valley, year after year most returning spawners (in recent years usually far more than the escapement goal) spawn in gravel but probably came from hatcheries. Hundreds of diversions remain unscreened in spite of the excellent work by DFG’s screen shops, while the Delta pumps that deliver water to the south remain a formidable obstacle for juvenile salmon trying to find the ocean.

Salmon trolling became more than just an industry. A unique subculture, dependent on the annual foraging movements of California salmon along the Pacific coast, developed in small coastal communities. Some fishermen acquired larger boats capable of following salmon at sea as they migrate along the coast, while others followed the fish by trailering their small boats from port to port. As the salmon troll fishery grew, the economies of coastal ports along California’s coast from Morro Bay to Crescent City developed an infrastructure and support industry based on salmon landings. It has been estimated that by 1980, as many as 50,000 California jobs were based on recreational and commercial salmon fisheries.

As habitat loss drove salmon stocks into decline, state and federal fishery managers used the powers granted them under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, which created the PFMC, to recommend ever more restrictive fishing seasons and quotas on the fishery. It would be a decade before federal fisheries managers would acknowledge that habitat loss, not over-fishing, was causing salmon runs to decline.
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### Period of Record Statistics

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- **S.D.:** 3.58
- **SKEW:** 0.33
- **MAX:** 13.92
- **MIN:** 0.66
- **NO YRS:** 58

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Figure II-2. Klamath River adult fall Chinook returns and spawning escapements, 1978-2005.
April 6, 2006

Mr. Donald Hansen, Chair
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Placc, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Re: Comments to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council
Regarding the 2006 Salmon Season

Chairman Hansen and Council Members:

Today the Pacific Fisheries Management Council has the unenviable task of choosing a salmon season that is least harmful to the resource it is intended to protect while being sensitive to the needs of those whom depend upon salmon for their livelihoods.

What is to be done about protecting the Klamath River runs of Chinook now down below the 35,000 fish floor for three years in a row? The experts agree that the real problems with the Klamath’s Chinook fishery is deteriorating habitat. We need to create new fish passages and in some cases remove the dams that impound warm water and host the salmon killing disease Ceratomyxa Shasta. We need to increase monitoring of the disease. We need never to repeat the decisions by federal regulators that led to the banks of the Klamath being lined with the carcasses of up to 78,000 salmon in 2002.

Unfortunately, all the PFMC can do is regulate fishing activities, knowing that even a closed season will have only a marginal effect on Klamath River Chinook recovery.
Ironically, you are considering shutting down the season in a year of plentiful Sacramento salmon, a year when west coast fishermen are poised to reap the bounty resulting from good management and restoration on the Sacramento River. I find this situation outrageous. Commercial, recreational and tribal fishermen should not be made to pay the entire cost of agencies’ willful ignoring of biological data, resulting poor management, and decision making that has favored certain economic interests over the health of the Klamath River and its fishery.

No salmon season this year will mean the end of the line for many commercial fishermen. It was tough for commercial fishermen to lose more than half of the season last year; a total loss this year would be catastrophic to fishermen and the coastal communities that depend on them.

I believe there is hope for the Klamath River fishery.

In the short term, with agency cooperation and assistance from the fishing community, this year’s gush of storms could lesson the threat of disease and improve habitat conditions throughout the watershed, producing a greater number of smolt, even if returns are low. Klamath Chinook have made even greater comebacks in the past, when the conditions are right.

A lawsuit filed by fishermen and environmentalists will force dam managers to increase flows necessary for endangered Coho to the Klamath. Federal regulators have called for new fish passages around dams, and license renewal processes hold promise for even more stringent dam mitigation and possible removal. And there is hope in that Klamath River stakeholders are now sitting down together to resolve their conflicts.

There is much work to be done, in the agencies, in stakeholder meetings, in Washington D.C, and ultimately on the ground in the watersheds. But I can tell you that the leaders on coastal issues in Congress are acutely aware of the problems of the Klamath and how they affect our entire salmon fishery, and will support positive efforts to bring back this river. We are also putting pressure on NOAA to complete last year’s economic disaster assessment so that emergency assistance can be provided to commercial fishermen – assistance that sadly may also be needed this year.

But the question today is, will you provide some hope for the fishermen?
Bodega Bay in my district is the homeport for about 72 commercial fishing boats. By and large they are a responsible lot. They practice conservation for the very practical reason that they understand that their livelihood, their way of life, diminishes and disappears with the fish. They are prepared to make some sacrifices – although they are not prepared to be sacrificed for bureaucratic and political expediency.

As you well know, you can draw lines far to the north and south of the Klamath River, set catch limits, and design a season that provides the vast majority of Klamath River Chinook safe passage to the mouth of the Klamath. Your task should be to use all the expertise that is available to you to minimize the catch of Klamath Chinook and maximize fishing opportunities for other salmon stocks.

I also ask the PFMC to communicate to NOAA Fisheries and FERC the immediate need to take the actions necessary to restore the Klamath Fishery. Unless there are adequate cool flows to reduce the threat of Ceratomyxa Shasta; unless barriers to fish passage are removed; unless polluted runoff is addressed; whatever you do today will have little effect on the long-term health of the Klamath fishery.

Sincerely,

Lynn Woolsey
Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress
Ad Hoc Committee
P.O.Box 484
Occidental, CA 95465
707 874-3855

Pacific Fishery Management Council

Delay your decision -- Keep the Salmon fishing season open
Conclusions of the March 29,2006 NOAA report not justified

“PFMC” stands for Pacific Fishery Management Council, not Pacific Fishermen Management Council. Your mandate extends beyond managing the catch of commercial and recreational fishermen. It includes conserving and protecting the health of the entire ecosystem associated with the fishery.

This report upon which curtailment and closure of salmon fishing is based draws unjustified conclusions and omits ones that are justified:

1. To conclude that fishing poses too great a “risk” is not justified. The “risk” in question is the probability that returning salmon will fall below the 35,000 benchmark! And what if it does? Their data shows that high yields, three years later, typically come from years with the lowest number of spawning returns -- returns typically well below 35,000.

In fact, their own data (page 9) shows that the pitiful return of 1991 (12,000 spawners) outperformed 1988 (100,000 spawners)! 1991 produced almost 35,000 three years later, whereas the giant run of 1987 produced a paltry 12,000 returns!

This suggests that rather than concentrating on a floor, you need to concentrate on a cap! Instead of concentrating on over-fishing, you need to concentrate on the problem of over-stocking the degraded Klamath!

2. What is justified by the report, but omitted from the summary, is that warm water releases from dams on the Klamath and low flow/low water conditions must stop immediately. Draconian measures are needed in this department. Why? It is admitted that poor conditions in the river, high temperatures and low water, contribute to the low abundance and spawning escapement this year. It is admitted that local environmental degradation leads to low water quality. It is admitted that a lethal
parasite is enhanced by high temperature and low water which are “optimal conditions for growth of the worm”, (the host of the parasite).

Yet absent from NMFS’ summary and conclusions are any Draconian measures to correct conditions in the Klamath from a worm and parasite spawning river to a salmon spawning one!

Furthermore, the Department of Fish and Game in 2004 concluded that 34,000 adult fish died on reentry to the Klamath because of parasites and bacteria thriving in warm water conditions. Were at least 10,000 of those dead fish “natural spawners”? Didn’t their death cause a drop below NMFS’ desired threshold of 35,000? Why no Draconian measures to immediately stop the continued parasite producing high temperature/low water now?

3. The report states that key to the risk of “failure” as they define it, is in early life survival. And, according to them, parasites affect survival rates upon out-migration and marine entry (p.8). Under “poor” early survival, the risk of achieving their goal is poor. Under “average” survival conditions the risk becomes minimal. So “survival conditions are pivotal. Clearly high temperatures and low flows contributing to parasitic and bacterial infections weakening the juveniles as they enter the marine environment is a “poor survival marine condition”.

4. The degradation of the Klamath is treated as a “given” rather than as a dramatic problem requiring urgent and immediate correction. NMFS focuses on curtailing predation (fishing) to keep the escapement above 35,000 which their own data (graph on p. 9) shows is not sustainable.

Our conclusion is that the data shows that misdirected policies are responsible for the continued decline of the fishery over the last 27 years. Salmon are designed to withstand tremendous predation pressures like chickens, rabbits and mice. But they cannot survive warm water and low flows and no food. Until NMFS and NOAA stop protecting high temperatures and low flows, and populations of worms and parasites, the collapse of the fishery will continue, Do not curtail predation/fishing. Returns need to be limited until the degradation is reversed.

Ann Maurice
Figure II-2. Klamath River adult fall Chinook returns and spawning escapements, 1978-2005.

Count three years from each circled year to see typical decline when escapement above 35,000

Excerpted from "Review of 2004 Ocean Salmon Fisheries"
Pacific Fishery Management Council
503 820-2280
www.pcouncil.org Feb 2005 p. 52
Figure II-2. Klamath River adult fall Chinook returns and spawning escapements, 1978-2005.

Count three years from each circled year to see typical significant, even dramatic rise when escapement below 35,000.

(Excerpted from "Review of 2004 Ocean Salmon Fisheries")
Pacific Fishery Management Council
503 820-2280
www.pfmcouncil.org  Feb 2005  p. 52
Mr. Don Hansen, Chairman
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, OR  97220-1384

SUBJECT:  Request to preserve as much of the sport and commercial salmon season as possible

Dear Chairman Hansen:

This letter is an augmentation of our letter of February 27, 2006. Santa Cruz Port District operates Santa Cruz Harbor, which is home to 1,200 permanent boats. Santa Cruz Harbor represents one of the small coastal communities which would be substantially impacted by salmon season restrictions, both sport and commercial.

We can not here provide a definitive economic impact report on the salmon closure. We can estimate that the direct loss of full-time job equivalents in Santa Cruz County due to a complete closure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>89.9 Full-Time Jobs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Personal Income Loss @ $35,000 per Job = $3,146,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Santa Cruz Harbor on-site businesses and programs impacted:

- Aquarius Boat Works
- Monterey Bay Marine (boat dealer / engine repair)
- Bayside Marine Bait and Tackle
- Johnson Hicks Marine Electronics
- Captain Canvas (boat covers and sails)
- Wizard Yachts (boat brokerage)
- The Rigging Shop
- Far West Marine (fish and ice sales)
MTM Sportfishing and Marine Supply (bait, tackle and fuel)
Cal Commercial Divers
Pacific Yachts (boat brokerage)
Down Under Dive Service
Stagnaro Fishing Charters
Park Place Excursions (fishing charter)
Pacific Yachting and Sailing (18 charter boats)
Team O’Neill Catamaran (charter)
8 each, 6-passenger charter operations
Mariner’s Rug Company
Dockside Signs
Vessel Assist (towing service)
8 to 10 independent boat businesses (e.g., hull cleaning; topside cleaning; engine repair; rigging)

Individuals directly impacted are:

- Commercial fishermen (41 crews)
- Sport fishermen (10,000 launchers/year attributable to salmon, plus 1,200 permanent boats are berthed at Santa Cruz Harbor)

Direct Port District revenue sources directly impacted by salmon restrictions are:

- Concessions (see businesses listed above)
- Launching
- Visitor berthing
- Parking revenue
- Recreational vehicle overnights
- Boat dry storage

The following harbor restaurants will also be impacted by a closed or marginal season:

- Crow’s Nest
- Aldo’s
- The Kind Grind (bakery / coffee shop)
- TriniDeli
- Johnny’s Harborside
- Café El Palomar
Non-marine businesses within 1 block of Santa Cruz Harbor who trade with boaters from Santa Cruz Harbor and who will be impacted by salmon restrictions:

- Day's Market
- Seabright Brewery and Restaurant
- Java Junction
- Engfer's Pizza Works
- Seabright Laundry
- Harbor Café
- Deke's Market
- Harbor Inn
- Seabreeze Café

Marine-related businesses within 1 mile of the harbor will be directly impacted:

- West Marine (marine retail / products, boat equipment supplier)
- Joseph Rodgers (marine surveyor)
- Santa Cruz Yachts (boat builders)
- Christallo's Upholstery
- San Lorenzo Awnings (boat canvas)
- Larsen Sails
- Dave's Outboard
- Moore & Sons (engine sales / repair)
- 7th Avenue Boat Storage

Marine-related businesses which will be impacted on a county-wide basis:

- Capitola Boat and Bait
- Santa Cruz Boat Rentals
- Moore Sailboats
- Scroggins Fiberglass
- Lighthall Marine
- Tom Carr Enterprises (boat repair)
- Platinum RV and Boat Storage
- Santa Cruz Aptos Towing (boat storage)
We urge you and your fellow members of the Pacific Fishery Management Council to adopt a limited season, for everyone's economic well being. Thank you for your careful handling of these difficult issues.

Sincerely,

Brian E. Foss
Port Director

JT:mo
corres/salmon-1.doc
PLEASE SIGN THIS!

PETITION TO OPEN SALMON SEASON FOR
COMMERCIAL
AND RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN!

Name  Ph.#, e-mail, or town
1.) Lonnie Jones 961-1540  21.)  
2.) John Wade 961-2706  22.)  
3.) Danny Canary 23.)  
4.)  24.)  
5.)  25.)  
6.)  26.)  
7.)  27.)  
8.)  28.)  
9.)  29.)  
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16.)  36.)  
17.)  37.)  
18.)  38.)  
19.)  39.)  
20.)  40.)  

This Petition is in concern for our Salmon fishermen. The California Fish and Game and our Federal Government are in the process of shutting down our Salmon season this year. Our Salmon fishermen depend on Salmon fishing to make a living and our community is economically dependent as well. Many fishermen and related shoreside businesses will fail unless we have a viable season.

THIS YEAR!!!

Salmon Trollers  Fort Bragg, Ca.
Marketing Assoc.