I think your crazy to reopen any season on salmon fishing for the next twenty years or so. Didn't we learn anything from the Passenger Pegion or the Great Auk? Dose mankind today, still show the Stupidity of such, in asking “The reopening of the Salmon Season”, knowing that there is a very limited source of the fish in the first place all for the sake of money? Sure our economy has hurt from the closure of the logging, the fishing, but is declinning the population of a speices to a tipping point of extinction a smart move cause some people want to be greedy or to be privilidge with taking what few numbers there are for the sake of our economy or pleasure. The Passenger Pegion, was the largist population of birds on the face of the earth. The salmon has never reached that size in numbers in it's entire history of the fish. But mankind seemed to be able to wipe the bird from the face of the planet in no time as for as time of the earth and mankind's existance.

How do we know for sure what number of the speice's needs to exist to ensure a increase or the tipping of extiction we are now seeing being done to the salmon.

Ya, I'm all for it as I am sure alot of sane people are for it, RIGHT. I say keep it closed get over it, them days are gone and you need to accept it. And so dose The North Coast community's. You want to draw people into our coastal town's, then you better come up with some good marketing skills to draw them here. and stop using the so called tourist decline to destory more of the animale and marine life here on the coast. and the loss of another great American Icon., of the west.

Here's another thought on your Opening of the Salmon fishing, did you know that there is several campgrounds that are along the creaks and near the banks of rivers that are now too full and too polluted that is doing even more harm to the fishing industery's. one to mention is the one out on the left side of hwy 20, namely "Wildwood Campgrounds". I have friends that are living there, the water is polluted the ground it polluted from the so called long time renters from urinating and defacting out and about there trialer homes, not to mention all the chemicals from growing pot, the damage's that are irreversable in the so called mushroom harvest time of the year. all for what the Sake of Money. How long are we to stand by and let the powers that be in charge continue to rape our forest and our coast lines.

The Seo otter, Sea lions that used to be in pretty good numbers are gone now from our coastline, most say it's due to the closure of the fishing industery's. not fish guts and such for them to feed on so they left. I think alot had to do with the almost total removal of deit they fed upon that mankind seemed to think we needed to radicate so the abalone would flourish, the removal of the Sea urchines.

Another mistake here on the coast of Fort Bragg, Mendocino. We lost wild life, beach erosion is happening now, I have lived here in Fort Bragg for some 20 years now, and have seen many changes to the enviroment in the forest as well as on the coastal beach's. Ya rapped the sea urchin beds that could have been farmed for years to come for a meger income for the coastal towns. now you want to finish off the salmon as well. Well I Say NO. to reopening of it anytime in the near future let alone in the distant future.

One against the Idea, Harvey Meade
Subject: Salmon Fishing in Pacific Ocean
From: Carole Southam <southm@pulsarco.com>
Date: Wed, 11 Feb 2009 15:50:35 -0800
To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Dear Council: I am 65 years old and have been fishing in the Pacific Ocean all of my life. Salmon fishing is my favorite type of fishing off the coast of Fort Bragg, CA. Please allow a sportfishing season this year. The coastal towns and industries are disappearing. In this troubled time of our nation, we do not need other industries closing and raising the unemployment.

The Commercial fishermen are losing money and most are trying to sell their boats and equipment. This also hurts the coastal towns and industries, and jobs for the local people. The Pacific Salmon are the best tasting fish in this country. Are we going to have to import all of our salmon or eat farm-raised salmon the rest of our lives?

There are many more reasons for keeping a Sportfishing and Commercial Salmon Season in 2009. I'm sure you have heard them all. Please remember to HEAR what the people say, not just what the GREEN PEACE PEOPLE want you to hear. Look at all the facts on both sides of this issue; TRUE FACTS; which means they should be proved at least 3 times to be a true fact!

Thank you for your time and effort in these issues!
JERRY AND CAROLE SOUTHAM
1749 County Road Y
Butte City, CA 95920
(530)982-2092  FAX
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I think that the closing of the salmon season in Coos Bay Oregon was wrong. Here are some reasons why I think that way.

In Coos Bay we live near the ocean and some of the people that come to our town like to fish for salmon. If you take away the salmon season you are taking away some of the tourists that come to Coos Bay.

Another thing is that we live in a completely different state. We are separated by like 300 miles. I can understand why you would close Brookings and Gold Beach but that is because they are close. I don’t think that we had anything to do with the returning fish to the Klamath River.

Another reason why I think that it was wrong is because I don’t even think that you would even find one of Klamath’s salmon in our river. I thought that returning fish go to the original river they were from and if that is the case why would we need to close the season or give us a 9000 fish quota.

These are the reasons why I think it wasn’t fair because I fish for salmon in the ocean and I didn’t get to this year. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kilmer
757 S. Wasson Street
Coos Bay OR 97420
California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

RE: REQUEST TO THE STATE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION FOR CONSIDERATION OF A LIMITED RECREATIONAL FISHING SEASON FOR CHINOOK SALMON IN THE SANTA CRUZ HARBOR

Dear Members of the Commission:

It is our Board's understanding that the State Fish and Game Commission will be considering salmon season regulations in early February. As part of your deliberation of this matter, I am writing at the unanimous direction of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to urge that the State allow a limited recreational fishing season for chinook salmon in Santa Cruz Harbor from October 1, 2009, to November 15, 2009.

We understand the State's determination to close the season for ocean fishing for commercial and recreational salmon in 2008 as a precaution against what was predicted to be a very low return of Sacramento fall run chinook. Locally, however, 180,000 chinook salmon smolts were planted by the Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project out of the Santa Cruz Harbor in 2007 with the intention of enhancing recreational salmon fishing in the Monterey Bay. While some of these chinook salmon should return to the Sacramento River system, it is expected that at least some adult chinook salmon will be in the Santa Cruz area waiting for cues to swim upstream and spawn in local streams that historically have not included chinook salmon. Since Arana Creek upstream of the harbor and other Santa Cruz streams do not provide suitable chinook spawning and rearing habitat, these salmon will die or be eaten by local sea lions and harbor seals.

Given the concern that the salmon season will remain closed in 2009, our Board considered a request from the Santa Cruz County Fish and Game Advisory Commission that the Board of Supervisors urge that the State allow a very limited recreational salmon fishing season to target the chinook salmon that were planted out of the Santa Cruz Harbor in 2007. Public fishing would be restricted to the east and west jetties of the Santa Cruz Harbor.
January 15, 2009
Page 2

and no fishing from boats would be allowed. The Santa Cruz Port District considered this matter in November and December and adopted the attached resolution supporting a specific limited recreational salmon fishing zone within Santa Cruz Harbor between October 1 and November 15, 2009.

Accordingly, I am writing to convey our Board's request that the California Fish and Game Commission authorize a limited recreational chinook salmon fishing season from October 1 to November 15, 2009, within the Santa Cruz Harbor only, as outlined above. Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions or need any further information to consider our request.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

NEAL COONERTY, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

NC:ted
Attachments

cc: Donald Hansen, Council Chair, Pacific Fishery Management Council
    Neil Manji, Fisheries Branch Chief, Department of Fish and Game
    Kristen Kittleson, Fishery Resource Planner, County of Santa Cruz
    Santa Cruz Port District
    Clerk of the Board

4647A6
December 30, 2008

Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: Letter to California Fish and Game Commission in Support of a Recreational Fishing Season for Chinook Salmon in the Santa Cruz Harbor

Dear Board of Directors,

The Fish and Game Advisory Commission requests that you send a letter to the California State Fish and Game Commission requesting the establishment of a recreational salmon fishing season within the Santa Cruz Harbor between October 1 and November 15, 2009. This limited recreational salmon fishing season will target the chinook (or king) salmon that were planted out of the Santa Cruz Harbor in 2007 by the Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project. Local fishing-related businesses will benefit from this special fishing season.

In April 2008, the California Fish and Game Commission, the Pacific Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries took emergency action to close all commercial and recreational ocean salmon fishing for 2008. Fishery scientists predicted a very low return of Sacramento fall run chinook in 2008 and closed all ocean fishing as a precaution. Fishery scientists think that poor ocean conditions for smolts (young salmon going to the ocean environment) are responsible for the dramatic declines in Sacramento chinook salmon in 2007 and 2008. However, limited recreational river fishing for chinook salmon remained open in the Klamath, Trinity and Smith Rivers and in the Upper Sacramento River.

In 2007, the Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project planted 180,000 chinook salmon smolts out of the Santa Cruz Harbor with the intention of enhancing recreational salmon fishing in the Monterey Bay. While some of these chinook salmon should return to the Sacramento River system, it is expected that at least some adult chinook salmon will be in the Santa Cruz area waiting for cues to swim upstream and spawn in local streams that historically did not have chinook salmon in...
them. Since Arana Creek upstream of the harbor and other Santa Cruz streams do not provide suitable chinook spawning and rearing habitat, these salmon will die or be eaten by local sea lions and harbor seals.

In anticipation that the salmon season could remain closed in 2009, we would like the Board to request a special fishing season within the Santa Cruz Harbor that would run from October 1 to November 15, 2009. Public fishing would be restricted to the east and west jetties at the harbor's entrance; no fishing from boats would be allowed. By restricting fishing to within the harbor, it better ensures that the targeted salmon are returns from the 2007 planting and avoids accidental catch of chinook salmon returning to the Sacramento River system or of endangered coho salmon. Hours, gear and other restrictions would be the same as a regular salmon season.

The Santa Cruz Harbor District considered this proposal at their November 18 and December 16, 2008 meetings and supports the proposed fishing season to allow public fishing from the East and West Levees only (see Attachment A).

Recommendation:

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board direct the Chairperson to send a letter to the Fish and Game Commission requesting a recreational chinook salmon fishing season from October 1 to November 15, 2009 within the Santa Cruz Harbor.

Sincerely,

James Ritchey, Chair
Fish and Game Advisory Commission

ATTACHMENTS:
A. Santa Cruz Port District, Resolution #08-10
Santa Cruz Port District
RESOLUTION #08-10

December 16, 2008

ON THE MOTION OF ____________ COMMISSIONER LEE

DULY SECONDED BY ____________ COMMISSIONER SMITH

A resolution of the Santa Cruz Port District Commission in support of a limited recreational salmon fishing zone within Santa Cruz Harbor.

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz Fish and Game Advisory Commission is seeking support for a recreational Chinook salmon fishing zone to be established within Santa Cruz Harbor between October 1 and November 15, 2009; and,

WHEREAS, this limited recreational fishing zone would target Chinook (or King) salmon that were planted out of the Santa Cruz Harbor in 2007, by the Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project; and,

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz Port District Commission considered this proposed recreational fishing zone at its public meeting of November 18, 2008, and directed Port District staff to work with the Fish and Game Advisory Commission to explore options for allowing such a season on a limited basis; and,

WHEREAS, a proposal for a limited fishing zone has has been developed with the following conditions:

- Fishing will be allowed from the jetties only (no fishing from boats);
- Fishermen must be licensed, and abide by Department of Fish and Game rules and regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Cruz Port District Commission supports the Fish and Game Advisory Commission requesting a special salmon fishing season within Santa Cruz Harbor for 2009.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of December, 2008, by the following vote:

AYES: GODDARD, GEISREITER, LEE, MARTIN, SMITH

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

APPROVED BY:

[Signature]

Bill Geisreiter, Vice-Chairman
(Acting-Chair)
January 16, 2009

Pacific Fisheries Management Council
Attn. Mr. Donald K. Hansen
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Dear Donald,

As an accountant in Northern California, I can attest to the fact that the recession has been difficult. By closing the salmon season in the ocean completely, as you did last year, many businesses will be forced to close and other ocean resources will take the pressure and we will be faced with additional environmental problems. Below you will only find two situations, but I know for a fact that you could find thousands of examples.

I have a restaurant client in Fort Bragg, CA and 2008 gross sales have dropped by 60 percent. Gross sales from 2007 to 2008 have dropped from $954,000 to $381,000. This drop forced the client to lay off employees and decrease food cost purchases. This client depends on both sportsman and commercial fisherman. This client will be forced to close if there is no salmon fishing season. Thus, this business alone will affect many families and other businesses.

As a sports fisherman, I believe that by closing the salmon season, sportsman and commercial fisherman will put pressure on other types of fishing. For example, our crab season and rock fishing season have been terrible and if these people put more pressure on crabbing and rock fishing, the crabs and rockfish will diminish and we will be forced to deal with these issues also.

I strongly believe that if we have strict limits using a punch card system, we will gain valuable information, not put all the pressure on other types of fishing, save business from closing, and help our entire country with our current recession. The punch card system should also include the fact that all salmon must be taken and tagged regardless of size and type because many fish are being released bleeding and will die. Any type of strict limit needs to be strictly enforced along with license forfeiture and monetary restitution.

Thus, we are faced with a difficult decision, but by closing the salmon season completely, we will affect many people and the environment. I hope the above will help you in making the proper decision and new laws that will help us all.

Thank you for your consideration,

Angel Nunez, Owner
A & N Public Accounting Services
RECEIVED
JAN 15 2008

PFMC

Dear Sir:

The economic impact on our community by the recession has been difficult at best.

If you close the salmon season in the ocean completely, as you did last year, many businesses will have to close.

I spoke with 3 different business owners. One trailer part owner claims a $120,000 decrease in gross sales. A restaurant and lodge owner claims a $250,000 decrease in gross sales. And a liquor store owner sees a decrease of about $200 a day in gross sales when our fishing seasons close. There are also countless other businesses that are affected when the fishing season is closed.

Please give us at least some form of season. A punch card or limited fishing days, i.e. weekends. This could also provide data for your studies of the salmon population,

Thank you for your consideration,

Mike Williamson, President

North Coast Fishing Assn.
Dear Sir:

The economic impact on our community by the recession has been difficult at best.

If you close the salmon season in the ocean completely, as you did last year, many businesses will have to close.

I spoke with 3 different business owners:
- One trailer part owner claims a $120,000 decrease in gross sales.
- A restaurant and lodge owner claims a $250,000 decrease in gross sales.
- And a liquor store owner sees a decrease of about $200 a day in gross sales when our fishing seasons close.

There are also countless other businesses that are affected when the fishing season is closed.

Please give us at least some form of season. A punch card or limited fishing days, i.e. weekends. This could also provide data for your studies of the salmon population,

Thank you for your consideration,

Ed & Sharon Secco
P.O. Box 35
Manchester, CA 95459
January 15, 2009

Mr. Donald K. Hansen
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Dear Mr. Hansen;

As a resident of the North Coast, and an avid recreational fisherman, I am aware of the economic impact to our community to have gone through 2008 without a salmon season.

Our community lost logging as it's primary economic driver in 1998 and has worked very diligently with various groups in the community to replace it with tourism. To this end, we have been able to build a very respectable recreational fishing industry which we believe brings in excess of $20 million to this area. As you can imagine, the lack of any salmon season and the major reduction of our bottom fishing has impacted the community in major proportions.

I would request that the PFMC consider the possibility of a very limited salmon season either utilizing a few very specific fishing days (ie designed around weekends and holidays) or utilizing a punch card which would restrict fishing to a minimum number of fish.

I am well aware of the counts in the Sacramento and Klamath rivers, but believe that the small impact this would have on the fishery, would be justified. Should the counts be as low as some advise, I would believe few fish would be caught on the North Coast. It is interesting to note that Oregon has utilized a “flexible” system of fishing days based on fish caught and counts. This has allowed a small amount of fishing to occur and in many cases improved the economy of the coastal communities.

Respectfully Submitted

[Signature]

John H. Innes
Dear Sir,

Our survival as a small business in Fort Bragg depends on fishing and in particular salmon fishing. Please consider at least weekend salmon fishing for us. Businesses in Fort Bragg seem to be closing at an alarming rate. I've talked to people daily and hear, and I quote, "I don't know how much longer I can hang on".

Fishing is a long held tradition in Fort Bragg and with our lumber mill shut down, there is no industry left in town to speak of and our livelihood depends on tourism. The main draw for tourism is fishing.

Fisherman come bringing there families to shop, camp at our campgrounds and eat at our restaurants. The economic impacts to our community is staggering. I've talked to businesses that have lost gross incomes as much as $250,000. Multiply this by our campgrounds, restaurants and other shops and you can begin to see how the lack of a salmon season and only a 12 week rock cod season has devastated our economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Patrick & Karen Heaviside
Fort Bragg Sportfishing
(707)-961-9692
Dear Sir:

The economic impact on our community by the recession has been difficult at best.

If you close the salmon season in the ocean completely, as you did last year, many businesses will have to close.

I spoke with 3 different business owners:

- One trailer part owner claims a $120,000 decrease in gross sales.
- A restaurant and lodge owner claims a $250,000 decrease in gross sales.
- And a liquor store owner sees a decrease of about $200 a day in gross sales when our fishing seasons close.

There are also countless other businesses that are affected when the fishing season is closed.

Please give us at least some form of season. A punch card or limited fishing days, i.e. weekends. This could also provide data for your studies of the salmon population,

Thank you for your consideration,

P.S. CAN YOU IMAGINE THE LOSS OF REVENUE TO OUR STATE IF NO ONE BUYS A FISHING LICENCE THIS YEAR. THIS IS THE FIRST YEAR THAT I HAVE PUT OFF THE PURCHASE OF ONE. IF AFTER ALL IF ONE CAN'T FISH, A LICENCE IS NOT NEEDED.
Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Or 97220-1384

RE: Salmon Management

RECEIVED
JAN 2, 8 2008
PFMC

I just wanted to share how, I was affected by 2008 Salmon Season Closure.
My Name is Victor Silva, Sales Representative for Core Mark International.
I sell products to small stores in and around The Fort Bragg,
California area. Due to the salmon season closure my sales fell off, at least
20%. My Bonus averages 1,500 to 2,000 dollars per month. Factor in four months
I have lost at least 8,000 dollars. That would have gone to my mortgage, taxes and
Family.

I urge PFMC to look at how our local community is affected by such closures.
I am willing to share more information, on how this has affected my family
And community.

Sincerely,
Victor M. Silva
2062 Primrose Dr
Willits Ca, 95490
January 26, 2009

PFMC

Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Ste 101
Portland, Or 97220-1384

Re: Salmon Management

My name is Dusty Dillon and I own 2 acres and 350' of commercial pier with a fish receiving station/crane here in Noyo Harbor, Fort Bragg, CA.

We purchased this property in 2003 and had a fish buyer-processor as a tenant for three years until the salmon season was curtailed. We calculate that we are loosing $35,000 a year in revenue because of the regulations currently in effect.

There are fish here, please don't hurt us for another year. Please provide for salmon fishing in the Fort Bragg region.

Respectfully,

T.D. "Dusty" Dillon
P.O. Box 1490
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

CC: Rep Mike Thompson
Jim Martin, Recreational Fishing Alliance
David Pellandini, North Coast Fishing Assoc.
Emerald Dolphin Inn  
1211 South Main St.  
Fort Bragg, Ca. 95437  
(707) 964-6699 Phone  
(707) 962-0338 Fax  

January 28th, 2009  

RECEIVED  
JAN 30 2008  
PFMC  

Re: 2009 Salmon Season  

Attn: Donald O McIsaac, Executive Director  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  

Dear Mr. McIsaac,  

You are receiving this letter from Kim & David Queen, Managing Owners / Operators of the Emerald Dolphin Inn located in Fort Bragg, Ca. The Northern Coast of Ca. is a prime vacation town and my family has resided here for the past 5 generations. The Emerald Dolphin Inn opened its doors 8 years ago. Since that time we have become very familiar with the needs and desires of the tourist traveling to our area.  

Each area will have it's particular draw to travelers. Since we are located on the Pacific Coast one of the biggest draws is of course related. Fishing & Whale watching trips. This is something many travelers plan on doing when they come to the coast. Whale season last for only a couple winter months and can also be done from the shore. The fishing industry however brings a vast amount of tourism to our area and is instrumental to the economy. With the closer of last season we can estimate that the loss to our lodge alone was somewhere between 7 - 8 thousand dollars. When we lose travelers it doesn't just effect us. The restaurants, Gas stations, shops, etc. all lose from what would have been spent by these travelers. Our economy at this point is solely relied upon by the tourist industry and by losing this type of business is something we can't afford to have happen again this year.  

We all urge you to take the time to consider how devastating this has been to the coastal communities. Families and businesses depend on you and your council to put much thought into what the cost to our community would be if you took away another salmon season.  

Sincerely Yours,  

Kim Queen
To Don O. McIsaac - Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council

Please consider the problems of no Salmon fishing on our Town’s on The North Coast of California. We need a fishing season on Salmon and larger on bottom fish because it really helps the economy of our area. There is not much industry in our area so all the people coming to fish really helps our economy! The past year saw our Town of Ft Bragg lose hundreds of thousands of dollars as a result of no fishing. Motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping areas, restaurants, grocery stores and all other local businesses! I would hope you give us some Salmon fishing and a lot of bottom fishing. Please consider these facts when setting this year’s season!

Thank you,

T.S. Coohn
510 Walnut St., Apt 2
Ft Bragg, Ca 95437
Mr. Donald K. Hansen
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR. 97220-1384

Mr. Donald K. Hansen

I am a sport fisherman that loves to fish in the Northern Pacific Ocean for sport fish.

When the 2008 Salmon season was closed due to poor fish counts on the Sacramento River, I was not happy but conceded that something had to be done.

However, when I found out that fishing was being allowed on the river, I was outraged. How can fishing be allowed for the very fish that are traveling up the river to spawn. These fish are en route to the spawning grounds as programmed in their genetic makeup so their species will survive.

As proponents to the survival of the species, I believe the wrong decision was made to allow fishing to one type of fisherman and not allow another type to fish. How does this make sense?

Don’t take it the wrong way; I am all for sustainable fishing and to do what we have to so we can have fishing for generations to come.

My proposal is to give the fisherman some sort of fishing for the 2009 fishing season, weather it be a punch card system, a boat limit, or a 1 fish a day limit.

Another impact that no fishing season has is on the business of the small towns.

I reside in Fort Bragg, California. My wife is the manager of the Seabird Lodge. The lodge business was down quite substantial during the what would be a normal Chinook salmon fishing season because of the canceling of the 2008 season.

Please allow the sport fisherman and the business that rely on the business of the fisherman to have a fishing season for the 2009 season

Sincerely

Mark Reynolds
200 S Harrison St
Fort Bragg, CA. 95437
Mr. Donald K. Hansen  
Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Dear Mr. Hansen,

I am writing to request the Pacific Fisheries Management Council give consideration to some type of alternative season for the upcoming Chinook Salmon season in California rather than a complete closure as we had last year.

As a sport fisherman who lives in Fort Bragg, CA I have witnessed severe financial hardships for many of my friends and neighbors who rely on the tourist and sport fishing industry in our city due to the closure last year. My friends who are commercial fishermen also suffered significant financial hardships. I would like to see these hardships reduced this year. Since commercial fishermen received Federal financial aid for the losses they suffered last year, my suggestions that follow only apply to sport fishermen. It is the money that they spend that has a significant impact on our local community. We depend on the money they spend on hotels, meals, bait, gas, and the shopping conducted by fishermen’s wives to bolster our community during the fishing season. All of this was lost last year.

I feel that these burdens can be somewhat reduced by some sort of alternative rather than a complete closure. One alternative would be a season limited to some sort of limited season restriction i.e., week-end only fishing, or Tues. & Thurs. fishing. Another alternative might be similar to the current abalone restrictions where fishermen buy a card allowing so many salmon per season and he/she has to affix a tag on each fish caught and also fill out a registration card for each fish caught. When the card gets filled that fisherman’s season is over.

Another alternative would be to shorten the season or have the season open in alternative months. I would suggest an open season during March and April, and June and July.

I would suggest that you give your most serious consideration to my next suggestion for an alternative solution to the problem.

As you know, native silver salmon are an endangered species. This is not so for hatchery raised silver salmon. In fact, there is a significant hatchery raised silver salmon fishery in Washington and Oregon. Sport fishermen are allowed a legal bag limit of hatchery silvers in both states. It is only because of politics that Californians are not allowed the same privilege. I am told that members of the PFMC vote California down every year when the matter is brought to the table.
From personal experience I can tell you that there is a significant number of hatchery raised silvers caught each year in California that have to be released. Unless one knows what they are doing, many of these released fish become sea lion or crab food. Often when fishing for Kings you can’t get to deeper depths without catching silvers. That is how thick they are. Ask any Ft. Bragg salmon fisherman, sport or commercial, and they will attest to this claim. Our waters are infested with them. It’s hard to keep them off our hooks.

Since hatchery raised silvers are so plentiful, I would suggest as an alternative that we leave the Chinooks alone for another year and open a limited season for hatchery raised silvers in California waters. My suggestion would be for both sport fishermen and party boat operators. Let’s take the politics out of the equation. I know Washington, Oregon and Idaho members feel that since the hatcheries are in their states they should be the only ones to able to catch these fish. That argument is wrong headed. We don’t restrict Washington and Oregon crabbers or commercial fishermen from California waters. Turn about should be fair play.

This alternative would allow the Chinook to replenish for another year. It would also satisfy the needs of the salmon sport fishermen. If the other state PFMC members are concerned about the financial loss of these fish, let California DFG sell season punch cards and give part of the proceeds to these other states to help make up for their losses.

Mr. Hansen, I appreciate all the efforts to save the Chinook Salmon fishery. No one wants to sustain the fishery more that the average salmon fisherman. My only fear is that too much emphasis is placed on flawed data and that overreaction is wrongly applied. I believe that any of the alternatives I suggested above would be more reasonable than a complete closure and would serve the same basic purpose, which is to save the Chinook fishery. The last alternative that I suggested would be the least intrusive on the Chinooks, yet still allow the sport fishery to continue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Marshall
30801 Highway 20
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
February 2, 2009

Mr. Donald K. Hansen
Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Dear Chairman Hansen,

Fort Bragg, California, was once an industrial town thriving on both the logging and the commercial fishing industries. Unfortunately both of these industries have virtually disappeared from our local economy. Now in 2009, like it or not, Fort Bragg’s economy is dependent on tourism.

One of the main tourist attractions of Fort Bragg has always been its prolific salmon fishery. Recreational salmon fishermen and women travel from all over the country to participate in this fishery. The economic contribution of recreational salmon fishing to this town is in the millions of dollars. In 2008, the PFMC voted to shut down the salmon fishery entirely. The economic impact to Fort Bragg was devastating. While some of the business that are directly related to the fishery were able to get some financial relief from the Federal Government, business that are indirectly related to fishing have suffered tremendously due to the closure. These businesses include restaurants, retail stores, motels, and many other local establishments.

Now in 2009 we face yet another total closure. This comes at a time when both our national and local economies face the worst recession in over 50 years. Many Fort Bragg businesses are on the brink of bankruptcy. Another fishing closure will most certainly push them over the edge.

While the 2008 Fall and Late Fall hatchery returns are showing that the salmon runs are far from recovering, I ask that the PFMC consider the affect of their decisions on the human lives involved as well as the effect on the salmon.

Sincerely,

Brad Clark
20800 Huckleberry Lane
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
Mr. Donald K. Hansen  
Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, OR 97220-1384  

Dear Council:  

RE: 2009 Salmon Season  

I urge you to give us a limited Salmon Season such as May-August. Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday. 2 fish per day, 8 per season.  

The economic impact to this state and fishing communities is a lot. I personally buy a license, gear, fuel, motel, restaurants and my wife shops while I fish. We spend about $500 for one fishing trip in the Ft. Bragg area.  

Recent studies are showing that fisherman are probably not the problem causing declining numbers.  

The current drought will cause many fish to die going up rivers.  

Sincerely,  

[Signature]  

Robert A. Ruddock  
3912 Scotts Valley Rd.  
Lakeport, Ca 95453
To: Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, OR 97220-1384  
Fax: (503) 820-2299

Re: Salmon Management

Dear Mr. McIsaac,

I am Tarey Cannon, the owner of Manchester Beach KOA here in Manchester California.

We are a KOA campground & have been here for over 30 years.

My business depends very much on the fishing industry & has always, in the past, provided revenue from campers who only camp here because of the fishing.

I would estimate that we have lost at least $10,000 in revenue because there was no salmon fishing in 2008.

Small businesses such as mine, in this area, will find it very difficult to make ends meet without the fishing industry.

I urge you to provide for salmon fishing opportunities in this region. The Fort Bragg region.

Thank You,

Tarey Cannon  
Owner Manchester Beach KOA  
44300 Kinney Rd.  
Manchester Ca 95459  
(707) 882-2375
Monday, February 09, 2009

Donald Mc Isaac
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

RE: Salmon Management

Dear Mr. Mc Isaac,

I am writing to you to express my concern over the loss of recreational salmon fishing off the Mendocino Coast. My Name is Denise Parrott and I am a small business owner in downtown Fort Bragg. My tourist business comprises almost 45% of my business. I sell women’s lingerie, and I am fortunate to have many “fishing widows” spend their time my shop. I do not know exactly how many there are, but I do know that it’s a lot. Last summer my regular tourists just were not here. I believe that there should be regulation, but not to the exclusion of recreational salmon fishing. It impacts us all over here in our very fragile economy. Please reconsider for the sake of Fort Bragg! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Denise Parrott
Owner, Understuff!
310 North Franklin St.
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
(707) 964-5013
9645013@sbcglobal.net
February 5, 2009

David L. Pellandini
P.O. Box 920
Mendocino, Ca 95460

Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Or 97220-1384

Dear Mr. McIsaac:

As you contemplate the delicate balance of our salmon fishery and the possibility of a season for the 2009 year, please also factor into the equation the economic instability of our community.

Already effected by our national economic conditions and further devastated by one year of very poor fishing (2007) and another year of no salmon fishing (2008) the prospect of another year of salmon fishing closure will certainly be the final nail in the coffin of many of our businesses.

Even a reduced season that will help our community survive without further endangering the delicate balance of our salmon fishery will contribute to the survival of many business in our community.

Please consider these options carefully while making your decisions.

Thank you for your time and thoughts in this matter.

Sincerely,

David L. Pellandini
Mr. Donald Hansen  
Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Dear Mr. Hansen

May I urge the Pacific Fisheries Management Council to consider and vote in favor of some type of salmon sport fishing season this year. A modified season would be beneficial.

One suggestion for a modified season which would have a very positive ripple effect for our small town economy, that is dependent primarily on tourism, is for a season limited to weekends and holidays. With at least this much, our local businesses could manage to move in the right direction until conditions are more favorable for recovery. Our community is working very hard to save the environment and care for our fishing industry.

Thank you for your efforts and application of positive energy towards this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ruth Sommer
19230 Basin View Drive
Fort Bragg, California 95437
Mr. Donald Hansen  
Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Dear Mr. Hansen

I am asking the Pacific Fisheries Management Council to allow some type of salmon sport fishing season this year. A modified season would be beneficial because other than helping the economy here, it would provide valuable information to DFG fish counters with location, depth, size, and quantity.

My suggestion is for a limited season to weekends and holidays which would have a positive ripple effect for our small town economy which is dependent on tourism. With at least this amount, our local businesses could manage to move positively until conditions have recovered. Our community is working hard to save the environment and care for our fishing industry.

Thank you for your efforts towards this important matter. I urge you to give this proposal serious consideration.

Sincerely, 

Ronald Sommer  
Sport Fisherman  
19230 Basin View Drive  
Fort Bragg, California 95437
February 9, 2009

Re: Loss of Business & Income due to Fishing Season Closure

I have been the Manager of Trailer Cove Trailer Park for the past 24 years. We are an adult (55+) park located above the Noyo Basin, right off Hwy. 20. Most of my residents are senior citizens on a fixed, limited income. I provide affordable housing to some of the coast’s neediest.

In the 20+ years prior to the fishing season closure, my R.V. section had always been full from May through September with people even on the waiting list for spaces. That was until the mandated closing of our local fishing season. Now, for the past three years or so, my R.V. section has never been full because all my ‘fishermen’ and their wives are staying home. They are not going to make the trip to Fort Bragg when there’s no fishing allowed.

Five months, from May to September, is a lot of lost revenue for many Fort Bragg businesses. My fishing residents eat out at local restaurants often, go to the show, attend bingo games, buy groceries, fishing supplies and pay me space rent. I have approximately 15 R.V. spaces (42% of my total RV spaces) that are empty now from May to September. That is lost income of $7,500.00 a month, and up to $37,500 for the season. I am a small, family run business and the lost income has put a serious financial strain on the business.

The fishing season closure has seriously ‘hurt’ our already struggling community. I urge the PFMC to reopen the sports fishing season off the Fort Bragg coast.

Sincerely,

Judy Haun
Trailer Cove Trailer Park