SALMON MANAGEMENT OPTION HEARING SUMMARY

Date: March 30, 2009
Location: Red Lion Hotel
         Coos Bay, Oregon
Hearing Officer: Mr. Frank Warrens
Other Council Members:
NMFS: Ms. Peggy Busby
Coast Guard: CDR Nicole Nancarrow
Salmon Technical Team: Mr. Craig Foster
Council Staff: Mr. Chuck Tracy

Organizations Represented: Port of Brookings Harbor; Klamath Zone Coalition; Brookings Chamber of Commerce, Port of Bandon, Curry County Board of Commissioners, Salmon Harbor Marina.

Synopsis of Testimony

Of the 26 people testifying:

- 6 commented primarily on the commercial troll fishery.
- 13 commented primarily on the recreational fishery.
- 3 commented on both recreational and commercial fisheries, or other economic aspects of the fisheries.
- 4 commented on other issues.

Special Opening Remarks

Mr. Warrens gave a brief overview of the meeting process and objectives of the fisheries. Mr. Foster provided a summary of the recreational and commercial options.

Commercial Troll Comments

North of Cape Falcon
- One person favored Option II for the non-Indian commercial fishery
- One person felt the 4 days on 3 days off structure was biased against small boat owners
- One person requested sales of fish from north of Cape Falcon be allowed in areas south of Garibaldi.
South of Cape Falcon
- One person favored Option I
- Two people favored Option II
- Three people favored Option III because it would cost too much to gear up for one month of fishing.
- One person felt the commercial fishery participation level was not sustainable and a buy-out program would benefit the fishery.
- One person recommended a modified Option III that would allow retention of 10 salmon per vessel per year for GSI sampling; fish could be retained for personal use or sold with profits to help fund a buyout program.

Recreational Comments

North /Central Oregon
- Two people favored Option I
- Five people favored Option II; several favored Option II with the Option I quota and three fish bag limit

Oregon Klamath Management Zone
- Three people favored Option I
- Six people favored Option II

California Klamath Management Zone
- Four people favored Option I.

Other Comments

- Several people supported funding increases for better scientific data collection, including monitoring, recovery programs, hatchery reform, and the proposed GSI study.
- One person requested lethal removal of sea lions.
- Four people expressed frustration with the 2008 Sacramento River fishery in November and December occurring after the entire coast was closed for Chinook retention.
- One person recommended the Council consider use of the mixed-stock exception to prosecute ocean Chinook fisheries in 2009.

Written Statements (Attached)

Curry County Board of Commissioners
Paul Merz
Klamath Management Zone Fisheries Coalition
Salmon Harbor Marina

PFMC
04/04/09
Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, OR 97220-1384  

March 25, 2009

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for the opportunity to present this letter from the Curry County Board of Commissioners. After reviewing the options carefully and in support of the Klamath Management Zone Fisheries Coalition we recommend Option 1 for California and Option 2 for Oregon for the recreational 2009 Ocean Salmon Season.

In 2008, the closure of the Ocean Salmon Season was devastating to many of the small businesses in our coastal communities. Some did not survive. Another year of closures or near closures, with the resulting publicity and current economic conditions could be the end for many of the remaining businesses. Such actions will also continue the steady decimation of our fisheries industry.

We recognize the challenges that are presented on the Sacramento River with low water flow, removal of net pens and poor management being contributing factors. We encourage all regulatory agencies to work with the State of California to assure improvement of management practices impacting this federal resource. It is also paramount that the federal government fund important research studies such as GSI so that future economic impacts to this region are minimized.

Thank you.

Bill Waddle  
George Rhodes  
Georgia Yee Nowlin
Alternative Proposal, Option III

Commercial troll management option for non-Indian ocean salmon fisheries, 2009.

Cape Falcon to Ore/Cal Border, Subsistence and Genetic research only

All Salmon, non-mark directed.
One landing of 10 fish per Oregon Permitted Vessel, August 1 through Sept 15.
All Chinook will be genetically sampled using project Croos at-sea sampling protocols.
All fish will be landed in Oregon and recorded on standard ODFW landing tickets.
All fish landed will be for “buyback” and personal use only.
Current ODFW landing fees and poundage fees will apply to all landed fish.
27 inch minimum for Chinook.
20 inch minimum for Coho.

Same gear restrictions listed for Option I and Option II.
Pacific Fisheries Management Council

Dear Sirs;

Thank you for the opportunity to testify tonight.

The Klamath Management Zone Fisheries Coalition is the only trans-boundary fisheries group working on issues affecting ocean fisheries in the Klamath Management Zone. We represent 3 counties; Humboldt, Del Norte and Curry and cities, ports and citizens within those counties.

The Klamath Management Zone Fisheries Coalition recognizes that the State of Oregon and the State of California have different laws that affect fish management within the zone. Therefore the Klamath Management Zone Fisheries Coalition recommends Option 1 for California and Option 2 for Oregon for the recreational 2009 Ocean Salmon Season within the Klamath Management Zone. Furthermore, we support our commercial fishing fleets in the options they choose for the 2009 season.

Sincerely:

[Signature]

Lucie La Bonte
Chair, Klamath Management Zone Fisheries Coalition

March 30, 2009
March 30, 2009

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

RE: Public Hearing, Red Lion Inn, Coos Bay, Oregon
Proposed Ocean Salmon Fishery Management Options - Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain

Dear Chair and members of the Council:

My name is Linda Noel representing Salmon Harbor Marina in Winchester Bay, Oregon. Salmon Harbor Marina is a public entity created through an intergovernmental agreement between the Douglas County Board of Commissioners and the Port of Umpqua Board of Commissioners.

I'm here to express our support for adoption of Option II of the non-Indian ocean salmon recreational management options for our area between Cape Falcon and Humbug Mountain. Option II provides the longest season open seven days a week. Both of the factors will afford the public the greatest opportunity to make their plans to come to the coast, especially those that come a long distance, and it gives them needed flexibility for last minute changes to stay another day or two in the event that ocean conditions are not best when they arrive.

Option II also allows both us and the community to do an advertising campaign that will be the most effective to draw people throughout the summer season.

As a large marina (over 500 slips with two boat launches and camping) in a small unincorporated coastal town, we are very aware of the positive economical impact the longer season with the opportunity for more angler trips will have not only on our business but on the many local charters, motels, restaurants, and shops. This is borne out by the projections shown for our area in Table 10 and Figure 2 of the Preseason Report II Analysis of Proposed Regulatory Options for 2009 Ocean Salmon Fisheries. In fact, for some of the small ‘mom and pop’ businesses it may make the difference this year between survival or not.

Thank you for your time this evening and the ability to present comments. We are very appreciative that all three options are an improvement over 2008. Again, we urge adoption of Option II for the Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain ocean salmon recreational season.

Sincerely,

Linda Noel, Project Manager

C: Jeff Vander Kley, Harbor Manager