



## Pacific Fishery Management Council *NEWS RELEASE*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, April 15, 2015

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### **COUNCIL ADOPTS SALMON SEASONS COASTWIDE**

ROHNERT PARK, CA. – The Pacific Fishery Management Council adopted a set of ocean salmon seasons that provides both recreational and commercial opportunities coastwide. Washington and Oregon fishermen, in particular, will benefit from strong salmon returns in the Columbia River this year. Salmon fisheries in California and Oregon provide access to an expected good return of Sacramento River fall Chinook and Klamath River fall Chinook, while meeting protective measures for Sacramento River winter Chinook, and California Coastal Chinook.

The recommendation will be forwarded to the National Marine Fisheries Service for approval by May 1, 2015.

“I am pleased that we were able to provide coastwide commercial and recreational fishing opportunities while meeting or exceeding our conservation goals,” said Council Chair Dorothy Lowman. “It has been impressive to see everyone working together to address our management challenges, including the ongoing drought in California.”

#### **California and Oregon South of Cape Falcon, Oregon**

An expected abundance of 650,000 Sacramento River fall Chinook, combined with strong coho expectations for the Columbia River, will support ample recreational and reasonable commercial opportunities for ocean salmon fisheries off California and Oregon. The 2015 Columbia River coho abundance forecast in 2015 is over 800,000 fish and will allow for sizable recreational coho opportunities in this summer.

The Klamath River fall Chinook abundance forecast for 2015 is over 420,000, an improvement over last year, providing respectable seasons for fisheries in Oregon and California, which are designed to meet conservation objectives and provide adequate spawning populations.

Concerns about the ongoing drought in California led the Council, the state of California and the fishing community to work collaboratively to shape fisheries south of Point Arena, California in such a way as to provide protections to Sacramento River winter Chinook salmon, while allowing good opportunities to catch the relatively abundant populations of Sacramento and Klamath River fall Chinook.

#### *Recreational Fisheries*

Recreational fisheries in California and southern Oregon are primarily focused on Chinook salmon and run from May 1 through September 7 in the Brookings/Eureka/Crescent City area. Fisheries further south all opened on April 4 and will continue through November 8 in the Fort Bragg area, through October 31 in the San Francisco area, through September 7 from Pigeon Point to Point Sur, and through July 19 south of Point Sur.

Recreational fisheries off the central Oregon coast will allow Chinook retention from March 15 through October 31. Coho fisheries consist of a 55,000 mark-selective coho quota fishery in mid-summer from Cape Falcon to the Oregon/California border and a 12,500 non-mark selective coho quota fishery in September, open from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain.

#### *Commercial Fisheries*

Commercial fisheries from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain, Oregon opened on April 1 and will run through August 27 and September 2 through 30. Fisheries in the Humbug Mountain to California border area will be open April, May, June, July, and August, with Chinook quotas in June (1,800), July (1,000), and August (500). Fisheries from the California border to Humboldt South Jetty will open on September 11 with a 3,000 Chinook quota.

Between Horse Mountain and Point Arena (in the Fort Bragg area), commercial Chinook salmon fisheries will be open for the full month of May, June 15 to 30, July 12 through August 26 and September 1 to 30.

In the area from Point Arena to Pigeon Point (San Francisco), the season will be open in May, June 7 to 30, July 8 to August 29, and the month of September. From Pigeon Point to the Mexico border (Monterey), the Chinook season will be open May 1 to 31. June 7 to 30, and July 8 to 31. The area between Pigeon Point and Point Sur will also be open from August 1 to 15. There will also be a season from Point Reyes to Point San Pedro, open October 1 to 2, 5 to 9, and 12 to 15.

### **Washington and Northern Oregon (North of Cape Falcon)**

Fisheries north of Cape Falcon (near Nehalem in northern Oregon) depend largely on Columbia River stocks. Columbia River fall Chinook and coho returns are expected to return at high levels. However, fisheries were constrained by measures to conserve Chinook stocks in Puget Sound and coho stocks in the Queets River and the interior Fraser River Basin.

North of Cape Falcon, there is an overall non-Indian total allowable catch of 131,000 Chinook and 170,000 marked hatchery coho.

#### *Recreational Fisheries*

A mark-selective Chinook season north of Cape Falcon begins May 30 off the Columbia River and Westport, and May 16 off La Push and Neah Bay. This fishery ends June 12, or when 10,000 marked Chinook are caught in all port areas combined.

The recreational fishery north of Cape Falcon opens to all salmon on June 13 and ends September 30 or when Chinook or coho quotas are reached. The preseason coho quota for all port areas combined is 150,800. For details, please see the season descriptions on the Council website at [www.pcouncil.org](http://www.pcouncil.org).

#### *Commercial Fisheries*

Non-Indian ocean commercial fisheries north of Cape Falcon include traditional Chinook seasons in the May-June timeframe and all-salmon seasons in the late-June-to-September timeframe. The Chinook quotas of 40,200 in May-June and 26,800 in the all-salmon season are moderately higher than the 2014 quotas. The coho quota of 19,200 is a considerable decrease from 2014's quota of 35,200.

Tribal ocean fisheries north of Cape Falcon are similar to 2014 with Chinook and coho

quotas of 60,000 and 42,500 respectively.

## **Process**

The Council developed the management measures after several weeks spent reviewing three season alternatives. The review process included input by Federal and state fishery scientists and fishing industry members, public testimony, and three public hearings in coastal communities. The Council received additional scientific information and took public testimony before taking final action. The decision will be forwarded to the National Marine Fisheries Service for approval and implementation.

In addition, the coastal states will decide on compatible freshwater fishery regulations at their respective Commission hearings.

## **Council Role**

The Pacific Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils established by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 for the purpose of managing fisheries miles offshore of the United States of America coastline. The Pacific Council recommends management measures for fisheries off the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington.

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## **On the Web**

- Pacific Fishery Management Council: <http://www.pcouncil.org>
- Geographical points used in salmon management: <http://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/geosalmon.pdf>
- Glossary of terms used in salmon management: [http://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/com\\_terms\\_salmon.pdf](http://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/com_terms_salmon.pdf)