

SALMON MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES HEARING SUMMARY

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| Date: March 31, 2015 Location: Motel 6 Fort Bragg, CA Attendance: 58 Testifying: 17 (three of which testified in writing in support of previous oral testimony). | Hearing Officer: Mr. Dan Wolford Other Council Members: NMFS: Ms. Peggy Mundy Coast Guard: ME1 Kyle Walker Salmon Technical Team: Mr. Brett Kormos Council Staff: Mr. Mike Burner |
| Organizations Represented: Bodega Bay Fishermen’s Association, Caito Fisheries, Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, Golden Gate Salmon Association, Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers, Humboldt Fishermen’s Marketing Association, Inc., Klamath Management Zone Fisheries Coalition; Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations, Trinidad Bay Marketing Association. | |

Special Opening Remarks

Mr. Dan Wolford provided opening remarks for the hearing. Mr. Brett Kormos of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provided a summary of the recreational and commercial Alternatives. The overwhelming majority of the attendees were from the commercial fishery, with only a handful of other stakeholder representatives, including a couple from the processing industry.

Synopsis of Testimony

Of the 18 people testifying:

- 15 commented primarily on the commercial troll fishery.
- Three commented primarily on the recreational fishery.

Commercial Troll Comments

- Eight supported a modified Alternative II from Horse Mountain to the U.S/ Mexico border as recommended by the Humboldt Fishermen’s Marketing Association (see attached) that reduces the number of commercial troll days open in June and July in exchange for a full month of opportunity in May and most of August and adds four days of fishing in the Fall Area Target Zone between Point Reyes and Point San Pedro. There was interest among supporters to fish earlier in the season to take advantage of better markets and an anticipated early and northerly availability of Chinook as was seen in 2014. One of the eight supporters of this Alternative suggested that the fishery close on June 30 and reopen July 5 for improved marketing for the 4th of July holiday.

- One person spoke in opposition to the modified Alternative II from Horse Mountain to the U.S/ Mexico border as recommended by the Humboldt Fishermen’s Marketing Association stating that the Alternative would overly concentrate the fleet and that the distribution of Chinook in 2014 may not be early and northerly like 2014 and that it would be wise wait until the Oregon troll fishery opens on April 1 for an early indication of conditions. Additionally, the fishery south of Point Arena is best before August and moving opportunity from June and July is not favorable.
- Three supported Alternative I for the California Klamath Management Zone (KMZ) commercial troll fishery and provided written testimony from other California KMZ fishermen (attached).
- One person spoke in opposition to structuring the commercial troll fishery with multiple short closures throughout the season because of difficult logistic and marketing challenges they bring and would prefer a continuous season that either starts later in the year or ends soon in the year or both, as necessary to meet the objectives. Another supported the concept of fewer start and stop dates.

Recreational Comments

- Two, representing the KMZ Fisheries Coalition and the Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers, supported Alternative I for recreational fisheries in the KMZ. Additionally, they were supportive of a 20 inch minimum size limit to be consistent with regulations to the south. One highlighted the effective co-management of the KMZ by Oregon and California and noted that the entire KMZ often has similar if not identical seasons and regulations. They also expressed the economic and cultural importance of providing salmon opportunity in the KMZ over the Labor Day holiday weekend.

Other Comments

- Nine spoke against the CDFW proposed fall closures in Alternative III for both commercial and recreational fisheries and many requested additional rationale and specifically requested any supporting evidence for the closures be made available, particularly in areas north of Point Arena. Freshwater conditions, hatchery practices and the ongoing drought are the primary concerns and restrictions to salmon fisheries in the fall of 2015 that are not expected to contact the potentially affected broods, as they will remain too small to be contacted in the fishery, and will do little or nothing to mitigate the concerns.
- One person spoke in support in maintaining even small fisheries in California KMZ, in part, as a way of improving the consistency and breadth of fishery-based data.
- One person expressed concerns regarding the commercial sale and marketing of Chinook salmon caught in freshwater Tribal fisheries.

Written Statements (Attached)

- Humboldt Fishermen’s Marketing Association.
- Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations.
- March 24, 2015 letter cosigned by California KMZ troll fishermen.
- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria.
- Letter to CDFW Director Bonham submitted by Dan Platt.

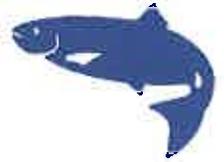
HUMBOLDT FISHERMEN'S MARKETING ASSOCIATION, INC.



3 Commercial Street
Eureka, California 95501-0241

(707) 443-0537

FAX (707) 443-1724



The Board of Directors of HFMA requests the following revision of Alternative 2 be adopted for the 2015 California commercial salmon season (Bitts abstaining):

KMZ: Sept. 11 – 30 or 5000 quota, 30/day

Horse Mt. to Mexican border

May 1 – 31

June: 12 days closed (to be decided)

July: 13 days closed (to be decided)

August 1 – 29

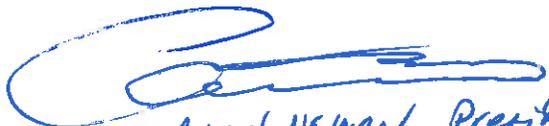
Sept. 1 – 30

Oct. 1 – 15 FATZ as in Alt. 2

This structure trades 6 days of July and 3 days of June for 22 days of May in Fort Bragg while restoring 12 days in August in FB compared to alternative 2.

We believe this season shape best serves the entire California fleet for the following reasons:

1. The KMZ opportunity in Alternative 1 comes at a cost of about five fish foregone elsewhere for each quota fish available in the KMZ.
2. Klamath impacts are highest in June and July; shifting time to May and August gives a substantial net gain in fishing days.
3. More boats fish earlier in the season; opening more coast in May should spread them out and give better success for all.
4. Recent trends point to a northern shift of salmon in the ocean, making more opportunity early to the north more attractive.
5. Market conditions are usually better in May than in July.
6. Both opening May north of Arena and closing more days in June and July below Arena should reduce troll impacts on '13BY winter run, which seems to be an unofficial management objective this year. We believe these savings will more than offset the winter run impacts from restoring fall fisheries below Arena.
7. Fort Bragg and Shelter Cove often provide more half-day fishing opportunity than ports below Pt. Arena, offering more fishing time per open day.


Aaron Newman, President H.F.M.A.

The following list are individuals who support this Salmon Season Structure:

| Boat or Business Name | Print Name | Signature | Relationship to Salmon Industry | Date |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|---------|
| 1 MAE | DARYL DEAUGHAMP | | CeM FISHING | 3-28-15 |
| 2 ABE | John Yearwood | | CAPT | 3-28-15 |
| 3 Lawrence | | | " | |
| 4 Gear Store manager | Randy Gibney | | " | 3-28-15 |
| 5 | Servy WALL | | SPORT FISHING | 3-28-15 |
| 6 F/V R III | Nick Kidd | | CAPT | 3-28-15 |
| 7 wild DUCKY | JAMES WELLS | | CAPT | 3/28/15 |
| 8 | Addison Slaven | | SPORT fisherman | 3/28/15 |
| 9 ACE | Scott Hockett | | CAPT/Processor | 3/28/15 |
| 10 Lauren B | Josh Paravolini | | CAPT | 3-28-15 |
| 11 Virginia | Mike STAMPS | | CAPT | 3-28-15 |
| 12 Star Sea Hawk | James Wallace | | CAPT | 3-28-15 |
| 13 Anchor ICE | Andy Brown | | ICE | 3-29-15 |
| 14 F/V Kromoli | Cyrus Meachys | | CAPT | 3-29-15 |
| 15 F/V Sea Breeze | Blake Juntz | | CAPT | 3-29-15 |
| 16 F/V TWENTY GRAND | SONN WADE | | BOAT OWNER | 3-29-15 |
| 17 F/V SOUND ADVENTURE | GLENY BRADLEY | | OPERATOR | 3-30-15 |
| 18 BK dolphin | Clifton Zimmerman | | CAPT | 3-30-15 |
| 19 Star Sea Hawk | Edward L. Moore | | OWNER | 3-30-15 |
| 20 Star Sea Hawk | CHRISTIAN HOUKAND | | BOAT | 3-30-15 |
| 21 Star Sea Hawk | EARL HARALDSEN | | BOAT | 3/30/15 |
| 22 | | | | |
| 23 | | | | |
| 24 | | | | |
| 25 | | | | |

David Bitts
President
Larry Collins
Vice-President
Duncan MacLean
Secretary
Mike Stiller
Treasurer



**PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION
of FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS**

W.F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr.
Executive Director
Glen H. Spain
Northwest Regional Director
Vivian Helliwell
Watershed Conservation Director
In Memoriam:
Nathaniel S. Bingham
Harold C. Christensen

Please Respond to:

but

www.pcffa.org

California Office

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Northwest Office

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Fax: (541) 689-2500

Mr. Charlton Bohham, Director
CDFW
1416 Ninth St
Sacramento, CA

Dear Director Bonham:

In framing regulations for this year's ocean salmon season, CDFW has proposed two departures from the rules, that is, from the combination of PFMC's Salmon Framework Plan and the various control rules resulting from Biological Opinions under the Endangered Species Act. Specifically, the Department has proposed a) shooting for an impact rate on 2013 brood year Sacramento winter run Chinook of less than 18%, when the control rule calls for 19%, and b) closing September and October fishing in an effort to reduce impacts on 2014 brood year winter run.

Fishermen are not allowed to deviate from the rules; if we don't like a rule, our recourse is to seek a Framework Plan amendment, a two-year process. We have done that, most recently in campaigning for Amendment 15 to the Salmon Framework Plan. We believe the Department has an obligation also to follow the rules, or, if going outside the rules, to show a damn good reason for doing so.

As it happens, we share your concern for the 2013 brood year, and we are willing to design a season that comes in either slightly above, or possibly somewhat below, a 17% impact. We can do this by extending the 24" size limit in the recreational fishery and possibly by shifting troll effort above Pt. Arena. In this case, since we have a fair idea of fishing impacts on the brood, we can see a demonstrable benefit from modifying our seasons to reduce that impact.

But the Department has failed to show any benefit from the proposed late-season closures. We have no direct information on fishery impacts on age-2 winter run, so we can't know the effects of season changes. It seems logical that our impacts would be less than on the older stock, but also greater than zero. Is there any way we can form an educated guess? We think there is.

Elsewhere in salmon fisheries, lacking direct information, we use surrogate stocks to set fishing levels. Specifically, lacking information on fishery impacts and stock abundances for coastal fall Chinook, we use age-4 Klamath fall Chinook as a surrogate and, under the BiOp on coastal falls, cap the harvest rate on Klamath fish at 16%. So, are there surrogates within the Council's management that could be applied to age-2 winter run impacts? We think there are.

First, we note the difference in impacts on winter run between the troll and sport fisheries: the troll impacts are modeled at about 1/3 of the sport impacts, though we probably have a comparable number of hook/days of effort. This is mainly because of the different size limits: winter run are sublegal for trollers when they are legal for sports.

According to a memo from Bob Turner of NMFS, age-2 winter run are likely to be 15" or less during the time in question. This is way sublegal for sports fishermen: these fish are too small to be measured, hence will be released in the water. Is it sensible to apply the established 1:3 ratio of impact for sublegal and legal fish to fish that are sublegal for sports anglers? We think it is.

Second, while we don't know the natural mortality rate from age 2 to age 3 for winter run, we know that for Klamath fall Chinook that rate is modeled at 50%. If we apply that rate to winter run as a surrogate, our impact rate we have on age 2 fish falls in half when applied to the same brood as they mature a year later.

Finally: The savings to the 2013 brood from the late-season closures would be about 0.6%. Of that, about 0.38% would come from the sport fishery. If that number were one-third as great for the sublegal '14 brood, but the same for trollers, the total would be 0.13 + 0.22 or 0.35%. Factoring for natural mortality gives a savings to the '14 brood of winter run from '15 late-season closures of about 0.18%, or less than two fish per thousand. In other words, should 1000 of these fish survive to spawn, 2015 late-season closures might have contributed one spawning pair to that number.

While this train of logic is far from irrefutable, and could be blown up with just a little bit of real information, it is arguably better than anything the Department has offered to justify its proposed closure, which could cost ocean fisheries on the order of \$6 million dollars, and could remove the best fishing opportunity of the 2015 season if recent conditions continue. We believe that for the Department to step outside the rules, at this cost, for such a flimsy benefit would be arbitrary and capricious in the extreme, and we urge you to drop this proposal, which makes no sense at all from a fisheries management perspective.

Dave Bill
PRESIDENT, PCFFA

March 24, 2015

Ms. Dorothy M. Lowman, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Re: Agenda Item D.1: 2015 Ocean Salmon Fishery Management Measures
OR/CA Border to Humboldt South Jetty (California KMZ)

Dear Ms. Lowman,

On behalf of small commercial salmon fishers, all with current salmon permits and licenses, who reside and fish the waters within the OR/CA Border to Humboldt South Jetty (California KMZ) we strongly request you look at Alternative 1 as the only fair and equitable option for our area.

Trinidad has historically been a fishing community dating back to the early 1800's and we recognize the immeasurable value of Klamath River fall Chinook to our regional economy and quality of life. We are a small group of commercial salmon fishers who support our local economy with our catch. As stewards of the ocean we are very aware of the importance of not stretching the current salmon fisheries; however as stewards to the economic lifeblood of the community of Trinidad we are very concerned of the socioeconomic impact Alternative II and Alternative III set before you will deliver. We are a small group of predominately day fishers that would find the challenge of having to relocate to another area an extreme financial hardship, with severe socioeconomic impacts and in all likely hood a challenge that many of us would not take.

After careful review of the draft workgroup documents and alternative management measures currently being detailed we would like to submit to you the following:

- **"Total Returns in California and Southern Oregon** Central Valley fall Chinook are forecast at over 652,000, providing salmon fishing opportunity while allowing estimated spawning escapements over 300,000. The minimum conservation goal is 122,000 – 180,000 spawning adult salmon. Also in California, the ocean abundance forecast for Klamath River Fall Chinook is nearly 423,000, providing reasonable sport and commercial harvest while meeting the minimum natural spawning goal of 40,700, and the 2015 management objective of an ocean harvest rate of no more than 16 percent."
- That National Standard 2 which states, **"that conservation and management measures shall be based on the best scientific information available"** be adhered to; and
- That National Standard 4 which states, **"that conservation and management measures shall not discriminate between residents of different states. If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign fishing privileges among various United States fishers, such allocation shall be (A) fair and equitable to all such fishers; (B) reasonably calculated to promote conservation; and (c) carried out in such manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of such privileges"** be adhered to.

While in favor of Alternative I, we commercial salmon fishers, based in Trinidad, CA. in the OR/CA Border to Humboldt South Jetty (California KMZ) area would request that if the commission should decide to deviate from the current alternatives the California KMZ be allowed to fish within the months of June, July and August with the lessor Chinook quota of 4500 allocated as an increase to the quota in June from 1,000 to 1,500 Chinook, a quota of 1500 Chinook for July 1-31, and a quota of 1500 Chinook for the month of August with any remaining portion of the June and/or July/ August Chinook quotas transferred inseason to September, for a combined 4500 Chinook quota.

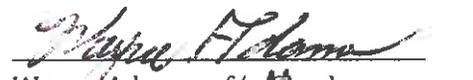
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Sonny Davi, f/v Surfrider


Jim Habib, f/v Defender


Jon Hinkley, f/v Alibi


Wayne Adams, f/v Charlene
F/V MARLENA
#29023


Danny Cox, f/v Express


Craig Goucher, f/v Second Wind


FV/JUMPIN JACK


Dave Turner, f/v Nightwind


F/V DIAMOND



Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria

March 24, 2015

Ms. Dorothy M. Lowman, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Re: Agenda Item D.1: 2015 Ocean Salmon Fishery Management Measures
OR/CA Border to Humboldt South Jetty (California KMZ)

Dear Ms. Lowman,

The Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria owns and operates the Trinidad Pier, Trinidad Boat Launch, Seascape Restaurant and associated harbor businesses. Trinidad bay and harbor is the economic epicenter for both tribal and non-tribal personnel in our respective community. Trinidad has historically been a fishing community dating back to the early 1800's and we recognize the immeasurable value of Klamath River fall Chinook to our regional economy and quality of life. We are home to a small group of commercial salmon fishers and commercial crabbers; and home to hundreds of recreational fishermen, private boaters and charter fishers that migrate to Trinidad each summer, and support our local community. As stewards of the ocean we are very aware of the importance of not stretching the current salmon fisheries; however as stewards to the economic lifeblood of the community of Trinidad we are very concerned of the impact Alternative II and Alternative III set before you will deliver. The Rancheria strongly supports Alternative I which would provide our local commercial salmon fishers the opportunity to fish, and provide our local economy fish at a fair and equitable price.

After careful review of the draft workgroup documents and alternative management measures currently being detailed we would like to submit to you the following:

- **"Total Returns in California and Southern Oregon** Central Valley fall Chinook are forecast at over 652,000, providing salmon fishing opportunity while allowing estimated spawning escapements over 300,000. The minimum conservation goal is 122,000 – 180,000 spawning adult salmon. Also in California, the ocean abundance forecast for Klamath River Fall Chinook is nearly 423,000, providing reasonable sport and commercial harvest while meeting the minimum natural spawning goal of 40,700, and the 2015 management objective of an ocean harvest rate of no more than 16 percent."
- That National Standard 2 which states, **"that conservation and management measures shall be based on the best scientific information available"** be adhered to; and

- That National Standard 4 which states, **“that conservation and management measures shall not discriminate between residents of different states. If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign fishing privileges among various United States fishers, such allocation shall be (A) fair and equitable to all such fishers; (B) reasonably calculated to promote conservation; and (c) carried out in such manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of such privileges”** be adhered to.

While the Trinidad Rancheria is supportive of Alternative I, which would provide our local fishing community the ability to fish out of their local port the entire season, we fully recognize that the council must take into consideration the impact to all commercial fishermen. We would request that any hybrid management measure be fair and equitable, and provide for home port fishing throughout the entire season, May through September 2015.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Garth Sundberg
Tribal Chairman
Trinidad Rancheria

From: "Barbara Emley" <barbaraemley@gmail.com>
Subject: letter
Date: Fri, March 27, 2015 5:32 pm
To: "Dan Platt" <morefish@mcn.org>

Director Charlton Bonham

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

1416 9th St., Rm. 1205

Sacramento, CA 95814

email: director@wildlife.ca.gov

phone#: 916-653-7667

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaDFW>

CONCERNING PROPOSED CLOSURE OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA'S FALL SALMON FISHERY:

Dear Sir,

I am writing to strongly urge you to not go through with the proposed closure of the entire California commercial salmon season in September or the proposed closure of the Pt. Reyes to Pedro Pt. area in October as outlined in "Option 3" of the season alternatives. These closures would not only be catastrophic to the many small and medium sized trollers who depend on these fisheries for their 'bread and butter' in the relatively calm seas and higher prices of Fall, but it also would do nothing to help the Sacramento Winter Run salmon it proposes to protect.

California salmon fishermen are united in our belief that this is an unfair and unnecessary management measure for these reasons:

1) The ocean season closures WOULD DO NOTHING TO PROTECT THE 2013 BROOD YEAR WINTER RUN. The problem for the 2013 BY run was created in-river by low flows and additional water exports which went against NMFS' own biological opinion, at a critical time for the outmigrating juveniles.

According to the Salmon Technical Team of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, computer modeling of the closures proposed in Option 3 showed that they would only save approximately 1/4 of 1% of the Winter Run. In other words, if the run had been reduced to 400 fish, the closures could (possibly) save one fish. This is considered to be a statistically insignificant risk of impact from the troll fishery.

2) There is also no good reason to restrict Fall fishing in order to protect the 2014 BY Winter Run since these fish could only be 8"-12" long by Fall and the troll fleet has no interaction with salmon of this size.

3) The State needs to recognize the importance of the Central California Fall Salmon Fishery to the commercial fleet. In September of 2014, 12,210 King salmon were landed by the commercial fleet in California. Most of those fish, 11,143, were caught in the San Francisco area. The October SF area fishermen produced 2,909 fish. At an average size last fall of 13 lbs and ex-vessel price of \$6.00/lb., these fish were worth \$1.35 million to the boats with an overall economic impact in the communities of at least \$3.8 million dollars. Many of our families depend on this salmon fishery every Fall and the local markets are geared towards promoting the large beautiful Fall Run Kings.

It is also unthinkable that the State is considering closing our iconic Fall Salmon troll fishery while AT THE SAME TIME PROPOSING TO INCREASE THE IN-RIVER RECREATIONAL DAILY LIMIT FROM TWO TO FOUR FISH!!

In short, the Director must reconsider this draconian and unnecessary closure and take it off the table for this season.

We are aware of the problems facing the Winter Run next year, but we urge you to allow our fishery this year while there is no danger of impacting the 2013 and 2014 brood years.

Sincerely,

Name:

Boat:

Address:

Attachments:

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