



## Pacific Fishery Management Council *NEWS RELEASE*

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

VANCOUVER, Wa. – 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 higher-than-usual 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 while meeting protective measures for Klamath River fall Chinook, Sacramento River winter Chinook, and California Coastal Chinook.

The recommendation will be forwarded to the National Marine Fisheries Service for approval by May 1, 2014.

“Everyone is excited about the strong, near-record, abundance of Columbia River stocks and improved numbers of coho salmon,” said Council Chair Dorothy Lowman. “it is rewarding to see hard work translate into a balance of achieving conservation goals while providing good seasons for both recreational and commercial ocean salmon fisheries this summer.”

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

An expected abundance of over 600,000 Sacramento fall Chinook, combined with substantially improved coho expectations for the Columbia River, will support ample recreational and reasonable commercial opportunities for ocean salmon fisheries off California and Oregon. Improved hatchery coho forecasts in 2014 will allow for sizable recreational coho opportunities and the potential for incidental retention in commercial Chinook fisheries.

The Klamath River fall Chinook forecast for 2014 is less than the very high abundance levels seen in recent years, leading to modest constraints on fisheries in Oregon and California, which are designed to meet conservation objectives and provide adequate spawning populations.

### *Recreational Fisheries*

Recreational fisheries in California and southern Oregon are primarily focused on Chinook salmon and run from May 10 through September 7 in the Brookings/Eureka/Crescent City area, and from April 5 to at least October 5 in areas further south.

Recreational fisheries off the central Oregon coast will allow Chinook retention and run from March 15 through October 31. Coho fisheries consist of an 80,000 mark-selective coho quota fishery in mid-summer from Cape Falcon to the Oregon/California border and a late-summer 20,000 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 will be open from April 1 through July 31, August 6-29 and September 3 through October 31. Fisheries in the Humbug Mountain to California border area will be open in May, June, July, August, and September, with Chinook quotas in June (1,500), July (500), August (500), and September (500). Fisheries from the California border to Humboldt South Jetty will be open September 12-30 with a 4,000 Chinook quota.

Between Horse Mountain and Point Arena (in the Fort Bragg area), commercial Chinook salmon fisheries will be open June 19 to 30, July 15 through August 29 and September 1 to 30, seven days per week.

In the area from Point Arena to Pigeon Point (San Francisco), the season will be open May 1 to June 30, July 15 to August 29, and September 1 to 30. From Pigeon Point to the Mexico border (Monterey), the Chinook season will be open May 1 to June 30, July 15 to 31, and August 1 to 13. There will also be a season from Point Reyes to Point San Pedro, open October 1 to 3, 6 to 10, and 13 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 returns are expected to return at near-record levels. Columbia River hatchery coho returns are substantially higher than recent years. However, fisheries were constrained by measures to conserve Chinook stocks in Puget Sound and coho stock in the interior Fraser River Basin.

North of Cape Falcon, there is an overall non-Indian total allowable catch of 116,000 Chinook and 220,000 marked hatchery coho.

### *Recreational Fisheries*

A mark-selective Chinook season north of Cape Falcon begins May 31 off the Columbia River and Westport, and May 16 off La Push and Neah Bay. This fishery ends June 13, or when 9,000 marked Chinook are caught in all port-areas combined. The Chinook season will be open seven days per week, two fish per day, with a 24-inch total length minimum size limit.

All salmon seasons are divided into four port-areas. Seasons begin June 14 off the Columbia River, Westport, La Push and Neah Bay. These fisheries end September 30 off the Columbia River and September 21 off Westport, La Push, and Neah Bay, or when Chinook or coho quotas are reached. The preseason coho quota for all port-areas combined is 184,800. 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 37,900 in May-June and 19,000 in the all-salmon season are roughly 25percent higher than the 2013 quotas. The coho quota of 35,200 is more than double 2013's quota of 14,220.

Tribal ocean fisheries north of Cape Falcon are higher than recent years, with Chinook and coho quotas of 62,500 and 57,500 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)