

SALMON MANAGEMENT OPTION HEARING SUMMARY

Date: March 30, 2010 Location: Red Lion Hotel Eureka, CA Attendance: 34 Testifying: 12	Hearing Officer: Mr. Dan Wolford Other Council Members: NMFS: Mr. Mark Helvey Jennifer Hogan Coast Guard: LT Robert Starr CWO Jonathan Placido. Salmon Technical Team: Council Staff: Mr. Chuck Tracy
<u>Organizations Represented:</u> Klamath Management Zone Fisheries Coalition; Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers; Trinity River Guides Association; Salmon Trollers Marketing Association; Humboldt Fishermen Marketing Association, Yurok Tribe	

Synopsis of Testimony

Of the 12 people testifying:

- 6 commented primarily on the commercial troll fishery.
- 4 commented primarily on the recreational fishery.
- 1 commented on both recreational and commercial fisheries
- 1 commented on other issues.

Special Opening Remarks

Mr. Tracy provided a summary of the recreational and commercial options.

Commercial Troll Comments

- All supported Option I for the Fort Bragg area
- 4 supported Option II for the California KMZ, San Francisco and Monterey areas

Recreational Comments

- 3 supported Option II statewide
- 1 supported Option I for the KMZ
- 1 supported a Memorial Day to Labor Day KMZ fishery

Other Comments

- 1 expressed concern about the reliability of the Sacramento River fall Chinook forecast.
- 1 recommended NMFS reconsider its prohibition on mark-selective coho retention in California ocean and river fisheries.
- 1 commented on management of the Klamath River tribal fisheries.

Written Statements (Attached)

- Humboldt Fishermen Marketing Association
- Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers
- Dave Bitts
- Salmon Trollers Marketing Association;

PFMC
04/01/10

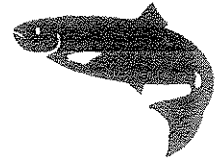
HUMBOLDT FISHERMEN'S MARKETING ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Mr David Ortmann, Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Dear Mr. Ortmann:

Humboldt Fisherman's Marketing Association and Caito Fisheries inc. propose that Salmon Management option II be accepted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council for the 2010 season with the following change. The Horse Mt. to Point Arena region be included in the July 5 through August 29 Commercial fishing season as are the California areas to the south. *It is our hope that this can be accomplished and still allow for a >165,000 Sacramento River fall Chinook escapement.* We feel it is essential to have greater fishing opportunity in the northern region so that more plentiful stocks to the north are accessed while shifting effort away from Sacramento stocks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Newman'.

Aaron Newman, President HFMA

HUMBOLDT AREA SALTWATER ANGLERS, INC.

March 30, 2010

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

Subject: 2010 Salmon Options

Dear Council Members and Staff,

Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers (HASA) represent recreational saltwater anglers in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. We urge you to adopt Option II for both commercial and recreational salmon seasons for 2010.

While it is our desire to have full seasons statewide for both commercial and recreational anglers, we realize that responsible management of the resource is critical for the sustainability of this fishery. For this reason we endorse Option II. It complies with the NMFS guidance letter with an escapement of 180,000 Sacramento Fall Run Chinook as well as meeting the Klamath's escapement of 40,700 native spawners. Option I does not meet the intent of the NMFS guidance letter. Option III, while it exceeds the escapement in the guidance letter, does not allow utilization of harvestable stocks.

Option II will provide both recreational and commercial fishermen an opportunity to fish which has essentially been absent since 2007. This option will provide significant direct and indirect economic benefits statewide for coastal communities.

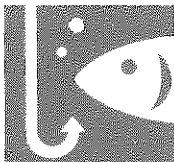
We appreciate the Council's action to maintain parity within the Klamath Management Zone (KMZ). We would also like to thank the Council, its staff, NMFS and state staff for all their hard work and diligence during this process.

Thank you,



Jim Yarnall

Vice President & Salmon Representative



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EUREKA, CA. 95502

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WEB SITE www.humboldtuna.com

Facing a weak and very uncertain stock abundance prediction for Sacramento fall Chinook, and aware that only 57 winter run jacks returned last year, many fishermen understandably believe that ocean salmon fishing should not be allowed this year. Others, pointing to the changes that made the predictor more conservative and the guidance from NMFS to aim for the top end of the escapement range, and wondering how PFMC can arbitrarily choose an escapement target well above that range, are looking for some limited fishing opportunity. Most fishermen seem to agree that the worst thing that could happen would be if fishing caused Sacramento fall Chinook to fall short of the minimum escapement goal.

A modification to proposed option 1 is being presented tonight that would simply open commercial fishing statewide below Horse Mountain on the same date in July, targeting an escapement of perhaps 165,000, or adjusting the opening date to achieve a mandated target if such appears. This is a clear and simple option, and I support including it for consideration at the April PFMC meeting. I'd also like to propose a murky and complicated option, as follows:

Given that Sacramento fall Chinook are at least 80% of the catch in all months and areas below Point Arena, given that only 57 winter run jacks returned last year, and given that the feeling that we shouldn't fish appears to be strongest among commercial and charter boat fishermen below Pt. Arena, how about:

- 1) Closing the commercial season below Point Arena
- 2) Opening the season in the KMZ and Fort Bragg areas for some to-be-determined period before September. an overall quota might be considered, determined by the California share of the allowable commercial harvest of Klamath fish (assuming standard KFMC-type allocations of the nontribal share of Klamaths), as multiplied by other stocks present according to the KOHM and SFOHM to arrive at the quota. Subquotas for the two KOHM cells might be considered, based on the mix of Klamath and Sacramento stocks anticipated; I would expect the bulk of the opportunity to be in the Ft. Bragg area. Possession limits might also be considered, not to constrain catch – the quota does that – but for market reasons, to spread the fishery over time if it turns out there are more fish (or more effort) than anticipated.

I offer this suggestion as a fisherman who hates quotas, and understands that they work best when abundance predictions are more accurate. But I'm also aware of some problems with predicting effort shift in the models, and I'd point out that we have been under the ultimate quota for the past two years.

Dave ISH

Salmon Trollers Marketing Assoc.

PO Box 137
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Phone 707-964-5500
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Dear Mr.Ortmann

We the Members of the Salmon Trollers Marketing Association support the proposal put forth by the Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association and Caito Fisheries Inc. that Salmon Management option 2 be accepted by the P.F.M.C. for the 2010 season with the following change. The Horse Mountain to Point Arena region is included in the July 5th through August 29, September 1-30 commercial fishing season as are the California areas to the south. It is our hope that this can be accomplished and still allow for a greater than 165,000 Sacramento River fall Chinook escapement. We feel it is essential to have greater fishing opportunity in the northern region so that more plentiful stocks to the north are accessed while shifting effort away from Sacramento stocks.
Thank you for your concern.
S.T.M.A.

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PFMC