

SALMON MANAGEMENT OPTION HEARING SUMMARY

Date:	March 27, 2000	Hearing Officer:	Mr. Jim Lone
Location:	Chateau Westport Westport, WA	Other Council Members:	Mr. Phil Anderson Mr. Jim Harp
Attendance:	24	NMFS:	No Representative
Testifying:	6	Coast Guard:	LT Brian Corrigan
		Salmon Team Member:	Mr. Doug Milward
		Council Staff:	Mr. Jim Seger
<u>Organizations Represented:</u>			
Westport Chapter of the Washington Trollers Association (WTA)			
Westport Charterboat Association			
Westport/Grayland Chamber of Commerce			

**Synopsis of Testimony**

Of the 6 people testifying:

- One commented primarily on the commercial troll fishery with 11 raising their hands in support.
- Five commented primarily on the recreational fishery (charterboat operators).

**Commercial Troll Comments**

Trollers supported Option 1 with an August 11 opening, a selective fishery only if absolutely necessary, and retaining some chinook for a summer fishery but maximizing chinook opportunity in the spring (Washington Trollers Association with 11 individuals supporting by show of hands). Everyone at a meeting of the Westport Chapter of the WTA was comfortable with 4 days on 3 days off. The Friday through Monday fishing schedule works out well for monitoring and marketing. They prefer to not have a landings restriction on coho, at least for the first opening, if necessary restrictions can be added for subsequent openings. With respect to encounter rate studies, it's difficult to have observers, but association members are willing to go along with logbooks. The halibut/chinook landing ratio should be reduced from 1:5 to 1:2, with a corresponding increase in the cap to 50 halibut.

**Recreational Comments**

Recreational fishers supported Option I including the July 3 opening (Westport Charterboat Association, Westport/Grayland Chamber of Commerce, and 3 individuals). Since another north of Cape Falcon meeting is upcoming, the Westport Charterboat Association reserved their views on the more specific aspects of ocean management for the public comment period during the Council meeting. Those more specific details could include area closures, modified bag limits, and similar proposals designed to optimize the economic and social value of the allowed harvest. Recreational fisheries inside the Columbia River should be subject to the same constraints as the fishery on the ocean: a one chinook per two-fish bag limit. Fairness in inside/outside sharing should be a top priority issue this year (Westport Charterboat Association and others in agreement with Westport Charterboat Association). In response to questions, one person testifying expressed a lack of concern about boats from the Columbia River fishing on Westport's quota, if Westport were to open later than the Columbia River; another person stated that he would rather open July

3 and take the risk of not getting to labor day (as opposed to ensuring the season reached labor day); and a third person stated that in his experience there appeared to be more hatchery fish in the catch in July than in September.

**Written Statements (Attached)**

1. Memo from Westport Chapter of the Washington Trollers Association (March 27, 2000).

PFMC  
03/30/00

Memo

3-27-2000

To: Pacific Fisheries Management Council

Submitted at: March 27, 2000 Hearing  
Chateau Westport  
Westport, Washington

From: Westport Chapter of Washington Trollers Association

Subject: Preferred 2000 Troll Option

U.S. - Canadian Boarder to Cape Falcon  
May 1 thru June 15 - 10,000 chinook

Queets River to Cape Falcon  
Aug. 11 thru Sept. 30 - 25,000 coho

- 2,500 chinook
- Marked coho only if absolutely necessary for fishery
- Cycle 4 days open/3 days closed
- No landing restrictions on first opening
- Appropriate landing restrictions on following openings
- Willing to cooperate with Coho log book program

Halibut - prefer incidental landing allowance of one halibut plus one halibut per two chinook with a 50 halibut per landing limit.

The 2000 Option 1 is less than ½ chinook troll allocation from the 1999 season. We understand that there is sharing with the Treaty Troll fishery and inside Columbia River fisheries on Tule and Wild stocks. We expect the PFMC to provide 2000 season opportunities where all fishermen equally share in the reductions from 1999 in protecting the stocks for the future.