

SALMON MANAGEMENT OPTION HEARING SUMMARY

Date:	March 28, 2000	Hearing Officer:	Mr. Jim Caito
Location:	Red Lion Inn, Eureka, CA	Other Council Members:	None
Attendance:	37	NMFS:	Mr. Joe Blum
Testifying:	14	Coast Guard:	BMCM Lars Kent
		Salmon Team Member:	Mr. Scott Barrow
		Council Staff:	Dr. John Coon
<u>Organizations Represented:</u> Klamath Fishery Management Council Klamath Management Zone Fisheries Coalition Humboldt Bay Marketing Association Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations			

Synopsis of Testimony

Of the 14 people testifying:

- Eleven spoke primarily about the recreational fishery.
- Three spoke primarily about the commercial fishery.

Commercial Troll Comments

Trollers spoke in favor of commercial Option II with one amendment if sufficient Klamath River fall chinook impacts are available. The amendment would be: open the commercial fishery between the Oregon-California border and Humboldt South Jetty from August 16 through 31 or a 2,000 fish quota; all salmon, except coho; possession and landing limit of 30 chinook per day; minimum size limit of 26 inches (see attached written statement #1).

One troller noted by limiting Oregon coastal natural coho impacts to less than 80% of what the jeopardy standard allowed, significant harvest of chinook could be lost. Another troller was extremely frustrated with the lack of improvement in salmon fisheries over the past 14 years. He noted our regulations had gotten thicker and thicker while the stocks showed no improvement. He asked what the Council's goal and timeline were for recovering the stocks.

Recreational Comments

Anglers commenting on the recreational options made the following points or recommendations for the Klamath Management Zone (KMZ):

- All commenters were in favor of a two-fish bag limit (Option I) and most believe it is necessary to attract anglers to the area and to make charter fishing competitive with the southern areas.
- Several commenters stated the recreational season in the KMZ is overly shortened, and anglers are unable to take the agreed upon allocation each year, because the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model consistently over estimates recreational fishing effort and harvest.
- Some commenters noted the special restrictions in the KMZ lead to safety issues as anglers feel more pressure to go out in marginal weather conditions so as not to miss the limited fishing opportunity.
- One commenter stated anglers should not be restricted to only two hooks.
- One commenter stated the KMZ needs to have the season with the maximum number of fishing days

- to provide the most economic benefits.
- Several commenters asked that the openings include a few days past July 4 to allow vacationers more opportunity.
- One commenter asked that the openings include the first week in August.
- One commenter proposed a new option which would have a special ocean fishery punch card that would allow just 15 salmon per year coupled with a less restrictive season.
- Reduce coho mortality by allowing anglers to keep the salmon they catch (see attached written statement #2).
- Stop reducing hatchery funding and production.

Written Statements

1. Letter of March 28, 2000 to Mr. Jim Lone from Mr. Dave Bitts.
2. Letters of July 27, 1998 and April 26, 1999 to California State Governors from Mr. Tom Williams.

PFMC
03/31/00

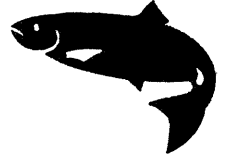
HUMBOLDT FISHERMEN'S MARKETING ASSOCIATION, INC.



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March 28, 2000

Mr. Jim Lone, Chair
Pacific Fisheries Management Council

Dear Mr. Lone:

I would like to propose the following amendment to Option 2 of the March 2000 ocean salmon option package, to be considered if Klamath impacts available to ocean fisheries are otherwise unused, and subject to OCN coho and coastal fall chinook constraints:

CA/OR border to Humboldt south jetty:

open Aug. 16-31 or attainment of 2000 fish quota, chinook only, 30 fish landing and possession limit, 26" minimum size.

I believe this is the same as an opening we had in 1996, and thus should be consistent with the constraints on coastal fall chinook; I believe there is a minor OCN coho impact which will have to be accounted for.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Bitts".

Dave Bitts

July 27, 1998

Governor Pete Wilson
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Honorable Governor Wilson:

I am concerned about the salmon fishing rules in the Klamath Management Zone along Humboldt County coast. The rules are resulting in the needless killing of many Silver Salmon.

As you are aware, Silver Salmon cannot be taken, only King Salmon can be taken in the Klamath zone. The problem arises in identifying the fish. Since Silver and King Salmon look very similar, each salmon caught must be brought in the boat, hooks removed, fish examined for black gum lines on lower and upper jaw, spots on tail to determine if it is a King or a Silver. If these markings are not present the fish is probably a Silver and must be returned to the ocean. Unfortunately, by this time (about two minutes) the fish just floats "head-up-dead". There were four fishermen on my boat recently and each fisherman repeated this scenario. If you have fished for Salmon you know they fight very vigorously until "boated". There is no way they can be identified until "boated". By this time the fish are spent and their mouths are severely torn up. Barbless hooks do little in reducing damage to the fish's mouth. Even those fish that swim away when released will have difficulty surviving due to their damaged mouths.

I recommend that fishermen be allowed to keep the salmon they catch regardless of the species. If this is unacceptable I believe the entire Northern California Coast be closed to salmon fishing until stocks have recovered sufficiently to allow the "take" of either species.

Very truly yours,

Tom Williams
P.O. Box 353
Trinidad, CA 95570
(707) 488-6065

cc: Times Standard

tw:pjw

April 26, 1999

Governor Gray Davis
State Capitol
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear Honorable Governor Davis:

Attached is a copy of a letter that I wrote to Governor Wilson last year. I have had no response from my letter and have concluded that the Governor's staff have no interest in the problem that I addressed in my letter.

The purpose of this letter is to bring the problem to your attention. Salmon season for 1999 is rapidly approaching and I've no reason to believe that the problem of killing and wasting silver salmon will change. I'm left with the feeling that no one in government gives a damn.

I hope to receive a response soon from someone on your staff telling me what a poorly informed fisherman I am; and that the rules are being changed for 1999 to address the problem.

Thank you for your valuable time and consideration in this matter

Very truly yours,

Tom Williams
P.O. Box 353
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