

SALMON OPTION HEARING SITES

Situation: To plan, announce, and meet *Federal Register* deadlines for public hearing sites and the entire preseason salmon management process, staff needs to confirm details of the process prior to the end of November. The proposed 2001 process and schedule is contained in Attachment 1. It follows the same format as in previous years. However, based on recent history and staff capabilities, we suggest a reduction in the 2001 public hearing schedule.

Due to the very brief period between the March and April meetings, travel logistics, and ever increasing work demands and scheduling problems, it is difficult for the limited Council staff to cover more than three public hearings for the salmon management options. Given this situation, we suggest Council staff cover one hearing per coastal state. Based on our experience from previous years, we propose the following Council-staffed hearings:

March 26 Westport, Washington and North Bend, Oregon
 March 27 Eureka, California

In 2001, the March Council meeting will occur in Portland and the April Council meeting in Sacramento. Therefore, the public comment period on Tuesday of the April meeting in Sacramento also serves as a public comment opportunity. If the states desire to have additional hearings, we suggest they organize and staff them as California has done for Moss Landing over the past three years. The table below provides the public attendance at the hearing sites since 1995 for Council reference.

Hearing Site Location ^{1/}	Public Attendance					
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Westport	49	30	22	4	18	24
Astoria	28	23	16	-	14	-
Tillamook	-	-	-	28	-	13
North Bend	22	30	27	15	31	36
Eureka	30	45	27	16	18	37
Sacramento ^{2/}	16	-	-	13	-	-
Santa Rosa	-	-	-	-	-	4
Moss Landing ^{3/}	-	-	-	100	51	50

1/ Sites in bold are proposed for Council staffing in 2001.
 2/ Public comment opportunity available at April Council meeting in 2001.
 3/ Hearing staffed by California Department of Fish and Game.

Council Action:

1. Confirm Council-staffed hearing sites and state intentions for additional hearings.
2. Approve staff's overall proposed schedule and process for developing 2001 ocean salmon management measures (Attachment 1).

References:

1. Proposed Pacific Fishery Management Council Schedule for Developing 2001 Ocean Salmon Fishery Management Measures (Exhibit B.5, Attachment 1).

PFMC
 10/17/00