

SALMON MANAGEMENT OPTION HEARING SUMMARY

Date:	March 27, 2001	Hearing Officer:	Mr. Burnie Bohn
Location:	Forestry Building Tillamook, OR	Other Council Members:	None
Attendance:	16	NMFS:	Mr. Chris Wright
Testifying:	5	Coast Guard:	None
		Salmon Team Member:	Mr. Mike Burner

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife conducted this hearing in conjunction with the March 26th public hearing conducted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council in Coos Bay, Oregon.

Synopsis of Testimony

Of the five people testifying:

- Four commented primarily on the commercial troll fishery.
- One commented primarily on the recreational fishery.

Commercial Troll Comments

The trollers generally supported Option I north and south of Cape Falcon with the following modifications.

- North of Cape Falcon: Queets River to Cape Falcon quota of 63,000 adipose fin clipped coho and a chinook guideline of 5,000 as in Option I and season dates of July 20-September 18 as in Option III. Concern was expressed about the 5,000 chinook guideline being too low to allow full access to the 63,000 marked coho quota.
- Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain: Consider additional closed days in July to accommodate increased troll opportunity in the Klamath Management Zone (KMZ) and stagger the closures north and south of Heceta Head.
- South of Humbug-KMZ: Add June 1-15 with a 1,500 chinook quota and consider a 20 fish per day landing limit with a cycle of 2 days open/ 2 days closed. Increase the quota in the August fishery from 2,500 to 3,000. Move the northern boundary in the September fishery from House Rock to Humbug Mountain.

Incidental halibut harvest regulations similar to 2000 (1 halibut per 3 chinook, 35 per trip) were supported by two trollers. Additionally, two trollers spoke in favor of moving the management line from Cape Falcon to Tillamook Head.

Recreational Comments

Support for Option I with a concern that the June 15th start date is too early for ports such as Garibaldi on the North Coast as catch rates tend to be more favorable towards the south in June and early July.

Written Statements (Attached)

1. Comments from Kevin Thiel to the Council dated March 27, 2001 on 2001 salmon management options.
2. Comments from Kevin Thiel to the Council dated March 27, 2001 on 2001 incidental halibut landings in the salmon troll fishery.

PFMC
03/29/01

March 27, 2001

To: PFMC

From: Kevin A. Thiel
P.O. Box 286
Sublimity, OR 97385

Re: Comments on 2001 Salmon Management Options

I own and operate a 22' dory that is homeported at Pacific City, Oregon. I am a member of the Oregon Salmon Commission and the Pacific City Dorymen's Association. I wish to offer the following comments in support of Option 1 for both the troll and recreational fisheries.

I have been informed that the troll option #1 coho fishery from Queets River to Cape Falcon was modified slightly in the North of Falcon meetings. This fishery may open on July 20 rather than August 4, which was the date approved by the Council at their March meeting. I concur with the proposed July 20 opening date and would like to see this change made.

I am still concerned that the 5,000 Chinook guideline is inadequate to access 63,000 Coho and believe that the guideline should be increased to a level that will ensure that all Coho are harvested. If the Chinook guideline is not increased, then I would strongly recommend that a daily landing limit of 10 Chinook per vessel be imposed to prevent targeting of Chinook, as the intent of this fishery is to harvest hatchery Coho stocks. I have spoke to the Oregon SAS Advisor Don Stevens about this matter and he committed to look into it further at the April council meeting.

Last year, several dories from our fleet participated in the troll fishery for Coho, North of Falcon. This fishery had a positive impact on the small boat and dory fleet. From our perspective, we would like to see that opportunity expanded when there is an abundance of fish.

The recreational Coho fishery last year meant a great deal in terms of economic impact to ports like Pacific City. On the opening day of Coho season, there were about 100 sport boats fishing there. It had been many

years since I had seen that many boats fishing there. Because of the Coho fishery the stores, restaurants, hotels, and campgrounds were full once again

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

March 27, 2001

To: PFMC

From: Kevin A. Thiel
P.O. Box 286
Sublimity, OR 97385

Re: Comments on 2001 Incidental Halibut Landings in the Salmon Troll Fishery

I own and operate a 22' dory that is homeported at Pacific City Oregon. I am a member of the Oregon Salmon Commission and the Pacific City Dorymen's Association. I wish to offer the following comments in support of Option 1 or the status quo for the incidental Halibut landings in the Salmon Troll fishery.

I am pleased to see an increase in the Halibut quota over previous years. However, increasing the trip limit or ratio of Halibut to Chinook would encourage targeting, which is inconsistent with the objectives of this fishery.

As with Salmon, I believe that maintaining a market presence for a longer duration of the troll season is critical and will result in higher ex-vessel prices to trollers. This also provides longer access of a fresh product to the consumer.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

