

September 6, 2002

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

Agenda Item: 4 p.m. Public Comment Period (For Items Not on the Agenda)

Subject: Oregon March Salmon Troll Opportunity in 2002 .

and comments on proposed Oregon March Salmon Troll Opportunity in 2003

To: Dr. Hans Radtke, Chairman

Mr. Donald K. Hansen, Vice Chairman

PFMC Members

The Oregon Salmon Commission would like to take this opportunity to thank the Council for opening Oregon's Salmon Troll Season this year, 2002 on March 20. At this time the Oregon Salmon Commission would ask the Council to consider a March 15th opening date for the 2003 Salmon season in Oregon.

Preliminary data provided by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife indicates 46,721 lbs. Of Chinook were landed in weeks 12 and 13 in Oregon ports in 2002. Approximately 84% of the catch was landed in Newport and 16 % in Coos Bay with some minor landings in the remaining Oregon Coastal Ports.

Preliminary data also indicated a dollar value for all ports combined of \$151,829.00 equating to an average price of \$3.25 per lb.

The catch was a surprise by Oregon Trollers and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Port samplers were not on hand to do normal Coded Wire Tag recovery.

Being a member of the Salmon Advisory Subpanel, I was concerned, as were ODFW staff at Newport that sampling was not performed.

As you may know Oregon is in a budget crisis and there is no money in the ODFW's budget to provide additional samplers in March. Thus, the Oregon Salmon Commission a State of Oregon Commodity Board took it upon itself to provide \$3000.00 to ODFW to hire port samplers for the March time frame if a season is provided in March of 2003.

The Oregon Salmon Commission and Oregon Trollers know the value of recovering CWT's and their usefulness in analyzing catch and their ultimate contribution in updating the Chinook FRAM and the KOHM models used by the Salmon Technical Team.

The Oregon Salmon Commission is committed to requesting the best science available be used and wish to contribute to that end.