

**SALMON MANAGEMENT OPTION HEARING SUMMARY**

Date: March 31, 2003  Location: Chateau Westport Westport, WA  Attendance: 16 Testifying: 6	Hearing Officer: Mr. Mark Cedergreen  Other Council Members: Mr. Rich Lincoln Mr. Jim Harp Mr. Bob Alverson  NMFS: Dr. Peter Dygert  Coast Guard: CWO Mike Hoag (not present)  Salmon Team Member: Mr. Doug Milward  Council Staff: Dr. Kit Dahl
<u>Organizations Represented:</u>  Westport Charterboat Association, Washington Trollers Association, Ilwaco Charter Association, Willapa Bay Gillnetters, Grays Harbor Gillnetters.	

**Synopsis of Testimony**

Of the six people testifying:

- One commented primarily on the commercial troll fishery.
- Three commented primarily on the recreational fishery.
- There were no comments on the beneficial economic aspects of both the troll and recreational fisheries.
- Two commented on the gillnet fishery.

**Special Opening Remarks**

Mr Mark Cedergreen gave an introduction. Mr Doug Milward reviewed the season options north of Cape Falcon.

**Commercial Troll Comments**

- Supports Option I.
- Emphasized greater value of chinook; trollers need to catch at least 150 chinook per week; coho less valuable.
- Noted that Washington Troller's Association has had difficulty achieving consensus on season shape.
- Of the 64,000 chinook in Option I, wants 40,000 available in May-June; remaining 24,000 July onwards ("summer season").
- Recommends Option III feature of full opening five days per week after July 10; 150 fish chinook landing allowance, no coho landing limits since unable to catch quota.
- Recommends June 29-July 2 opening with a 50-chinook landing allowance.

**Recreational Comments**

- Supports Option I (see attached comment letter).
- Remove the seven-day opening after August 1 and substitute Option II measure for a conference call at the end of July to decide on opening so as not to jeopardize Labor Day opening.

## **Other Comments**

- Two gillnetters gave public comments. (These fisheries not managed by the Council).
- Question why there is not more opportunity after buyback program reduced fleet capacity.
- Question 50% tribal allocation since fish have remained unharvested in the last five years.
- Comment on season for Willapa Bay gillnet fishery.

## **Written Statements (Attached)**

1. Westport Charterboat Association letter of March 31, 2003.

PFMC  
04/02/03

# WESTPORT CHARTERBOAT ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 654 • WESTPORT, WASHINGTON 98595

March 31, 2003

Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Dr. Donald McIsaac, Executive Director  
7700 N.E. Ambassador Place, Suite 200  
Portland, OR 97220

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PFMC

Dear Dr. McIsaac and Council members;

The Westport Charterboat Association supports Ocean Option One with one change:  
We favor a start date of Sunday, June 22

Our justification of this earlier start date is as follows:

- There are more than enough Coho to accommodate the earlier start date. In 2001 with a record number of Coho, Westport caught just a little over 80 percent of its quota in a 74 day season with the same quota (83,250) proposed for 2003. Last year only 19,000 Coho were landed.
- The 1 fish Chinook bag limit constraint and a higher minimum size limit on Chinook – combined with the higher abundance of Coho - will surely dampen the Chinook catch and keep us well within our guideline.
- There are enough Chinook in our guideline to open a week early even if the effort increased 10 percent over 2002 during the corresponding time period and every single angler caught their limit of 1 Chinook.
- If the cost of catch monitoring personnel is an issue, our Association is willing to help fund it.

June is a very dead month in Westport. Halibut fishing rarely lasts beyond the end of May. Last year's Chinook-only fishery was a major shot in the arm economically. Having to wait until June 29<sup>th</sup> to start salmon fishing in a year when we have enough salmon of both species to make it through mid-September with a June 22<sup>nd</sup> start date is an unnecessary loss of precious economics for our port.

Thank you for your consideration,

  
Steve Westrick, President