

SALMON MANAGEMENT OPTION HEARING SUMMARY

Date:	March 29, 2004	Hearing Officer:	Mr. Mark Cedergreen
Location:	Chateau Westport Westport, Washington	Other Council Members:	Mr. Phil Anderson Mr. Bob Alverson Mr. Jim Harp
Attendance:	16	NMFS:	Dr. Peter Dygert
Testifying:	5	Coast Guard:	CDR Moore
		Salmon Team Member:	Mr. Doug Milward
		Council Staff:	Ms. Jennifer Gilden
Organizations Represented: Puget Sound Anglers, Willapa Gillnetters, Washington Trollers, Westport Charterboat Association			

Synopsis of Testimony

Of the five people testifying:

- One commented primarily on the commercial troll fishery.
- Two commented primarily on the recreational (charterboat) fishery.
- Two commented primarily on the gillnet fishery.

Special Opening Remarks

Mr. Doug Milward reviewed options for the commercial and sport salmon seasons.

Commercial Troll Comments

The one commercial troller who testified favored Option II chinook quotas for the north of Cape Falcon area. Trollers would like to be able to fish throughout the summer to maximize price. They would like a small opening prior to July 4 (about 50 fish per vessel) in order to sell to the public. In the summer, they would like a 15,000 to 16,000 chinook guideline and proposed starting July 8 with a 125 chinook limit per vessel per five-day open period. In August through September they proposed changing to a 50 chinook per vessel, per five-day open period landing limit, which would satisfy some smaller vessels that sell to small markets such as restaurants and farmers' markets.

The trollers requested the same halibut landing restrictions as last year, but were concerned the C-shaped yelloweye rockfish conservation area is expanding.

Recreational (Charterboat) Comments

Charter representatives supported Option I and favored a five-day per week June 20 opening north of Leadbetter Point and June 27 opening south of Leadbetter Point, switching to seven days per week in August. They recommended retaining the 26" size limit for chinook. They were interested in a non-selective coho fishery after Labor Day; however, they preferred a longer selective coho fishery to a shorter non-selective fishery.

Commercial Gillnet Comments

Gillnetters were concerned about mortality in ocean fisheries. They supported Option 3. They requested coded-wire tag data; full retention of all fish in the mixed fishery; and the creation of a conservation zone in late summer around Willapa Bay. They were opposed to trades between ocean recreational and commercial fishermen. They felt they did not receive the same data and were not involved in management decisions at the same level as commercial and recreational groups.

PFMC

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