

Subject: Fw: Dan

Date: Fri, 5 Mar 2004 13:48:40 -0800

From: <spirit.spirit@verizon.net>

To: <Chuck.Tracy@noaa.gov>, "Craig Foster" <Craig.A.Foster@DFW.STATE.OR.US>, "Curt MELCHER" <MELCHEC@DFW.STATE.OR.US>, "Doug Milward" <milwadam@dfw.wa.gov>

FYI

----- Original Message -----

From: "gerber" <gerber@presys.com>

To: "PFMC-Rep" <spirit.spirit@verizon.net>

Sent: Friday, March 05, 2004 1:37 PM

Subject: Dan

>
> Attached is an email I sent to PFMC today.
>
> My thought is to "raize halllll" about cutting the sports fishing
> allocation of 88,000 fin clipped coho catch for the reasons setforth
> below. If an old 88 worked last year, try it again this year. So long
> as we dont start intercene fights between commercial and sports lobby.
>
> I have also put out the word to various sports types that they need to
> speak up about he start of the coho season off Oregon. That as best I
> could figure, June 19 would allow more fish, but smaller fish. July 1
> would mean bigger fish, but fewer fish. I thought most would prefer
> more fish. But I could be wrong. So I urged people to write. If the
> agreed or did not agree.
>
> Hope all of this is helpful
>
> Bill Fielder and I attended the hearing called by ODFW to explain
> Preseason Report I STock Abundance Analysis for 2004 prepared by the
> Salmon Technical Team which is part of the PFMC.
>
> As far as I could tell we were the only two sports fishermen in
> attendance. There were strong contingencies representing guides,
> charter boats and the salmon troll industry. Because of the total
> absence of input from sports fishermen, I took it upon myself to speak
> for them.
>
> To summarize:
>
> - CHINOOK STOCKS remain healthy, should return is about the same
> numbers as last year, but Canadian fisheries may take substantially
> more chinook. Spring Chinook stocks may reach record numbers.
> - As for OCN COHO:
> - In 2003 the PRERDICTED RETURN was 118,000. The actual number
> that
> returned was 2278.8. Thus the "model" only predicted 42% of the actual
> return.
> - The this is the 3rd year in a row that the model has
> DRASTICALLY
> UNDERSTATED RETURNS.
> 2002 71K predicted,276K returned, 24% of run predicted
> 2001 50K
> predicted, 163K returned, 31% of run predicted
> -I urged ODFW to push for drastically reworking the model. It
> was
> my
> opinion that the model is a complete failure during years when
> there

> is
> at least reasonable fresh water production and good ocean
> conditions.
> As I understood the time to revisit and review the model is 2005. I
> urged ODFW to push very hard on this issue, starting now with an eye
> toward 2005.
> -Preversely, the model does not take into account the huge
> increases in
> OCN production. Therefore, the more OCN's produced, the larger the %
> of OCN's in the ocean mix. Thus the more OCN's that will be hooked
> incidentally. I believe the current model contemplates 30% of hooked
> and release OCN's will die. All fisheries are allowed a 15% impact
> [kill rate if you will] on OCNs. No increase in impacts are allowed if
> robust rebounds occur in OCN populations. So in a year when hatchery
> production is estimated to be down [the model to predict hatchery
> returns seems to be reasonably accurate] and OCN production is up, and
> even though there are many more OCN's, the current thinking is that the
> model will lead to a reduction in the ocean sports coho fishery on fin
> clipped coho. [If the model has again understated that the return, and
> we will see twice or three times as many OCN's as predicted, the
> situtation becomes even more ludicrous.]
>
> -Further the model is based upon the PARENT POPULATION
> population
> of
> the fish off our coast this year. Therefore, the ocean catch is not
> calculated upon the estimated 151K OCNs that will return. The OCN
> impacts are based upon the adult counts taken in 2001 or 161K. Jack
> returns on the siuslaw were the largest on record [admittedly an erratic
> indicator, but another indicator of a huge return this fall of OCN's.]
>
> -Further, when ocean conditions turn around, and FUTURE OCN
> POPULATIONS
> FALL, as they will almost certianly do so, the impacts will not be
> calculated upon the existing and depleted population returning in the
> teeth of an el nino, but upon robust parent populations that returned to
> good ocean conditions.
>
> IT IS MY OPINION THAT THE "MODEL" IS SO FLAWED IT NEED TO BE
> COMPLETELY
> REWORKED TO ACCOUNT FOR THE RECENT INCREASES IN OCN ABUNDANCE AND TO
> ACCOUNT FOR FUTURE BAD OCEAN CONDITIONS.
>
> The model is federal law, and not something that ODFW can try to
> change. ODFW must go to the PMFC and seek changes. Until that model is
> reworked, the sports ocean fishery on fin clipped coho will continue to
> look like the people who are setting these fisheries [PMFC] fell thru
> the rabbit hole and set them in Oz [if I may be allowed to mix
> metaphores.]
>
> The other issue at the meeting was when to begin the coho season.
> Again, remember the season is limited by OCN impacts, and nothing else.
> We were told that there are fewer OCNs off the Oregon Coast in June than
> in July. Therefore, if we begin our season in June, we will probably be
> allowed to catch more coho. However, as we all know, the fish are much
> smaller in June. Bill and I talked this over, and thought most
> fishermen would prefer to catch more fish, than bigger fish. Also an
> earlier opening would give the South Coast a better shot at fin clipped
> coho which tend to move north early in the season and away from the
> South Coast.
>
> I did not feel very strongly that my thought represented what most
> fishermen thought. Therefore, I suggest that those of you who have

> email, or wish to write, do so. Even if you agree with me. That to
> give PFMC and ODFW some sense about what the sports fishermen want done
> with the season. Start July 1 - bigger but fewer fish. Start June 19 -
> more but smaller fish. I dunno.
>
> the email address is www.pcmouncil.org
>
> the mailing address is
>
> Pacific Fishery Management Council
> 7700 NE Ambassador Place, # 200
> Portland, Oregon 97220-1384
>
> RON GERBER
> PO BOX 0
> Florence, Oregon 97439
> (541) 997-8285
> fax(541) 997 8286
> gerber@presys.com
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