

September 2005 Testimony for
Pacific Fishery Management Council

Scott Boley

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Concerning the **Troll Salmon Fishery**

Dear Council Members:

This season has been difficult. With no salmon fishing in Oregon during July and August, usually the heart of our season, fishermen, markets, consumers, and the support industry for the industry have felt a huge negative impact.

Starting September 1st, we began fishing on next years 4 year old class of Klamath Chinook, mixed in with other stocks, -- What has commonly been called the credit card fishery. **Harvests the first two weeks of September have been huge**, and predominately occurring in areas with historical higher Klamath contribution rates. Though too early to tell, this may have grave consequences for next years fishery, potentially leading to nearly complete closures yet again. This is not at all acceptable in the long term.

Our management goals should be to **spread the fishing season out in both time and area**, while still meeting our conservation goals. We need to return to a midsummer troll fishery in Oregon of some reasonable magnitude.

We should also structure the season to avoid huge pulses of fish into the market place, instead trying to **harvest those fish over a longer period with a more even flow of fish into the market**. This will improve both value and quality of product.

For 2006 Salmon Management and beyond, I'm asking the council to **consider implementing management measures to spread the fishery out ... and slow it down**. Unrestrained, the present harvest capacity of the fleet far exceeds the available resource. We need to bring this fishery under rational management. For 2006 I'm asking the Council to consider measures which would include some combination of:

- landing limits by delivery
- open/closed periods (i.e. 4 on / 3 off or some other combination of days)
- weekly vessel landing limits or trip limits
- catch levels or trigger points where the above measures might be implemented.

I'm bringing this to the Council's attention now, early in the process, because I believe we have a huge problem, and your technical advisors will need to do some data analysis in order to determine how to properly model some combination of harvest restrictions in the harvest models.

I am not alone in believing we have a problem, and this winter many of us will be working to try to figure out the best combination of management measures to achieve the goal of a **longer viable season** and **higher value and better quality** for our fish. While most of us wish we did not have to consider these kinds of restrictions, the reality has hit home to many of us that indeed, with the conservation problems present in many watersheds, and the harvest potential of the fleet, we are going to have to accept some rational restrictions. Restrictions that maintain a viable fishery for most participants, and provide a quality product to consumers. Thank you,

Scott L. Boley

