

TRIBAL COMMENTS

DRAFT

The 2006 schedule will once again present a major challenge for key technical staff who are heavily involved in the PSC process and the Council process.

We certainly do not want, in 2006, to repeat our previous experience with the delayed and erroneous pre-season forecast information received from Canada.

Regarding meeting schedules:

The Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) will conduct their usual post-season meeting the week of January 9- 13 in Portland and the annual meeting will be the week of February 13 – 17 in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

The North of Falcon meetings have not been scheduled yet. They will likely be scheduled in January 2006 to fit within both the PSC and PFMC processes.

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) proposed meetings will occur between the two PSC meetings. It should be noted that the work load requirements on the Team will be significant, especially for the Team members who are involved with both the Council and PSC processes.

The KFMC meeting will be in late February in Brookings, OR. The tentative dates are Feb. 21 -23. The KFMC will also meet during the March and April Council meetings.

The proposed Council Public Hearing schedule will be March 27 in Westport and Coos Bay and March 28 in Ft. Bragg, CA.

Because of the time compression between the meetings, it seems to me that (1) it is not going to be an easy task for the STT to complete its work in a timely manner and (2) there will likely be another challenge for salmon managers and the Council to establish a range of options at the March Council meeting. The Council needs to be aware of this situation in 2006.

Given the increased scrutiny on harvest these past few months, fishery representatives should plan on giving an extra effort this year to attend and participate in these meetings. Beyond the normal challenges to balance fisheries against weak stock constraints, fishery managers will have the added pressure of threatened legal challenges to their harvest plans. Because of this complication, it will be important to have full participation by all groups in the process for the 2006 season setting cycle.