

SALMON MANAGEMENT OPTION HEARING SUMMARY

Date: March 26, 2007	Hearing Officer: Mr. Mark Cedergreen
Location: Chateau Westport Westport, WA	Other Council Members: Mr. Phil Anderson
Attendance: 34	NMFS: Dr. Peter Dygert
Testifying: 9	Coast Guard: ENS Darek Schramel
	Salmon Team Member: Mr. Doug Milward
	Council Staff: Ms. Laura Bozzi
Organizations Represented: Washington Trollers Association, Ilwaco Charterboat Association, Westport Charterboat Association	

**Synopsis of Testimony**

Of the 9 people testifying:

- 4 commented primarily on the commercial troll fishery.
- 5 commented primarily on the recreational (charterboat) fishery.

**Special Opening Remarks**

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

**Commercial Troll Comments**

- Consider non-retention of Chinook in Area 1 in spring and summer seasons.
- Consider a 5-day open period for July.
- Support for a 2 Chinook to 1 halibut catch ratio with a 30 fish cap.
- Consider a 100 fish/ trip limit during the open period for May/June; a July 1 opener with a 50 Chinook limit per period for the summer; and for July-September in Area 1, if the Chinook quota has already been reached then allow only retention of coho.

- Opposed to the change by NMFS in the exploitation rate of Lower Columbia River tules from 49 percent to 42 percent. One person explained that, when applied to last year's average price per pound, the difference between 49 and 42 percent is \$1.25 million for the state's coastal economy. Another person noted that there are other problems bringing about the low numbers of tules, such as predation by sea lions and in-river issues, which includes hydroelectric dams.

### **Recreational Comments**

- Most of those testifying spoke in favor of Option 1. No one testified in favor of Options 2 or 3.
- Evaluate a 26 inch (rather than 24 inch) minimum size limit north of Cape Falcon.
- Consider a 7 day per week fishery south of Leadbetter Point and 5 day per week north of Leadbetter Point.
- Take actions to assure that the recreational Chinook quota north of Cape Falcon is not pre-empted by commercial trollers.
- Concern about the possibility that Oregon boats will fish north of Cape Falcon and exceed the troll quota, which could put the recreational fishery in jeopardy. Consider non-retention of Chinook south of Leadbetter Point to prevent an influx of Oregon trollers.
- Stretch the recreational share out to create as long a season as possible.

### **Written Statements (Attached)**

- Westport Charterboat Association

PFMC  
03/27/07

**W**ESTPORT CHARTERBOAT ASSOCIATION  
P. O. BOX 654 • WESTPORT, WASHINGTON 98595

March 26, 2007

To: Pacific Fishery Management Council

From: Westport Charterboat Association  
Steve Westrick, President

Re: 2007 Salmon regulations

As always, we are in favor of salmon regulations that give us maximum opportunity to fish. We support the quota levels in Option 1 and hope you will seek whatever solution possible to make the grade on Chinook constraints.

Given that, we have three requests for your consideration.

First, we think that it's possible that a 26" minimum size limit for Chinook in all recreational areas north of Cape Falcon might dampen the Chinook catch rate more than enough to compensate for the off-setting lower quota that would be required to be mortality-neutral. A smaller quota at 26" might go further in meeting season length objectives than the higher retention rate of a 24" minimum size at a larger quota. We believe this to be particularly true in a year when Coho are more abundant. We ask that you fully investigate and consider the pros and cons of this management option prior to making a final decision.

Second, we support starting with a 7-day per week fishery south of Point Leadbetter but not to the north. The Columbia River area has no fishing opportunity in July other than ocean salmon fishing. Additionally, only 20% of the Chinook caught in that area are caught before the first of August.

On the other hand, a majority of the Chinook caught north of Point Leadbetter are caught before August in years when there is no in-season liberalization of Chinook constraints. The longest possible season lengths in all areas, along with best meeting the goals and objectives of the Salmon Framework plan, will be met with a 7-day south, 5 day north weekly fishing schedule.

Finally, we have a great concern that, in a year of such diminished Chinook opportunity, the recreational Chinook quota North of Falcon could be pre-empted by the Troll fishery. Two years ago unexpected troll effort in Area 1 originating from South of Falcon resulted in an exceeding of the troll quota for north of Falcon and a lowering of the recreational quota to prevent exceeding the overall Chinook quota north of Falcon. Although this did not result in any impacts on the recreational fishery in a year of greater Chinook abundance and quota, in 2007 it could devastate our industry by shortening an already potentially very short season. We ask that you either prohibit Chinook retention in the troll fishery in Area 1 or reduce days per week and landing limits to a manageable level during the summer fishery.

Thank you for hearing our concerns.

  
Steve Westrick