



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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April 27, 2007

Mr. Robert Lohn, Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way NE
BIN C15700, Building 1
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

Re: Transmittal of 2007 Salmon Season Recommendations (Correction to April 25th Letter)

Dear Mr. ^{Bob}Lohn:

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) concluded its 2007 preseason ocean salmon fishery management process by adopting final annual management recommendations on April 6, 2007 in Seattle, Washington. The Council's recommendations fully comport with the Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and meet the requirements for stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as outlined in your letter of March 1, 2007 and in the applicable biological opinions and Section 4(d) Determinations. Further, the Council's recommendations constitute proposed regulations responsive to your letter dated April 10, 2007 concerning rebuilding Klamath River fall Chinook (KRFC) salmon.

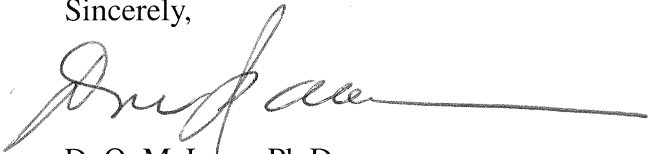
The Council's specific management recommendations are contained in Preseason Report III (enclosed). Within Preseason Report III, Tables 1 and 2, and Figures 1 and 2 provide a complete description of the proposed non-Indian commercial and recreational salmon fishery management measures. Table 3 provides the recommendations for the ocean treaty-Indian commercial fishery, and Table 4 displays the quota levels for individual fisheries managed under quotas. Details of the harvest impacts are provided in Tables 5 and 6 for Chinook and coho salmon. The impacts are provided in terms of landings and/or nonretention mortality, harvest indexes or rates for species considered under the ESA, and ocean or spawner escapements for stocks with Council management goals, or other criteria as appropriate for compliance with terms under the Pacific Salmon Treaty and agreements reached with northwest Indian tribes. Table 7 provides a breakdown of the fishery impacts on indicator stocks for lower Columbia natural, Oregon Coast natural, and Rogue-Klamath coho, and lower Columbia River natural tule Chinook. Table 8 summarizes the expected mark rates in the mark-selective coho fisheries. Tables 9 and 10, and Figures 3 and 4 provide estimates of economic impacts resulting from the proposed fisheries.

The Council's commercial management recommendations include restrictions for incidental halibut harvest in the commercial salmon troll fishery. The restrictions are the same as in 2006. Item C.7 in Table 1 provides the detailed halibut regulations.

Your April 10 letter contained a notification of overfished status designation for KRFC, alluded to the requirements of the Council's Salmon FMP, and included citation from the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) that the Council is required to "prepare a fishery management plan (FMP), FMP amendment, or proposed regulations...to rebuild the overfished Klamath River Fall Run Chinook stock." It remains unclear the exact determination criteria for the overfished designation, as the citations from the MSA and National Standard Guidelines did not contain determination criteria and the Salmon FMP calls for an overfishing assessment prior to such a determination. Pursuant to the Salmon FMP, the Council has assigned the Salmon Technical Team (STT), with assistance from the affected states and tribes and the Habitat Committee, the task of developing an overfishing assessment for KRFC. This assessment is scheduled for completion by March 2008 and will assess the causes of the three spawning escapement shortfalls in 2004-2006. We also note this transmittal represents the Council's proposed regulations to immediately end any overfishing that may have occurred. Further, even with the ambiguity of an overfished status designation, the Council's proposed regulations are technically designed to rebuild the natural KRFC stock to a point that achieves the spawning escapement objective with significant attendant tribal and non-tribal fisheries, in the first possible fishing year.

This letter and Preseason Report III contain the Council's recommended 2007 ocean salmon management measures. The Council requests your review, approval, and implementation of these proposed regulations for the 2007 ocean salmon fishing season beginning May 1. Please call upon Council staff officer Chuck Tracy for any additional assistance you may need to complete the implementation process.

Sincerely,



D. O. McIsaac, Ph.D.
Executive Director

CAT:rdd

Enclosures

c: Council Members
Ms. Mariam McCall
Mr. Bill Chappell
Mr. Eric Chavez
Dr. John Coon
Ms. Eileen Cooney
Ms. Paula Evans
Ms. Sarah McAvinchey
Mr. Tony Morton
Mr. Chuck Tracy
Mr. Galen Tromble