

**SALMON MANAGEMENT OPTION HEARING SUMMARY**

Date: March 30, 2009	Hearing Officer: Mr. Mark Cedergreen
Location: Chateau Westport Westport, WA	Other Council Members: Mr. Phil Anderson Mr. Dale Myer
Attendance: 27	NMFS: Dr. Peter Dygert
Testifying: 5	Coast Guard: Mr. Joel Voelker
	Salmon Team Member: Mr. Doug Milward
	Council Staff: Ms. Jennifer Gilden
Organizations Represented:  City of Westport Ilwaco Charterboat Association Washington Trollers Association Westport Charterboat Association Willapa Bay Gillnetters	

**Synopsis of Testimony**

Of the 5 people testifying:

- 2 commented primarily on the commercial troll fishery.
- 1 commented on the commercial gillnet fishery.
- 1 commented primarily on the recreational (charterboat) fishery
- 1 commented primarily on community impacts to Westport.

**Special Opening Remarks**

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

**Commercial Troll Comments**

- Washington Trollers Association provided an option to maximize the salmon season (attached).
- Concerned that harvest reduction for Grays & Lewis River salmon was not effective; would like harvest increased in compensation.
- Concerned that Washington trollers will not survive switch to a mark-selective fishery. Trollers need assistance.
- Fishermen need to be taught how to sample fish themselves; more data could result in going beyond September 15 deadline if coho or Chinook are left over.

- For options, would like to see five days on and two off. For halibut, support three for free and one halibut for one salmon after that. Support the Washington Trollers Association proposal; would like to see a pink fishery added.

### **Recreational Comments**

- Strongly support hatchery reform, which mandates releasing naturally spawning salmon to help rebuild runs. It will take time for the public to adapt to releasing some Chinook; prefer to wait one more year to fish selectively for Chinook.
- If there is a nonselective fishery in 2009, we support a bag limit of two fish (only one being a Chinook). If the Chinook guideline is less than around 10,000, would prefer a five-day-a-week start (Sunday-Thursday); if higher, we support a seven-day-per-week start.
- If there is a selective fishery, we support a seven-day week and a two-salmon bag limit.
- Would have preferred to start earlier than June 28, but accept the June 28 start.
- We support the bonus pink in the options.
- Bad publicity last year damaged the fishing community here. We need all the help we can get.

### **Other Comments**

- City of Westport supports both commercial and recreational fisheries, which are especially important in the current economy. Please provide maximum opportunities to benefit the local economy.
- Gillnetters should have received disaster money last year. Gillnetters were not notified about the disaster relief payments but haven't had a summer fishery since 1996. Would also support a gillnetter buyout.
- Concerned about incidental mortality in a catch-and-release fishery for ocean coho.

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

- Washington Trollers Association proposal

PFMC  
04/01/08

**OUTLINE of 2009 Season Proposal to PFMC for North of Falcon:**

**Spring:** Quota: 22,500 chinook  
15,100 (2/3) chinook  
Open May 1-5, then 8th-12th; 5/2 for two wks  
(Fri to Tues), then to 4 on 3 off  
75 landing/opening (Low of 60)  
(Could roll uncaught numbers into summer.)  
  
(Low quota number: 25)

coho

**Summer:** 36,000 coho (M/S)  
1/3 – 7400 chinook  
Start July 1 to 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 day opener (S-T)  
Areas 2,3,4  
40 Chin 100 coho  
Area 1 20 Chin 150  
  
Go to 4 on and 3 off after opener  
Starting on Saturdays  
Aug 29 (could go non-select coho)  
Area 3-4 40 Chin 100 coho  
Area 1-2 10 Chin 200 coho  
If going non-select would lower  
quota. Area 2 could change. (Queets  
is division line for marked select.)  
(Low # coho if not M/S: 100)  
(Pinks open July 1, not directed.)

Options for Summer: Start 6-27 or 7/1? Vote supported starting July 1.

Halibut:

Status quo: 35 trip limit. 1 halibut to 2 salmon  
3 retained without a salmon aboard.