

Pacific Marine Fisheries Council

On March 31, 2009 I testified for the Trinity River Guides Association and the In-River Sports Fishing at the PFMC hearing held at the Red Lion Hotel in Eureka. Mr. Wolford asked that I make this follow up letter to be presented at your meeting April 6, 2009, held in Millbrae, Ca.

The TRGA and the In-River Sport Fishing have great concern of being able to reach the proposed conservation goals for the Klamath-Trinity River Basin. The escapement goal of 40,700 Fall Run Chinook for 2008 was not reached. In the final analysis only an estimated 30,950 Fall Run Chinook made it to in-river escapement. This amounts to approximately a 26% shortfall of the projected escapement goal for 2008.

In 2008 the In-River Sport Fishing was allotted 22,500 harvestable Fall Run Chinook, one of the more gracious allotments in many years. The problem being was that the In-River Sports Fishing was only able to harvest approximately 1,900 Salmon. This amounted to less than 9% of the allowable harvest. For the record the In-River Sport Fishing did support an Ocean Sport Fishing season for the last two weeks in August of 2008. They were even willing to accept a reduction in their In-River allotment in order to help provide that fishing opportunity but it was disallowed by the council.

For 2009 the TRGA and In-River Sports Fishing supports an Ocean Sports Fishing season and therefore supports Option I of the Preseason Report II proposal for an Ocean Sports Fishing. Again the TRGA and In-River Sports Fishing appreciates the generous 2009 allocation of 30,000 harvestable Fall Run Chinook but also realizes that it is also very important to obtain the in-river escapement goal of 40,700 for future sustainable salmon fishing. Because of our conservation concerns the TRGA offered to reduce the 2009 allocation to that of the 2008 allocation or 25,000 harvestable Fall Run Chinook at the March 31st hearings in Eureka. After much review and analyzing the Ocean Salmon Fisheries Review of 2008 we came to the conclusion that the possibility of the In-River Sports Fishing people will NOT be able to harvest all of the recommended 2009 Fall Run Chinook allocation. We also realized that this will then assist in the ability to hopefully obtain the 2009 in-river natural escapement goal of 40,900 Fall Run Chinook. The TRGA has great concerns that another year of NOT reaching the escapement goal could affect future salmon fishing in the Klamath-Trinity River Basin to the extent of the 2006 season. The TRGA does believe that serious monitoring and enforcement will be needed if the Klamath-Trinity River Basin is to be able to reach the proposed conservation goal of 40,700 Fall Run Chinook and allow the In-River Sports Fishery to achieve a reasonable harvest of the quota.

The Trinity River Guides Association and the In-River Sports Fishing appreciates the councils' time and consideration of these requests. For your quick review I have included a table of historic runs and harvests.

Respectfully,



E. B. Duggan, Secretary Trinity River Guides Association

	Run Size	Sports Harvest	Nat. Spawn. Escap.
1986	195,019	21,027	113,360
1987	209,134	20,169	101,717
1988	191,642	22,203	79,386
1996	175,773	12,776	81,326
2000	218,077	5,650	82,728