



Pacific Fishery Management Council *NEWS RELEASE*

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PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL ALLOWS LIMITED SALMON FISHING FOR 2006 SEASON

Today the Pacific Fishery Management Council recommended allowing limited commercial and recreational salmon fishing off the Oregon and northern California coast. The long-awaited decision came after the Council considered scientific recommendations and public testimony regarding the ecological and socioeconomic impacts of diminishing numbers of naturally spawning Klamath River chinook salmon. The Council had considered a complete closure of commercial, recreational, and tribal ocean fisheries from Tillamook, Oregon to Point Sur, California, which would have led to massive

At a recent meeting in Seattle, the Council adopted a set of options for 2006 ocean salmon fisheries (see links below for further details). On March 27-28, public hearings on the options will be held in Westport, Washington; Coos Bay, Oregon; and Santa Rosa, California. The Council will make final season recommendations on April 7, and will forward the decision to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for approval.

The Council's decisionmaking process on such matters involves making preliminary decisions, consulting with scientists, hearing public comment (which is likely to be considerable), and revising preliminary decisions until the Council chooses a final option. The decisionmaking process for salmon is scheduled to begin in the afternoon Tuesday, April 4, when the Council will discuss the implications of listing Klamath Chinook stocks as overfished, and will tentatively adopt salmon management measures for analysis by Council technical teams and scientists. Late Thursday afternoon, the Council is scheduled to take final action on the management measures. On Friday, there is an opportunity for the Council to clarify the decision made on Thursday, if necessary. Depending on the amount of public comment, it is possible that the final decision will be made Friday.

At the same time, the California Fish and Game Commission will [do what?]

A press packet with contacts, background information, a map of affected areas, Council letters on Klamath habitat issues, useful acronyms, and information on economic

impacts is available on the Council website at [*link*].

For more information, please see:

- Council meeting agenda
<http://www.pcouncil.org/bb/2006/0406/aga4.pdf>
- March 13, 2006 press release on salmon options:
http://www.pcouncil.org/newsreleases/pr031306_sal.pdf
- Technical tables showing salmon options:
<http://www.pcouncil.org/salmon/salcurr.html#2006>
- Salmon hearings schedule:
<http://www.pcouncil.org/events/2006/salproc06.html>
- Guide to the Pacific Fishery Management Council process:
<http://www.pcouncil.org/guide/Guide-intropage.html>