

SALMON MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES HEARING SUMMARY

Date:	March 29, 2016	Hearing Officer:	Mr. Dan Wolford
Location:	Motel 6 Fort Bragg, CA	Other Council Members:	
		NMFS:	Ms. Peggy Mundy
Attendance:	29	Coast Guard:	LT Shannon Anthony
Testifying:	12 (with several others expressing support by show of hands)	Salmon Technical Team:	Mr. Brett Kormos
		Council Staff:	Mr. Mike Burner
Organizations Represented: Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations, Coastside Fishing Club, Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers, and Salmon Trollers Marketing Association.			

Special Opening Remarks

Mr. Dan Wolford provided opening remarks for the hearing. Mr. Brett Kormos of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provided a summary of the recreational and commercial Alternatives. The overwhelming majority of the attendees were from the commercial fishery, with only a handful of other stakeholder representatives, including a couple from the processing industry.

Synopsis of Testimony

Of the 12 people testifying:

- Six commented primarily on the commercial troll fishery.
- Six commented primarily on the recreational fishery.

Commercial Troll Comments

- One person presented the following modified Alternative II (hand written summary attached), two other people testified in favor of this modified alternative, and 14 people showed support by show of hands.

CA KMZ	Fort Bragg	San Francisco	Monterey North	Monterey South
Sept. - 1,000 Chinook quota, landing and possession limit of 20 fish per day, 28 inch min. size limit.	June 10-30; Aug. 1-29; Sept. 1-30.	May 15-31; June 10-30; Aug. 1-29; Sept. 1-30. Fall Area Target Zone Fishery as proposed in Alt. II	May 1-31; June 10-30; August 1-15.	May 1-31; June 10-30.

The presenter stated conditions have changed since 2015 and many Fort Bragg commercial interests would prefer time in June over time in May.

- One person presented “Commercial Troll Management Alternative IV” (handout attached) that delays the May start date in the San Francisco and Fort Bragg areas to alleviate some potential gear conflicts between salmon troll and crab gear and to avoid potential weather challenges in the early season. Preliminary model results suggest that this proposal, when combined with the attached assumptions about Oregon’s fishery, meets our management objectives for 2016.
- One person spoke in favor of Alternative III for the Fort Bragg fishery, stating that ports in the north need opportunity to maintain infrastructure and provide economic opportunity. They also noted that the current crab opportunity is only in areas south of Point Arena, so there would be no gear conflicts in Fort Bragg.

Recreational Comments

- One person testified in support of Alternative I for the California Klamath Management Zone (KMZ) on behalf of the Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers (letter attached). Alternative I was crafted to mesh well with the California Pacific halibut season and provides the best opportunity for the local tourism economy, including charter boats, sport anglers, and marinas.
- Two people testified in support of Alternative I for the California KMZ because it matches well with the Pacific halibut season, and starting later in May will give ports more time to complete required dredging operations.
- One person testified in support of either Alternative I or Alternative II for the management areas south of Horse Mountain on behalf of the Coastside Fishing Club representing over 11,000 recreational anglers (letter attached). The letter notes that Alternative I provides the best opportunity for fishing while meeting or exceeding the management objectives, particularly the *de minimis* policies in place this year for Sacramento River winter Chinook and Klamath River fall Chinook. While Coastside would support either I or II south of Horse Mountain, they were opposed to alternative III based on the unjustified restrictions and excessive adverse impacts it would have on the local recreational infrastructure in the Monterey area.
- One person testified in support of Alternative I for the Fort Bragg area recreational fishery.

Other Comments

- One person expressed frustration with the performance of salmon forecasting and requested a historical record of forecasting accuracy. Mr. Kormos mentioned that information is presented in the salmon preseason documents offered to meet after the hearing.
- Several participants urged the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to define its management objectives for Sacramento River winter Chinook as early as possible so that stakeholders can have time to shape fisheries accordingly.

Written Statements (Attached)

- California Commercial Troll Notes on a Modified Alternative II
- Commercial Troll Management Alternative IV for Non-Indian Ocean Salmon Fishery
- Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers
- Coastside Fishing Club

PFMC
04/05/16



Coastside Fishing Club

P.O. Box 5501
San Mateo, CA 94402

March 25 2016

VIA EMAIL: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Ms. Dorothy Lowman,
Chair Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97221

SUBJECT: 2016 Ocean Salmon Management (Agenda Item E.1.f)

Chair Lowman and Council Members:

The Coastside Fishing Club, representing over 11,000 of California recreational anglers, supports the adoption of recreational management Alternatives I or II for management areas south of Horse Mountain. We understand the need to continue measures designed to lessen ocean impacts on Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon; although, ocean impacts had nothing to do with the sharp decline of this endangered population. The winter-run's reduced abundance is the result of poor decisions made by water managers, exacerbated by years of drought.

Ocean Salmon Fisheries Resulted in *De Minimus* Winter-Run Impacts in 2015

All Alternatives result in ocean impacts far below 2015's projected winter-run impact rate of 17.1%, let alone the guidance offered by the National Marine Fisheries Service of 19.9%. The 2015 season structure south of Pt. Arena resulted in the recovery of only two tagged winter-run Chinook. Even with expansion for sampling rate and the numbers of untagged winter-run from the natural areas, 2015 ocean impacts on winter-run were *de minimus* by any measure.

Alternative I Winter-Run Ocean Impact Rate is 14.4%

Alternative I repeats the successful structure of the 2015 recreational salmon season south of Pt. Arena. The projected 2016 winter-run impact rate of Alternative I is 14.4%, which is well below NMFS guidance, the 2015 post-season estimate, or

the target offered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Alternative I is acceptable to California's recreational anglers.

We wish to emphasize, however, that Alternative I – like the 2015 season – significantly truncates the recreational season south of Pigeon Point (the Monterey North and South management areas). We do not support further constraints on recreational opportunity absent both a demonstrated need and reliable scientific assurance that reducing the season length will meet that need.

Alternative II Reduces Impacts on Sacramento Winter-Run and Klamath Fall-Run

Alternative II creates an in-season closure in June in the Ft. Bragg and San Francisco management areas in order to reduce impacts on the Klamath River fall Chinook stock. This Alternative also adjusts the closing date in the San Francisco management area, which results in identical season structures in Ft. Bragg and San Francisco.

The June closure also has the salutary benefit of further reducing winter-run ocean impacts. Although recreational anglers chafe against lost opportunity, the restoration of the traditional November closure in San Francisco offers some consolation and is a critical feature of Alternative II. Restoring the November closure date “costs” 0.04% in winter-run ocean impacts, but the June closures “saves” 0.43%, a factor of almost eleven.

Alternative II maintains the same season structure in the Monterey North and South management areas as found in Alternative I. As noted above, recreational anglers in the Monterey North and South management areas have already lost significant fishing opportunity, losing a full month north of Pt. Sur and two and a half months south of Pt. Sur, compared to 2014.

Alternative III is Not Acceptable

This Alternative imposes even greater closures on all management areas south of Horse Mountain. It goes too far. In the San Francisco and Ft. Bragg management areas, the extended June closure would save 37 Klamath fall-run Chinook. The recreational sector only takes a small fraction of this stock. Extending the June closure to reduce impacts by three-dozen fish is too high a price with too small a benefit. (This is barely more than one day's commercial fishing in these same management areas in June.)

Compared to the 2015 season structure, Alternative III would eliminate more than two months from the season in Monterey North and a month and a half from the season in Monterey South. The cumulative loss in fishing opportunity to anglers in these management areas would be enormous and unfair. Anglers in Monterey North

would retain less than half of their season compared to 2014 and prior years. Anglers in Monterey South would retain less than one-third of their season compared to 2014 and prior years.

Conclusion

Coastside Fishing Club supports the adoption of recreational management Alternatives I or II south of Horse Mountain. The in-season closure in June in Alternative II is acceptable only with the restoration of opportunity in November. We oppose Alternative III because it is unnecessarily confiscatory of recreational opportunities, particularly in the Monterey North and South management areas south of Pigeon Point.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Siano
Director, Coastside Fishing Club

cc: Chuck Bonham (Chuck.Bonham@wildlife.ca.gov)

HUMBOLDT AREA SALTWATER ANGLERS

Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers (HASA) encourages the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) to support Alternative I for the recreational fishery within the CA Klamath Management Zone (KMZ). This alternative with the other seasons within Alternative I currently model meeting the escapement goals for both the Klamath and Sacramento Rivers.

HASA acknowledges that both Klamath and Sacramento stocks are diminished this year and as such all three alternatives for the CA KMZ represent approximately one half the fishing opportunity as compared to a "normal" season the last few years. Alternative I was carefully crafted to mesh with California's Pacific halibut season which is open from the 1st to the 15th of each month beginning in May through October or until the quota is filled. The quota will likely be filled in July or August. Alternative I has open periods from the 16th to the end of each month for May, June and July through August 16th. The staggering of halibut and salmon open periods provides anglers an opportunity to fish throughout most of the season. Perhaps more importantly it provides the maximum possible financial benefit to the coastal communities within the CA KMZ. This includes not only the charter fleet, fishing related businesses but also dining and lodging enterprises.

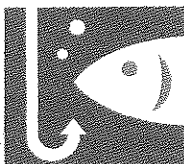
Alternative I is supported by HASA, the charter fleets in Humboldt Bay and Trinidad as well as the Trinidad Rancheria who operates the launch facility in Trinidad. We urge you to adopt recreational Alternative I within the CA KMZ for the 2016 salmon season.

Thank you,



Jim Yarnall

HASA Salmon Representative



P.O. BOX 6191
EUREKA, CA. 95502

PHONE (707) 444-3918
CELL (707) 834-4100
E-MAIL m-morris@suddenlink.net
WEB SITE <http://www.humboldtuna.com>

Commercial Troll Management Alternative IV for non-Indian Ocean Salmon Fishery

Submitted by CA Commercial Salmon Fisherpersons

Date: March 24, 2016

Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.:

- April 8-30
- May 1-31
- June 15-30
- July 8-31
- August 18-24
- Sept 1 through Oct 31

Humbug Mt. to OR/CA Border (Oregon KMZ):

- April 8-30
- May 1-31

OR/CA Border to Humboldt South Jetty (CA KMZ):

- Closed

Humboldt South Jetty to Horse Mt:

- Closed

Horse Mt to Pt. Arena (Ft. Bragg):

- June 13-30
- August 8-29
- Sept 1-30

Pt. Arena to Pigeon Pt. (San Francisco):

- May 15-31
- June 1-30
- Aug 8-29
- Sept 1-30

Point Reyes to Pt. San Pedro (Fall Area Target Zone):

- Oct. 3-7
- Oct. 10-14

Pigeon Pt. to Pt. Sur (Monterey North):

- May 15-31
- June 21-30
- Aug 8-23

Pt. Sur to U.S. Mexico Border (Monterey South):

- May 15-31
- June 21-30
- August 8-23

Changes to Existing Options:

- Oregon's Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. fishery forfeits 4 fishing days in June and 4 days in August for a total of 8 days
- Oregon closes Humbug Mt. to OR/CA Border beginning June 1 through the remainder of the season as defined in Oregon's Alternative II and III
- CA closes the CA KMZ zone as proposed in CA's Alternative III
- CA's Ft. Bragg Zone shifts effort into June from May
- CA's San Francisco Zone shifts effort into late May and June addressing fleet concerns with crab pots and weather
- CA's Monterey North Zone adjust time to minimize "Effort Shift" penalties
- CA's Monterey South Zone adjust time to minimize "Effort Shift" penalties

Amendment Option II

(MO)

Caron Newman + Jim Carro
California Salmon Trapper
California Processor

PP to MEX MAY 1-31

JUNE 10-30

(August 1-15
closed before
PT SUR)

(WR)
avoidance

(SF)

ARENA to PP MAY 15-31

JUNE 10-30

AUGUST 1-29

SEPT 1-30

(FB)

HM to PA

JUNE 10-30

AUGUST 1-29

SEPT 1-30

(CKMZ)

September / 1000 / 20pd / 28" size limit

PT Rys to PT SAW Pedro FATZ
week days