

2016 California Recreational Salmon Season





Multiple Challenges in 2016

- Drought and water management decisions have severely impacted managed stocks
 - Klamath Fall-Run
 - Sacramento Winter-Run (Brood years 2014 and 2015)
- Council is obligated to conserve these stocks
- Science-Based Management Objectives
 - Klamath Fall-Run, Exploitation Rate $\leq 25\%$
 - Sacramento Winter-Run
 - Control Rule Impact Rate $\leq 19.9\%$
 - Need to do better



Steps Taken in 2015 Fishery to Protect Sacramento Winter-Run

- Brood year 2013 in the fishery
 - Not decimated as juveniles like BY 2014 and 2015
 - Poor ocean conditions
- State and stakeholders worked proactively to craft highly protective season
 - Closures – up to 50% loss of season
 - Increased minimum size
- Results: only one tagged winter-run taken (In SF; none south of Pigeon Point)



Crafting a Protective 2016 Recreational Salmon Season

- Issue south of Pt. Arena
- Protection is measured by impact rate
- NMFS has not offered guidance apart from 19.9%, but impact rate should be lower
- 2015 season =17.5%
- State and stakeholders agree that impact should be lower in 2016



Stakeholder Perspective

- Repeat success of 2015 season structure
- Consider incremental closures only as necessary
 - Areas south of Pigeon Pt. suffered significant closures in 2015
- Allow opportunity shift
 - Klamath constraints may force mid-season closure
 - Restore lost November opportunity if net conservation benefit provided to constraining stocks



Comment on CDFW Supplemental Report

- Excellent analysis of geographic and temporal impacts on winter-run
- Conclusions
 - State recommends $\leq 17.1\%$ impact rate
 - Achieve through time and area closures
- Policy Recommendations
 - Monterey (North): Close on July 15 ($\geq 40\%$ reduction in season)
 - Monterey (South): Close on May 31 (loss of two-thirds of season)
 - No November fishery in San Francisco
- Policy not driven by specific conservation objective
- Analysis does not consider conservation benefit of 24" min.



Monterey Closures

- Remember: zero recovery of Winter-run CWT in Monterey management area under 2015 season
- Proposed closures (July 16 through Oct. 2) have severe economic impacts
 - \$834,720 in lost expenditures
 - 8.8 lost full-time jobs
 - \$478,778 in lost income
 - \$1,361,254 in lost economic activity
- Closing August 31 (was September 5 in 2015)
 - preserves most economic benefits
 - low impact rate of 14.4% (Alt. I) or 13.6% (Alt. II)



Shifting Effort

- Recreational anglers prefer Alternative I
- Alternative II has ten-day closure in June
 - May be needed to reduce Klamath fall-run impact
 - Also reduces Sacramento winter-run impact (0.43%)
 - Restores November opportunity (0.04%)
- Loss of opportunity must be justified by conservation benefit



Conclusion

- Stakeholders understand need for conservation measures
- Season structure should be driven by STT analysis and specific conservation objectives
- Stakeholders should have latitude to craft season meeting conservation objectives
- In 2015 stakeholders acted in good faith to craft a highly protective season structure, which has proved effective
- Proposed loss of economic and fishing opportunity not necessary to achieve low impact rate