



Monterey Recreational Salmon Season (Agenda Item E.1.f)

1 message

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To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

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

SUBJECT: Monterey Recreational Salmon Season (Agenda Item E.1.f)

Chair Lowman and Council Members:

The Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project, supported by a membership of over 600, strenuously oppose Alternative III in the Monterey management areas, both North and South, for recreational anglers. We appreciate the need to reduce impacts on winter-run Chinook salmon, but the changes implemented last year (for the 2015 salmon season) have proven effective and adequate. Further closures are not warranted and would do unnecessary harm to both recreational anglers and the businesses that serve them.

The recreational salmon season has already been severely cut back in the Monterey management areas. Last year, the 2015 season took away a month from Monterey North and two and a half months from Monterey South. With the further cuts proposed in Alternative III, the Monterey North season would see a cumulative reduction of three months, leaving only three months open. The Monterey south season would see a cumulative reduction of four months, leaving only two months open.

The collapse seen in the winter-run population has nothing whatsoever to do with ocean fishing. The responsibility lies wholly with inland water managers, specifically the Bureau of Reclamation, whose poor judgment – compounded by drought – has decimated the 2013 and 2014 winter-run brood. Only changes in water operations will allow the winter-run to recover. Overly constraining recreational ocean fishing seasons is not a meaningful tool in recovery. Political support for salmonid recovery comes from enthusiastic anglers, keeping them off the water has a negative effect on salmonid recovery as a whole.

We support recreational management Alternatives I or II in the Monterey management areas. That structure has proven effective at reducing ocean contact rates.

Sincerely,

Mathers Rowley
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