

SALMON MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES HEARING SUMMARY

Date:	March 27, 2017	Hearing Officer:	Mr. Kyle Adicks
Location:	Chateau Westport Westport, WA	Other Council Members:	None
Attendance:	55	NMFS:	Mr. Jeromy Jording
Testifying:	14	Coast Guard:	LCJG James Bruce
		Salmon Team Member:	Ms. Wendy Beeghley
		Council Staff:	Dr. Kit Dahl
Organizations Represented: Washington Trollers Association, Coastal Trollers Association, Westport Charter Boat Association, Ilwaco Charter Boat Association, Puget Sound Anglers / Ocean Anglers			

Special Opening Remarks

Mr. Kyle Adicks provided an overview and Ms. Wendy Beeghley reviewed the Alternatives for the commercial and sport salmon seasons.

Synopsis of Testimony

Of the 14 people testifying:

- 6 commented primarily on the commercial troll fishery.
- 8 commented primarily on the recreational fishery.

Commercial Troll Comments

- Support Alternative 1
- Seven days a week season
- Structure regulations so incidental halibut allocation can be fully accessed; halibut are an important component of an economically viable fishery
- Support 50-50 split in the total allowable catch between spring and summer (see attached letter from Kelly’s Fresh Fish)
- For spring season, seven days a week with no trip limits and 50 percent trigger for inseason action (see attached letter from Kelly’s Fresh Fish)
- For spring season in Areas 1, 3, and 4, weekly trip limits, 40 Chinook per vessel per week (see attached letter from Kelly’s Fresh Fish)
- For summer season, seven days a week, weekly trip limits, 40 Chinook per vessel per week (see attached letter from Kelly’s Fresh Fish)
- For spring season in Areas 3 and 4, 50 Chinook per vessel per week (see attached letter from Coastal Trollers Association)

- For summer season, open July 1-4, with 40 Chinook and 25 coho per week; July 7-September 19, open Friday through Tuesday with 60 Chinook and 50 coho per week; 75 percent trigger for inseason action (see attached letter from Coastal Trollers Association)
- Allow retention of two halibut without meeting the 2:1 Chinook-halibut ratio plus (see attached letter from Coastal Trollers Association)

Recreational Comments

- Support Alternative 1
- Seven days a week season
- Keep both Saturday and Sunday open
- Make the season as long as possible
- Provide opportunity for younger fishermen
- Allow more opportunity earlier in the season
- The recreational salmon fishery is very important economically for Westport and other coastal communities
- Two Chinook bag limit
- Mark-selective coho fishery in May-June
- Ocean quota has not been fully harvested in recent years; don't "leave fish on the table"
- Support Alternative 1 Chinook TAC and Alternative 2 coho TAC (see attached letter from Westport Charterboat Association)
- Under Alternative 2, one week mark-selective Chinook fishery with quota reduced from 7,500 (see attached letter from Westport Charterboat Association)
- Under Alternative 3, follow framework plan for coho allocation, not the 2016 allocation (see attached letter from Westport Charterboat Association)

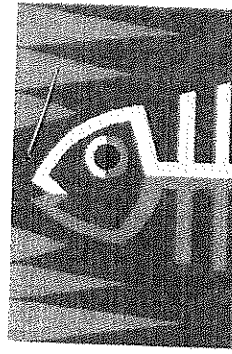
Written Statements (Attached)

Jania and Gene Panida, Wilson Fish Markets
 Mark Courman, Allrivers and Saltwater Charters
 Thomas Kelly, Kelly's Fresh Fish
 Steve Wilson, Coastal Trollers Association
 Westport Charterboat Association

PFMC
 03/31/17

March 27, 2017

Attention:
Mr. Kyle Adicks
Mr. Ron Warren
Ms. Wendy Beeghley
Mr. Kyle Vandegraaf



**WILSON FISH
MARKETS**

Jania Wilson-Panida
253-722-7100

Gene Panida
253-508-1403

thefishguys@hotmail.com

Featuring WILD King Salmon, Coho,
Halibut and Smoked King Salmon

My name is Jania Wilson Panida. My husband Gene and I own Wilson Fish Markets. We have been bringing fresh Washington Coast salmon to the local farmers markets in Snohomish, King and Pierce counties for the past 11 years. Our concern we want to bring to you is to please consider keeping the king run open without interruption as long as possible.

The hundreds of our neighborhood customers that we serve have become accustomed to having *local* troll caught salmon from commercial troll fisherman (like my brother Steve Wilson and Dave Parker, et al) on their tables during the spring and summer months. Two of our biggest weekends are the 4th of July and Memorial Day. Please consider our neighborhood customers and our request to allow fishing to continue on the Washington Coast.

Sincerely,
Jania & Gene Panida
(253) 722-7100

Ballard Farmers Market
Madrona Farmers Market
Redmond Farmers Market
Lake Forest Park Farmers Market
Proctor Farmers Market
Puyallup Farmers Market
Edmonds Farmers Market
Bastille Cafe & Bar
Stoneburner Restaurant
The Noble Fir
Art of the Table Restaurant
Wild Wheat Bakery & Restaurant
Pasteria Lucchese
Los Chalinglos Eatery
Ranch House BBQ Restaurant

3/22/17

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, KYLE ADICKS,

WE HAVE BEEN A SALMON CHARTER OPERATOR IN WASHINGTON STATE FOR 13 YEARS AND KNOW FIRST HAND HOW IMPORTANT A 7 DAY PER WEEK SALMON SEASON IS TO OUR CHARTER BUSINESS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES.

OUR BUSINESS IS CENTERED AROUND THE SALMON FISHERY OUT OF WESTPORT, WA AND WHEN WE CAN OFFER SALMON FISHING 7 DAYS PER WEEK IT FULLY APPEALS TO ALL USERS OF THIS RESOURCE. IT ALSO ENSURES THAT WE ARE MORE LIKELY TO UTILIZE THE FULL HARVEST POTENTIAL OF OUR SALMON QUOTA.

RECREATIONAL ANGLERS HAVE NOT UTILIZED THEIR OCEAN SALMON QUOTA 13 OUT OF THE LAST 15 YEARS.

I ASK THAT THE WASHINGTON DEPT. OF FISH & WILDLIFE AND THE PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL APPROVE AND ADOPT A 7 DAY PER WEEK SALMON SEASON OUT OF WESTPORT, WA, IN 2017.

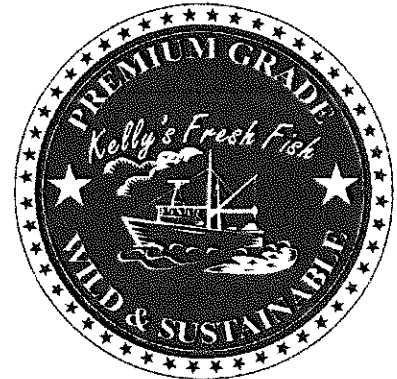
THANK YOU,

MARK COLEMAN - OWNER / OPERATOR
ALL RIVERS & SALTWATER CHARTERS

425-740-0920 MARK@ALLWASHINGTONFISHING.COM

Kelly's Fresh Fish Inc.
15124 S.E. 260th St.
Kent, WA. 98042
206-914-1342
kellysfreshfish@hotmail.com
www.kellysfreshfish.com

March 27, 2017



To Whom it may concern,

My name is Tom Kelly; I am a Washington State Commercial Salmon Troller, I have owned my license for 26 years and I primarily fish area 3 out of LaPush, WA. I am also a licensed Wholesale Fish Buyer where I sell my fresh catch and other fisherman's that I purchase, to clients in the Seattle area on a weekly basis during our season.

Today I would like to give testimony on the 2017 Salmon Troll Season for both Spring and Summer.

Total Allowable Catch

- 1.) I support a 50-50 split in the overall T.A.C. between spring and summer with prejudice to the following sub area guidelines.

The Spring Season;

- 1.) I support a wide-open fishery in area two running seven days a week with no trip limits, with a 50% trigger as opposed to a 75% trigger. After which, in season management would put weekly trip limits in place.
- 2.) In areas 1, 3 and 4, I support a seven-days a week fishery with weekly trip limits of 40 Chinook per vessel per calendar week.

The Summer Season;

- 1.) I support a seven days a week fishery with weekly trip limits of 40 Chinook per vessel per week for all areas.

Halibut Issues;

- 1.) I support a one Halibut for every two Chinook ratio with an opportunity to land 2 Halibut without meeting this ratio, and a 30 halibut total, per vessel, per trip, limit.

Respectfully Submitted

Thomas Kelly
Kelly's Fresh Fish

PFMC Public Testimony at Westport, Washington: March 27, 2017

My name is Steve Wilson, secretary of the Coastal Trollers Association. I have held a Washington troll license since 1988 and currently direct market my fish out of LaPush.

Our Coastal Trollers Association's goal is to protect and enhance an economically viable Washington salmon troll fishery. We look to bring a constant number of fish to market throughout the spring and summer seasons.

At last Friday night's CTA meeting, we discussed and agreed upon the following preferences for the 2017 salmon troll season.

Not a surprise, we desired the overall catch numbers from Alternative 1. That said we focused on Alternative two's details and catch ratios.

Looking at the spring, May-June, fishery, we accept the sub-area restrictions in areas 1 and 3 & 4 to protect inside and outside fishery returns, however, we ask the managers to use a 50% "trigger" in all areas to require a conference call to consider in-season guidance. We also ask that the catch restrictions in Areas 3 & 4 be limited to 50 Chinook per week, not 60, as written in Alt. 2.

Looking at the summer fishery, we prefer to open July 1-4 (from Alternative 3) with a weekly allowance of 40 Chinook and 25 coho. We would resume July 7th fishing on a 5 days on and two days off (Friday through Tuesday) schedule, continuing through Sept 19th with catch limits of 60 Chinook and 50 coho per week. We ask the managers to use a 75% "trigger" to consider in-season adjustments for all areas.

Regarding our incidental halibut opportunity, the Coastal Trollers Association is comfortable with Alternative 3. However, we formally request that the language for halibut take in Table 1.C.7 be amended to include in that alternative not ONE but **"two free halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement."** We offer two points in support:

First, as evidenced by last season's fisheries failure and the disaster declaration signed by the U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary, the economics of salmon trolling was challenging. And, while keeping TWO additional halibut without meeting the 2:1 Chinook to halibut ratio would not have been the panacea to our financial problems, **IT SURE WOULD HAVE HELPED**, at least to offset the cost of fuel. Although there is some optimism for Chinook this season, we also heard that last year at this time. I found it interesting last season that many trollers were paid more at the dock for salmon than halibut. Try as we did to find salmon, we lamented the halibut we had to release.

Second, there is another harvest group who would like to re-allocate halibut pounds to their advantage. With the 3 North of Falcon commercial salmon alternatives determined in Vancouver, it will be difficult (if not impossible) to maximize the opportunity and not leave "pounds" on the table. The argument we hear is, "If they can't catch them, we want them." If we have another year where Chinook are scarce, especially in Oregon and California, many feel that we will fall far short of realizing the pounds of halibut allocated to trollers in Area 2A.

Parenthetically, the commercial sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis has allowed for up to two free halibut per landing since 2001-with the exception of the depressed years 2009, 2010 and 2011.

To conclude, the Coastal Trollers Association appreciates this opportunity to share our preferences amongst the 3 salmon Alternatives as well as our request to consider retaining 2 halibut without meeting the 2:1 Chinook to halibut ratio. Thank you, and I welcome your questions.

WESTPORT CHARTERBOAT ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 654 • WESTPORT, WASHINGTON 98595

March 27, 2017

To: Pacific Fishery Management Council
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Re: 2017 Recreational Salmon Fishing Regulations in Westport

The Westport Charterboat Association represents 28 charter vessels that serve over 30,000 anglers who come fishing on charter vessels out of Westport each fishing season. Many of these anglers would not have access to the resource absent the charter boat industry and the many businesses in our community.

The City of Westport and many of the businesses in the community depend on a healthy recreational fishery that includes both season long fishing opportunity coupled with high quality fishing. Our goal for the 2017 recreational salmon season is to have as long of a salmon fishing season as possible, while maintaining the highest quality fishery.

The WCBA supports the Chinook TAC listed in Alternative 1, or as close to Alternative 1 as we can reach while meeting conservation goals. The WCBA also supports the Coho TAC listed in Alternative 2, or as close to Alternative 2 as we can reach while meeting conservation goals.

If alternative 2, or something close to it, is selected, the WCBA would like to suggest that the mark-selective Chinook fishery be reduced from 2 weeks to 1 week in length with an adjusted quota from 7,500 Chinook to something less.

If alternative 3, or something close to it, is selected, the WCBA supports following the framework plan for the distribution of Coho, and not distribute the Coho the same way as the 2016 season.

Thank you,
Jonathan Sawin
President – Westport Charterboat Association