

SALMON HEARING SUMMARY ON MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Date: March 26, 2018	Hearing Officer: Mr. Chris Kern
Location: Red Lion Coos Bay, Coos Bay, OR	NMFS: Mr. Lance Kruzic
Attendance: 38	Coast Guard: LCDR Ben Crowell
Testifying: 14	Salmon Team Member: Mr. Craig Foster
	Council Staff: Mr. Brett Wiedoff
Organizations Represented: Port of Brookings, Six-Pack Charter Operators of Brookings Oregon, Oregon South Coast Fisherman, Oregon Coast Anglers	

Opening Remarks

Mr. Chris Kern provided opening remarks for the hearing. Mr. Craig Foster reviewed Alternatives for the commercial and sport salmon seasons, and Alternatives for incidental halibut retention in the salmon troll fishery.

Synopsis of Testimony

Of the 11 people testifying specifically to the Alternatives:

- 4 commented primarily on the commercial troll fishery.
- 3 commented on the recreational fishery.
- 5 commented on both recreational and commercial troll fishery.
- 1 commented on incidental halibut retention.

Commercial Troll Comments

- Definitely Alt. 1. Alt. 1 for Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain but like to look at the option of spreading out the season in August (as in option 3). Spread the season out over the whole month.
- Alt. 1 for Oregon KMZ (Klamath Management Zone, Humbug to California border). Give us a chance to access the Rogue River fish.
- Halibut: Alt. 1, consider lower landing limit to 10.
- Alt. 1 - 50 fish/week.

Recreational Comments

- Alt. 2 for South of Falcon to Humbug. We've never come close to harvesting our quota; last year we caught 18,000. I prefer Alt. 2 because we're not harvesting wild fish that are considered to be spawners later on. Alt. 1 for Humbug to California (Oregon KMZ).
- Alt. 1, Falcon to Humbug. Predation is a big factor.

- Look at Page 27 (Table 10): \$13 million value of the salmon fisheries in Oregon KMZ. Support Alt. 1.

Recreational and Commercial Comments

- Alt. 1, Falcon to OR/CA border for both sport and commercial.
- Speaking to both sport and commercial seasons, prefer Alt. 1 for Oregon KMZ. Community was hit hard due to season closures last year (due to Klamath) and the wildfire. The community needs some kind of economic stimulus.
- Alt. 1, Oregon KMZ for sport and commercial. We had severe economic loss due to wildfire last year; we need the season. In addition, Alt. 1 is better because it spreads the season out longer. I have a small boat and NW winds in spring and summer can keep a small vessel off the water for weeks at a time. Longer season provides more opportunity that smaller boats will have chances to get out.
- Alt. 1 for both sport and commercial seasons in Oregon KMZ. I like option 1 because it has 100 days; the other two only have 40.
- Alt. 1 for Cape Falcon to Humbug and give the commercial fishermen something to catch too. Predation by sea lions is a big problem.

Other Comments

- Consider a ratio of 1 salmon to 5 lingcod for next year.
- One attendee agreed with another testimony, 1 salmon to 5 lingcod.
- Getting difficult to identify areas to fish where vessel monitoring systems aren't required for salmon fishermen. Hard to find regulations.
- Regarding Columbia River hatcheries, consider raising more left-turning (south-turning) fish; most of them go north.
- Why can California and Washington raise millions of hatchery coho but not Oregon? Won't let us raise any fish in our hatcheries. Why is Oregon only raising/releasing on Columbia River? Why don't you do anything for our hatcheries/fisheries here? The numbers aren't there. Chris Kern provided brief explanation that much of Oregon's ocean fisheries depend on the Columbia River coho hatcheries.
- Cormorants and sea lions eating salmon smolts and adults - predation is a big problem in Coos River area.
- Does anyone keep tabs on what the timber companies are doing behind locked gates with herbicides and spraying? They have killed off the deer and birds, probably fish too. Also, I've heard killer whales eat more salmon than humans do.
- One attendee warned others that the options are not locked in and could change at the April Council meeting due to more modeling and guidance from NMFS.

Written Statements (Attached)

1. Port of Brookings, dated 3/20/2018
2. Six-Pack Charter Operators of Brookings, Oregon, dated 3/26/2018



March 20, 2018

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384
Pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Dear Council Members,

The Port of Brookings Harbor Board of Commissioners supports Alternative 1 for the recreational ocean salmon season in the Klamath Management Zone, as well as Alternative 1 for the commercial troll fishery on the Oregon side of the Klamath Management Zone.

Sport salmon fishing is an important part of the economy of the Oregon Coast, especially out of Brookings, which at times has the highest sport landings of sport-caught salmon in the ocean in Oregon. Salmon fishing is not only important for businesses that cater to visitors to the coast, but also local residents who rely on ocean seasons for recreation and to catch fish to eat. Brookings is often the preferred ocean port for residents of inland communities, such as Grants Pass, Medford, Klamath Falls, Bend, Yreka, Alturas and Redding, and a season that spans several months is vital for planning vacations and providing an opportunity to fish when salmon are present off the coast of Brookings.

Many local families also rely on commercial fishing for their livelihood.

Last year's ocean salmon closure off of Brookings not only had negative impacts on the local economy, it also shifted more pressure on rockfish stocks, which in part led to the abrupt in-season closure of bottom fishing.

With a rebound in Klamath River fall chinook salmon, as well as continued healthy populations of Rogue River fall chinook salmon, Alternative 1 would provide fishing opportunities for sport and commercial fishing while still providing escapement for Sacramento, Klamath and Rogue fall chinook stocks, as well as Rogue-Klamath coho. These options would have the greatest economic impact for the Brookings area, and give local and visiting anglers the best opportunity to fish for, and catch salmon, out of the Port of Brookings Harbor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christie" or "Christian".

Angie Christian, Board President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Lindley-Hall".

Kathy Lindley-Hall, Port Manager



Six-Pack Charter Operators of Brookings, Oregon

March 26, 2018

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220

Dear Council Members,

Last year, sport fishing for salmon was shut down in the Klamath Management Zone because of a pre-season forecast for Klamath River fall Chinook of only 50,000 fish. The sport and charter fleets from Gold Beach, Oregon, to Eureka, California, sat idle while salmon anglers to the north and south of us enjoyed nearly wide-open fishing opportunities. The impact of the closure in our harbor was substantial. Our charter fleet saw customers who wanted to target salmon go elsewhere. Local businesses, including restaurants, motels, RV parks, tackle shops, gift shops and other local merchants struggled through the summer. To make matters worse, the bottom fishing season was abruptly closed because of the increased pressure on rockfish.

This year, some of the salmon stocks we normally target have made major increases in numbers. The ocean abundance of Klamath River fall kings is now near 350,000 adult fish, while the Rogue fall Chinook estimate tops 400,000 fish. We feel the abundance of these two stocks is enough to offset a decline in Sacramento River fall kings and justify the approval of Alternative 1 for the Klamath Management Zone.

The charter fleet and other sport anglers in Brookings, Gold Beach, Crescent City, Trinidad and Eureka did more than their share to protect an expected decline in the Klamath fall salmon run last year. We were the only charter fleet on the West Coast to sit idle during the summer salmon season. The six-pack charters were hit especially hard, as salmon fishing is our bread-and-butter.

We support measures to protect Klamath and Sacramento River salmon runs, and feel Alternative 1 adequately restricts seasons to ensure proper escapement for the 2018 Sacramento salmon run. We are at the northern range of the Sacramento River fish, and in the heart of the Rogue and Klamath ocean feeding areas, the latter of which have rebounded as ocean conditions have improved.

Sincerely,

Capt. Andy Martin
Brookings Fishing Charters

Capt. Mike Brouillette
Old Dog Sportfishing

Capt. Clarence Cole
Fishin' Trips Charters