

SALMON HEARING SUMMARY ON MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Washington Salmon Public Hearing			
Date:	March 25, 2019	Hearing Officer:	Mr. Kyle Adicks
Location:	Chateau Westport Westport, WA	NMFS:	Mr. Jeromy Jording
Attendance:	42	Coast Guard:	LCDR Scott McGrew
Testifying:	15	Salmon Team Member:	Ms. Wendy Beeghley
		Council Staff:	Mr. Brett Wiedoff
Organizations Represented:			
Westport Charter Boat Association, Washington Trollers Association, PSA Ocean Anglers Chapter, City of Westport			

Opening Remarks

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

Synopsis of Attendance

Of the 42 people in attendance:

4 were primarily interested in the commercial troll fishery (all preferred Alternative 1).

26 were primarily interested in the recreational fishery (most preferred Alternative 1; 2 sport fishers supported Alternative 3).

12 attendees represented ports, processors, or other community interests.

Synopsis of Testimony

Of the 15 people testifying:

2 commented primarily on the commercial troll fishery.

11 commented primarily on the recreational fishery.

Commercial Troll Comments

- Support for Alternative 1 – Distribute total allowable catch for salmon throughout season.
- Support for Alternative 1 for halibut.
- Leadbetter line rule needs to be adjusted – like to fish both sides of the line when the bite is on, and do not want to land fish from one area before moving to another area (waste of gas and time), but support allowing landings from North of Leadbetter to Ilwaco to help economy/businesses in Ilwaco. Rule for line must be legally enforceable.

Recreational Comments

- Charter boat owners/operators mainly support Alternative 1 (some support for Alternative 2 or a blend of Alternatives 1 and 2). Need longest season possible - June through late September;

prefer 7 days per week if quotas are at levels between Alternatives 1 and 2. If quotas are lower, start with 5 days per week and liberalize in season while maintaining season length. Longest season possible would greatly support community, especially if extended into late September.

- Recreational Anglers mainly support Alternative 1; need longest season possible if Chinook/coho are available; support 7 days per week to allow more flexibility for fishers to get to coast to fish.
- One recreational angler that fishes lower Westport, Tokeland, and Columbia River supported Alternative 3 and 7 day per week fishing, but with later starting date to ensure enough fish are returning.
- One recreational angler had concerns with Chinook daily limit being increased in-season if quota was not being attained, and the effects of that action on escapement to the Chehalis River. Also asked that seasons be 7 days per week, in consideration of financial implications for all fishers (individual sport fishers/commercial/charter).

Other Comments

- One comment regarding support for southern resident killer whale salmon allocation, indicating that the J, K, and L pods need 450,000 to 500,000 large Chinook per year, and need their own allocation to ensure their prey needs are met.
- Support for a robust/lengthy salmon season since it supports many sectors of the community.

Written Statements (Attached)

PFMC
04/02/19



City of Westport

604 N Montesano St.

P O Box 505

Westport, WA 98595

Phone: 360-268-0131 Fax: 360-268-0921

March 25, 2019

Dear Pacific Fishery Management Council and attendees,

My name is Rob Bearden, and I am the Mayor of the City of Westport. I had hoped to attend tonight's meeting, but there is a Westport City Council meeting tonight that occurs at the same time as the public hearing.

I strongly urge the Pacific Fishery Management Council to allow significant recreational and commercial salmon seasons for our area. Having a lengthy recreational salmon season is imperative to the success of our town. A short salmon season would be devastating to our city, our businesses, and our families that rely on visitors during the salmon season to survive.

The recreational salmon fishery is vital to our tourism industry as it brings thousands of people into our city who sleep in our accommodations, eat at our restaurants, and shop at our businesses. The commercial salmon fishery is vital to our fishermen, to the seafood processing industry, and to the country so that we may supply many with healthy, ocean salmon.

Both recreational and commercial fisheries are of paramount importance to our families, as both provide numerous job opportunities for hard working men and women to support their families and spend money in our community. Businesses and families alike would be devastated by not establishing sufficient salmon fisheries for the 2019 season. Furthermore, it is imperative to our entire community that the recreational ocean salmon fishing season have adequate fishing opportunities that keep people visiting Westport.

Sincerely,

Rob Bearden
Mayor, City of Westport

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The City of Westport is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

March 25th, 2019

Good evening Mr. Chairman and hearing officers and thank you for conducting this public hearing in Westport Washington.

My name is Steve Westrick, I am one of the officers of the Westport Charter Boat Association, a lifelong resident of Westport, and our family owns Westport Charters here at the docks. My son and I operate our charter boat Hula Girl, through Westport Charters.

Our community is reliant on the longest salmon season possible. The economic value of a stretched out salmon season is crucial for our coastal communities businesses. Albacore Tuna and local Bottom fish are much appreciated resources but its Salmon fishing that is the Holy Grail when we talk about the bulk of our recreational clients that come to our area. When salmon season closes, the local hustle bustle diminishes to a low hum. Motels, Restaurants, Grocery stores, the Locksmith and Marine stores, we all benefit when salmon is open.

In general, I support any option that could attain some June fishing and then be open as far into September as possible, even if this meant including starting the season at 5-days a week if the salmon quotas do not turn out to be as lucrative as we are hoping for. In many of the years passed we opted for the conservative approach to start the season and then liberalized the regulations as the season went along, this structure enabled us to attain the September fishery that we'd appreciate to have once again.

I believe our President Jonathan will speak to some more detail about our associations' position as well.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Westrick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

WESTPORT CHARTERBOAT ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 654 • WESTPORT, WASHINGTON 98595

March 25, 2019

To: Pacific Fishery Management Council
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Re: 2019 Recreational Salmon Fishing Regulations in Westport

My name is Jonathan Sawin, I am the president of the Westport Charterboat Association and I operate a Charterboat here in Westport, Washington.

The Westport Charterboat Association supports the Coho and Chinook quotas in alternative 1, or as close to alternative 1 as we can be while meeting the conservation guidelines.

The Westport Charterboat Association supports a 7-day-a-week season structure when the salmon quotas are large enough to sustain a high effort of fishing for an extended amount of time. Ideally, a salmon season that is open mid-June through September 30th.

At the Coho quotas provided in alternatives 1 and 2, we support a 7- day-a-week season structure in order to provide the maximum number of fishing days that will be needed to catch a high Coho quota.

However, if the Coho quota is lowered to 30,000 Coho, or something close to it, then we support the same 5-day-a-week, Sunday through Thursday, season structure that we had in 2018 which allowed us to remain open from July 1 through Labor Day while other areas closed weeks earlier.

With the high Coho abundance forecasted this year, a low Coho quota will not allow a salmon season July 1st through September under a 7-day-a-week season structure. Our small fishing community needs a long, quality salmon season.

Thank you,

Jonathan Sawin

President – Westport Charterboat Association