

SALMON HEARING SUMMARY ON MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Washington Salmon Public Hearing	
Date: March 23, 2020	Hearing Officer: Mr. Kyle Adicks
Location: Webinar (previously scheduled to occur in Westport, WA)	NMFS: Mr. Jeromy Jording
Attendance: 33	Coast Guard: LCDR Scott McGrew
Testifying: 10	Salmon Team Member: Ms. Wendy Beeghley
	Council staff Ms. Jennifer Gilden
Organizations Represented:	
Westport Charterboat Association, Washington Trollers Association, Puget Sound Anglers, Ocean Sportfishing Charters (business)	

Opening Remarks

Mr. Kyle Adicks provided opening remarks for the hearing. Ms. Wendy Beeghley reviewed alternatives for the commercial and sport salmon seasons, and for incidental halibut retention in the salmon troll fishery.

Synopsis of Testimony

Thirty-four people attended some portion of the hearing, plus nine agency staff.

The overlying theme of public testimony was the likelihood of a fishery disaster for coastal communities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Several mentioned the need for everyone to work together to provide the broadest possible fishing opportunity due to uncertainty about when the pandemic will end.

Recreational fishery testimony

Eight people testifying were interested in the recreational fishery (with seven representing the charter fleet). One person, who signed up to testify but was unable to connect, represented the sport fishery. All preferred Alternative 1, or as close to Alternative 1 as possible while meeting conservation objectives. There was support for the 22” size limit for the areas where it was included in an alternative, and support for a prolonged season structure given the uncertainty over when the normal fishing season would resume.

Commercial fishery testimony

Two testifiers focused on commercial fishing. They supported the quotas from Alternative I, and a combination of measures from Alternatives I and II to provide a season structure that would provide maximum fishing time and allow the most efficient harvest of the quota. They expressed concern about the lack of markets for seafood at the present time, and the large difference in ex-vessel value between Alternatives I and II.

One person commented on the need to maximize halibut retention. None of the testifiers specifically represented ports, processors, or other community interests.

PFMC
03/24/20