

**SALMON HEARING SUMMARY ON MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES  
WASHINGTON REPORT**

The public hearing focused on Washington state salmon management alternatives was held in Westport, WA on the evening of Monday, March 20. Representatives on hand included:

Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council)	Mr. Kyle Adicks (Washington)
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS):	Mr. Jeromy Jording
United States Coast Guard (USCG):	LTJG Connor Sutton
Council Staff:	Ms. Marlene A. Bellman
Salmon Technical Team (STT)	Dr. Alexandria Safiq (Washington) Mr. Kyle Van de Graaf (Washington)

**Participants**

An estimated 30 participants attended the hearing, including those listed above, Council representatives Mr. Phil Anderson and Mr. Butch Smith, and other agency staff.

**Opening Remarks**

Mr. Adicks provided opening remarks for the hearing as the Council representative for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Mr. Kyle Van de Graaf (WDFW) reviewed alternatives for commercial and recreational salmon seasons, and incidental halibut retention by the salmon troll fishery.

**Summary of Testimony**

The overlying theme of public testimony was a preference for Alternative I for both commercial and recreational fisheries. Appreciation was expressed for the hearing location and format.

Commercial Testimony

The president of the Washington Trollers Association provided comment on the commercial troll fishery. They supported the non-treaty quotas and season structure from Alternative I, including measures for incidental Pacific halibut catch represented by Alternative I. They noted the large difference in projected ex-vessel value between Alternatives, which will directly affect small fishing businesses as well as fishing-communities. They recognized the constraints placed on North of Falcon ocean fisheries that limited access to historical catch percentages of tle Chinook in the last several years and the resulting negative effects on the troll fleet, associated businesses and coastal communities. They support a Chinook quota of 85,000 and an allocation schedule more consistent with long term catch percent averages for tle Chinook. They expressed concern about the negative economic impact of recent decreases in quota but are encouraged by this year’s forecasts and the potential boost to ocean fisheries.

Recreational Testimony

Seven people provided comment on the recreational fishery, including representatives and members of the Westport Charter Boat Association (WCBA) and Puget Sound Anglers (PSA). Similar to the commercial testimony, Alternative 1 was favored. The president of the Ocean Chapter of PSA testified in support of Alternative I and opening ocean recreational fishing as early as possible. Officers and members of the WCBA supported Alternative I, and a season structure that will allow for a stable

season lasting into September and minimize the need for in-season closures or species restrictions similar to those that occurred in 2022. There was support for 7 day per week seasons if the quota is near Alternative I, but desire to consider more conservative approach if Chinook quota levels are lower. Testimony included a preference for notification of openings as early as possible to facilitate booking trips, avoiding restrictive in-season adjustments if possible, and providing as much advance notice as possible for all in-season adjustments due to effects on customers. Several people testified in support of allowing non-selective fishing for coho later in the season if possible, similar to 2022. There was also appreciation expressed for the cooperative spirit with which current troll, charter, and private fleet representatives have worked together.

### **Closing Remarks**

Mr. Phil Anderson provided closing remarks, including the clarification that ocean option results in the Preseason II report do not yet include 2023 updates for northern fisheries (i.e., Alaska/Canada) and reminded the audience of other upcoming fishery planning meetings in the North of Falcon forum.

PFMC  
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