

SALMON HEARING SUMMARY ON MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES
CALIFORNIA REPORT

The public hearing focused on salmon management alternatives affecting California was held in Santa Rosa, California on the evening of Tuesday, March 21, 2023. Representatives on hand included:

Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council)	Mr. Marc Gorelnik (California)
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS):	Ms. Shannon Penna
United States Coast Guard (USCG):	LT Devon Zych
Council Staff:	Ms. Robin Ehlke
Salmon Technical Team (STT)	NA

Participants

An estimated 50 participants attended the meeting, including the representatives listed above, California Council members (Bob Dooley, Marci Yaremko, and Corey Ridings), and multiple agency staff from California Fish and Wildlife.

Opening Remarks

Mr. Gorelnik provided opening remarks for the hearing. Ms. Yaremko of California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provided a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the salmon forecasts, conservation objectives, and estimated impacts based on the Alternatives, including those in Oregon coastal Waters.

Summary of Testimony

A total of 14 people provided public testimony:

4 commented on the commercial troll fishery and supported a full closure given the low forecast for California salmon stocks but called for the need for change – mainly directed at water management in California.

14 commented on the recreational fishery, most supported a full closure, with one testifier proposing a 10-day season. Most comments included a similar theme for the need for change and acknowledged that most change will need to come from agencies outside of CDFW’s and Council’s authority.

Commercial Testimony

- Things need to Change. Individual fishers and the coastal communities will have to endure the economic hardship of the closure, and some might not recover and end up going out of business.
- Support the development of a cohort model that includes the San Joaquin salmon stocks. Support Alternative II.

Recreational Testimony

- Representatives from the Golden Gate Fishermen’s Association and the Golden Gate Salmon Association supported a closure.

- Private boat owners and Charter operators also agreed with a closure, but echoed the testimony for the need for change and the water management issues that are beyond the scope of the Council.
- Testimony encouraged the public to support the fisherman groups and associations as a collective voice can be louder than a single voice to motivate change.
- A 10-day sport season was proposed (Wed-Fri) open in all ports with a two-fish bag limit and 20-inch minimum total length. Annual bag limits and punch cards could be required. The season would provide an opportunity to collect data on an otherwise closed season.

Additional comments were all made that expressed appreciation for the Salmon Advisory Subpanel members and the hard work and time spent that was dedicated to representing ocean salmon fishery participants and the businesses that support them.

PFMC
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