

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

The public hearing focused on salmon management alternatives affecting Oregon was held online on the evening of Tuesday, March 26. Representatives on hand included:

Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council):	Mr. John North (Oregon)
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS):	Mr. Tony Siniscal
United States Coast Guard (USCG):	LTJG Sam Santiago
Council Staff:	Ms. Robin Ehlke
Salmon Technical Team (STT):	Ms. Cassie Leeman (Oregon)

Participants

An estimated 30 participants virtually attended the online meeting, including the representatives listed above and other agency staff. Council Chair Brad Pettinger was in attendance, as well as members of the Salmon Advisory Panel (SAS).

Opening Remarks

Mr. North provided opening remarks for the hearing as the Council representative for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Mr. Richard Heap (SAS Chair) addressed the group on the proposed season structures, stating that the options look pretty good given the salmon abundances this year, but they are still under development. Ms. Leeman reviewed the alternatives for the commercial and recreational salmon seasons.

Summary of Testimony

A total of 6 people provided testimony:

- 3 were primarily interested in the commercial troll fishery.
- 3 were primarily interested in the recreational fishery.

There were no comments on incidental halibut retention.

Those that testified were also asked if they would prefer an in-person or on-line format for this hearing in future years. Four of the six responses preferred an on-line format just to save time and travel expenses. Most noted the value in face-to-face conversations, and some suggested having an in-person meeting every few years as an option.

There were some people that signed up for testimony that either were not logged-in to the meeting when public comment started or were having technical difficulty with their microphones working. All participants were advised that this hearing was one of many opportunities to provide comment and the Council’s E-portal was currently open for submitting comment.

Commercial Testimony

- Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt: Support Alternative I, with the caveat of adding some opportunity in August, ideally ten days between August 3-20.
- Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt: in Alternative III, consider an increase to the 100 coho trip limit. There is a low participation rate and the fleet as a whole has diminished greatly, and would like the opportunity to access the fish allocated to the troll fishery.

- SAS representative appreciated the participation at this hearing and will attend the April meeting to try to get the most days possible for Oregon.

Recreational Testimony

- Support for Alternative I in all recreational subareas.
- Cape Falcon to OR/CA Border: for Alternatives II and III - consider a mark-selective Chinook opportunity in August, rather than no Chinook retention. The SAS should ask for the model to be updated to include a mark-selective Chinook scenario like what is done for North of Falcon fisheries.
- Consider a coho season that opened on June 22 and closed August 25.
- For the troll fishery in Alternative III, and the 10,000 coho quota: need to make sure there is flexibility and conservation built in so don't over-harvest those local stocks, also concerned that is the 10,000 fish go to troll, the sport sector may not be able to complete the sport season, so those fish should be prioritized first to the sport sector.
- In Appendix A of Preseason Report II – include a table for Age-4 Klamath River Fall Chinook in future reports.
- Sacramento River Fall Chinook (shown in Table 5). Concern expressed for the amount of allocation going to the in-river fishery. Preseason Report II describes the value as 'projected impacts' and some clarity is needed on if those numbers are actually planned or just available to the in-river fishery, and is there any buffer or conservation built into those values. Under Alternatives II and III, the values do not seem fair and equitable, and if adopted NMFS could be looking at a litigation risk.

Other Comments

Members of Oregon Coast Anglers and Oregon Salmon Commission were in attendance. Praise was given to the SAS and ODFW staff for their efforts in developing fisheries for Oregon.

PFMC

04/01/24