

**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 Monday, March 25, 2024. 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):	N/A
Council Staff:	Ms. Robin Ehlke
Salmon Technical Team (STT)	Ms. Kandice Morgenstern

Participants

An estimated 65 participants attended the meeting, including the representatives listed above, California Council members (Bob Dooley and Corey Ridings), multiple agency staff from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and members of the Salmon Advisory Panel.

Opening Remarks

Mr. Gorelnik provided opening remarks for the hearing. Ms. Kandice Morgenstern 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 25 people provided public testimony, the majority from the recreational sector representing charter vessels.

Testimony was mixed and was mainly either support for a closure (charter operators) or support for Alternative I (anglers).

Commercial Testimony

- Six members of the public signed up representing commercial interests, and all supported Alternative 3 (closure).
- Consider a quota system for each vessel so that vessel operators can fish when they have a market and the weather is safe to fish.

Recreational Testimony

- 19 members of the public signed up representing recreational interest, of those:
 - 6 supported Alternative I
 - 1 supported Alternative II
 - 12 supported Alternative III
- Members of the Golden Gate Fishermen’s Association supported Alternative III; testimony was mainly from the charter operators.
- Most anglers supported Alternative I, stating that allowing for a sport season, even if small, would help the economy and support small businesses; however, there were some anglers that supported a closure, and support for Alternative II was voiced from one private angler.

- The charter operators asked that if the troll fishery was closed again this year, then the troll-appportioned fish should be allowed to escape to the spawning grounds and not used for harvest.
- Consider a 24-inch size limit to allow more jacks to escape.
- The sport quotas are too small and the open time period is too short – can catch a lot of salmon a compressed time period so not sure inseason management will work. Want a sustainable fishery for years to come, so a full closure is preferred rather than risk exceeding the quotas.
- Just not enough fish to support the fishery, best to stay closed for another year and rebuild the stock.

Additional comments

- Poor hatchery management and water management strategies that are affecting the salmon and the habitat.
- The proposed Alternatives are economically not viable, and every fish counts when trying to restore the run.
- Water is the problem, we are fighting over scraps.
- One person suggested a tribal ocean ‘test fishery’ of about 600 fish of the tribal allocation to be caught in marine waters.

Organizations in attendance

Bodega Bay Fishermen’s Marketing Association

Coastside Fishing Club

Golden Gate Fisherman’s Association

Golden State Salmon Association

Fort Bragg Trollers Association

NorCal Aluminum Boats

North Coast Rivers Alliance

Port of Bodega Bay

‘Simply Wild’ salmon buyer

PFMC

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