



## Pacific Fishery Management Council *NEWS RELEASE*

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### PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL RELEASES ALTERNATIVES FOR 2025 WEST COAST OCEAN SALMON FISHERIES

Vancouver, Washington –The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has adopted three alternatives for 2025 ocean salmon fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California, which are available for public review. The Council will make a final decision on salmon seasons at its next meeting on April 10-15, 2025. Detailed information about season starting dates, areas open, and catch limits for the three alternatives are available on the Council’s website at [www.pcouncil.org](http://www.pcouncil.org).

Forecasts for West Coast Chinook and coho stocks in 2025 are a mixed bag, with some low and high points when compared to last year. Federal requirements to conserve Fraser River (Canada) coho, Washington coastal coho, lower Columbia River natural coho, lower Columbia River natural tule Chinook, Klamath River fall Chinook and Sacramento River fall Chinook will be the main constraints for this year’s ocean salmon fisheries.

"The Council is dedicated to developing commercial and recreational fishing seasons that also support the recovery of coho and Chinook stocks coastwide," said Council Chair, Brad Pettinger. "We look forward to hearing from the public on the proposed options for the 2025 season."

## **Washington and Northern Oregon (North of Cape Falcon)**

Fisheries north of Cape Falcon (in northern Oregon) are limited mainly by the need to constrain catch of Fraser River (Canada) coho, Washington coastal coho, and lower Columbia River natural coho and lower Columbia River natural tule Chinook. In encouraging news, Queets River spring/summer Chinook, which was declared overfished in 2023, now meets the criteria of “not overfished-rebuilding” and no stocks are currently experiencing overfishing.

### *Tribal ocean fisheries north of Cape Falcon*

Tribal negotiations are underway, but at this time, the Chinook and coho quotas for Tribal ocean fishery alternatives range from 35,000 to 55,000 for Chinook, and from 20,000 to 50,000 coho, compared to a range of 35,000 to 45,000 Chinook, and 27,500 to 47,500 coho in 2024. Under the range of alternatives, seasons would open May 1, continue into September, and close no later than September 30. Season structure with regard to the closing date is still under discussion among the tribes.

### *Commercial season alternatives*

The non-Tribal ocean commercial fishery North of Cape Falcon include alternatives that reflect traditional seasons between May and September. Chinook quotas for all areas and times range from 46,250 to 63,500, compared to a range from 36,000 to 42,500 in 2024. Coho quotas range from 13,600 to 19,200 marked coho, compared to a range from 12,800 to 16,800 marked coho 2024.

### *Sport season alternatives*

The ocean sport fishery north of Cape Falcon include alternatives with Chinook recreational quotas range from 46,250 to 59,000, compared to a range from 36,000 to 42,500 in 2024. For coho, recreational quotas range from 71,400 to 100,800 marked coho, compared to range from 67,200 to 88,200 marked coho in 2024. Starting dates range from mid- to late-June with the season continuing through most or all of September. Except for a mid-June all species except coho season in one proposed alternative, Chinook and coho retention are generally allowed throughout the proposed seasons.

## **Oregon (south of Cape Falcon to the California border)**

Fisheries south of Cape Falcon are again limited mainly by the low abundance forecast for both Klamath River and Sacramento River fall Chinook. Forecasts for both these two stocks are lower than last year, and this year's management alternatives show significantly reduced or closed fishing opportunity compared to average seasons given the very low abundance forecasts for these key California Chinook stocks of concern. Coho forecasts are mostly greater in 2025 than in 2024, as the Oregon Production Index Hatchery stock and the Oregon Coast natural stock have a higher forecast than last year, but the lower Columbia River natural stock is slightly lower than 2024. Note that the structure of salmon fisheries that occur prior to May 16 were set in 2024 and potentially modified through inseason actions.

### *Commercial season alternatives*

Commercial season alternatives under consideration include several options for Chinook and coho retention. The first alternative would allow for salmon retention except for coho from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain for half of May and from Cape Falcon to Heceta Bank for June and half of July. The second alternative would allow for salmon retention except for coho from Cape Falcon to the Oregon/California border for half of May, and from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain for half of June and five days in July. The third alternative would allow for salmon retention except coho from Cape Falcon to Heceta Bank for two weeks in May and June, respectively. All three alternatives under consideration would allow for Chinook retention from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain from September 1 through October 31 and coho retention would be permitted under all three alternatives for the month of September or until the coho quota is met.

### *Sport season alternatives*

Oregon ocean recreational alternatives from Cape Falcon to the Oregon/California border include mark-selective coho fishing seasons that start in mid-June and continue through mid-August. Quotas range from 40,000 to 44,000 marked coho (compared to 40,000 to 50,000 in 2024). In addition, non-mark-selective coho fisheries are proposed in all alternatives for the area between Cape Falcon and Humbug Mountain for the month of September, with quotas ranging from 25,000 to 30,000 coho (the same range considered in 2024). All three alternatives allow for Chinook retention from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain September through October. An option to allow for fishing for all salmon except for coho from Humbug Mt. to the Oregon/California border in May and early June is also being considered.

## **California**

California fisheries offer very limited opportunity in 2025 due to the low forecasts for Klamath River and Sacramento River fall Chinook, and constraints surrounding California Coastal Chinook. Two alternatives for both commercial and sport fisheries offer limited opportunity coastwide, with the third alternative proposed being closed in all areas.

### *Commercial season alternatives*

One alternative for California ocean commercial alternatives would provide opportunities in August in all management areas and a September fishery from Point Reyes to Point Sur. Another alternative would allow for fishing in May in areas south of Latitude 40°10' N. The third alternative proposed is a California coastwide closure. All proposed fishing seasons include weekly vessel-based landing and possession limits and subarea guidelines or quotas. Additional requirements include landing fish in the management area caught and a 24-hour quick reporting requirement necessary for monitoring catch as the season progresses.

### *Sport season alternatives*

California's ocean recreational fishing alternatives offer limited opportunities in all management areas under two of the three proposed options with small openers of a few to several days separated by closed periods. The third option proposes a coastwide closure. The first two alternatives would allow limited fishing opportunities in June, July, and August. Additionally, one of these alternatives includes limited fishing opportunities in September from Point Reyes to Point Sur, and in October from Point Reyes to Pigeon Point. Harvest guidelines to put a limit on total harvest will be implemented, and in-season actions may be taken to enforce closures if necessary to keep the fishery within preseason harvest projections.

"The discussions surrounding the 2025 salmon season have once again been heavily influenced by the low projections for both the Klamath and Sacramento River fall Chinook stocks," stated Executive Director Merrick Burden. "As the Council sets the 2025 seasons, it will be crucial to balance the economic impact on coastal communities with the declining numbers of these important salmon stocks." ‘

## **Management Objectives for Southern Resident Killer Whales**

The Council worked collaboratively with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to understand the effects of Council-area fisheries on Southern Resident killer whales, which are listed as endangered. Based in part on information provided by the Council's ad-hoc Southern Resident Killer Whale Workgroup, the Council amended the Pacific Salmon Fishery Management Plan to address the needs of the whales while providing salmon harvest opportunities. As part of the amendment, the Council adopted a Chinook abundance threshold for the North of Falcon area, below which additional action (management measures) would be required when considering ocean salmon seasons. The threshold value is 623,000 Chinook. The Chinook abundance is projected to be well above this threshold in 2025.

## **Management Process**

The Council has scheduled one public hearing for each coastal state to hear comments on the alternatives. The [Washington](#) and [California](#) hearings are scheduled for Monday, March 24 (in-person) and the [Oregon](#) hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25 (online). The public will also be able to comment on the alternatives during the April Council meeting. Materials and instructions for joining online Council meetings and hearings will be posted to the [Council website](#).

The Council will consult with scientists, hear public comment, revise preliminary decisions, and choose a final alternative at its meeting April 10-15.

The Council will forward its final season recommendations to NMFS for its approval and implementation no later than May 16, 2025.

All Council meetings are open to the public.

## **Council Role**

The Pacific Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils established by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 for the purpose of managing fisheries 3-200 miles offshore of the U.S. coastline. The Pacific Council recommends management measures for fisheries off the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington.

## On the Web

- [Pacific Fishery Management Council](http://www.pcouncil.org) (www.pcouncil.org)
- Draft Alternatives for 2025 salmon management are on the '[Annual season management process](#)' page on the Council's website.
- Final Alternatives and analyses of the biological and socioeconomic impacts will be posted on the Council web page on or about March 27 ([look for 2025 Preseason Report II on this page](#))
- Fact sheet: [Salmon](#)
- Fact sheet: [Geography of Salmon](#)
- Fact sheet: [Common Terms Used in Salmon Management](#)

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