

**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 25. Representatives on hand included:

Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council):	Mr. John North (ODFW)
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS):	<i>Not in attendance</i>
United States Coast Guard (USCG):	Mr. Chris German
Council Staff:	Ms. Angela Forristall
Salmon Technical Team (STT):	Ms. Cassie Leeman (ODFW)

**Participants**

An estimated 34 participants virtually attended the online meeting, including the representatives listed above and members of the Salmon Advisory Panel (SAS). NMFS representatives were not able to attend due to the hearing occurring outside of normal business hours.

**Opening Remarks**

Mr. North provided opening remarks for the hearing as the Council representative for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Mr. Mike Sorenson and Mr. John Alto (SAS) addressed the group, noting that this year has been particularly challenging. They emphasized the efforts made so far to secure the best possible outcomes despite numerous constraints, including the need to protect Sacramento River and Klamath River Chinook. Mr. Sorenson expressed that while a full, uninterrupted recreational season (March 15–October 31) is not feasible, the Alternatives are reasonable given these constraints and may be improved upon based on public input. Ms. Leeman reviewed the alternatives for the commercial and recreational salmon seasons.

**Summary of Testimony**

A total of 12 people provided testimony:

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

There were no comments on incidental halibut retention.

One additional individual was signed up for public testimony but was unable to provide it due to either technical difficulties or no longer being online. All participants were advised that this hearing was one of many opportunities to provide comments, and the Council’s e-portal for the April Council meeting was currently open for submitting comments.

Commercial Testimony

Those who provided testimony on the commercial fishery primarily supported Alternative I. Testifiers expressed that they have already made significant investments in preparation for the upcoming season based on the options currently under public review. They stated that Alternative I would help recover these investment costs and give the fleet a chance to survive and support their families and communities. One individual asked for a commercial fishery structured as follows: Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt, April 10-May 31; June 1-30; July 16-31; and September 1-October

31 with a Chinook season weekly retention of limit of 75 Chinook and September 1-30 with a 7,500 coho quota and coho season weekly retention of 75 coho per week. One individual expressed support for Alternative II, stating it would provide the best opportunities for the southern Oregon coast.

### Recreational Testimony

Testifiers on the recreational fishery generally requested the inclusion of some Chinook retention opportunity during the summer timeframe (June/July/August). One individual suggested that, if a full summer fishery isn't feasible, at least a June season should be added. Another testifier expressed support for Alternative I but proposed moving the September start date from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> to conserve fish and increase opportunities at the end of September. Additionally, testifiers sought more information on how sharing of Chinook impacts between the commercial and recreational fisheries are determined.

### **Other Comments**

Mr. North explained that, due to the constraints on the Klamath and Sacramento River Chinook stocks, the goal has been to provide some recreational opportunities throughout the year. Since the commercial fishery relies heavily on Chinook, efforts were made to offer as much of a season as possible. He noted that while the current Alternatives may not be perfect, public input opportunities will help refine it.

Praise was given to the SAS and ODFW staff for their efforts in developing fisheries for Oregon.

### **Closing Remarks**

Mr. North thanked participants for attending and providing their input and noted that additional written testimony can be submitted on the Council's website.

Organizations in attendance included, but were not limited to:

- Pacific City Doryman's Association
- Oregon Coast Anglers
- Oregon Salmon Commission
- Fishpatrick's

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