

**SALMON MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES HEARING SUMMARY
CALIFORNIA REPORT**

The public hearing focused on California state salmon management alternatives was held in Santa Rosa, CA on the evening of Monday, March 24. Representatives in attendance included:

Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council)	Mr. Marc Gorelnik
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS):	<i>Not in attendance</i>
United States Coast Guard (USCG):	LT Skye-Marie Williamsz
Council Staff:	Ms. Robin Ehlke
Salmon Technical Team (STT)	Ms. Kandice Morgenstern

Participants

An estimated 56 participants attended the hearing, including those listed above, Council representatives Ms. Marci Yaremko and Corey Ridings, and CDFW agency staff.

Opening Remarks

Mr. Marc Gorelnik provided opening remarks for the hearing as the Council representative for California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Ms. Kandice Morgenstern provided the forecasts and conservation objectives for key California salmon stocks, alternatives for the commercial and recreational salmon seasons, and for incidental halibut retention in the salmon troll fishery. It was noted that NMFS staff were unable to attend due to travel restrictions.

Summary of Testimony

A total of 17 participants provided testimony, including four commenting primarily on the commercial troll fishery and 13 commenting primarily on the sport/charter fishery.

The commercial trollers voiced frustration with the limited opportunity and low weekly landing limits, stating they were just too low to be profitable, and suggested Individual Fish Quotas (IFQs) may be a better approach. One troller supported Alternative III (closure) and another voiced support for the fall fishery in September (Alternative II). The economic impact from the fishery closures for the past two years has devastated family businesses and the harbors that support salmon fishery operations.

There was a strong showing from charter boat operators mainly from the San Francisco and Monterey management areas. Testimony was unified and supported a hybrid of Alternatives I and II by adding the fall fishery in Alternative I to Alternative II. The season structures are very limited from past years and the new management measures will help keep the fishery in check. Conducting a small-scale fishery as proposed would allow the new management measures to be implemented in a more controlled environment, rather than under a robust abundance which may have more risk of exceeding the limits. There was support for the 4-day openers, with a break in between to analyze the catch data. It was also noted that not all of the impacts allowed for Sacramento Fall Chinook are being used under this season structure and that provides a bit of a Buffer. Additionally, the Mokelumne hatchery Chinook are expected to return in high abundance

which could also minimize impacts to stocks of concern. Even the limited opportunity offered by the Alternatives would provide economic benefit to the small business and coastal communities that rely on the salmon fishery. There was gratitude for CDFW for ‘thinking outside the box’ and trying to find innovative ways to help support salmon fisheries into future generations.

Organizations in attendance included, but were not limited to:

Golden State Salmon Association

Salmon Trollers Association

Golden Gate Salmon Association

Coastside Fishing Club

American Sportfishing Association

Noyo Harbor District

Noyo Trollers

Clipper Yacht Harbor

PFMC

04/02/25