FINAL 2026 PRESEASON MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE

In order to plan, announce, and meet *Federal Register* deadlines for public hearing sites and the entire preseason salmon management process, Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff needs to confirm details of the process prior to the end of November each year. The proposed process and schedule for 2026 are provided in Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1. This proposed schedule is tentative and subject to change, and the Council web page will be the best resource for the most current information regarding the upcoming preseason salmon schedule.

For the 2026 salmon public hearings hosted by the Council, staff recommend holding one public hearing for each coastal state to discuss the salmon management alternatives. The tentatively proposed public hearings (subject to change depending on hotel availability) would be:

- Monday, March 23, 2026 – Westport, Washington hearing (in person) and Santa Rosa, California hearing (in person)
- Tuesday, March 24, 2026 – Newport, Oregon hearing (in person)

In recent years, the hearings held in Westport, WA and Santa Rosa, CA have been well attended and there appears to be general support to maintain those venues in future years. The OR hearing has been in person (Coos Bay area) or online. The online format increases accessibility, however, there is value in holding these hearings in person. Council staff recommend the OR hearing be in person every third year, and that location could rotate to also help boost attendance and reach a variety of OR coastal communities. This recommendation is consistent with testimony heard at the 2024 OR hearing. Under this scenario, the next in-person hearing in OR would be 2026.

If health and safety concerns arise, the venue(s) may be changed to an online meeting. The Council does not have the technical capacity to conduct hybrid meetings of this nature, so each meeting will be in person, or online, but not both.

In 2026, the March Council meeting is scheduled to occur in Sacramento, California and the April Council meeting is scheduled to occur in Portland, Oregon. Therefore, the public comment period regarding the tentative adoption of management measures for analysis at the April Council meeting also serves as a public comment opportunity. If the states desire to have additional hearings, staff suggests states organize and staff them as was done in past years.

Attendance and location for past salmon public hearings hosted by the Council:

City[1/]	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020[2/]	2021[2/]	2022[2/]	2023	2024	2025
Westport	65	55	106	42	42	30	26	36	30	32
OR Online[3/]	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	30	34
Coos Bay	25	48	38	31	31	63	22	17	--	--
Eureka	--	--	--	--	79	65	80	--	--	--
Fort Bragg	29	51	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Salinas	--	--	85	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Santa Rosa	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	54	65	56
Ukiah	--	--	--	33	--	--	--	--	--	--

1/ City in bold are proposed for Council staffing in upcoming year
2/ All hearings held on-line due to health and safety concerns
3/ Oregon hearing held on-line in response to public testimony.

Council Tasks:

1. **Confirm Council-staffed hearing sites and state intentions for additional hearings.**
2. **Approve staff's overall proposed schedule and process for developing 2026 ocean salmon management measures.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1: Pacific Fishery Management Council Proposed Schedule and Process for Developing 2026 Ocean Salmon Fishery Management Measures.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see e-portal).

Agenda Order:

G.2 Final 2026 Preseason Management Schedule — Angela Forristall
   a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
   b. Public Comment
   c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final 2026 Preseason Management Schedule

PFMC
10/21/25