

SALMON HEARING SUMMARY ON MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Oregon Salmon Public Hearing			
Date:	March 25, 2019	Hearing Officer:	Mr. Chris Kern
Location:	Red Lion Hotel, Coos Bay, OR	NMFS:	Ms. Peggy Mundy
Attendance:	31	Coast Guard:	Lt. Melanie Collier
Testifying:	10	Salmon Team Member:	Mr. Craig Foster
		Council Staff:	Ms. Robin Ehlke
Organizations Represented:			
Oregon South Coast Fishermen, Oregon Coastal Anglers, Six-Pack Charter Operators of Brookings, OR			

Opening Remarks

Mr. Chris Kern provided opening remarks for the hearing. Mr. Craig Foster reviewed Alternatives for the commercial and sport salmon seasons, and Alternatives for incidental halibut retention in the salmon troll fishery.

Synopsis of Testimony

Of the 10 people testifying specifically to the Alternatives: Alternative I was the preferred by Commercial trollers (3). Recreational anglers (7) preferred Alternative I, or a mix between coho from Alternative I and Chinook from Alternative II.

Of the 31 people in attendance, roughly half represented commercial fisheries and half represented recreational fisheries. By a raise of hands, all the trollers preferred Alternative I. All recreational anglers generally agreed that Alternative I, or a mix between I and II was preferred.

Comments/questions from the public included:

- 40-fathom line for commercial - how did it come about and how is it accounted for in the modeling? Support from commercial group is to not use the line this year.
- “Overfished” language has to be redefined so the public does not think harvest is the cause for low abundances. ‘Under-produced’ is a more accurate term.
- What is the transfer ratio for marked to unmarked in the recreational coho fishery for an impact neutral transfer?
- Trollers preferred Alternative I in part because the range of dates in Alternatives II and III had “poor tide series”.
- Should stay off of coho until they are de-listed. No coho retention.
- Commercial trollers want March 15 as a potential start date in future years; best way to collect data for stock composition, etc. to help update the model to allow for early fishing if appropriate.

Written Statements (Attached)



Six-Pack Charter Operators of Brookings, Oregon

March 25, 2019

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220


Dear Council Members,

We support Alternative I for the 2019 recreational ocean salmon season on the Oregon side of the Klamath Management Zone. We feel the May 18-Aug. 28 season, 103 total days, provides ample fishing opportunity out of the Ports of Brookings-Harbor and Gold Beach, and keeps harvest within the allocation guidelines for Klamath River and Sacramento River fall Chinook salmon. It also allows anglers an opportunity to harvest salmon bound for the Rogue River, which has another above-average ocean abundance forecast. Alternative I has a May 18 opener for king salmon vs. the May 25 opener in Alternative III. Alternative I also has no impact on the 2020 harvest, known as the "credit card fishery."

We also support Alternative I because it provides a June 22-Aug. 28 hatchery coho season, with a quota of 95,000 marked coho south of Cape Falcon. The other two options do not provide a coho season between Humbug Mountain and the California-Oregon border. Sport anglers fishing out of Brookings and Gold Beach were not allowed to fish for coho salmon in 2018, despite good numbers of coho within range of the harbors. The additional opportunity to fish for coho, along with king salmon on the far South Coast of Oregon, helps take pressure off of rockfish, which have seen increasingly tighter regulations from state and federal fishery managers.

Alternative I also will have the biggest economic impact for the Curry County economy, giving anglers an earlier opportunity to fish in May, and providing a season during the peak salmon abundance times out of Brookings in June, July and early August. We realize Alternative I does not include a Labor Day salmon fishery out of Brookings, but that weekend is already a busy period for motels, RV parks, restaurants, etc. because the South Coast is a popular visitor destination the week before school begins in inland areas. A strong peak ocean salmon season, with an opportunity to fish for king and coho salmon, has the strongest benefit to anglers and the South Coast economy.

Sincerely,


Capt. Andy Martin


Capt. Mike Brouillette


Capt. Larry Brocker